



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 21 in September

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's South Carolina Fire Academy graduated 21 students, Friday, Sept. 28, 2012, from its eight-week firefighter candidate school in Columbia. Keynote speaker was Chief Richard G. Waring IV, Summerville Fire - Rescue.

The firefighters from 15 fire departments across the state, and one out-of-country fire department, 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 Sept. 28, 2012:

- Brian Barkley Pumpkintown Fire Department
- Ikeiyah Brown Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue
- Jason Brown Columbia Airport Public Safety
- Lewis Dewberry CSR, Antigua
- Michael Doss Sumter Fire Department
- Brandon Eddleman Cheddar Fire Department
- Valenee Edwards CSR, Antigua
- Joey Fongrousse Summerville Fire Rescue

- Ryan George CSR, Antigua
- Thomas Grimsley Summerville Fire Rescue
- Christopher Himes Bluffton Township Fire District
- William Koons C & B Volunteer Fire Department
- DaKotah McConnell Ebenezer Fire Department
- Joshua Marshall Bethune Fire Department
- Aaron Morris Simpsonville Fire Department
- James Perreault Irmo Fire District
- Daniel Pronk Belmont Fire Department
- Stacy-Ann Robinson CSR, Antigua
- Donnie Scarborough Sumter Fire Department
- Travis Smith MCAS Fire Rescue
- Spencer Wood Grassy Pond Volunteer Fire Department

The following awards were presented:

Order of the Maltese – Aaron Morris

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 – Aaron Morris

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

Pride of the Battalion – Valenee Edwards

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.