



South Carolina  
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Fire Academy

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**State Fire Academy Graduates 18 in November**

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's South Carolina Fire Academy graduated 18 students, Friday, Nov. 2, 2012, from its eight-week firefighter candidate school in Columbia. Keynote speaker was Chief Keith Minick, Newberry Fire Department.

The firefighters from 12 fire departments across the state, and two out-of-country fire departments, underwent a 320-hour training program of classroom and hands-on firefighting skills development.

The in-depth training, offered quarterly at the Fire Academy, includes emergency responder first aid training, hazardous materials operations training, auto extrication, flammable liquids and gas firefighting, rescue training, and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firefighter I and Firefighter II levels.

"This is a very challenging program that requires team work, in-depth study, extensive hands-on training with live fires, eight practical skills evaluations and seven written tests to meet the National Fire Protection Association standards," Fire Academy Interim Superintendent Russ Friar said. "I am pleased with the students and our staff; they have shown extreme commitment to service by completing this challenging and comprehensive program. Our state and their communities will be better served as a result of their efforts."

The following students graduated Nov. 2, 2012:

- William Ballard
- Austin Brown
- Bradly Brown
- Joshua Folsom
- Vidal Fuentes-Santos
- Matthew Guldner
- David Hanley
- Joshua Hollis
- Walterboro Public Safety
- Lake City Fire Department
- C & B Volunteer Fire Department
- St. Andrews Fire Department
- St. Croix-Virgin Islands
- City of Beaufort Fire Department
- Edisto Beach Fire Department
- Olanta Rural Fire Department

- Grant Holt Clear Spring Fire Rescue
- Maurice Huggins Walterboro Public Safety
- Scott McRae Vineyards Fire District
- Reu Petersen St. Thomas-Virgin Islands
- William Owens Inman Community Fire Department
- Shawn Sutton St. Croix-Virgin Islands
- Stephen Thomas St. Thomas-Virgin Islands
- Andrew Wall Inman Community Fire Department
- Patrick Washington St. Pauls Fire District
- Calvin Waters Belmont Fire Department

The following awards were presented:

### **Order of the Maltese – Andrew Folsom**

The Maltese Cross is a firefighter’s badge of honor, signifying that he or she works in courage – a ladder rung away from death. The Eight Obligations of The Maltese Cross are: Live in Faith, Repent of Sins, Love Justice, Be Sincere and Whole–Hearted, Have Faith, Give Proof of Humility, Be Merciful and Endure Persecution.

This award is chosen by the part-time instructors and the students of the class.

### **Chief Robert Frick – Scott McRae**

The Chief Robert Frick Award is given to the student with the highest grade point average.

### **Pride of the Battalion – Maurice Huggins**

The Pride of the Battalion award is given to the student who has demonstrated Leadership, Integrity, Determination and Good Value.

This award is chosen by the full-time instructor staff that has worked with the seven-week program.

The Fire Academy provides emergency services training to the municipal fire service - both paid and volunteer - airport crash rescue departments, industrial fire brigades and emergency teams and service organizations including EMS, law enforcement and military from around the state and the world. The Fire Academy is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress for 14 NFPA firefighter levels.

The Fire Academy and the State Fire Marshal’s Office make up the Division of Fire and Life Safety, which is a division of the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.