



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



South Carolina Fire Academy

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State Fire Academy Graduates 25 in March

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's South Carolina Fire Academy graduated 25 recruits, Friday, March 1, 2024, from its eight-week firefighter candidate school in Columbia. These firefighters underwent a 320-hour training program of classroom and hands-on firefighting skills development. The keynote speaker was Chief Truss Johnson, St. Paul's Fire District.

"Today, we celebrate graduation and welcome these new members to the South Carolina fire service," State Fire Academy Superintendent Jason Pope said. "The past eight weeks have been a challenging program requiring commitment, passion, and dedication. These recruits have worked together as a team, performed extensive hands-on training with live fires, and passed intensive practical skills evaluations and written tests to meet the National Fire Protection Association standards."

The comprehensive 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.

"From this day on, these new firefighters will be dedicating their lives to serving their communities and the state," Pope said. "All of us at State Fire are proud of their accomplishments. I also want to commend the dedicated Fire Academy instructors who brought the recruits through these weeks of instruction leading to graduation."

The following recruits graduated:

- Jeffrey Adams - St. Paul's Fire District
- Justin Arce - Jasper County Fire-Rescue
- Hunter Barnes - McCormick County Emergency Services
- JonTara Brown - Aiken Department of Public Safety
- Ethan Bryan - Walterboro Fire Department
- Trevor Dauphinee - Jasper County Fire-Rescue
- Jonathan Davis - West Columbia Fire Department
- Shakia Deloach - Jasper County Fire-Rescue
- Erik Haines - Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue
- William Howard - Pelham-Batesville Fire Department

- Cody Icenhour - Aiken Department of Public Safety
- Eric Johnson - West Columbia Fire Department
- Viktor Makarov – Clemson University Fire Department
- Ayinde Martin - Virgin Islands Port Authority
- Dazonte Mathurin - Virgin Islands Port Authority
- Mark Nagy - Bluffton Township Fire District
- Andrew Polasek - Aiken Department of Public Safety
- Mason Polin - Orangeburg City Fire Department
- Robert Reyna - St. Andrews Public Service District
- William Richardson III - Bluffton Township Fire District
- Jake Schultz - Isle of Palms Fire Department
- Lana Smith - Clemson University Fire Department
- Richard Temple - Clinton Fire Department
- Adam Van Horn - Dorchester County Fire Rescue
- Bryce Wojcik - West Columbia Fire Department

The following awards were also presented:

Order of the Maltese: Jonathan Davis - West Columbia Fire Department

The class recruits choose this award recipient. 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 Truth, Repent of Sins, Love Justice, Be Sincere and Whole-Hearted, Have Faith, Give Proof of Humility, Be Merciful, and Endure Persecution.

Chief Robert Frick: Cody Icenhour - Aiken Department of Public Safety

The Chief Robert Frick Award is awarded to the recruit with the highest grade point average.

Pride of the Battalion: Mark Nagy - Bluffton Township Fire District

The Pride of the Battalion award is given to the recruit who has demonstrated “Leadership, Integrity, Determination, and Good Value.” The instructor staff who worked with the recruits during the eight-week program chose this award recipient.

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 and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) for multiple 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.