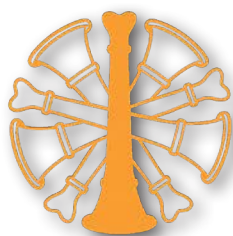


Summer 2023



CHIEFS

The Official Magazine of the International Association of Fire Chiefs

150 Years of the IAFC

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150

1873 - 2023

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Honoring Tradition, Embracing Innovation

OUR ASSOCIATION IS celebrating 150 years! It is only appropriate that I share our IAFC Vision Statement as adopted by the Board of Directors through our Strategic Planning Process: *"Igniting Global Leaders for a Safer Tomorrow."*

As we reflect on our organization's rich history of leadership and education, this reminds us that we must look toward the future with a focus on innovation and inclusivity.

Since our founding in 1873, the IAFC has been dedicated to supporting fire and emergency service leaders at all levels, providing them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. Over the past century and a half, we have listened and adapted to meet the changing needs of our members and the communities they serve.

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary, it is important to reflect on the rich history and traditions that have made the IAFC the premier organization for fire and emergency service leaders. From our early days as a small group of fire chiefs recognizing the need for an association and conference, to our status as a global organization with thousands of members around the world, we have always been guided by a commitment to excellence and a dedication to service.

Throughout our history, we have remained committed to providing the highest quality leadership education and training for all levels of officers, ensuring our members have the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their roles. We have also been at

the forefront of advocating for policies and practices that improve the safety and well-being of firefighters and the communities they serve.

At the same time, we recognize that the fire service is constantly evolving and presenting new challenges. We must embrace the idea of doing things differently and be willing to change if we are to create sustainability and resiliency in our service to others. We believe this requires a commitment to exploring new technologies and approaches to fire and emergency services, while also maintaining a focus on the fundamental principles of leadership, education, and service that have guided us for the past 150 years.

Today, I am pleased to report work is under way on the strategic initiatives outlined in the IAFC's 2023–25 Strategic Initiative Plan (SIP). This strategic plan is built around four key pillars: lead, educate, serve, and include, which represent the essential elements of effective leadership in the fire service, and which we are committed to advancing in all aspects of our work. We have been strategically and intentionally building the groundwork for these efforts with the aim of being an advocate for leadership, policy, management, and service delivery, providing training, education, and professional development opportunities, offering relevant and timely services, products, and resources, and promoting acceptance, fairness, and equal treatment for all members and stakeholders.

As we move forward, we will continue to track our progress using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and a dynamic SIP dashboard. This will allow us to identify areas where we need to improve and adjust as necessary.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we are also looking toward the future with a focus on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. In the pages of this issue of *iCHIEFS*, you will find articles and insights from some of the most innovative and forward-thinking leaders in the fire service today.

From predictions for the future of firefighting and emergency services to strategies for advancing women's leadership in the fire service, to the latest legislative updates from Washington, D.C., this issue is packed with valuable information and insights that will help you stay informed and engaged in the rapidly evolving world of fire and emergency services.

As always, we are committed to providing our members with the tools, resources, and support they need to succeed in their roles as leaders in the fire service. We are proud to celebrate our 150th anniversary with all of you, and we look forward to continuing to serve our members and the communities they serve for many years to come.

We Are Better Together — We Belong Here!

Fire Chief Donna Black, EFO, CFO
IAFC President and Board Chair

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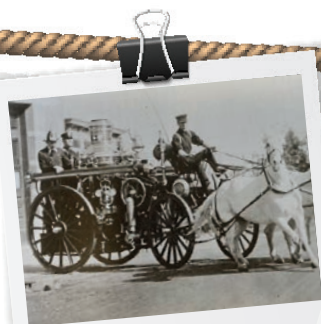


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150 Years of Leadership and Education



The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) is the voice of America's fire service. Members of Congress, the media, cities and counties, and the public regularly call upon the expertise of the IAFC. As one of the oldest national fire service organizations in the nation, the IAFC boasts a rich

history of innovation, ingenuity, and respected leadership.

