



# THE SECOND ALARM

## A Department Without Limits

CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2020  
THE SECOND ALARM

### *Winning vs. Losing*

In today's society, success is often measured as winning or losing. The success of implemented strategy and tactics on fire scenes are often measured in this same way. When fire trucks clear a scene where property and lives were saved without the report of any injuries, it is considered a win. Promotional processes where a participant succeeds in being promoted is referred to as winning whereas a candidate that may have not been promoted may perceive the outcome as a loss.

Does this mean that the incidents where years of experience, education, and training come together in a perfectly orchestrated performance but property is lost, is that a loss? There are times when units arrive on scene and the fire is well advanced due to factors beyond the responding member's control. This scenario can still be a win for our organization and the community. These experiences allow the members to identify educational opportunities that lead to future success. A well involved fire prior to fire department arrival could be the result of occupants attempting to mitigate their own emergency prior to activating 911 or delayed detection.

A promotional process where a member of the department does not get promoted, is that a loss? There is always something to learn from every experience. It is when an experience does not assist in the learning process that it can be considered a loss. Promotional processes are more of a personal process to reach goals. However, the processes currently in place allows administration to evaluate not only individuals but also the department as a whole. Each process is a learning opportunity for participants and the organization. If every experience is perceived as a learning opportunity rather than winning or losing, there will be many more moments in life considered a success.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase" - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



*Brian Boutwell*





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## CFA Testimonial

If you had asked me what I thought about the Citizens Fire Academy and how it impacted my life earlier on, I would have said it was a great way to better understand the Fire Department and what they do day in and day out.

If you ask me this today... there is so much more I need to say.

You never feel you will personally be the victim of a house fire. You know home fires happen, but you always think it happens to other people. In most cases it's because of a careless mistake like unattended cooking or a space heater too close to a curtain or bedding. In every scenario, you just don't see it happening to you.

Well, I am here to say that due to my time with the Citizens Fire Academy, when my family and I had a fire – the training and information I received during my time in the program really helped to make a difference. Please don't misunderstand me, I am not a fire fighter, however, the skills I learned during the program helped me to keep my family's crisis from becoming much worse.

We had just finished dinner and were in the living room watching TV when the fire started in our master bedroom. Just like that, my son shouted from down the hall that he smelled something burning. As soon as he said it, we smelled something burning also. Our first instincts were to check the kitchen, but I knew I turned everything off. My husband and I went down the hallway towards my son's room and we saw tons of smoke coming from our master bedroom. Once inside the bedroom, the entire corner of the room was in flames that were reaching up towards the ceiling. The heat was unbelievable. Now I cannot express exactly what I was thinking, but my instincts somehow kicked into overdrive. The part of the training from the academy that stood out in my mind was not to panic and act quickly. My husband, Ken, immediately went to bathroom to locate towels to help smother the flames. I remembered from the academy that I needed to locate my nearest fire extinguisher. We live in an apartment and all the fire extinguishers are housed in the breezeway. As I went towards the breezeway, I had my son to call 911 while I banged on my neighbor's doors and got the extinguisher. I used to be intimidated by the extinguisher, but as I entered back into our master bedroom, I was able to remember to pull the pin, aim the nozzle, squeeze the handle, and sweep the nozzle at the base of the fire from side to side.

It all happened so fast, but I remained calm and acted quickly. In doing so, I was able to keep the fire from spreading to my son's room and the unit above us. I put the fire out.

When I continue to reflect back on everything that took place, all I can say is the Citizens Fire Academy Class truly helped me that evening.

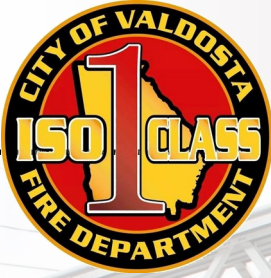
I am so thankful for the fire department for arriving so quickly and ensuring my pets were safe. I will forever be thankful to the Valdosta Fire Department for the Citizens Fire Academy Program.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lowe  
CFA Class 3







# [ THE SECOND ALARM ]



Valdosta Fire Department recently held the Physical Agility test for new applicants. A recruit class for 2020 will be starting soon.



