



# THE SECOND ALARM

## A Department Without Limits

OCTOBER 2019  
THE SECOND ALARM

CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH

### Preparation

How do we as a department prepare for the next emergency call? There are many facets to being prepared such as proper hydration, ample rest, and mental health. What are we preparing for? One of the things that attracted us to this profession is the unknown. We just know that it is expected for us to be prepared to show up and make someone's day better. Please view a video on Vimeo (Search: "[Evangel Temple- Gratitude](#)"). This video was shared by LT. Niehanke on the fire that turned into a May Day for Lagrange.

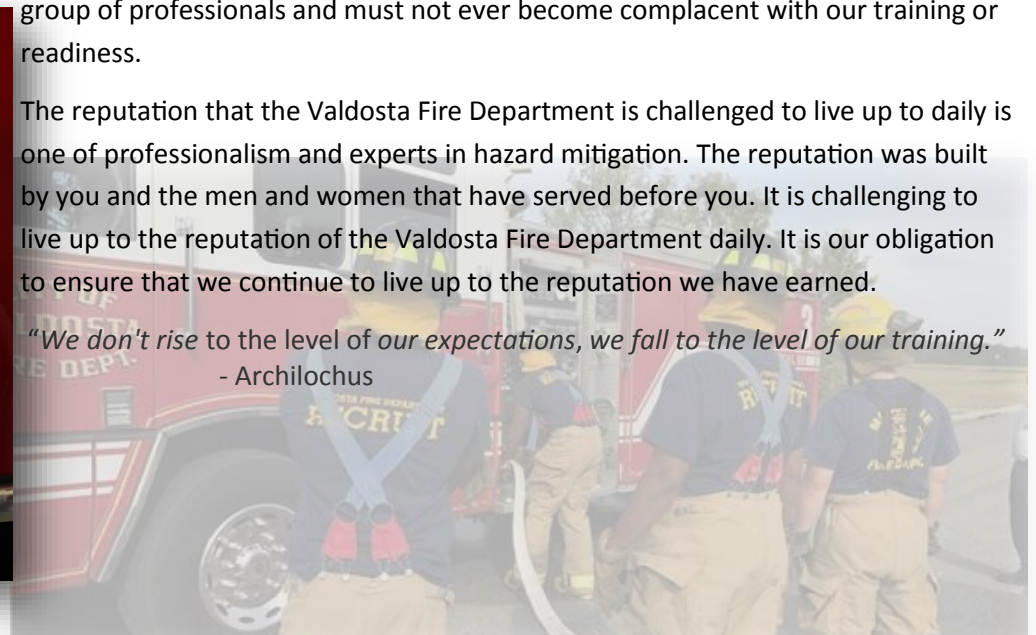
The Training Division uses national and local trends as well as on scene performance as a guide to design curriculum for training needs. We currently provide courses in partnership with the Georgia Fire Academy to better assist us in decision making, strategy and tactics, and human resource related challenges we may face. However, there are more elements to preparation than just attending the assigned training classes. Shannon Stone has a video on You Tube where he shares a post from his brother that serves as a company officer. The video is available on You Tube entitled, "*Childrens Standards Size Up*". The video is Shannon's perspective and he is very passionate about the job. I wanted to summarize the message that he shares: "We are their last resort." When we arrive on scene, it is expected that we handle the emergency. The message is asking how we prepare or evaluate our own readiness. Your children's standards is the verbiage used to get us to evaluate our readiness in the event that we are told that one of our loved ones would be involved in an emergency requiring our intervention to save them. The idea is to get us to think about what we would do to prepare for the emergency if we were told the location, the nature of the call, and that the time of the incident would be thirty minutes from now. We are informed that it is going to be a difficult rescue from the second floor of a structure that is heavily involved on the first floor. What would you do? Would you kick back and relax or prepare yourself by honing search and rescue techniques and study the floor plan? Is all of your equipment checked and working properly? How quick can we throw ladders and enter the second floor for a search? The point being made is every person we come in contact with is someone's family. We are a caring group of professionals and must not ever become complacent with our training or readiness.

The reputation that the Valdosta Fire Department is challenged to live up to daily is one of professionalism and experts in hazard mitigation. The reputation was built by you and the men and women that have served before you. It is challenging to live up to the reputation of the Valdosta Fire Department daily. It is our obligation to ensure that we continue to live up to the reputation we have earned.

