



IAFC

International Association of Fire Chiefs

What's Happening at the IAFC?

Strategic Direction Update

January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

IAFC Strategic Direction

The [2018-2021 Strategic Direction](#) is a declaration of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) priority strategic goals to **LEAD, EDUCATE and SERVE** the fire and emergency service in North America and abroad. It was created in the spring of 2018 in a collaborative, face-to-face environment with participation of nearly 100 members holding leadership positions in the major components, including the IAFC Board of Directors, divisions, sections and other groups. This report, *What's Happening at the IAFC*, captures completed tasks directly relevant to the IAFC strategic direction. It is intended to capture the depth of the IAFC's overarching accomplishments at a high level.

LEAD

To **LEAD** by being the preeminent global advocate for the fire and emergency service on leadership, policy, management, and service delivery.

Goal 1a. Engage current/future fire and emergency service leaders to address the evolving and emerging challenges and opportunities.

- Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC) Chair Chief Erik Litzenberg hosted a joint IAFC/National Institute of Standards and Technology/US Fire Administration webinar on behalf of the IAFC. The participants received a review of the Camp Fire Case Study findings.
- The Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) partnered with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) to develop an update to the *Lavender Ribbon Report: Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer*. The update includes stories from cancer survivors, articles on how cancer impacts family members, reports from cancer studies, sample SOPs, and more. The update will be released by August 2021. Several fire service organizations and influential fire service leaders have contributed to the report.

- IAFC Global Services launched the International Fire & Rescue Emergency Services Institute (IFRESI) pilot program in February. The IFRESI is a highly challenging educational initiative of the IAFC that introduces modern leadership values and health and safety initiatives while promoting best practices in fire and emergency services for six fellows. The program, which is six weeks long, provides the knowledge, skills, and abilities to keep first responders on the cutting-edge of safety and response capabilities, as well as providing techniques to develop exemplary leadership practices. The training and education offered has been proven critical to enhance firefighter safety and a culture of leadership through ownership in today's ever-changing fire and emergency service. We are anticipating additional groups for 2021 due to the added curriculum provided to our client.
- *iCHIEFS Podcasts*: This initiative continues to draw interest. Since the last board report, seven new episodes have been produced:
 - Episode 19: [Wildland Issues](#)
 - Episode 20: [AED Registry for Departments](#)
 - Episode 21: [Effective & Efficient Emergency Healthcare](#)
 - Episode 22: [Community Resource Paramedic Program](#)
 - Episode 23: [What Story Does Data Tell?](#)
 - Episode 24: [Innovation in Wildland - Wildland Mitigation Award Winners](#)
 - Episode 25: Handling Nuclear Fallouts in a Department – *Just recorded, not yet released.*
- *iCHIEFS Digital*: The new newsletter is distributed 24 times each year, generally every other week, to all IAFC members, partners and friends. It features thought leadership content from IAFC subject-matter experts and experts from across the fire and emergency service. In addition, *iCHIEFS News* brings readers top industry news from sources you trust, such as FireRescue1.com, the Daily Dispatch, and NFPA and FEMA blogs. Recent articles and topics include:
 - [Living up to Our Oath: We Must Take Care of Others and Ourselves](#) (February 2021)
 - [Leading Through Uncertainty](#) (March 2021)
 - [Walking the Walk: How FDs are Setting the Example to Cure 'Dirty Helmet Syndrome'](#) (July 2021)
- *iCHIEFS Publication*: With information that assists responders with personal and professional growth, the publication's targeted distribution reaches the desks of the important decision-making powers that have purchasing authority throughout the fire service business in North America and overseas. Recent topics covered:
 - Spring 2021: [Return to the Craft: An \[Uncomfortable Conversation About Caring Too Much\]](#)
 - Winter 2020-2021: [Communications on the Fire Ground](#)

- Summer 2020: [Mental Health: Playing with Fire](#)
- Member Email Alerts: IAFC staff continues to research better ways to engage our IAFC members. Currently, our top 20 email alerts show a 97.7% delivery rate; a 32.4% open rate; and a 7.1% click through rate. While this meets and, in some cases, exceeds industry standards, our staff is researching the development of an IAFC app to increase our throughput to our members.
- The Technology Council hosted two webinars July for IAFC Members. The first webinar was sponsored by *GoodSam Instant Video* and the topic was on real-time video connection for 9-1-1 callers to communication centers. The second webinar was sponsored by *One Hundred Feet*, a geospatial information systems (GIS) company, introducing how they can refine addressing down to the last 100-feet of accuracy.

Goal 1b. Provide forward-thinking leadership that recognizes and responds to emerging trends and opportunities.

- Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC) members provided subject-matter expert input on the Wildfire Recovery Act (H.R. 1066) *Wildland Fire & Climate Change* letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack, and a Wildfire Management Assessment Request for Information from the NASA Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD).
- WFPC Chair Chief Litzenberg and WFPC member Chief Daugherty reviewed and provided input on legislation (S. 138) introduced by Senator Feinstein (D-CA) regarding federal pay caps for wildland firefighters. The IAFC supported the action.
- WFPC Chair Chief Litzenberg testified during the June 29 House Science Committee Hearing on the State of Federal Wildland Fire Science: Examining Opportunities for Further Research and Coordination.
- Wildland Fire Program staff participated in a two-day Wildfire Partners Summit hosted by the U.S. Forest Service. The purpose of the summit was to develop increased coordination of wildland fire mitigation efforts. Other represented organizations included DHS/FEMA, U.S. Fire Administration (USFA); Department of the Interior (DOI), Washington State Department of Natural Resources, DOI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM); USDA/DOI Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) and the WFLC National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, Regional Strategy Committees (RSC); Headwaters Economics; National Association of State Foresters (NASF); National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC); Intertribal Timber Council (ITC); and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- Throughout March and April, Wildland Fire Programs led Evacuation Tabletop Exercises for three (Estes Park (CO); Pinetop (AZ); and Medford (OR) out of 10 communities selected through an application

process. The funding source for direct assistance came from a FY18 FEMA FP&S grant award, and this program is called “RSG! Program Targeted Risk Reduction Assistance.” All 10 departments selected receive financial support, assistance, and guidance from WFP to develop and host a Fuels Reduction Demonstration Day in their communities. Some received additional support in developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans or Evacuation Tabletop Exercises.

- A total of 52 organizations were represented by 103 participants who worked through the scenarios and identified action items, areas for improvement, training needs, and equipment requests.
- Estes Valley (CO) Fire Protection District was chosen for the Evacuation Tabletop Exercise before the East Troublesome and Cameron Peak Fires of 2020. Because the department and their partners had been tested by the two historic fires burning at the same time, this tabletop was not as challenging for them as it was for others, but feedback was still overwhelmingly positive and it was seen as a beneficial exercise for all partners.
- Feedback from Pinetop (AZ) participants was overwhelmingly positive, multiple individuals said it was the best tabletop they had participated in.
- The Medford (OR) tabletop exercise was the only exercise to include representation from the jurisdiction’s legal department. It was very eye opening for them to participate in the exercise and they asked to be more involved in similar discussions in the future.
- The Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) held an in-person meeting in Clearwater, Florida in April to discuss the VCOS Strategic Direction, section priorities, details for Symposium in the Sun in November, and more. Part of the meeting included a virtual roundtable with VCOS members to discuss trends, opportunities, and challenges in the fire service. The VCOS Board also asked for feedback from the roundtable participants on what the section could be doing better and held a virtual meeting with IAFC CEO/ED Rob Brown. In addition, a VCOS Strategic Direction document was created at the meeting.
- The Hazmat Center, in partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), hosted seven webinars; five webinars promoted National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) week (February 22 -26, 2021) -- targeting the new NFIRS and National Data Collection System. To date, total webinar engagement is 5,160 views.
- The Hazmat Center, through the Community Safety Grant, is updating the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) survey for attendees at FRI 2021 in an effort to increase response outreach and engagement for LEPC’s.

- The IAFC national and international program staff continues to work with the Navigators Pharmacies Group and has been an instrumental part of shaping the use of firefighters as Vaccine Administrators as part of the direction from CDC and NIH. As part of our work, the IAFC has assisted in the development of a vaccine confidence video which will be aired on PBS in August and will feature IAFC member Chief Sam Grief (Plano, TX) and his story of survival. Please follow this link to view the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/566736953>; use password: VAX_2021.

Goal 1c. Provide innovative solutions to emerging trends.

- IAFC staff managed the development of *America Burning – Wildland-Urban Interface* draft report, which is funded by a U.S. Fire Administration grant to the IAFC. The draft report includes input from a wide range of stakeholders and recommendations to improve the nation’s wildland fire challenges.
- Global Services continues to develop course curriculum to expedite International Fellowship Program engagement and transition post-pandemic.
- IAFC NMAS program staff are working with DHS Science & Technology on the new DHS/FEMA National Resource HUB which will provide information for a national resource management and resource typing catalog system. The National Resource HUB is part of the FEMA Preparedness Toolkit. [Welcome - Preparedness Toolkit \(fema.gov\)](#)

Goal 1d. Advance the profession, advocate for inclusiveness, and improve the effectiveness of the fire and emergency service through communication and education.

- December 23, 2020 – The IAFC endorsed Alejandro Mayorkas for the position of U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate.
- January 12, 2021 – The IAFC filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) expressing opposition to the commission’s plan to license the 4.9 GHz to the states. The FCC later put a “stay” on this order.
- January 20 – The IAFC endorsed Tom Vilsack for the position of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate.
- January 22- The IAFC endorsed Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell for the position of U.S. Fire Administrator. The position is still awaiting action by the White House.
- January 26 – The IAFC co-signed a letter with Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and public service utilities representatives asking the FCC not to license any other

devices in the 6 GHz band unless they have been tested to interference with incumbent users (including public safety) on the band.

- February 4 – The IAFC endorsed legislation (S. 231) to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.
- February 12 – In “reply” comments to the FCC; the IAFC reiterated its opposition to licensing the 4.9 GHz band to the states.
- February 19 – The IAFC wrote to the Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY); the Senate Minority Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY); the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR); and the Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) in support of legislation to allow reimbursement for fire and EMS agencies that treat patients in place and do not transport them to hospitals. The letter was co-signed by the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), American Ambulance Association (AAA), and National Association of EMTs (NAEMT).
- February 22 – The IAFC, APCO International and the utilities filed comments expressing concerns that FCC plans to allow unlicensed client-to-client operations on the 6 GHz band would cause interference with incumbent users on the band.
- February 22 – The IAFC, IAFF, NVFC, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) wrote to the Office of Management and Budget asking for increased funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program; the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program; the U.S. Fire Administration; the Urban Search and Rescue System; and the National Firefighter Registry for cancer research in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022.
- March 1-2 – Representatives from the IAFC, APCO International and the utilities met with the FCC to discuss concerns about the use of unlicensed Wi-Fi devices on the 6 GHz band.
- March 3 – The IAFC met with FCC Commissioner Nathan Simington to discuss public safety communications issues like licensing on the 4.9 GHz band.
- March 8 – The IAFC, CFSI, NAEMT, NFPA, NVFC, National Association of Towns and Townships, and National Association of Counties wrote to the chair and ranking members of the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support of increased funding for the Rural EMS Training and Equipment Assistance (also known as the SIREN grant) program in FY 2022.
- March 8 – The IAFC endorsed the Wildland Firefighter Fair Pay Act (S. 138).

- March 8 – The IAFC filed comments with the FCC supporting petitions by the Public Safety Spectrum Alliance (PSSA) and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) for the FCC to vacate its order for the 4.9 GHz band.
- March 11 – The IAFC; the Metro Fire Chiefs; the Major Cities (Police) Chiefs; the Major County Sheriffs; the National Sheriffs Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); APCO International; and the National Association of State EMS Officials (NAEMSO) signed a letter thanking House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ), for including Next Generation 911 legislation in the LIFT America Act (H.R. 1848).
- March 16 – The IAFC joined with the IAFF, CFSI, NVFC, AAA and NAEMT to ask Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY); the Senate Minority Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY); the House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to prevent a 2% Medicare sequestration cut that was supposed to take effect on April 1.
- March 19 – The IAFC met with representatives from the FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau and Enforcement Bureau to discuss issues like the need to protect public safety spectrum in the 4.9 GHz, 5.9 GHz, and 6 GHz bands. We also discussed the importance of getting accurate location information about 911 callers.
- March 19 – The IAFC sent a letter to Acting FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel nominating Deputy Chief Nicole Pickrell, Deputy Chief, Loudoun County (VA) Fire and Rescue, to the FCC’s “911 Fee Diversion Strike Force.” Chief Pickrell subsequently was selected for the task force.
- March 22 – The IAFC joined with CFSI, NAEMT, IAFF, NFPA, and NVFC to ask the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra, to hold hospitals accountable for the notification requirement under the Ryan White Act (P.L. 111-87).
- March 22 - The IAFC, the Metro Chiefs, the Major Cities (Police) Chiefs, the Major County Sheriffs, the National Sheriffs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), APCO International and the National Association of State EMS Officials (NAEMSO) signed a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) expressing our support for the NG 911 legislation in the LIFT America Act (H.R. 1848).
- March 23 – The IAFC joined the NPSTC in filing comments about the FCC’s draft regulations regarding 911 fee diversion.