Valdosta Fire Department participated in both tool hoist exercises and vertical ventilation during the month of January.

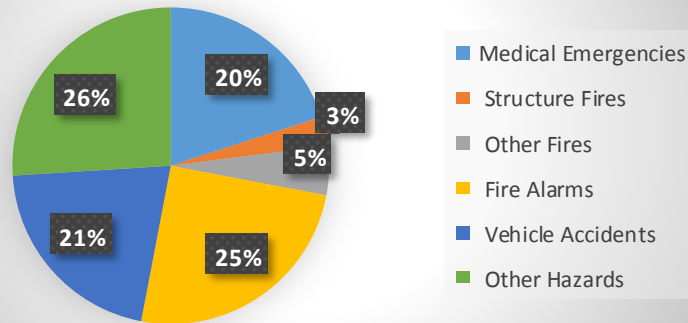






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## 301 Incidents in January



## Birthday Bulletin

Jordan Washington	02/03
Lamont Williams	02/05
Chad Roe	02/11
Jason Rowan	02/11
Ryan Strickland	02/14
Carlton Couch	02/18
Roger Chastain	02/23
Lloyd Cummings	02/24

**Happy Birthday!**



Willis Bayne Tebedo joined the VFD family on January 28, 2020

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Submission to the newsletter should occur before the 20th of each month
- Feel Free to submit photos with your submissions
- Have a strong opinion about a topic of concern to our fire department? Feel free to submit a piece for review and possible publication in the newsletter.



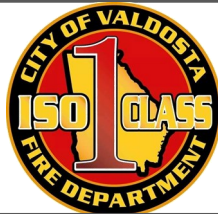
# CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, Issue 2 February 2020

## CFAA Reminders / Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **CFAA General Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 18 @ Fire Station 1  
(6:00 p.m.)
- ♦ **Jr. Fire Marshal's Fun Day**  
Saturday, March 7 @ McKey Park  
We will help with the games.  
(10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.)
- ♦ **Azalea Festival**  
Saturday, March 14 & Sunday, March 15  
More Info Coming Soon
- ♦ **Jr. Fire Marshal's Bankquet**  
Monday, March 23 @ Mathis Auditorium  
(6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.)

*Events must be presented at general meetings and approved to be added to the calendar or by special request through the Chief and the VFD.*



If you missed the last CFAA newsletter, check the Group Facebook Page or send an email to:  
[cfaavalдоста@gmail.com](mailto:cfaavalдоста@gmail.com)



LOVE ON YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT THIS MONTH! DROP A VALENTINE,  
A KIND WORD OR A TREAT TO YOUR CLOSEST FIRE STATION.

## Our Mission

*"Our mission is to contribute to the functions of the Valdosta Fire Department while supporting service projects and fostering positive relationships among the community."*

### Need the 411?

If you are not receiving updates and emails or if your contact information has change, make sure to send an email to: [cfaavalдоста@gmail.com](mailto:cfaavalдоста@gmail.com)

Include your name, your contact information and CFA Class #.

You can also sign up for Remind 101 and receive text reminders by:

Texting this message  
@vfdc  
To this number:  
81010

Also, if you have not connected on Facebook, visit here: <https://www.facebook.com/VFDCFA/>



The Citizens Fire Academy Alumni (CFAA) are citizens whom have completed the Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) through the Valdosta Fire Department. If you are interested in signing up for the next CFA course, please email Tangela Rowe with the Valdosta Fire Department at: [TROWE@VALDOSTACITY.COM](mailto:TROWE@VALDOSTACITY.COM)

If you have completed a CFA course and would like to receive more information on the alumni, email:  
[CFAAVALDOSTA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CFAAVALDOSTA@GMAIL.COM)