



For Immediate Release

October 1, 2009

The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety announces the winners of the 2009 State Fire Service Awards

The 2009 Alaska Fire Service Awards were presented by the State Fire Marshal Dave Tyler at the 2009 Alaska State Firefighters Association and Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference Awards Banquet held in Anchorage, September 26th, 2009.

Awards are given in four categories; Firefighter of the Year, William A. Hagevig Fire Instructor of the Year, Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year and the Ken Akerley Fire Service Leadership Award. These awardees are nominated and selected by their peers for exemplary service to their community and the fire service.

Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Firefighter Kevin Wallace with Anchorage Fire Department. While off duty at his home in Palmer, Firefighter Wallace assisted with the evacuation of a sleeping family whose house was on fire. During the resulting media coverage Firefighter Wallace spoke of the importance of home fire safety thereby not only directly helping the family involved but possibly encouraging other families to take fire safety seriously.

The William A. Hagevig Fire Instructor of the Year award was awarded to Captain Sean Wisner with Alyeska Pipeline Fire/Rescue. Captain Wisner averages several hundreds of hours of teaching and course development each year. He delivers classes to many organizations including neighboring emergency response departments such as Valdez Fire Department and the Alaska Avalanche Information Center. He exemplifies the spirit of fire instructors throughout the state.

The Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year was awarded to Niki Pereira with Anchorage Fire Stoppers. Ms. Pereira's efforts to combat Juvenile Firesetting in Anchorage are admirable. She has worked to educate care givers, mental health professionals and social service workers on the recognition and prevention of Juvenile Fire Setting, the leading cause of child fire deaths in Alaska.

The most prestigious fire service award in Alaska is the Ken Akerley Fire Service Leadership Award. Deputy Chief Doug Schrage, with Anchorage Fire Department received this honor due to his leadership and guidance for Anchorage Fire Department and as President of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association. Deputy Chief Schrage is well known throughout Alaska as a mentor, advisor, friend and leader.

The Alaska Fire Service Awards are awarded annually at the Fire Conference Awards Banquet every September

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