- March 23 – The IAFC joined with APCO International and the utilities in filing “reply” comments expressing concern that unlicensed client-to-client communications in the 6 GHz band would interfere with incumbent licensees.
- April 2 – The IAFC filed “reply” comments in support of the NPSTC comments about the FCC’s 911 fee diversion draft regulations.
- April 16 – The IAFC and NVFC wrote to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Representatives Richard Neal (D-MA) and Kevin Brady (R-TX) asking them to include language in a forthcoming retirement savings bill that would allow firefighters employed by volunteer fire departments to participate in state pension plans. This is an important issue in North Carolina.
- April 20 – The IAFC spearheaded a successful effort to have the co-chairmen of the Law Enforcement and Fire Services Caucuses to send a letter to House Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy supporting the Next Generation 911 language in the LIFT America Act (H.R. 1848).
- April 28 – The IAFC filed comments with the U.S. Department of Agriculture about how community preparedness programs, such as Ready, Set, Go! and the better use of technology could help communities deal with the effects of climate change, such as wildland fires.
- May 3 – The IAFC signed a letter with the International Code Council and other organizations urging Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY); the Senate Minority Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY); the House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to ensure that infrastructure funds are spent in support of current building codes and standards.
- May 6 – The IAFC filed comments with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration recommending the use of remote sensing, fire mapping and predictive analysis to help communities deal with the effects of climate change, such as wildland fires.
- May 12 – The IAFC met with the Chief of Staff to FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks to discuss the Commissioner’s potential support of the stay on the 4.9 GHz band order.
- May 13 – The IAFC met with a Policy Advisor to FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr to discuss the Commissioner’s potential support of the stay on the 4.9 GHz band order.
- May 14 – The IAFC sent letters to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees recommending funding levels for federal fire service programs, such as USFA, the AFG and SAFER grant programs, the Volunteer Fire Assistance program, the ALERT grant program, and other programs.
- May 18 – The IAFC met with FCC Commissioner Nathan Simington to discuss his potential support of the stay on the 4.9 GHz band order.

- May 20 – The IAFC endorsed legislation (H.R. 2499/S. 1116) to grant a presumptive disability to federal firefighters.
- June 7 – The IAFC signed a letter with the IAFF, the NVFC, the NSA, NASEMSO and other traffic safety organizations to the House and Senate leadership; the chairman and ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; and the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in support of the Executive Leadership Group for Traffic Incident Management.
- June 15 – The IAFC joined with the CFSI, NVFC, IAFF, NFPA, and other fire service organization to send a letter to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations subcommittees to recommend \$2.5 million for the National Firefighter Registry for cancer research in FY 2022.
- June 15 – The IAFC joined with the CFSI, NVFC, IAFF, NFPA, and other fire service organization to send a letter to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Committees recommending increased funding for the USFA, the AFG and SAFER grant programs and the Urban Search and Rescue system for FY 2022.
- June 14 – The IAFC endorsed legislation (H.R. 3923) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide funding for memorials honoring veterans, law enforcement officers, and firefighters, and for other purposes.
- June 22 – The IAFC sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Science and Transportation Committee supporting the nomination of Jennifer Homendy to the office of Chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).
- June 29 – IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Chair, Chief Erik Litzenberg (Ret.) testified before the House Science, Space and Technology Committee about wildland fire research.

EDUCATE

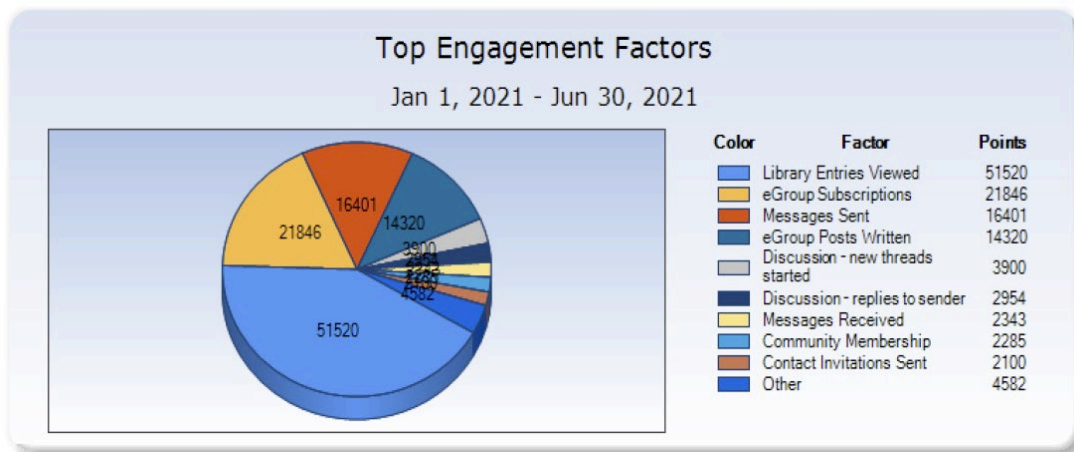
To EDUCATE current and future fire and emergency service leaders by providing training, education, and professional development opportunities.

Goal 2a. Make the knowledge, experience, and resources within the IAFC easily accessible for research and problem solving.

- A subcommittee of the Fire & Life Safety Section (FLSS) worked with staff of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) to develop a Fire Sprinkler Tax Incentive Guide for the fire service. This guide informs fire chiefs about the new CARES Act and its impact on fire sprinkler tax incentives. The new guide

includes helpful hints for fire chiefs to use when promoting fire sprinklers in their community. The guide includes a risk assessment worksheet, a sample letter to stakeholders, and a sample press release. The guide can be found at www.NFSA.org.

- The Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC) members and partners updated the WUI Chief’s Guide and produce an [online course](#) to include sections on preparation, mitigation, response, evacuation and recovery. The WUI Chief’s Guide Online Course is featured on the IAFC Academy and includes a unique Digital Notepad feature allowing the user to type notes and download a custom action plan after each section. Upon completion of all six modules, the student receives a certificate.
- Since January 2021, the IAFC Academy has hosted 1,997 students that have completed courses. The top five courses completed by the students include: Propane Emergencies, Fire Dynamics Terminology, Structural Firefighting Research, Hydrogen Response, and A Practical Approach to Diversity and Inclusion in the Volunteer Fire Service.
- Webpages/sites launched in 2021:
 - IAFC OnStar (June 2021), <https://www.iafc.org/onstar>
 - Fire Department Exchange (FDX) Program, (June 2021), <http://fdexchange.org/>
 - National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), (February 2021), <https://www.iafc.org/NFIRS>



- IAFC staff researched webinar platform alternatives that would be more cost-effective and user friendly. In May, the IAFC switched its webinar platform from WebEx to BigMarker. In keeping with our goal, the new platform is more cost-effective and user friendly and also allows for on demand viewing - a huge benefit that we are using to offer virtual connections at FRI 2021.

View the platform here: <https://www.bigmarker.com/communities/FireChiefs/conferences>

Goal 2b. Supplement, develop, enhance, and effectively deliver education, training, and professional development programs relevant to the membership.

- The Hazmat Center has resumed instructor-led training (ILT) classes (July-September 2021) funded by the ALERT III, and Community Safety Grant II, that had been postponed due to COVID-19.
- The Hazmat Center completed three ILT training programs for the TC Energy U.S. program in Madison, WI (12-14 April); Renovo, PA (18-20 May); Randallstown, MD (25-26 June).
- The Hazmat Center was awarded the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Community Safety III Grant in September 2020, which will fund a new initiative to create a 20- to 30-minute video on the correct use of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) 2020 edition.
- The Hazmat Center is continuing work to update online programming for the Regional Response to Rail (RRR) incident program.
- Global Services is preparing to include uniform and material orders, updating computers programs and spreadsheets for the arrival of the International Fellowship Program (IFP) and International Fire & Rescue Emergency Services Institute (IFRESI) cohorts that were postponed by the pandemic.
- Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) delivered four Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Certification in-person courses in Angleton (TX); Ashburn (VA); Raleigh (NC); and Orange (VA). In total, 76 students received their certification.
- VWS participated in a panel discussion on volunteer recruitment and retention at the North Carolina Fire Chiefs Association's Mid-Winter Conference in May. IAFC board member, Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder, was on the panel and gave a presentation during the VWS session.
- The Fire Department Exchange (FDX) steering group held a kickoff meeting at IAFC headquarters to review and update all FDX content and prepare for the upcoming exchanges. FDX applications opened on June 17 for the Santa Fe (NM) Exchange happening October 18-22. The core focus of FDX is to encourage exchanges among departments to broaden their knowledge base, consider alternative measures, create new solutions and improve overall practices and procedures within their wildland fire programs.
- Wildland Fire Programs (WFP) produced a training video, "Ready, Set, Go for Law Enforcement", in Estes Park (CO). This is a national partners' video between the IAFC, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) that is intended to provide a basic overview of essential information to law enforcement officers who are arriving on scene of a wildland fire to assist

with evacuation. The video included representatives and apparatus from the Vail (CO) Police Department, Estes Valley (CO) Fire Protection District, Estes Park (CO) Police Department, Larimer County (CO) Sheriff's Office, and citizens of Estes Park (CO).

- WFP is working with the Flagstaff (AZ) Fire Department, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Forest Service to hold a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES) event in October. The team is managing the funding and scholarships for increased participation in the event.
- In May, WFP worked on-site with Foresthill (CA) Fire Protection District, West Lakes (AK) Fire Department and Tri-Lakes Monument (CO) Fire Protection District to conduct their Fuels Reduction Demonstration Days in their communities. The Foresthill (CA) Demo Day engaged many different community groups to install permanent RSG signage in a high-traffic areas. At the West Lakes (AK) Demo Day, the governing body for the Mat-Su Borough was impressed with the concept and expanded the effort so that all fire departments within the borough would host a Community Wildfire Education Day in conjunction with the Demo Day. West Lake (AK) Fire Department plans to host a Wildfire Education Day each year. The Tri-Lakes Monument (CO) Demo Day was completed on school properties and involved the creation of outdoor classroom space that teachers have already planned to use.
- The VCOS delivered six webinars on various hot topics in the fire service. All webinars were recorded and are available in the IAFC [webinar library](#).
- VCOS Virtual Symposium in the Sun was held in January 2021 and was very successful. VCOS and attendees were pleased with the education delivered.
- IAFC Conferences: In 2021, four IAFC conferences – converted to virtual platform due to continued impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic – were held in the first half of the year. The IAFC WUI conference has been moved to later in the fall of 2021 with the intention that it will be held in person.

Goal 2c. Facilitate career progression, mentoring, and succession management at all levels.

- February 12 – IAFC and USFA hosted a webinar that profiled how fire departments were participating in public COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.
- April 27 – IAFC hosted a webinar with the FAA on the “101” of public safety UAS (drone) usage and best practices for setting up a public safety drone program.
- April 29 – IAFC hosted a webinar with the USFA and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to discuss NIST’s research into lessons learned from the 2018 Camp Fire in Butte County (CA).
- May 4 – IAFC hosted a webinar with the FAA to educate members on new regulations related to public safety UAS (drone) usage.
- June 11 – The EMS Section hosted a virtual Fire-Rescue Med conference.

Goal 2d. Support leadership development throughout the fire service.

- The IAFC Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI) 2020 Cohort, which met for the first time one-week before the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, resumed in-person learning sessions with their second in-person session April 17-21, at the National Conference Center in Leesburg (VA). During the lock-down period, the 2020 cohort met and held class sessions virtually. Since the first gathering of FSEDI 2020 cohort, five members of the class have been appointed chief of department, and one member was promoted to a higher chief officer rank that they held when they entered the program. The 2020 FSEDI cohort will finish their program in October 2021.
- The FSEDI 2021 cohort met for the first time in person in April 2021. The class of 23 is one of the most diverse FSEDI cohort groups to date. Like the 2020 class, the 2021 cohort have been meeting virtually until COVID restrictions were lessened. Since the 2021 cohort began the program, five members have been sworn in as chief in their departments. All current FSEDI cohort classes will meet at FRI in Charlotte (NC), along with many alumni. FSEDI 2021 will have their second session in November.
- The FSEDI 2018 cohort hosts a monthly virtual continuing education program for all FSEDI alumni and current classes.
- The EFO Section has partnered with the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) to build overall knowledge, understanding, and competence in areas of public finance that are critical to providing fire/rescue and emergency services. Through this partnership, the EFO Section and GFOA will produce a research report and virtual programming to highlight leading practices in planning and budgeting for fire/rescue and emergency services; develop a training class for emerging fire administration leaders focused on understanding basic financial competencies in budgeting, financial reporting, procurement, and risk management; and how to best work within standard local government processes. GFOA will support ongoing networking opportunities for organizational fire and finance leadership to attend together as well.

SERVE

To SERVE by providing relevant and timely services, products and resources to our membership, affiliates, and partners.

Goal 3a. Increase membership and participation through expanded opportunities.

- Wildland Fire Programs is currently managing grant funds that will cover travel scholarships and event expenses for attendees to a Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) in October 2021. These funds are reserved for attendees working for fire departments who are members of the Ready, Set, Go! program.
- VWS staff attended the North Carolina State Fire Chiefs Conference and conducted membership outreach and retention.
- VWS staff attended the South Carolina State Fire & Rescue Expo and conducted membership outreach and retention.

Goal 3b. Promote and foster a culture of inclusivity to the IAFC membership.

- The VWS program, funded by a FEMA SAFER Recruitment and Retention grant, is currently accepting applications from volunteer and combination departments across the country for fire camp scholarships. These \$5,000 scholarships will assist 20 fire departments produce a fire camp committed to recruiting women and other underrepresented groups into the fire service.

Goal 3c. Provide IAFC products, resources and services that are both relevant and timely to existing and emerging issues, and topics important to the target audiences, affiliates, and partners.

