

National Volunteer Fire Council

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NVFC fall conference to be held in Iowa

Greetings, the fall meeting of the NVFC is quickly approaching. As we prepare for our travels to these important meetings, we bring with us any issues you may have. If there is anything you feel needs to be addressed. Please forward the information to either of us at the email addresses listed above.

IRS letter indicates that LOSAP does not qualify for volunteer responder incentive protection act

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has obtained a copy of a letter from the Internal Revenue Service to a member of Congress, whose name was withheld, that seems to indicate that length of service award program (LOSAP) payments are not considered "qualified benefits" under the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA). VRIPA was enacted in 2007 and prohibits the federal government from taxing certain benefits provided to volunteer emergency responders by state or local units of government, including any tax benefits and up to \$360 per year of any non-tax benefit. LOSAPs are pension-like programs for volunteer emergency responders

NVFC recruiting first responders for survey on communications needs results will inform new geointelligence system under development by the Department of Homeland Security

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has partnered with ElanTech to create an online survey to gather critical data from first response emergency personnel nationwide. The survey results will influence the design of an advanced new incident command software application in development by the Department of Homeland Security and ElanTech.

NVFC partners with FASNY to offer new member benefit

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is pleased to announce

that all NVFC State, Department, and Personal Members are now eligible to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union. In this time of economic uncertainty, NVFC members can now utilize the FASNY Federal Credit Union's services and wide range of money-saving deposit and lending products.

NVFC announces winners of National Junior Firefighter Scholarships

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), in partnership with Baskin-Robbins®, has selected 10 outstanding junior firefighters to receive a \$5,000 scholarship through the National Junior Firefighter Program. This was the second year that the program has honored ten exceptional applicants with scholarships.

NVFC members win Columbia Southern University Scholarships; All NVFC Members Receive Tuition Discount

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) recently partnered with Columbia Southern University (CSU) to award scholarships to two NVFC members to attend CSU. The recipients were selected based on a competitive application process open to all NVFC members. James Longbrake of Ponder, TX, was awarded a two-year scholarship towards a bachelor's degree program and Brian McNevin of Commerce, TX, received a two-year scholarship towards an associate's degree program. Both scholarships were donated by CSU and include tuition and books.

NVFC members receive discount to Firehouse Central 2009

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) members receive a discounted admission rate to Firehouse Central 2009. NVFC Personal Members will receive a \$30 discount and Department Members will receive a \$50 discount to the event, which takes place October 26-30, 2009, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, GA.

USFA resource provides status of novelty lighter legislation

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has an interactive web resource that provides the status of state and federal legislation that limits or prohibits the sale of novelty and toy-like lighters. The resource, which includes a clickable map, is available at www.usfa.dhs.gov/noveltylighters. The USFA, National Volunteer Fire Council, and other national organizations support initiatives to ban the sale and distribution of these dangerous lighters.

Ethanol emergency response training now available

Safety is the top priority of America's ethanol industry and those who transport and bring ethanol to the marketplace. It is with this commitment in mind that the Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) has compiled and released the Complete Training Guide for Ethanol Emergency Response to help prepare ethanol producers, transporters, and first responders who may experience or come in contact with an ethanol-related emergency.

Support those who support the voice of the volunteer fire and emergency services

The NVFC relies on the assistance of its corporate and association partners to be able to provide a voice for the volunteer fire and emergency services in Washington. We encourage you to look at a list of our Corporate Members <http://www.nvfc.org/corporatemembers> and support them with your business.

Calendar of events

Fall meeting of the NVFC September 23rd, to September 26th, 2009 in Coralville, Iowa.