Today, IAFC has 11,000 members from 26 countries worldwide, proudly representing all ranks, department types, and positions in the fire and emergency service. As we celebrate our sesquicentennial anniversary, we honor those who established a solid foundation for this longstanding organization.

By 1873, many major U.S. cities were going from volunteer to paid fire departments. Also, cities such as Portland, Maine (1866), Chicago, Ill. (1871), Boston, Mass. (1872), and Baltimore, Md. (1873), had experienced major fires. Several of these chiefs were corresponding with each other and agreed to meet in New York City in June to view a

“Members can count on the leadership, expertise, and integrity of the IAFC to lead the fire and emergency services into the future.”

demonstration of aerial ladders. At a dinner after the demonstration, it was suggested that they either form a national association of chiefs or have a convention.

The convention was set for October, and on August 20, 1873, marketing began for the first meeting. A notice was sent to all known fire departments via the U.S. Mail. Chief Engineer Henry Spilman of Baltimore showed his innovative ability by enlisting the aid of the Western Union Company. Western

Union agreed to assist the group and send the notice over its wires at no charge.

This endeavor brought 61 people to the successful Baltimore meeting. Officers were elected, including First President Chief Engineer John S. Damrell of Boston, Mass. The original IAFC membership fee was \$1. It was first known as the National Association of Fire Engineers, based on the need for chief fire engineers to “bring forward an exchange of ideas and introduce new machinery that

would facilitate the workings of fire departments.”

In 1884, the name changed to the International Association of Fire Engineers when two Canadian fire chiefs joined the organization. After several more years of discussion about the name of the organization, in 1926 the name was finally changed to the International Association of Fire Chiefs, as it is known today.

IAFC headquarters was first located in Baltimore, Md.; in the 1920s, the organization moved to New York City, N.Y. It then moved to Washington, D.C., in the 1970s, and to Virginia in 1992. Currently, IAFC headquarters are in McLean, Va.

The IAFC’s annual conference has been held every year since 1873 (having been canceled only two times: during the First World War and the Second World War). At the third conference in New York City, the executive committee suggested each member be assessed pro rata to help defray the cost of printing and mailing. At

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the time, there were no dues, but merely a \$5 registration fee for the convention. These receipts paid the meeting expenses. Conferences have been held all over the United States and Canada, with one held in Havana, Cuba, in 1931 and the 2020 conference held virtually due to COVID-19.

In 1994, the board of directors agreed to call the conference and exhibit Fire-Rescue International. This new title has enabled the IAFC to broaden the base of attendees by attracting a wider audience in the fire and rescue profession. Today, Fire-Rescue International is one of the largest fire and emergency services conferences and expositions in the country. FRI now routinely attracts more than 8,000 attendees and more than 400 exhibitors. Attendees include chief fire officers, firefighters, company-level officers, arson investigators, training officers, EMS chiefs, EMS directors, EMS providers, special rescue team personnel, and military fire officers. Fire-Rescue International includes educational and professional development workshops and seminars as well as an exposition displaying the latest innovations in the fire and emergency services industry.

It was during the First World War era that the IAFC moved beyond a once-a-year forum and became a powerhouse in creating fire and emergency service-related content and research. In recent years, the IAFC has continued to play a leading role in the fire and emergency services industry. The organization has expanded its advocacy efforts, working to promote increased funding and support for the fire service. It has also continued to develop new educational initiatives and training programs, aimed at helping fire service leaders to stay up to date with the latest developments and best practices in the industry.

Today, the IAFC is a trusted voice to its members, the broader fire service community, legislators, and more. IAFC members have demonstrated the success of the

all-hazard fire and emergency service construct and are applying their expertise to other threats including terrorism and wildland fire. Collaboration is our hallmark, with IAFC members engaging other organizations, the government, and the private sector to ensure that the fire and emergency service has the information and resources it needs to excel.

