



THE SECOND ALARM

A Department Without Limits

MARCH 2019
THE SECOND ALARM

CHIEF'S TOPIC OF THE MONTH

I once read a quote that said, "All individuals dream: but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake up in the day to find it was vanity, but the dreamers of the day are dangerous individuals, for they may act their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible." T.E. Lawrence.

This month I have decided to reflect on "Dreams." One of the many definitions of a dream is, "something that you have wanted very much to do, be, or have for a long time"- Merriam-Webster. My question for everyone is, "What are your dreams?" Dreaming is more than an imaginary vision that's not real. Dreaming is the first step in achieving something most think is impossible. It is the powering tool that encompasses our minds for greatness. If you don't believe in the power of dreaming, look in the mirror the next time you are in uniform and the opportunities that are before you. I'm always asked, "Why do I smile all the time" and I always respond by saying "Why not, I have more reasons to smile than I do to frown, I'm living the dream!"

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion for reaching for the stars to change the world" - unknown. When I started my career as a Firefighter in 1996, I never dreamed that I would be a Fire Chief in 18 years. My dream became a reality on March 10, 2014. I celebrate my fifth anniversary as the Fire Chief with the Valdosta Fire Department on March 10, 2019, and I'm still smiling and dreaming.

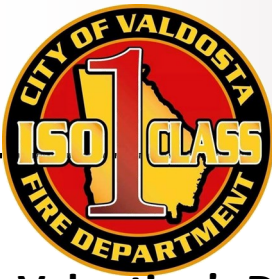
Our department has made significant accomplishments from improving our ISO score, increasing starting salaries, implementing cancer reduction procedures; purchasing new fire trucks, radios, and SCBA mask/voice amps. Although those are only a few of the significant accomplishments, it happened because of you and your dreams of taking our department to the next level.

I think Colin Powell said it best, "A dream doesn't become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work." I think we can all agree that our department is a testament to making dreams become realities. Thank you for your continuous support, commitment and hard work in making our department dream of "Being a Department without Limits" a reality.

Juddie A. Brown

Fire Chief, City of Valdosta





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A Valentine's Day Request

Fire Marshals work in a variety of complex situations that require them to handle firefighting, police work, investigations, enforcing fire codes, plan reviews, risk assessment, and a host of fire prevention programs. Fire Marshals play a huge part in the wellness of their department. A Fire Marshal's approach to performing their jobs not only benefit the fire service, but it also benefits the community in which he or she serves. The City of Valdosta Fire Department is fortunate to have a Fire Marshal that serves his community in this way and even beyond.

On February 14, 2019, (Valentine's Day) the City of Valdosta Fire Department exhibited a great display of love and support to five year old Miokee Williams of J.L. Lomax Elementary School. J.L. Lomax Elementary School hosted their Reading and Donuts with Dad event. The Reading and Donuts with Dad event is for fathers/guardians to attend in an effort to show love and support to their child.



Miokee Williams is a student of J.L. Lomax Elementary School. Miokee enjoys life and has aspirations of one day becoming a doctor. However, Miokee's father recently passed away. Giving the unfortunate recent passing of Miokee's father, Miokee's mother wanted to make sure that her child still felt loved and supported. Not knowing where to turn for help, Miokee's mother reached out to the Valdosta Fire Department for assistance. When Fire Marshal James Clinkscales heard of Miokee's situation, he knew in his heart that he had to do something. Fire Marshal James Clinkscales asked Miokee's mother if it would be ok for him to come as a guest for Miokee.

Fire Marshal James Clinkscales was honored that Miokee's mother said yes. Fire Marshal James Clinkscales attended as the personal guest for the Reading with Dad and Donuts with Miokee Williams. Words cannot express the impact that Fire Marshal James Clinkscales's selfless actions had upon Miokee Williams and her family.

Life has a bizarre way of placing us in situations and circumstances that we never thought that we would be in. However, the city of Valdosta finds comfort in knowing that we employ competent, compassionate, and considerate employees like Fire Marshal James Clinkscales that believes in a high quality of life for everyone.

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.





