

# Dante Moore and his fight against FLAMES

Una fire department welcomes junior volunteers to help with emergency situations

BY JESSICA XAYASANE

**S**irens blazing and trucks racing, a wave of heat hits Dante Moore's (11) face as he runs outside to witness a fire across the street. The house is engulfed in flames. Firemen rush out of their trucks looking for the nearest fire hydrant and make sure the family is safe. Moore watches the fire become smaller and smaller as the firefighters douse the flames with water in a matter of minutes. At this moment, Moore adds something to his list of goals: become a fire fighter.

Moore's goal wasn't just some child's dream job. Becoming a

firefighter was a goal he was determined to achieve. Luckily for him, Moore found out about the Junior Firefighting/EMS program at the Una Fire Department from a friend. The entire department is filled with volunteers and Moore is one of three volunteers around his age.

"I've always wanted to be a firefighter and now I found a fire department that has a junior program," Moore said.

Since Moore is under the age of 18, he is limited to a handful of responsibilities. The only difference between Moore and certified firefighters is that he can't walk into a burning building out in the field. However, he

is equipped with the skills to perform CPR, cut people out of cars, and successfully perform one of the most important jobs when fighting fire: tagging a fire hydrant. As a junior volunteer, Moore is tasked with taking a five-inch-wide hose and hooking it to the fire hydrant and the truck.

"One of my favorite experiences while being in the program was probably when we took our first class and had to do a live burn in a burn building," Moore said. "We had to find the fire and put it out as well as search and rescue."

When there isn't a fire, Moore trains for various situations. His training consists of performing tasks such as tagging hydrants,

search and rescue, fire attack, and force and entry. He even practices EMT skills such as taking blood pressure and performing CPR. Taking his skills with him, Moore plans to go into the Navy. After retiring from the Navy, he wants to work full time at a fire department as a firefighter.

The South Carolina Volunteer

Firefighters is always looking for more people who can help their community, and Moore encourages people to come out and volunteer at their local fire departments.

"You don't need to fight fires to help," Moore said. "There are more positions that people can have like being a part of the support team." □

During his training, Dante Moore (11) on the left, and his mentor on the right, practice putting out a fire during a real life simulation.



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