*"We don't rise to the level of our expectations, we fall to the level of our training."*  
- Archilochus



*Brian Boutwell*





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*Open Letters to the Fire Dept.*



**COOK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
3295 COUNTY FARM RD. ADEL, GA 31620

September 11, 2019

Chief Boutwell,

On Saturday September 7, 2019, four firefighters from your department participated in Cook County's first annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. Sgt. Nick Bishop, Cpl. Ricky Pineda, Stephanie Taylor, and Dean Goddard all climbed in honor of one of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We were honored to have them participate in this event with us and we look forward to having even more participants from Valdosta next year. If there's anything we can ever do to assist you or your department, please don't hesitate to contact us.

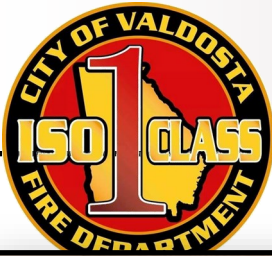
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brandon Rutland'.

Brandon Rutland

District Chief

Cook County Fire Department





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Valdosta Fire Department participated in training provided by the Department of Public Health on Child Passenger Safety Seats. Personnel that completes this training offers a service to citizens, teaching them how to properly install safety seats in their vehicles.



Battalion Chief Johnny Henry was awarded Certified Fire Chief by the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs this year at the joint conference. Chief Henry achieved this milestone by meeting the required points awarded through training classes.



Members of Georgia Search and Rescue, Task Force 2 participated in a rescue scenario held at an industry site in Brooks County. The training was part of the required refresher training to ensure our rescue team is prepared for all emergencies.





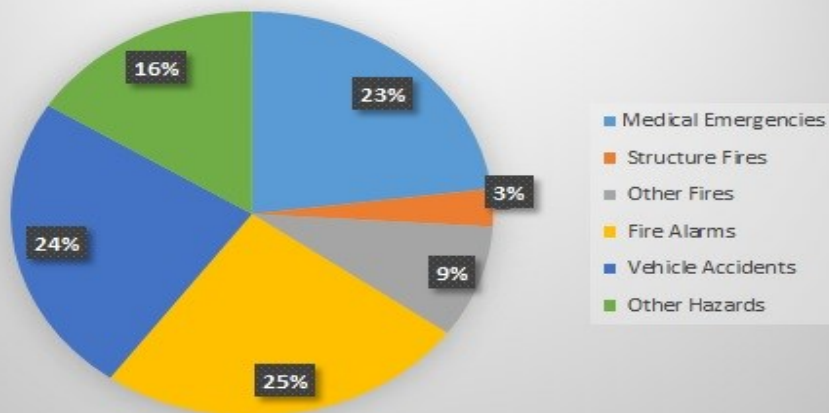


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Valdosta Fire Department members participated in the Habitat for Humanity project, "Freedom Build". These projects allow our members to assist in helping our community outside of emergency calls.



311 Incidents in September







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Valdosta Fire Department along with members of the Citizen's Fire Academy participated in the annual MDA Boot Drive. Over the course of three days, there was a total of \$6,351.00 raised. We exceeded last year's totals by \$351.00.



## Birthday Bulletin

Tyson Reed	10/02
Tyler Shoemake	10/14
Jake Lyons	10/20
Josh McBride	10/22
Austin Williams	10/22

**Happy Birthday !**

## 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. 1, Issue 10 October 2019

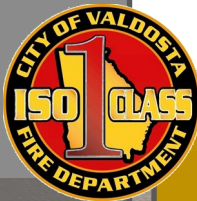
## CFAA Reminders / Upcoming Events:

- ♦ CFAA General Meeting  
Tuesday, October 15 @ Fire Training Center  
(6:00 p.m.) \*\* If you need your CPR Renewal Training—  
Tonight will be the night! If you participate you will need to bring \$6.00 for the CPR card.
- ♦ Valdosta Fire Department Puppet Show at Valdosta Mall  
*If you would like to assist with the show you may help on the following dates.*  
Thursday, October 17 & Friday, October 18  
Thursday, October 24 & Friday, October 25  
Show times are from 10-12.

## CFAA / Looking Ahead:

- ♦ Mayors Motorcade  
December 4
- ♦ Christmas Parade theme:  
"Christmas on Main Street"  
December 7
- ♦ Shop with a Fire Fighter  
December 10th

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.



## 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: [cfaavaldosta@gmail.com](mailto:cfaavaldosta@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/>

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



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)