

TFACA Newsletter June 2015

A Note From Roger Hawks, Executive Director

TFACA sees a record number of students in fiscal year 2015

More than 10,600 students received training provided by or through TFACA so far this year. We also have delivered more than 715 courses which is also a record. Thank you for allowing us to assist you in meeting your training needs. Job well done to students and instructors!

New TFACA Staff

New employees will be joining the TFACA ranks in July. Ellen Brazle will be joining us as our new Curriculum Development Manager. Brian Nicholson will be joining the Codes Enforcement Program as the Codes Instructor Supervisor. The fire program will be filling a new position that was added this year. The position will be based on campus, but will assist with delivery of classes off campus as well.

Learning Management System

TFACA has purchased a Learning Management System to begin conducting on line classes in the near future. This system will be integrated with the Acadis system and classes completed on line will be visible in the student training history in Acadis. System testing & training will begin in July with the system becoming fully operational later this fall.

ICC Preferred Provider

ICC has approved TFACA as a Preferred Provider for most of our codes classes. This approval will allow students attending approved TFACA classes to receive ICC CEU's. These CEU's can be used toward ICC recertification. Additional information regarding this can be found on pg. 5.

Update on Smoky Mountain Weekend

The 17th annual Smoky Mountain Weekend Fire / Rescue Expo was another huge success in delivering high quality education to the Tennessee Fire Service. There were a total of 45 classes held with close to 1,000 attendees. That is the most classes ever held for this weekend.

The relationship that has been built back with the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Academy is the best it has ever been. Not only were they able to provide 18 of the 45 classes; they stepped up during a time of need and provided an additional class that was threatened to be canceled due to a complication. The logistical support they provided demonstrated their mission and dedication to deliver needed classes to their customers.

There were several changes made for this year's conference and we will continue to make changes based on student input and evaluations. We hope to see you at next year's conference during May 20 - 22, 2016. Please note that the location will change to the Sevierville Convention Center located at 202 Gists Creek Road, Sevierville, TN 37876.

This information is courtesy of Chris Knutsen, Training Officer with Pigeon Forge FD.



Upcoming Classes & Events

Fire Chief Orientation Class
8/8/15-8/9/15
Jackson

Recruit Firefighter I/II
8/31/15-11/6/15
TFACA

See website for dates and locations

Inside this issue:

Note from Dir. Hawks	1
In-Service Training	1
Upcoming Events	1
HorsePower Weekend	2
Recruit Class	3
Administrative Services	4
"Get Alarmed" Update	5

Training Tennessee's Finest

A Note From Tiffany Key, Hospitality Manager

Need Assistance ?

TFACA can help. TFACA can provide assistance to Departments who need help developing practical examinations for Driver Operator, Fire Officer and other positions. We can also provide assistance with vehicle specifications and equipment review and research.

For additional information or to discuss how we can help, please contact Roger Hawks or Jeff Elliott.

It is a great time to stay here on campus at TFACA! The grounds are beautiful, thanks to the hard work of our Maintenance crew, and the dorms have never looked better! After a recent class, one student wrote "Thanks for your efforts. The rooms are always spotless". The crew at *A Clean Beginning* has been working hard to make sure the dorms and all buildings around campus are being beautifully maintained and it's been paying off! We have had numerous positive comments on how wonderful our buildings are being maintained. With the anticipation of new and more comfortable mattresses coming soon, there has never been a better time for our students to enjoy staying on campus! Maria and Debbie with *Waterford's Catering* are also doing a great job in our Dining Hall. With the second score in a row of "100" from the health department, they're doing a brilliant job of maintaining our kitchen to such a wonderful, high standard that our guests can really appreciate.

With the student contact hours at an all-time high, and the addition of more and more 'outside' agencies making use of our facilities, the hard work of our crews, made up of contract and state employees, has really been on the climb. With all the positive comments from a great many of our guests, it's very apparent that all their efforts are being noticed! I, for one, continue to look forward to working with not only the personnel here at TFACA, but also our wonderful associates at *A Clean Beginning* and *Waterford's Catering*, to help ensure TFACA becomes the number one destination for all of Tennessee's training needs in FY2015-16!



