

September 2007

## IFSTA Honors...

### **The Face of Validation: Lt. Beverley Walker**

IFSTA would like to recognize Lt. Beverley Walker, a fire and life safety educator with the Hall County Fire Services in Gainesville, GA, and member of the IFSTA Fire and Life Safety Educator validation committee. Beverley recently received the Georgia State Firefighters Association 2007 Fire Educator of the Year award during the Georgia State Firefighters Association annual conference. Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue will acknowledge Beverley and her achievements during the Firefighters Recognition Day ceremonies at the Georgia State Capitol in February 2008.

Hall County FD's Captain Scott Cagle nominated Beverley for the award. He said, "There are no other educators in Georgia—and maybe the nation—like Lt. Beverley Walker. We are honored and privileged to have her in our ranks here. I am sure she could obtain a job anywhere she chose but has made the decision to be a part of our team and help accomplish our mission. Beverley is known all over this region for her work in fire and life safety, and her dedication shows it. You can tell this is not a 'job' for Lt. Walker but a lifestyle."

Cagle continued, "Beverley has dedicated her life to saving others, not by running into burning houses, but by educating them not to have fires in the first place. I sit back and wonder sometimes, over her years in educating citizens, how many lives has she saved?" Cagle is pleased that she continues to be recognized for her commitment. Beverley also was named Staff Officer of the Year for the Hall County Fire Services for 2007.

"I can honestly say that Beverley does not do this for the awards," Cagle said. "She truly does not want to see anyone suffer the power of fire. Georgia is safer by having Lt. Beverley Walker working to reduce fires and fire-related injuries." Beverley's other honors include the Safe Kids Award for her volunteer work in raising safety awareness as a child passenger safety technician and assisting with proper bicycle helmet fittings, among other activities.

Safe Kids Georgia advocates safety awareness through community partnerships and recognized Beverley's dedication to safety through her work with parents and children. She has taken an active role in community events concerning injury prevention for more than 17 years and has helped the state training academy with fire and life safety curriculum for many years. Beverley, who originally wanted to be a school teacher, reported she feels she has the best of both worlds as a fire and life safety educator. Her job allows her to teach, but on a greater scale, covering issues that immediately impact children and families.

Beverley measures her success in feedback from grateful school officials and parents. One mother approached her after attending a passenger safety class. The woman had experienced a serious car accident that could have ended in disaster had she not learned how to install her baby's car seat properly two weeks before at one of Beverley's classes. "We both hugged each other and cried in the middle of Wal-Mart," Beverley said, adding that such stories motivate her to continue her quest for safety awareness by using sound educational techniques.

Ed Kirtley, IFSTA curriculum projects coordinator, commented, "When people ask us what sets IFSTA apart from the competition, Beverley is a fine example of the difference." He added, "There are those, like Beverley, who lead our profession by making contributions to IFSTA that fulfill our mission to be an international leader in the fire and emergency services. Customers who purchase our manuals can be confident that they are receiving the best information and practices in the business."

A group of state fire training directors formed IFSTA in 1934 with the mission to develop and validate high-quality, comprehensive training materials for the fire service. Since its inception, IFSTA has worked with FPP at OSU to produce and distribute materials following their approval by the assigned IFSTA committee. FPP is an auxiliary enterprise of the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology at OSU in Stillwater, OK.