



# the SIREN UPDATE

## OHIO FIREFIGHTERS HONORED AT OHIO FIRE SERVICE HALL OF FAME CEREMONIES

The Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal and the Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of EMS awarded the fire service's highest honors to firefighters and fire officers during the state's 32nd annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame ceremonies on September 20. For the first time, the Division of EMS presented their top firefighting awards during the same ceremony.

"We honor the courage and sacrifice of true heroes – firefighters who selflessly went to the aid of others," said Commerce Director David Goodman. "I commend each of them for their bravery and for making Ohio a safe and healthy place to call home."

"These awards are a tribute to those individuals and organizations whose overall contributions go beyond their basic duties and responsibilities and who represent the finest traditions of public service," said Public Safety Director Tom Charles.

Firefighter Jason Burley (Jackson Township FD, Grove City), Lt. Brian Henry (Toledo Fire & Rescue), Captain Randy Little (Jackson Township FD, Grove City), Firefighter Kamal Parker (Toledo Fire & Rescue) and Captain Michael Posadny (Toledo Fire & Rescue) were presented the Ohio Fire Service Valor Award.

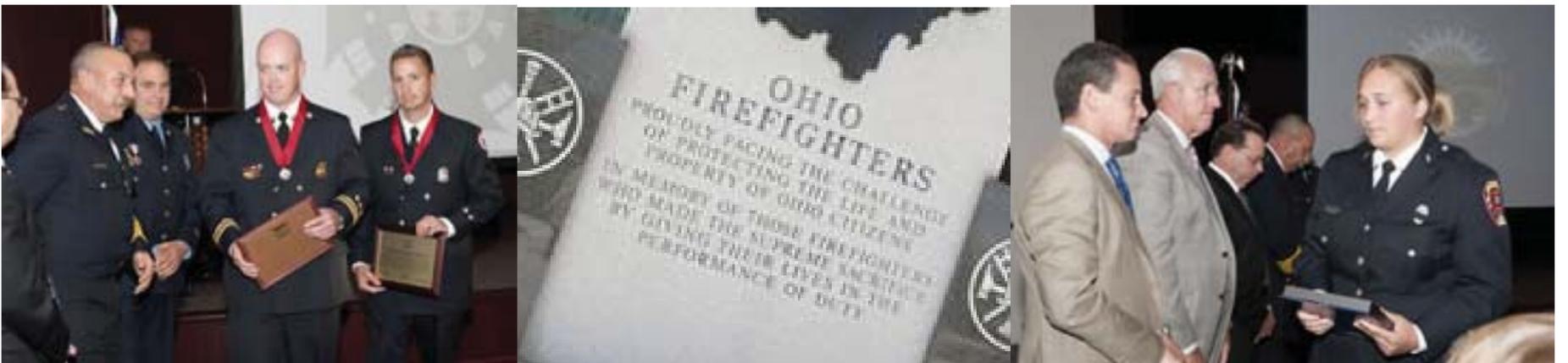
Former Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Donald Cooper and Columbus Division of Fire Captain Greg Lash were honored with the Ohio Distinguished Fire Service Award for milestone careers. Lash was also recognized by the Division of EMS with the Ohio Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement Award.

Chief Joe Kitchen of the Bath Township Fire Department was awarded the Division of EMS Ohio Fire Officer of the Year Award.

The ceremony also celebrated the service of Ohio's fallen firefighters who have died in the line of duty in since September 11, 2012. Those remembered were Firefighter Charlotte Adair (Richfield Township FD), Fire Chief Gregory Baker (Lewisville Vol. FD), Firefighter Edward Richard Bernosky (Adena Vol. Fire Co.), Captain Michael Burgan (Sugar Creek Fire & Rescue), Firefighter Rocky Dunkin (Nile Township Vol. FD) and Fire Chief Robert Tieche (Cardinal Joint Fire District).



*Honor Guard  
from Jackson Township Fire Department*



## THE RURAL ASSISTANCE CENTER FEATURES RURAL EMS

The Rural Assistance Center (RAC) helps rural communities and other rural stakeholders access the full range of available programs, funding, and research that can enable them to provide quality health and human services to rural residents.

An original publication of RAC is The Rural Monitor, which featured Rural EMS in their most recent issue. Included in this current issue is an article titled "Local and National Efforts to Improve Rural EMS Safety".