TFACA is
your
state
source
for NFA,
Fire and
Codes
Training

Recent Events at TFACA

Fired Up 'N Fit

The 4th annual "Fired UP and Fit 5k Challenge" sponsored by United Way of Bedford County was held on May 30, 2015. Over 300 runners challenged the 5k course which included 17 obstacles including a 70ft waterslide and a mud pit. A portion of the funds raised by this event goes to the TN Fallen Firefighters Memorial in addition to local United Way Agencies in Bedford County.

Fishing Rodeo

On June 6th the TWRA conducted one of their annual "Take Your Child Fishing Rodeos" at our lake on campus. Students who have fished the lake before know we have some nice fishing. Well TWRA brought us 400 lbs. of catfish to stock the pond and boy did the kids have a great time. Fish were caught by almost every child during the 3 hour event.



Academy Mission Statement

To plan, deliver and facilitate education and training that promotes professionalism and competency of fire service and codes enforcement personnel through a standardized statewide program, thereby enhancing the individual and collective ability to protect life and property of Tennessee citizens.



A Note From Jeff Elliott, Fire Program Director

As we prepare for the upcoming 2015 Chief Training Officer symposium, it is hard to believe that one year has passed since the 2014 event. The Academy could not have been more pleased with the attendance and positive feedback we received from the attendees. What followed the next 12 months proved to be a bigger testament to the success of the training symposium. The Academy introduced 3 classes we marketed as In-service training.

- Thermal Imaging for the Fire Service
- Reading Smoke
- Modern Residential Fire Attack

All 3 of these classes were developed with the thought of producing safer fire scenes by bringing more awareness to the dangers of modern day fuel loads. The 3 classes were designed to help prepare firefighters to make more informed tactical decisions and continue to address Life Safety, Incident Stabilization and Property Conservation. The TN Fire Chief's Association reinforced these concepts by producing and endorsing a sample SOG supporting the research findings developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Underwriter's Laboratories. The results of the combined efforts referenced above and the willingness of TN Fire Chief's and Training Officers to schedule these courses helped set the stage for a record year with respect to number of classes taught and number of students enrolled. As of June 17, 2015 TFACA has delivered 113 Modern Residential Fire Attack classes, 49 Reading Smoke and 45 Thermal Imaging classes.

The concepts endorsed by the proactive, forward thinking TN Fire Chief's in 2014 are now standards that the fire service may be gauged by. A recent NIOSH Report investigating two firefighter deaths in a rapid fire progression listed two of the following as key recommendations.

- *Fire departments should ensure that the incident commander conducts an initial 360-degree size-up and risk assessment of the incident scene to determine if interior fire-fighting operations are warranted.*
- *Fire departments should integrate current fire behavior research findings developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) into operational procedures by developing standard operating procedures, conducting live fire training, and revising fireground tactics.*

The TN Fire and Codes Academy is very pleased with the willingness of all participating departments to allow us the opportunity to offer training on these referenced topics.

The 2015 Symposium will offer an overview of rule changes and new certifications by the TN Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education Commission.

We have 2 guest speakers lined up to make presentations:

- ◆ Gwinnett County Fire and EMS and Gwinnett Police Department
Active Shooter with Firefighters Held Hostage
- ◆ BNSF Railway; Dillon Magers
TRANSCAER AAR-API Crude Oil by Rail Safety Course

In addition to these presentations TFACA will offer short overviews of two new in-service classes we are offering for 2015/2016.

• **Firefighter Cancer (4 Hours)**

This presentation is designed to provide a mechanism of understanding to assist fire fighters in an every changing *toxicological* environment that we subject ourselves every day. This program is divided into four distinct units which will address what cancer is, types of cancer, how are we exposed, and how can we prevent it.

We always mention cancer in passing discussion, but we race to gather more detailed information if diagnosed. Why not educate ourselves now to understand the illness and take the measures to prevent ourselves from contracting it.