THE SECOND ALARM

Open Letters to the Chief

February 15, 2019

MEMO TO: Chief Freddie Broome/Lt. John Herpin
Valdosta Fire Department

FROM: Venessa Walker, Executive Administrator *VW*
Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation

SUBJECT: 2018 Campaign Appreciation

Dear Chief Broome and Lt. Herpin:

On behalf of the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, I wish to convey our most sincere appreciation for your involvement with our 29th annual "Give Burns The Boot"® campaign. Please accept the enclosed plaque as a small token of our gratitude.

The 2018 boot drive campaign was another successful fundraising initiative. Though we did not meet our campaign goal of \$650,000, many departments exceeded their previous individual collection totals, and had an awesome time doing it! Words can't express how grateful we are for your department's support, which helped raise over \$567,000 towards supporting our many programs and services. It's evident that the human spirit is still strong and that people want to give to a worthwhile cause. We thank you for going above and beyond the call of duty by allowing your community the opportunity to give.

On February 5, during our 22nd Annual Firefighters' Recognition Day Luncheon & Awards Ceremony, the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation had the extreme pleasure of publicly recognizing all fire departments who participated in last year's campaign, as we called them on stage to publicly say "thank you" as they received their award. Also, in celebration of 2019 being our 30th annual boot drive campaign, we gifted each attendee with a flash drive, preloaded with a GFBF promo video! You'll find one of these flash drives enclosed as well, and we encourage you to share the video with your department. We regret that you were unable to attend, but look forward to you and your department joining us for next year's luncheon on February 4, 2020!

The 2019 boot drive campaign kicks off in May, and we are hopeful that working together, we will not only reach this year's campaign goal of \$650,000 but will supersede it, allowing us to maintain the much needed programs and services to burn survivors, an often underserved population. Your "spirit of service" and willingness to "go the extra mile", continues to help us help others. **THANK YOU!!!**



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

Thanks for ALL you do!

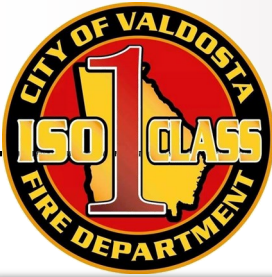
Presented To

Valdosta

Fire Department

In Recognition of
Exceptional Commitment to Providing
Help Hope and Healing Beyond the Burn
29th Annual "Give Burns The Boot"® Campaign
2018





THE SECOND ALARM

Open Letters to the Chief

To the Valdosta Police and Fire Departments,

The family of William ("Bill") Claude Summers wishes to thank the generous escort and performance at Bill's wake and funeral on the 25th and 26th of January. The firemen performed the services with dignity and solemnity and in a manner that gave great comfort to Bill's family and friends. Many commented on the performance and the recognition of Bill's more than thirty years of service to his country and the city he loved so dearly, Valdosta, Georgia.

As the family sat at the funeral listening to the speakers, the temperature near freezing and the wind cutting through our clothes, the firemen of Valdosta were stone-faced in the service of one of their own, unmoving and silent standing at attention in a beautiful exercise of respect. Near the end as the funeral drew to a close, a Fireman read the Fireman's poem and after was the ringing of the bell. As we sat comforted and proud that our Bill had belonged to such an estimable profession and city, the peal of that bell washed over us and rippled through the universe carrying our memories and emotions and reaching finally into eternity. We are so grateful for your kindness and dignity. The love of brotherhood and family, community and fellowship could not have been expressed with more earnest beauty.

Again, thank you,

Doris Summers and family

—
Angela Hodge



CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3 March 2019

CFAA Reminders / Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **Azalea Festival**
Saturday, March 9 & Sunday, March 10
(9am—6pm both days / rotating shifts)
- ♦ **CFAA General Meeting**
Tuesday, March 19 @ Fire Station 1
Conference Room (6:00 p.m.)
- ♦ **Jr. Fire Marshal's Fun Day**
Saturday, March 23 (10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
- ♦ **Jr. Fire Marshal's Banquet**
Monday, March 25 (6:00 p.m.)
- ♦ **Fire Alarm Blitz**
Saturday, April 27 @ Vallotton Park (off Woodlawn)
(8:00 a.m. -5:00 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.

