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Two uncles, three departments, and great supervisors have molded Burleson Fire Department Lt. Mike Jones into the kind of supervisor that earned him Fire Officer of the Year for the Burleson Fire Department. The award was presented to Jones by Fire Chief Gary Wisdom on March 22 at the 2010 Firefighters Awards Banquet.

Jones, 35, is a fire lieutenant/emergency medical technician intermediate (EMT-I) at Fire Station #1 on Alsbury Boulevard. He volunteered for Burleson before being hired in April 1999.

"I wanted to be on the ground floor of a rapidly growing city and department," Jones said. "I wanted to be part of the camaraderie that was already instilled in this department."

Jones graduated from Kilgore College Fire Academy in 1996. Prior to Burleson, the lieutenant was a part-time firefighter for the Forest Hill Fire Department (1996-1997) and a firefighter/EMT for the Ranger Fire Department (1997-1999).

The award winner is certified as an advanced firefighter, hazardous materials technician, field examiner, fire service instructor, fire officer, driver/operator-pumper, rope rescue operations, swift water technician, weapons of mass destruction radiological/nuclear operations level certified trainer, and weapons of mass destruction standardized awareness level certified trainer.

Jones is in charge of the fire department's hazardous material program and pre-incident plan program. On his off days, he serves on the board of directors and as the compliance officer at Training Division Fire Academy in Crowley.

"I love training," Jones said.

In 2009, the lieutenant applied for a position on the Texas Commission on Fire Protection's firefighter advisory board. The position was open to certified fire personnel statewide. Jones was selected, and continues to serve today.

"Our job is to look at new regulations, training curriculum, standards and other issues that affect all certified paid firefighters in the state," Jones said.

The advisory board meets quarterly in Austin. The board's recommendations go to the Texas Fire Commissioners.

Jones has served on several state committees and even served as an alternate team leader. Locally, the award winner is the president of the Burleson Professional Firefighters Association Local 4025.

The Liberty Hill native's most influential mentors are his uncles. Darrell Davis retired as a firefighter from Haltom City after 30 years of service and he is now the volunteer fire chief with Big Cedar Fire Department in Oklahoma. Mark Peters volunteered for the Justin and Flower Mound fire departments for 15 years.

"When I was a kid, I always wanted to be like my Uncle Darrell," Jones said. "He always took me to the fire hall to hang out with the guys. On his days off, we would go fishing with the fire hall guys, so at an early age, I knew this was what I wanted to do. To this day, I still seek his counsel on different fire scenarios and situations with my job."

The award winner also credits the "great supervisors and leaders" that he has worked with throughout the years, adding, "I have tried to take a little or a lot from each one to better shape my career and leadership style. This job is always teaching you something. The day you think you know it all or stop learning is the day you need to retire or find another line of work. In my career, I have found that you can learn from everyone, even a probationary firefighter."

Jones is an only child. His father, Dennis Jones, served four years in the army, worked for Southwestern Bell, and retired from AT&T. His mother, Rachel "Jeannie" Jones, is a stay-at-home mom who served as a lifetime member for the Dallas Independent School District PTA.

Jones and his wife, Carolyn Moldenhauer Jones, have two daughters, 11-year-old Kaitlyn and 8-year-old Madison. Jones serves on the Liberty Hill Youth League Board and coaches Madison's 8 and under softball team. His daughters are involved in golf, gymnastics, piano, ballet, cross country, FFA, softball and karate. A miniature poodle rounds out the family.