• **Medical Monitoring and Rehabilitation: Fire Ground Operations & Training (4 Hours)**

This course is designed to give the participant a better understanding rehabilitation and medical monitoring for the fire service operations. The Course will overview NFPA 1584 2015 edition along with NIOSH reporting system.

In addition to these two classes TFACA has 3 additional classes prepared to offer as new In service training;

- Highway Haz Mat Incidents (8 Hours)
- Emergency Driving Simulation (8 Hours)
- Behavioral Health Awareness: How does this happen? (4 Hours)

We look forward to the new training year ahead of us. We appreciate all of the support we received allowing the Academy to play the role we did with In service training in 2014 and look forward to sharing the curriculum that has been developed for the up coming year.



Notes From Stephen Snow, Codes Enforcement Program Director

Codes Enforcement Instructor Retiring

After twelve years of service at the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy, John DeWald has made the decision to retire. John has been a full time instructor for the Codes Enforcement Program during this period in his career, and he has truly touched many lives.



John's most notable contribution to the hundreds of inspectors across Tennessee is the training he conducted which helped them pass their certification exams. He spent the majority of his time at the Academy teaching the residential and commercial building codes; typically the first codes in which most inspectors become certified. Over the years, many inspectors who have returned to the campus recall how concerned they were before they were certified since their career and livelihood were on the line. But then with a smile, they relate how John's patient instruction calmed and educated them, giving them the confidence they needed to obtain their certification.

For this reason, John is highly respected in the inspection trade throughout the State. Few know as many inspectors and building officials as John. And beyond the contact he maintains with his students in the classroom, John has established himself as a mentor to many inspectors as they've called and written to him for advice on their craft.

Without a doubt, John has established his name in Tennessee codes enforcement for years to come. To each of those who owe their career to him, he will be remembered for a lifetime. We will certainly miss his consistently smiling face on campus and his casual, knowledgeable manner in the classroom. We congratulate John on a job well done, and we wish him all the best as he moves into the next chapter of his life.

New Codes Enforcement Instructor Supervisor

Here's some exciting news: The TFACA Codes Enforcement Program has a new Codes Instructor Supervisor! Brian Nicholson, Fire Marshal in Shelbyville, TN has accepted this position and will begin executing his duties here at the Academy on July 6.

Brian has an extensive background in enforcement and inspection having started his career in law enforcement, then progressing through the fire service to his current role in fire inspection. This addition to the Codes Program is a perfect fit as we continue to broaden our scope of influence to include both building and fire inspection personnel.

Although new to this position, Brian is no stranger to the Academy. Since Shelbyville is just down the road from the Academy, he has been able to be involved in many TFACA functions. Most recently however, he has become a strong influence in our inspection training as a part-time codes instructor. One of his greatest roles in this part-time position has been taking the lead in course development and the position as lead instructor for our new Fire Inspector I course. In this course as well as all others he has taught, we have heard nothing but excellent reviews regarding his delivery and professionalism.

The Shelbyville Fire Dept. has been very gracious in their support, both of Brian's role as part-time instructor for TFACA, as well as his transition to full-time Codes Instructor Supervisor, and we appreciate that support. While he will be missed in that community, Brian will continue to be a positive influence in the codes enforcement community across the State. We hope you will take the opportunity to welcome him into this role as he joins our effort to make your Academy the best it can be at meeting your education needs.



Fire Inspector I Class

Having conducted a very successful Fire Inspector I pilot class at the beginning of this year as a joint effort between TFACA and the TN Firefighting Commission (FFC), we along with many of you are eagerly anticipating the next offering of this valuable course! And it's not far off. On August 17 we will begin the first of this two-week training. The dates for this class are as follows:

Week 1 August 17 – 21
Off Week August 24 – 28
Week 2 August 31 – September 4

As with the pilot class, Brian Nicholson will be the instructor. Being a former fire marshal, Mr. Nicholson will have numerous first-hand experiences to share with students which will relate to the material presented. This will insure not only the "theory" of fire inspection is conveyed, but will also give students confidence that this training will actually work the first time they encounter these tasks in the field.