For 150 years, the IAFC has been providing leadership to the fire and emergency services. The organization is dedicated to remaining a resource

to the profession in the years to come. Members can count on the leadership, expertise, and integrity of the IAFC to lead the fire and emergency services into the future. Key issues of vital impact include training, diversity, federal funding for fire and rescue departments, health and wellness of firefighters, and emergency responders. The IAFC will continue to be a leader in this profession and is committed to working closely with other organizations to move the fire service forward. 🔥

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Why Sisterhood Is a Game Changer



By Lieutenant Brenda Pamperin, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

Women have been in the fire service for decades, yet at the station we still have the “only” experience. By sheer number, we are the only woman on shift, the only female officer in the department, the first chief hired in the department’s history, or the first woman to get pregnant. This doesn’t exactly paint an inspiring slogan for your department’s recruitment and retention efforts.

How do you create a sense of inclusion? Leadership training tells us to know your people. So perhaps you develop a relational mindset where you encourage a sorority base to complement the longstanding values of the fire service. We empower our sisterhood through demonstrating they are just as valuable as our brotherhood.

Trust will be earned through small gestures and layering these small moments repeatedly. This is not a one and done. It takes time to build this culture. To help women thrive, it is crucial to be intentional in providing an internal pathway for growth.

In 2019, I was selected as the first State Representative for Women in Fire. Little did I know that on January 25, 2023, the Women of Fire and EMS Section would be voted in as part of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA).

How did we get to this pivotal point for Virginia women firefighters? The journey began when my chief called me to congratulate me on my new role. My first reaction was, “S#%*, this is a big deal.” Throughout my term, he and I met regularly to discuss strategies for a grassroots campaign to open doors for women firefighters.

The first opportunity came when I spoke to the Fire and Rescue Departments of Northern Virginia, the company officers, and the Virginia Fire Services Board. My message focused on the benefits to supporting women firefighters.

In a time when the fire service is struggling to recruit, it only makes sense to focus on 50% of the population that has been overlooked, and not just because it’s the right thing to do. From a

business model, the benefits we discussed included:

- Increased career satisfaction equals employee retention;
- Training equals confidence;
- Communication equals increased cohesiveness;
- Diversity and inclusion equals promotional advancement;
- Progressive thinking equals proactive changes in the workforce; and
- Collaboration equals shared resources.

According to the 2022 *Women in the Workplace* report, having complete support and leadership from the top is half the battle. It also suggests, “To make meaningful and sustainable progress toward gender equality, companies should consider focusing on two broad goals: getting more women into leadership and retaining the women leaders they already have.”

The buy-in was genuine, but the question became how. As it turned out, COVID-19 motivated a plan to host four virtual meet and greets. The



Above: Lieutenant Brenda Pamperin and Xander, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department therapy dog. Photo by Angela Ballard.

Left: Women and men at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's 2023 Conference.

topics focused on leadership, women's health, mentorship, and childcare, and were not exclusive to women. Chiefs throughout Virginia also participated.

The format included a short presentation by women subject matter experts in key positions within their organizations. The magic happened in the chat groups, where individuals could share real experiences and build a network.

VFCA came on as a partner, and word got out about the group in Virginia. Suddenly, women were being seen, and the discussions became relevant. They were not alone. My mailing list grew to include people throughout the United States. I believe the topics could be repeated tomorrow with the same outpouring of attendance.

VFCA continued to walk the talk by hosting an in-person meet and greet at their annual conference. Representatives from Women in Fire presented to a full room of women and men. The VFCA network encouraged departments to sponsor women at the conference. This resulted in a day of networking among Virginia women, including the added

touch of catered meals during social breaks. Once again, chiefs were in attendance. We shared a common ground of authenticity and trust, creating an honest culture through shared vulnerability.

Word spread of the representation of women at the conference. Virginia chiefs were motivated to identify opportunities for women within their department. I was provided a platform to promote the idea of placing women within positions that build leadership skills and scale women up. Departments can create an internal network when they provide allies as coaches or mentors from both male and female leaders.

The 2023 conference welcomed three Virginia-based presenters who communicated topics we may not have felt comfortable having in the past. The morning session offered a case study on conflict resolution. The afternoon speaker gave a vivid depiction of challenges women face with imposter syndrome. The conference also featured hands-on training classes, which included women instructors.

Young women are paying attention. The *Women in the Workplace* report

states young women care deeply about opportunities to advance. Since the pandemic, 58% of women under 30 say advancement is more important. Also, 67% of them value well-being and diversity and inclusion. The next generation wants and expects organizations to show interest in their career and help them be promoted.

Our department sponsored 10 women at the conference. We were a diverse group of young and experienced firefighters, technicians, and officers.

The three probationary firefighters opted to attend The Art of Reading Smoke class. A newly promoted lieutenant kicked butt as the first in-engine officer in the hands-on training scenarios. Our youngest attendee, who wasn't even old enough to book her own hotel room, was put to work helping the hands-on training class. As one woman wrote, "What an eye-opening experience it was to see others who look like me (who are) happy with and proficient at the job."

With the newly created Women of Fire and EMS Section, Virginia can grow a network to encourage women firefighters to play big. Early connection to career opportunities will empower the next generation to take the spotlight.

By maintaining a progressive interest in our sorority firefighters, Virginia is cultivating leadership throughout the state. Virginia is choosing to change the game and sponsor our sisters so they can be seen. 💧

Brenda Pamperin graduated with a theatre management degree in Wisconsin. In 2003, she joined the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. She was promoted to Lieutenant in 2020 and served as State Representative for Women in Fire from 2019 to 2022. She is currently the program manager for probationary firefighters. Pamperin is an avid cyclist and rode cross-country to raise awareness for mental health. She plans to retire in August 2023 and hopes to continue to mentor women.

The Future of Firefighting and Emergency Services

As the old saying goes, the only constant in life is change, and the fire and emergency service field is no exception.

In the next 150 years, we can expect even more significant advancements at an accelerated pace. To gain insight into these changes, we asked industry leaders for their predictions. Here's what they had to say.

“

“The impacts of climate change and development in rural areas will continue to increase the need for effective wildfire prevention, mitigation, suppression, and recovery in many communities that have not historically experienced significant wildland fires. Recent wildfires in eastern states, the Great Plains, and the Great Lakes regions are evidence that our interface and ecosystems are fire dependent and that fire response agencies and communities are inadequately prepared. Reactively responding to catastrophic wildfires, which create risk to life and property, has proven to be an inadequate strategy. Resilience to wildfire is paramount to our economy, to our communities, and to our firefighters. The IAFC and its partners continue to collect lessons learned and apply them to immediate and longer-term mitigation efforts to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the growing threat of wildfire.”

Rich Elliott

Deputy Fire Chief of Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue
Chair of IAFC's Wildland Fire Policy Committee



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Now it is your turn to share your predictions with IAFC and your colleagues. Scan the QR code and leave us a note or a video to be included in future communications. We want to hear from you!

“I think the future of the Fire/EMS services will increasingly be involved in home health care and wellness prevention. In addition, I believe we could see our fire ground tactics governed more by stricter risk-benefit criteria given modern construction makes collapse more likely. Regardless of what the future holds for our profession, the one thing I feel 100% confident in predicting is firefighters will rise to the challenge as they always have and the IAFC will lead the way in providing valuable knowledge and insight to our future colleagues.”

Sam Greif

Fire Chief, Ret. and
Deputy City Manager, Plano TX
Chair, IAFC's Terrorism
and Homeland
Security Committee

”

“

“The future holds many technological advances that will intercept our profession, such as artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous vehicles, which may take some burden off of agencies, but we will still need highly skilled, compassionate responders in sufficient numbers at the core of our business. We will need to transition to a service that is involved in more phases of emergencies. We are starting to see this with integrated health care and community risk reduction, but we will need to expand our influence in the community and build collaborative relationships that makes the community more resilient before and after the response phase.”

Randall W. Hanifen, Ph.D., CFO, FIFireE

Assistant Fire Chief-Operations, West Chester Fire-Rescue
Chair, IAFC's Company Officers Section

“The fire service has watched changes in the fire environment over the last 150 years, going from a flashover stage of well into 24 to 30 minutes to today with the introduction of plastics, lithium-ion, and many other combustibles and new technology in homes; flashover now can occur within minutes. Another example of this would be the indicator that we are seeing more fire deaths and injuries over the last several years while the number of fires has declined. Therefore, my prediction is that departments need to embrace integrated risk-reduction programs for firefighters and community safety, including incorporating medical programs, code adoption (with current editions), and development and we need to continue improving firefighter technology and tactics. As chief, you have the option to be progressive and lead the community to reduce fires and emergency events, or keep doing the status quo, buying million-dollar fire engines and hiring employees who only respond to the bell.... what kind of leader do you want to be? A fire chief who actually helps their community, or do you just want the t-shirt?”

Greg Rogers

Deputy Chief, Franklin
Fire Department
Chair, IAFC's Fire and
Life Safety Section

“

“The future of our fire service hinges on the ability of our leaders to think differently about programs and service delivery. Leveraging community partnerships, using valid and reliable data to drive decisions, strategically communicating outcome stories, and using proactive approaches to get ahead of emergencies are the building blocks for sustainability. Community risk reduction (CRR) is our future. If we continue to think as we did 150 years ago without embracing CRR models, we will quickly become obsolete and be replaced by those who do.”

Joe Powers MPA, CFO, EFO

Managing Director, Emergency
Services Consulting International

“How we respond and train for emergencies continues to evolve and often requires the coordination of several agencies. In many cases, dynamic incidents require a multi-faceted approach where policies and training of all responding personnel are congruent. Having one interwoven all-hazards approach is the future of emergency services.”

Trisha L. Wolford

Fire Chief, Anne Arundel
County Fire Department
Chair, IAFC's Professional
Development Committee

“

FIRE SERVICE NOW AND FOR YEARS TO COME

These predictions and insights shared by industry leaders highlight the need for fire and emergency services to be adaptable and innovative in response to the changing landscape of their profession. From wildfire prevention to community risk reduction, integrated health care, and technological advancements, these experts recognize that a multi-faceted approach is necessary to ensure an effective and efficient emergency response. By leveraging community partnerships, data-driven decision making, and proactive approaches, the fire and emergency services can remain sustainable and meet the evolving needs of their communities for years to come. 🔥

“



Ken LaSala, IAFC Director of Government Relations and Policy

Legislative Update: What's In Focus

A lot has happened since 1873, especially in the field of advocacy. Alexander Graham Bell had yet to invent the telephone, and lobbyists really were influence peddlers hanging out in the Willard Hotel waiting to catch the eye of members of the Grant Administration. Most communications with legislators were done by letter. Today, we can use email campaigns, phone calls, social media posts, and in-person meetings through Congressional fly-ins to educate Congress.

As the role of the federal government and technology changed, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) had a number of

important accomplishments in the field of government relations over the years. In 1957, the IAFC petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a three-digit universal emergency services number. This decade-long effort resulted in the first 911 call being placed on February 16, 1968. In addition, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) was created in 1974 in response to the landmark *America Burning: The Report of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control*.

My predecessor, Alan Caldwell, oversaw a renaissance in the fire service's efforts on Capitol Hill. With the creation of the Congressional Fire Services Institute by Fire Chief and Representative Curt Weldon,

the various fire service organizations began to work together as one voice in the 1990s. In 2000, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program was created to help fire departments meet their baseline operational needs.

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 changed everything. The IAFC had participated in earlier reports about U.S. preparedness for incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, and it set up a Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee to help fire departments prepare for the threat of terrorism. IAFC members submitted testimony to the 9/11 Commission and Congress to help design the nation's homeland security apparatus. The IAFC was involved in the debate

Figure 1: Funding History at DHS (In Millions (\$))

Program	FY 2020 (Enacted)	FY 2021 (Enacted)	FY 2022 (Enacted)	FY 2023 (President's Request)	FY 2023 (Enacted)	FY 2024 (President's Request)
AFG	455	460	360	370	360	370
SAFER	355	560	360	370	360	370
USFA	46.844	49.269	53.212	60	60	72.8
UASI	665	705	740	711.184	615	711.184
SHSGP	560	610	645	616.186	520	601.186
US&R	37.832	37.832	37.382	37.832	37.832	37.8

to create the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the need to include the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To address staffing shortages at local fire departments, the IAFC worked with the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the other national fire service organizations to create the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program to help local fire departments hire career firefighters and fund volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention programs. Following one of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Report, the IAFC led the way in creating the First Responder

Network Authority (FirstNet), the nation's dedicated public safety broadband network.

As the times change, the IAFC continues to advocate for federal policies, grants, and programs that will help local fire and EMS departments better serve their citizens. Currently, we are focused on protecting existing programs and new legislation, as outline below.

REAUTHORIZING THE AFG & SAFER GRANT PROGRAMS AND THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION

The top legislative goal of the IAFC this year is to protect the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and SAFER. These programs are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2024. We are

working on legislation to reauthorize funding for the AFG and SAFER grant programs and the USFA.

The U.S. Senate passed the Fire Grants and Safety Act (S. 870) on April 20 by a vote of 95-2. Among its provisions, the bill would:

- Authorize \$95 million for the USFA from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 to FY 2030;
- Continue authorizing funding for the AFG and SAFER grant programs through FY 2030. The authorizations for these programs continue to increase each year based on the rate of inflation, so there was no need to add a dollar amount to the authorization of each program; and
- Move the "sunset" dates for the AFG and SAFER programs to



“As the times change, the IAFC continues to advocate for federal policies, grants, and programs that will help local fire and EMS departments better serve their citizens.”

September 30, 2032. The bill would not pass the Senate without a sunset date, so we agreed to extend the sunset date for another eight years.

The U.S. House of Representatives must now pass the bill. The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing to examine the AFG and SAFER grant programs and USFA on May 11. Chief Donna Black, the IAFC President and Board Chair, testified. Now the IAFC will work with the committee’s chairman Representative Frank Lucas (R-OK) and ranking member Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) to introduce and pass a House companion bill to S. 870.

PROTECT FUNDING FOR FEDERAL FIRE SERVICE PROGRAMS

In the late spring and early summer, Congress will begin work on the annual appropriations bills. Figure 1 summarizes the funding history of some of our major programs at DHS.

The Biden Administration is proposing a major budget increase

for USFA to fund a replacement for the National Fire Incident Reporting System. The new National Emergency Response Information System would store data in the cloud, report incident data in real time, and have other improvements. The IAFC also is advocating for increases to these programs as well as the Volunteer Fire Assistance program (re-named as the Volunteer Fire Capacity program) and National Firefighter Registry for Cancer, which just launched and is accepting applications (<https://nfr.cdc.gov>).

GRANT ELIGIBILITY TO THE PSOB PROGRAM FOR THE FAMILIES OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS WHO DIE OR ARE DISABLED FROM CANCER

Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr., (D-NJ) and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) introduced legislation (H.R. 1719/S.930) to allow the families of firefighters who die or become disabled from cancer to be eligible for the federal Public Safety Officers’ Benefits (PSOB) program. The bill

would cover 20 separate forms of cancer including malignant melanoma, kidney cancer, colorectal cancer, leukemia, and lung cancer. The bill includes a process for adding more types of cancer to the list of eligible cancers.

The public safety officer would have to have been exposed to “heat, radiation, or a carcinogen that is linked to an exposure-related cancer while in the course of the line of duty.” The public safety officer also would have to have served for five years as a public safety officer before the cancer diagnosis, and the diagnosis would have to occur not later than 15 years after the last day of active service for the public safety officer. H.R. 1719 currently has 15 cosponsors, while S. 970 only has one cosponsor: Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND).

The IAFC continues to advocate for the nation’s fire and EMS chiefs on Capitol Hill. Our efforts include old issues: the fight for the establishment of 9-1-1 has just changed to the fight for a nationwide transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (H.R. 1784). In other efforts, we are working on efforts to protect existing programs, like the AFG and SAFER grant programs, and the USFA. We also are working on federal initiatives relating to emerging issues like protecting firefighters and fire departments from both PFAS and its ramifications, and adapting to innovative technologies like lithium batteries and autonomous vehicles. You can keep informed about what is happening in DC on the IAFC’s web page (www.iafc.org/gr). 🔥

Ken LaSala is the IAFC’s Director of Government Relations and Policy.

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Making a Difference



As a member of the IAFC, you make a difference in the fire and emergency service industry and contribute to the ongoing advancement of our profession.

As we come to the close of this special 150th-anniversary issue of *iCHIEFS*, I want to reflect on what it means to be a part of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and to thank each of you for your ongoing support and involvement.

We are proud of what we have achieved together over the years. For 150 years, the IAFC has been the premier organization for fire and emergency service leaders, providing high-quality leadership education and training, advocating for policies and practices that improve the safety and well-being of firefighters and the communities they serve, and bringing together fire and emergency service leaders from around the world to share knowledge, expertise, and best practices.

At the heart of the IAFC is our membership, a diverse and

dedicated group of leaders who are committed to advancing the mission of the IAFC and improving the fire and emergency service industry. Whether you are a fire chief, a company officer, a firefighter, or a fire service industry professional, we value you as a member of the IAFC.

As a member of the IAFC, you have access to a wide range of benefits, including:

- Leadership education and training opportunities;
- Advocacy and representation on key issues affecting the fire and emergency service industry;
- Access to exclusive IAFC publications, resources, and tools; and
- Networking opportunities with fire and emergency service leaders from around the world; and
- Discounts on IAFC events, products, and services.

Most importantly, as a member of the IAFC, you make a difference

in the fire and emergency service industry and contribute to the ongoing advancement of our profession. Whether you are a long-time member, a new member, or someone who is considering joining the IAFC, we value your contribution and commitment to our mission.

As we look to the future, the IAFC will continue to play a vital role in advancing the fire and emergency service industry and improving the safety and well-being of firefighters and communities. We remain committed to continuing to serve you and the communities you serve for many years to come.

Thank you for being a part of the IAFC. I look forward to continuing to work with you to build a safer and more resilient fire and emergency service industry for all.

J. Robert "Rob" Brown, Jr.
IAFC Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director



Alcohol-based Fire Training Props: *Safer, Smokeless & Reusable!*



One-time-use wooden fire props are time-consuming to build. They're costly, and they generate noxious smoke.

Flashpoint Fire Equipment's reusable, alcohol-fueled Fire Dynamics Training Props elevate your fire-behavior training and save your department time and money.

Scale-model props are invaluable for training and teaching fire behavior and fire dynamics concepts. But limits on time, labor and materials costs, and the dangers of burning MDF and OSB have made single-use wood props obsolete and better solutions a necessity.

Flashpoint Fire Equipment offers an elevated fire behavior training experience that saves time and money. Reusable and built-to-scale, Flashpoint Fire Dynamics Training Props burn de-natured alcohol. They're easily and quickly refueled to facilitate multiple hands-on training sessions in quick succession without the need to continually source and use new materials and without incurring labor costs.

Constructed using neo-ceramic glass and high-grade aluminum panels, Flashpoint Fire Dynamics Training Props are available in vertical and horizontal configurations and are specially designed to expand and contract within a supporting frame. They have high quality closures that allow for flow path manipulation to recreate a wide range of scenarios. They feature doors that allow the simulation of various door control techniques and can nest against each other with a collar that connects the flow of fire gases, simulating fire behavior in strip malls and taxpayer occupancies.



The most effective and cost-efficient way to achieve your learning objectives is for your entire team to have the opportunity for hands-on application of flow path knowledge. These prop designs offer limitless training possibilities, including:

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