- Wildland Fire Programs (WFP) filled over 1,000 orders for Ready, Set, Go! program materials as part of their weekly fulfillment plan. These orders included 6,600 National Action Guides that are being distributed to communities living with the threat of wildland fire.
- WFP selected 14 fire departments in nine states to receive up to \$25,000 per department for the Ready, Set, Go! Community Chipping grant awards. Departments will use the funds for through July 2022 to fund their roadside chipping programs. The VCOS released two [quarterly newsletters](#) and six, monthly “Report from the Chair” eblasts in the first half of 2021.

Goal 3c. Provide IAFC products, resources and services that are both relevant and timely to existing and emerging issues, and topics important to the target audiences, affiliates, and partners.

- IAFC hosted several webinars on critical topics impacting members as noted below:
 - January 18 – FIREFIGHTERS Separating Fact and Fiction
 - February 11 – Public COVID-19 Vaccination Campaigns
 - February 17 – Suicide Prevention in Today’s World
 - February 22 – How States Help to Gather and Use Data

- February 23 – Warehouse and Analytics
- February 24 – NFIRS Data and the COVID Special Study
- February 25 – Superhero Day: The NFIRS Help Desk
- February 26 – NFIRS Chiefs Roundtable with USFA
- March 16 – Coaching Tips for Chiefs (VCOS)
- April 27 – FAA UAS Part I: Briefing on Public Safety UAS Usage (FAA)
- May 4 – FAA UAS Part II: New FAA Regulations on Public Safety (FAA)
- May 20 – Panasonic: Technology Supporting First Responders: ETHAN Project Behind the Scenes
- May 27 – What’s Your Attitude (VCOS)
- June 1 – Vector Solutions: Best Practices for Managing ISO Training
- June 15 – ESO: What Data Should You Look at Beyond NFPS Standards?
- June 16 – Health and Wellness for First Responders (VCOS)
- June 17 – Implementing the Lavender Ribbon Report: Cancer Prevention Best Practices
- June 21 – Thermo Fischer: Raman Enhanced with SERS: How Low Can You Go? Identifying Fentanyl and Other Substances in Low Concentrations
- June 23 – ISO’s New Mitigate Website – Valuable Resources for Fire Chiefs
- June 30 – Sikorsky Town Hall Event: Multi-Role FIREHAWK
- July 15 – The Truth About Recruiting and Retaining Volunteer Members
- July 20 – Emergency Response at the January 6 Incident at the US Capitol
- **Podcasts**
 - January 18 – PulsePoint Foundation: AED Registry for Departments
 - March 31 – Panasonic: Effective and Efficient Emergency Healthcare
 - May 17 – Public Consulting Group: What Story Does Data Tell

Goal 3d. Strengthen the IAFC role in the global community as a resource for sharing best practices and knowledge based in real-world experience. Develop an effective international presence and delivery of value through the Association.

- The Hazmat Center renewed our partnership with TC Energy Mexico and is preparing to travel to Hidalgo and Guanajuato, Mexico in November or December 2021 to provide information on the Pipeline Operations, Incident Response, and the Incident Command System programs.
- Global Services continues preparation for delivery of high value course offerings and real-time experiences for U.S. fire departments who host one of our International Fellowship Programs.

Goal 3e. Increase awareness and accessibility of the IAFC as the “go-to resource” for policy, advocacy, subject matter expertise, and support.

- Global Services continues to actively develop foreign and domestic partnerships in response to our expanding demand for educational and operational services.

	Page Title	Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page
1.	(not set)	61,888	00:01:40
2.	IAFC International Association of Fir...	50,770	00:01:22
3.	FRI 2021	34,682	00:01:06
4.	Fire-Rescue International 2021	23,608	00:00:51
5.	Fire-Rescue International	22,146	00:00:52
6.	IAFC Helix	20,865	00:00:04
7.	Home - International Association of Fi...	19,826	00:00:32
8.	Full Schedule	19,740	00:01:26
9.	DOT Hazard Classes	15,181	00:04:26
10.	North Carolina Volunteer Workforce S...	15,096	00:01:01

Goal 3f. Expand recognition to those showing exceptional or extended service to their organizations or the industry.

- Wildland Fire Programs is working to promote the Wildland Fire Mitigation Awards (WMAs) with our partners – National Association of State Foresters (NASF), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and U.S. Forest Service. Current winners were announced in February 2021 and have been promoted on social media. WFP is managing the current award submission period that ends in November.

INSIDE THE IAFC

Association News

- The IAFC negotiated a new IAFC headquarters sublease in April to “right-size” space needs and reduce our financial liability. The new sublease was executed on May 1 and resulted in a significant cost saving to the IAFC. The address remains the same. However, we are adding W (for West) to our suite number to read “Suite 100W” to provide clarity.

