

# GAFC FIRESIDE

Volume 5 # 7

September, 2010



Rules - What's Next?

## SEAT BELTS



President David Kimbrell

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTERS  
STANDARDS AND TRAINING  
COUNCIL OCTOBER 14th  
MEETING CANCELLED. TO  
BE RESCHEDULED.

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

*The Georgia Fire Service is now 5th in the Nation in support of the:*

**National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge Campaign**

Of all the member commentary we received regarding the proposed GFSTC rule changes, only one bothered us. One member said, "you didn't take the high road when you published all those criticisms in your August issue." Just so the air is clear, our job is to reflect, and then do something about, the concerns of our members. If all those who have been silent expect their silence to be read as support for the proposals, one could easily conclude there is overwhelming support for the proposed changes. Too many of our leaders don't believe that silence is an effective measure of support for issues like rule changes. It is a GFSTC responsibility to explain the benefits of each rule change and educate us all regarding any risks, good or bad, that fire departments face if these rules become law. The GFSTC has a responsibility to assure us that the proposed changes do not exceed the Council's authority. The GFSTC has a responsibility to use their offices to create a high level of trust and support from all sectors of the Fire Service before the Council acts on final recommendations. AND one more matter. GAFC and many of our Unification partners have not expressed any criticism of the GFSTC Rules Committee. Many of those serving are GAFC members and we have greatly appreciated their efforts. The Council itself has not been criticized. Their approach to the challenge at hand has been responsible and appreciated.

- Albany Fire Department
- Americus Fire Department
- Bartow County Fire Rescue
- Big Smith Vol. Fire Dept.
- Cairo Fire Department
- Centerville Fire Rescue
- Clayton County Fire Department
- Cobb County
- Colquitt Miller Fire EMS
- Columbus Fire & EMS
- Dalton Fire Department
- Flovilla Fire Department
- Gainesville Fire Department
- Georgia Public Safety Training
- Gresston Vol. Fire Department
- Hall County Fire Service
- Henry County Fire Department
- Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base
- Lockheed Martin Fire Protection
- Marietta Fire Department
- Milton Fire Rescue
- Moody Airforce Base Fire Dept.
- Moultrie Fire Department
- Perry Fire Department
- Sandy Springs Fire Rescue
- Sky Valley Fire Department
- Statesboro Fire Department
- Sylvester Fire Department
- Thomasville Fire Rescue
- Thunderbolt Fire Department

### RESOLUTION-2010

**Whereas**, the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs represents Chief Fire Officers of both Career and Volunteer fire departments within the State of Georgia and; **Whereas**, the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs recognize the devastating effects of not wearing seat belts in Fire Department vehicles and; **Whereas**, the Georgia Association of Fire Chief's desire to ensure the safety of all fire department members and; **Whereas** the Georgia Association of Fire Chief's recognize that wearing a seat belt significantly improves the survivability of a motor vehicle accident.

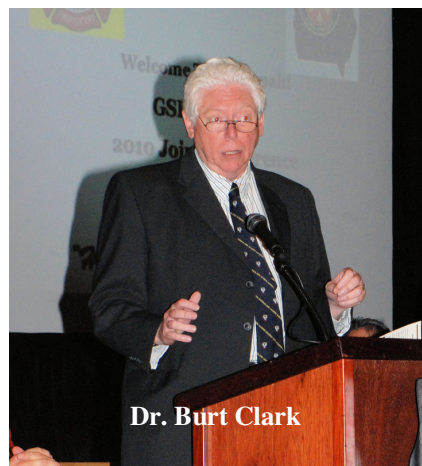
**Now therefore**, be it resolved that the members of the Georgia Association of Fire Chief's direct the Executive Board and the Legislative committee to pursue legislation that would require all occupants of a Fire Department Vehicle while such Fire Department Vehicle is being operated on a public road, street or highway of this State be restrained by seat belts.

**PASSED at Joint Conference**

**THE GOAL: GEORGIA FIRE SERVICE-FIRST IN THE NATION REGARDING SEAT BELT USE PLEDGES -**

## CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE . . .

Dr. Burton Clark, the Management Science Program Chair at the National Fire Academy, has honored the Georgia Fire Service twice in 2010. He addressed the GAFC Executive Training Session earlier this year and the Joint (GSFA-GAFC) Conference in Savannah last month. Burt is an inspirational speaker who does more than just inspire. An advocate for the use of seat belts to avoid line-of duty deaths, Burt knows his facts; (more than 40 firefighters lost from 2007 to now due to non-use of seat belts). Burt explained the reason for the national seatbelt use pledge and sold the importance to conference participants. The page 1 listing of Georgia Fire Departments that pledged support is only a partial list. We'll publish more in Oct. & November.



Dr. Burt Clark

## BEST RELATIONS YET - GEMA-GAFC

GEMA Director Charley English addressed the Joint Conference in Savannah last month. Offering support and cooperation to the Fire Service, Charley received a well deserved welcome. GAFC and GEMA are entering a second year of contractual relations designed to strengthen the statewide mutual aid program. In cooperation with GMAG, seven projects ranging from deployment protocols to the status of Haz-Mat have been undertaken. Work on GaMABAS (the box alarm system) has been funded again and last year's cooperation between GAFC and GEMA has received high marks. Our appreciation to Charley and his staff for their cooperation. From all indications, GEMA will fund a new five year strategic planning effort for the Fire Service, this to begin by 2011.



Director Charley English

## NEW TO THE GAFC BOARD

Gainesville Fire Chief Jon Canada has been elected to the GAFC Executive Committee and joins colleagues David Kimbrell, Bryan Croft, Glenn Williams, Robert Singletary, Jimmy Williams and Craig Tully in the day-to-day management of the association. Jon is married to wife Jenny and has a daughter (Kayla) and son (Carson). When asked about his views about GAFC and the Fire Service, the following was his reply:



"I am most concerned with Firefighter health & safety and want to work toward establishing legislation that will protect our Firefighters if they suffer from health conditions that are directly related to their jobs. This can be accomplished through a "Heart & Lung" bill of which in 2009 the GAFC & GSFA adopted a resolution to pursue such legislation. I joined the Fire Service like most firefighters did thinking it was a cool job (and it is a very cool job to have) but I realized very early on in my career that it is a very challenging & demanding job placing many stresses on a person, this from many different angles. Being a firefighter you must learn how to manage and balance work, family, second jobs, things you see on emergency calls that only others imagine and while doing all that, keeping everything in perspective. I also learned early on that we all have a responsibility to leave the Fire Service better than we found it and that has become a top priority of mine. I strive each day first and foremost to honor God, learn something new and leave things better than I found them."