The majority of the course instruction will be based on the Jones & Bartlett publication *Fire Inspector – Principles and Practice* which exposes students to the most common inspection scenarios and techniques. Furthermore, students will receive a significant portion of training on the IFC, IBC, and NFPA 101 LSC to prepare them to interpret the adopted codes most likely to be enforced in their respective communities.

Along the way, students will take four progress tests during the two weeks, and will be trained in 24 different skills or JPRs which will prepare them for the final examinations to be conducted by the FFC. These examinations include a random skills exercise and a final overall exam. Once all of these hurdles are completed with a passing score, students will receive their Fire Inspector I certification from the FFC.

Many are asking how and when this certification will enable them to become certified as a State Fire Inspector and eligible for ICC and ProBoard reciprocity. Steps are being taken by officials with the FFC and SFMD to make this a reality, and they are getting closer to realizing that goal with each passing month. Processes are instituted by these entities which take considerable time to insure high standards are maintained, and officials are on track in completing these steps. Updates on this progress will be provided to students attending this next class.

The goal of fire inspection is life safety and reduced property loss, and we believe graduates of this course will be better prepared to conduct these duties on day one of their role as Fire Inspector compared to having struggled to become certified on their own. If you are interested in being a part of this class, please do not delay your registration. Spaces are limited and we don't want you to miss out!



ICC Preferred Provider

Recently the International Codes Council (ICC) began requiring individuals attempting to recertify through ICC to have obtained a significant percentage of their credit hours from an entity approved by ICC to provide training. These entities are designated by ICC as "Preferred Providers".

TFACA joined that group of providers in January of this year. Since that time, all of the Academy's codes courses have been submitted and approved by ICC. And as each new codes course is developed, these courses are being submitted to ICC for approval as well. This insures that any codes course taken from TFACA can be submitted by each individual as they recertify with ICC, and will count as part of the required percentage of ICC Preferred Provider courses.

Patch Board

TFACA has a patch board in the Classroom building and is seeking TN Fire Department patches. We would love to add your patch to the board so send us one or give it to any TFACA staff member and we will see it gets posted.

Goals of the Academy

To enhance the safety of every Tennessean from the hazards of fires, natural disasters and terrorist acts, by providing state-of-the-art training to fire fighters, other emergency first responders and codes enforcement personnel.

To deliver our training in an affordable diversified format, so as to serve the needs of both urban and rural students.

To develop partnerships with both public and private sector organizations to facilitate the furtherance of our mission.

New West TN Coordinator for Fire Program

The Fire Program welcomed Mark Boyd as their new West TN Regional Coordinator in April. Mark comes to us with 32 years of experience with Memphis Fire Department where he progressed through the ranks from Private to a Division Chief. He also spent several years as the head of the training division there. Mark has made an aggressive attempt to get out to visit all of the departments in the West TN Region. If you have any training needs you can contact Mark at 615-416-1812.



In-Service Training Information

Having difficulty determining what training is needed during monthly training or need some help with instruction of some complex areas of your monthly training program? TFACA will be glad to help! TFACA offers assistance meeting training requests for short duration classes for local departments. If you don't have the training staff or just need assistance scheduling and executing the drills, we can help. This new program will allow TFACA to be your in-service and monthly training partner. We are still working on the finalization for this project, but if this ability to assist you is of interest please give us a call. Both Fire Service & Codes Enforcement programs are prepared to discuss assisting you in meeting recertification hours, in-service training for educational incentives, and ISO monthly training. We look forward to helping you meet your training needs.

Job Opportunity Coming Soon

If you are knowledgeable in the area of Codes Enforcement and have a gift for teaching, keep your eye on our website for updated information regarding the Codes Instructor II position.

A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

John C. Maxwell

Training Tennessee's Finest



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Don't see it in the catalog?

Have a training need that isn't in the catalog? Give us a call, we may be able to tailor a custom class to meet your specific needs.

Some of our custom courses include:

- Team Building Training
- Specifications and Purchasing
- New Vehicle Orientation Training
- Fire Service Leadership
- Fire Service Ethics



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