

Kingsport Area Safety Council
Community Awareness Meeting
Minutes for Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Speakers:

Harold Gillenwater — Avoca Volunteer Fire Department and

Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association

Drew Deakins — Chief (Sullivan West Volunteer Fire Dept.)

Ben Wexler — Chief (Warrior's Path Volunteer Fire Dept.)

The Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighter's Association was formed in 1977 at the request of the Sullivan County Commissioners. The association was charged with trying to find ways to reduce the fire insurance rating for the county and to improve fire service in the various communities of the county. The association currently has 10 volunteer fire departments and 5 rescue squads involved in the association.

Today's program included an overview of the 2012 Fire/Rescue Training Conference which was held on October 12-13. The conference was held at Northeast State Community College. The first conference was held at Sullivan South High School in 2009 with 99 attendees. Since the first event, all other conferences have been held at Northeast State Community College with over 600 total attendees attending since 2009. Students receive training in various emergency response activities to increase their skill levels and to learn correct responses to potential emergency situations. These training sessions help attendees meet the Tennessee Fire Safety yearly training requirements. One of the short term goals of the association is to construct an SCBA training trailer to expose firefighters to SCBA use in a non-emergency environment. The Kingsport Area Safety Council has provided scholarships to the annual conference for the last three years in an effort to support area volunteer fire departments and to support the Sullivan County Firefighter's Association.