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

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:
cfaavaldostagmail.com*

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."



CFAA Volunteers Needed:

1: Azalea Festival—scheduled for Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10 at Drexel Park (1401 N Patterson Street).

Sign up to help the VFD trailer and information booth. The event is from 9am -6pm both days. The Fire department will be rotating shifts - we will want to do the same. Let me know what day (s) and time (s) you can help.

2: Junior Fire Marshal Fun Day—scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd at McKey Park (113 Burton Street / next to Valdosta Middle School) from 10:00AM-2:00PM.

Sign up to help with games and event.

3: Junior Fire Marshal Banquet—scheduled for Monday, March 25 Mathis Auditorium (2300 N Ashley Street) beginning at 6:00PM.

Volunteers are needed to help set and serve during the dinner. If you would like to sign up you would need to arrive by 5:30 p.m. Be on the lookout for more information.

If you are interested in serving in any or all of the above, please email: cfaavaldosta@gmail.com

NEW! The Recognition Box

{Do you have someone you would like to recognize?}

"I would personally like to thank Bobby Flowers for stepping up to be the very first CFAA President. Its difficult starting a new group, and Bobby was willing to take and run with it, so thanks Bobby for leading the way and helping to keep it on track—Sarah L."

Please send in your submissions to the cfaavaldosta@gmail.com OR drop off your words of affirmation into the "Recognition Box" at the next CFAA General Meetings.

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

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

CFAA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3 March 2019

Highlights on Community Outreach Initiatives



Adopt—A—Road Clean Up



SHARE THE INFORMATION

Do you fully understand the importance of the [address identification numbers](#) on your home? In the case of an emergency, seconds count. A delay in receiving help could mean the difference between life and death. When dispatchers send emergency responders to your home, the address identification is extremely important. Check out this video to learn more.

Safety Tip Video—Address Identification Numbers

CFAA RECRUITMENT RALLY KICK-OFF !!! COMING SOON

Who doesn't like to have a little healthy competition! And some bragging rights?

Yep, that's right, what better way to help promote our Valdosta Fire Department than to boost and encourage our local citizens to sign up for the very next Citizens Fire Academy course coming up this fall of 2019?

Be on the look out in the next edition of the CFAA News on how you can get in on the fun.



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2019

Smoking

Smoking Facts:

Smoking materials, including cigarettes, pipes, and cigars, started an estimated 17,200 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments in 2014.

Smoking fires caused 570 deaths, 1,140 injuries and \$426 million in direct property damage.

Smoking materials caused 5% of reported home fires, 21% of home fire deaths, 10% of home fire injuries, and 6% of the direct property damage.

Smoking materials are a leading cause of preventable fire deaths.

Local Statistics

In 2018, VFD responded to 111 building fires of which 7 were caused by smoking or smoking related materials.

Safety Tips

- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes.
- If you smoke, smoke outside.

- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
- Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Place it away from anything that can burn.



- Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.
- Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure the fire is out. Dousing them in water or sand is the best way to ensure the butts are out.

Always Remember:

- Never smoke and never allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used.
- Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal.
- Fires have occurred while e-cigarettes were being used, the battery was being charged, or the device was being transported.
- Battery failures in e-cigarettes have led to small explosions.
- Always use caution with e-cigarettes and never leave them unattended.

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Top-causes-of-fire/Smoking>

Don't let your dreams go up in smoke - practice fire safety. ~Author Unknown

The risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age.

One out of four fatal victims of smoking-material fires is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to: valdostafire@valdostacity.com

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

dox TI JOB
dox

Answers to last month's wuzzles are open to discussion and blessing in disguise.

Fire Safety Quiz

1. Most smoking deaths result from fires that started in living rooms, family rooms and dens or in bedrooms.
A. True
B. False
2. Federal law placed the standard age to purchase/sell tobacco products at _____.
A. 30
B. 12
C. 21
D. 18

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. A. & 2. B.



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief