



I am honored and excited for the opportunity to serve the Tennessee Fire Service as the 53rd President of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association. I am looking forward to the year ahead of continuing the mission of our organization to provide leadership for Chief Officers and Managers of Emergency Services throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service, and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities.

My fire service career began at the age of 15 as a junior firefighter with the Sevierville-Sevier County Volunteer Fire Department where I fell in love with our profession. I have served 20 years as a volunteer firefighter, 27 years as a career firefighter and in my 11th year as Fire Chief for the City of Sevierville. Leadership, guidance and support from God, my family, Sevierville Fire Department, City of Sevierville, and Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association has prepared me for this term as President and I am looking forward to serving.

To provide leadership and education for the Tennessee Fire Service, we must remain mission focused on changes in our profession, whether it be changes in building construction, hybrid/electric vehicles, or firefighter mental health needs. We also must remain committed to providing leadership, education, mentorship, and support for our brother and sister firefighters who have chosen this great profession to serve their communities across Tennessee.

Examples of committees working to continue the mission of the TFCA are:

- The Mutual Aid Committee has developed a response and deployment plan that has become a role model for others. This plan has provided responses to communities in each region of Tennessee and to other Southeastern states.
- The Fallen Firefighter Memorial Committee created a state firefighter memorial to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice serving their community. Maintaining these grounds is on-going and all our responsibility.
- The Legislative Committee continues to remain extremely active and dedicated by keeping us informed and involved with the legislative processes which affect our personnel, our communities, and our industries.
- The Health & Safety Codes and Public Education Committees provide great information regarding the health and wellness of our members as well as the safety and security of the communities we serve.

- Finally, our partner and affiliate organizations including the State Fire Marshal's Office, CTAS/MTAS, Homeland Security, NVFC, TML, the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, Regional Fire Chiefs Associations, the Tennessee Fireman's Association, and the Tennessee State Fire Coalition, among others, who work with us every day to further the mission of creating a "safer" Tennessee.

The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association has many great accomplishments to be proud of. However, much work must continue to provide excellent service to our communities when they are in need at home and across our state. Our firefighters are our most valuable resource. Providing them with the education, tools and resources needed to perform the job whenever and wherever they are needed is the key to our success.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president, I am looking forward to the year ahead.

Respectfully,

Matt Henderson

Matt Henderson
Sevierville Fire Department
President, Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association 2023-2024