



OXFORD FIRE – EMS

181 Main Street
Oxford, Massachusetts 01540
(508) 987-6012 • (508) 987-6009
Fax (508) 987-6013



September 13, 2011

Chief Timothy Wall, Chair
Volunteer & Combination Officers Section
International Association of Fire Chiefs
4025 Fair Ridge Drive
Fairfax, Va 22033

Chief,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank VCOS and Target Safety for the Training Officer of the Year Award. The trip to FRI was an experience I will not soon forget. This was a first for me and I found myself overwhelmed by the educational opportunities, networking and just plain fun I was exposed to during that whirlwind four days. Duty pulled me away a little early, but not before I made new friendships, joined new committees, attended organization meetings or enjoyed a great meal with all of you.

The last two years have been challenging, frustrating and at times lonely for me. My strong belief in training and safety is a new mind set for Oxford Fire-EMS and not as easily implemented as you would think. I have stuck to my beliefs and my department has proven the value of both. The ability to continue as a combination department that has highly trained firefighters, both call and career, is important to me as a leader and as a resident of the town. To be not only recognized for my dedication to training and safety but also for the unique ways we as a department have implemented the training programs is a great honor. Who knew anyone was watching our “small town” department?

The opportunities afforded me by this trip opened a new chapter for me as a professional and also for my department. No Chief of the department before me has

ever attended such an event. I can honestly say the benefits professionally and personally that I saw ensures I will be there in the years to come.

I truly enjoyed meeting all of you and support the continued partnership with Target Safety. Mr. Kostyzak, of Target Safety, is a true professional with a dedication to the fire service that you can't help but respect.

The committee and Target Safety treated me like a Queen for four days. An experience that I am fortunate to have had and I can promise you I will not waste the opportunities it afforded me. This award opened doors for me I would not otherwise have had as a Chief Officer of a combination department in small-town America.

You have my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the recognition and the experience of FRI.

Sincerely,

Sheri R. Bemis, MPA, CFO IV
Oxford Fire-EMS