



Johnson County Fire Protection District

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Chief Larry W. Jennings
Assistant Chief Dee Bennett
Board President Mark Lenger
Board Vice President Aaron Collett
Board Member Scott Hackler
Secretary/Treasurer Mackenzie Schuette

NEWS RELEASE – Saturday, October 5, 2024

Jennings Awarded for Contributions to Fire Investigation

CAMDENTON, MO – Johnson County Fire Protection District Fire Chief Larry Jennings was presented the Harry Hansen Memorial Award during the 57th Annual Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Professional Development Symposium October 5th in Camdenton. The award, presented by the Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Association, recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions toward advancing fire investigation in Missouri.

The award was named in honor of the late Harry Hansen who was an original member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol when it formed in 1931. Hansen had a successful career with the Patrol and attained the rank of captain. He later worked as an MFA Insurance Special Investigator where he served for nineteen years before retiring in 1971. Hansen was an instrumental figure in the formation of the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office prior to his passing in 1976.

"It is an honor to be recognized for the Harry Hansen Memorial Award," said Jennings. "The other individuals who have received this award are major role models for those in the fire investigation industry and it is extremely humbling to be included among them."

Jennings, a Warrensburg native, began his career in the fire service in June 1976 and was an original volunteer member of the JCFPD when the District formed in January 1979.

He also served in local law enforcement capacities as a police officer with the University of Central Missouri and as a deputy with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office from 1980 until 1987.

In 1987 he began a career as a fire investigator with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety (State Fire Marshal) and was the 15th person to be certified as a fire investigator in the state of Missouri. He served in that capacity until 1992 when he entered the private sector and worked as an investigator within the American Family Insurance Special Investigation Unit which took him across the country investigating fire scenes as well as providing courtroom testimony and classroom instruction.

He has served the JCFPD as Fire Chief since 1996 and assumed the role as a career in 2007.

Jennings currently serves as the President of the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri (which has over 7,500 members from over 350 fire, emergency medical, and emergency communication agencies from across all of Missouri) and serves on the Board of Directors for the Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Association.

Jennings has previously been honored as the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri Fire Chief of the Year in 2009 and was honored by the University of Central Missouri as a Distinguished Alumni for Service in 2019. Throughout his career, Jennings has mentored and impacted fire investigation professionals who serve the profession across the country.

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Fire Chief Larry Jennings and Professional Fire and Fraud Investigators Association President Dan Bruno