To view the full publication, go to [www.raconline.org/newsletter/summer12/feature.php#story1](http://www.raconline.org/newsletter/summer12/feature.php#story1)

## FREE TRAINING OFFERED FOR FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY AT A SMALL AIRCRAFT OR HELICOPTER ACCIDENT

As small aircraft and helicopters have become more complex, technology has provided systems that have enhanced operational safety. In the event of an accident, many of these systems have presented additional hazards to first responders or any potential rescuer at an aircraft accident scene.

The FAA, in cooperation with General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), various manufacturers and first responder professional organizations, has developed training for safety at an aircraft accident scene.

While the material was initially developed for firefighters, EMS and police, it provides useful information for any persons that may come across an aircraft accident. Flash Player is required to view each module.

To view the training, go to [www.faa.gov/aircraft/gen\\_av/first\\_responders/](http://www.faa.gov/aircraft/gen_av/first_responders/)



# the SIREN UPDATE

## ONLINE EMS AND FIRE CERTIFICATIONS RENEWAL

The Ohio Division of EMS strongly encourages everyone to renew their Ohio fire and EMS certifications electronically, online.

This can be done from our web page: [www.ems.ohio.gov/](http://www.ems.ohio.gov/), then under Online Services click on EMS and Fire Certification Renewal, or go to this web address: <https://www.dps.state.oh.us/certrenewal/main.aspx>.

This is a fast and easy way to immediately know that your Ohio fire and/or EMS certifications have been successfully renewed. The process is simple and generally completed within 5 minutes. Please make sure you click on each certification level that is up for renewal and make sure you fill out an electronic renewal application for each fire and/or EMS certification level to be renewed.

It is imperative that you renew any certification that is within 90-days of expiration date, prior to the certification expiration date on the card, which will be your birthdate!

### **THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD FOR EXPIRED EMS AND/OR FIRE CERTIFICATIONS.**

If your certification expires, you are inactive and cannot legally function until reinstated. Reinstatement could involve the taking and successful completion of the State Fire test at the level of your previous fire certification, or the successful completion of the NREMT test at the level of your EMS certification.

No one wants to take the NREMT Test or State Fire Test over again to get their certification back to an active status. Don't let your certification card expire! The certification is your certification card and your responsibility to obtain the required continuing education and to submit timely for renewal.

If you need to ask for an extension for the completion of continuing education training, please remember currently, there is NO extension available for Ohio Fire Certification expiration dates.

Ohio EMS Certifications can request a 90-day extension of their expiration date, **IF REQUESTED PRIOR TO THEIR EMS EXPIRATION DATE.**

Once you finish renewing online and you have received a successful renewal e-mail notification, go to "Certification Verification" from our home web page or at this web address: <https://www.dps.state.oh.us/certrenewal/Verification.aspx/> and type in your certification number or social security number.

This page will verify that you still have active certifications listed, and those certifications you just renewed should be listed as "PENDING." "Pending" means the certification is pending the expiration date of the current active certification(s).

At your expiration date, the "Pending" certifications would automatically become active for three more years. Your new card, listing all your active certifications on this one card, would be mailed to you within 7 to 10 days after the new three year certification is activated.

We must have a current and correct address and current and correct e-mail address on file, always, in order for you to get your certification card and renewal applications e-mailed and U.S. mailed to you.

Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail us here at the Ohio Division of EMS for any fire or EMS question you may have. We are here to assist you and your department with any question you may have.

#### Certification Section Contacts:

Jean Booze, Certifications Coordinator  
1-614-466-9455 [JABooze@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:JABooze@dps.state.oh.us)

Jan Greenlee, Certification Specialist  
1-614-466-0836 [jgreenlee@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:jgreenlee@dps.state.oh.us)

John E. Sands, Chief of Operations  
1-614-387-0649 [jesands@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:jesands@dps.state.oh.us)

## EMS BOARD TO TERMINATE EMSIRS -1 on December 31, 2012

The EMS Board voted October 19, 2011 to terminate the use of EMSIRS-1 on December 31, 2012. If your current software is not NEMSIS compliant, you will need to contact your vendor for support.

To clarify, incidents that occur fourth quarter (Oct – Dec) are due January 30th and they will be accepted but any incident that begins after January 1, 2013 must be in EMSIRS2 format.

For more information regarding EMSIRS, contact the EMS Office of Research and Analysis at 1-800-233-0785 or by email at [EMSData@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:EMSData@dps.state.oh.us).