News About Our Members

- [Chief Michael Metro, Ret., was named the 2021 recipient of the James O. Page EMS Achievement Award.](#)
- [J. Robert "Rob" Brown Appointed as CEO/Executive Director of the International Association of Fire Chiefs](#)

News About Our Staff

New hires, job changes, certifications and degrees, work-related awards and other news:

- IAFC Government Relations Strategic Manager Evan Davis and his wife welcomed the birth of a son, Jake, in January. Evan is leaving the IAFC at the end of July for a new position with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).
- Tracy Blankenship, a contractor serving to manage exhibits and sponsorships, ended her contract with the IAFC effective January 15, after several years of dedicated service. She has been replaced by Shawn Boon, who will oversee exhibit sales and exhibit and sponsorship fulfillment.
- Other contractor hires to support conferences in 2021:
 - Leanne Schroeder, Conference Registration (especially FRI)
 - Nann Philips, Webinar Management (launched new platform in March)
 - Tammy Wightman, Virtual Hazmat and FRI
 - Sabrina Sullivan, FRI

What Others Are Saying

- **Virtual Symposium in the Sun**
 - *I think this FREE Virtual Conference was great. I really enjoyed that a lot of sessions were in the evening, so I could attend after work. Please host more of these virtual conferences in the future!*
 - *Excellent job making lemonade out of lemons. I was skeptical at first but after the first session my view changed. Keep up the good work.*
 - *Great conference. Nothing can replace the in-person conference, but the virtual setting was great. No interruptions with media.*
 - *"Brittany, thank you so much!! You and your staff did an outstanding job on this virtual conference!!! This was the first time I was actually able to attend this conference, and even though it was virtual, I was able to work my schedule around to attend virtually all of the sessions. Thanks gain...Job Well Done!" -- Rick Davis, Fire Chief, Sherrills Ford Fire Rescue (NC)*
- **Virtual Community Risk Reduction Leadership Conference**

- *“You folks are rock stars and have done an incredible job for the entire conference. Thank you.” – Greg Rogers, Fire Chief, Spokane Valley (WA) Fire, Conference Chair*
- *“Thank you to the IAFC for adapting to the current environment in order to put on this conference. As a new Division Chief of CRR, I have a lot of great take-aways to bring back to my department.”-- David Roberts, Division Chief, Arlington Heights (IL) Fire Department*
- *“Thanks to all of our speakers and conference goers for an excellent learning experience, even at a distance!” -- Brett Anderson, Deputy Fire Marshal, Spokane Valley (WA) Fire Department*
- *“Unfortunately, we were not able to attend a face-to-face conference this year. I find that the ability to network with other chiefs is a great benefit of attending conferences to be able to discuss topics and best practices. I typically get some great takeaways from all of those interactions. Regardless, this was a great conference and had a lot of great material and a wealth of knowledge to share and then to incorporate and engage our personnel with the discussions.”*
- *“This conference was so fantastic! It really inspired me as a fire life safety educator! I always knew CRR was a big part of the future for the fire service and this conference helped me see that it is possible to help make a change in my department so CRR can become more of an integrated part of the whole department, not just for fire prevention of education. All of the sessions were beneficial, and I would love to go to this conference next year.”*
- **Virtual Fire-Rescue Med**
 - *“Hi everyone, Thank you so much for all your work on FRM. We’re hearing some great feedback from attendees! PS. If you don’t know the person below, Dr. Krohmer is the director of the US Department of Transportation’s Office of EMS. He is pretty reserved and not one to give compliments freely. This actually really is high praise from him.”*
 - *“Didn’t get to listen to everything but I listened to most of it. Really great sessions. Good job.” Jon Krohmer (NHTSA)*
- **Virtual Hazmat**
 - *“Although I was skeptical as to the effectiveness of a virtual conference, there was legitimate educational value in each session I was able to attend, and I would be very likely to attend again virtually - though highly prefer in person training.” – Dino DiBernardi, Chief, Caldwell County (NC) Emergency Services*
- **Webinars**
 - *“Hi Leslie, I just wanted to check in about doing another webinar in Q3. I've been really impressed with Nann and everything underway for our first webinar June 1 on ISO. I was thinking it would be great to do a second one in September about inspections liability. Do you think we could plan*

another one in the month of September? Thanks". Rich Miron, Director of Marketing, Public Sector.

- **Registration Transfers**

- *"Thank you so much for your rapid response. I am looking forward to the conference and so thankful for you guys making it so easy after the COVID issues last year. Thanks again Teresa."*

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