



South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Fire Academy

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State Fire Academy Graduates 21 in June

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's South Carolina Fire Academy graduated 21 students, Friday, June 22, 2012, from its eight-week firefighter candidate school in Columbia. Keynote speaker was Chief Randy Osterman, City of Florence Fire Department.

The firefighters from 20 fire departments across the state 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 Superintendent Shane Ray 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 June 22, 2012:

- Daniel Adams
- Kyle Burden
- John Catchings
- Scott Chua
- Joseph Gilliam
- Tara Gunter
- Luke Holthaus
- Dylan Hurley
- John Justice
- Hamza Kalbouneh
- Dashiell Lucero
- Luke Michel
- Austin O'Kelley
- Eadytown Volunteer Fire Department
- Westminster Fire Department
- Seneca Fire Department
- Sumter Fire Department
- Barnwell Fire Department
- Columbia Airport Public Safety
- Bluffton Township Fire District
- Batesburg-Leesville Fire Department
- Howe Springs Fire District
- Old Fort Fire Department
- Keowee Fire Department
- Cassatt Fire Department
- Seneca Fire Department

- Michael Parris
- Evan Peterson
- Patrick Popadich
- Bradly Smith
- Myron Thomas II
- Timothy Weber
- Spencer Wise
- Hallie Young

Lake Cunningham Fire Department
 Columbia Fire Department
 Irmo Fire District
 West Columbia Fire Department
 City of Florence Fire Department
 Sheldon Fire District
 Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department
 Colleton County Fire Rescue

The following awards were presented:

Order of the Maltese – John Catchings

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 – Dylan Hurley

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

Pride of the Battalion – Evan Peterson

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.