



# IAFC

International Association of Fire Chiefs

## What's Happening at the IAFC?

Strategic Direction Update

August 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016

The following is a record of completed works directly relevant the IAFC Strategic Direction. It is intended to capture the depth of the association's overarching accomplishments at a high-level.

### Goal One: To LEAD

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

**Strategy:** Equip current and future fire and emergency service leaders to meet evolving and emerging challenges and opportunities.

- Fire-Rescue International was held Aug. 26-29 in Atlanta, with a participation of 8,214 attendees and 443 exhibiting companies. It offered more than 100 core educational sessions and 72 officer development sessions.
- The VCOS Symposium in the Sun, held Nov. 12-15, was another sellout with a record-high 678 attendees. More than 140 educational sessions were offered.
- Building off of the success of Symposium in the Sun, VCOS will launch Symposium in the West which will take place in Reno May 13-14.
- On Aug. 19 the IAFC launched [www.fstaresearch.org](http://www.fstaresearch.org). As part of the Firefighter Safety Through Advanced Research (FSTAR) project, the website features a searchable database of fire and emergency service research. To



*Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr installed as IAFC President in Atlanta. First women president in IAFC history.*



date, the IAFC has identified more than 400 research studies for inclusion in the FSTAR database.

- In September, the IAFC received a \$1.5 million grant to support FSTAR. This project, with the support of the Safety, Health and Survival Section, will focus on the issues surrounding annual medical exams for firefighters. The project will develop A Medical Practitioner's Guide to Conducting NFPA 1582 and update SHS's existing A Fire Department Guide to Implementing NFPA 1582.
- The IAFC PPACA Task Force and Emergency Medical Services Section (EMS) supported a webinar with partner American Medical Response to discuss changes stemming from the implementation of healthcare reform.
- PPACA Task Force met in Fairfax, Va. with representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to discuss healthcare reform.



*IAFC leaders participate in a Fire Chiefs White House Roundtable on the impact of climate change on the wildland urban interface.*

**Strategy: Provide innovative leadership by advocating for and guiding the fire and emergency service to create, recognize and respond to emerging trends and opportunities.**

- IAFC signed a cooperative agreement with the USDA Forest Service on Wildland Fire Initiatives through March 31, 2017. The agreement includes IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee work and support.
- IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee Chair Chief Erik Litzenberg testified on October 8 before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry about National Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy. Litzenberg testified that Congress should support fire suppression efforts through effective funding and equipment procurement policies and assist in developing fire adapted communities.
- IAFC representatives, including President and Chair of the Board Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, Chief Litzenberg, National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board representative Chief Will May, participated in a Fire Chiefs White House Roundtable on the impact of climate change on the wildland urban



interface on Nov. 9. IAFC representatives discussed the RSG! Program and IAFC's Fire Adapted Communities program efforts.

- Fire & Life Safety Section (FLSS) took a leadership role with fire service, U.S. Department of Energy labs and industry stakeholders in the development of fire safety requirements associated with installations of lithium-ion battery storage systems, fuel cells and other energy storage systems.
- FLSS board members represented the IAFC on the Fire Code Action Committee in addressing code changes impacting the fire service in the building code and other construction codes.

**Strategy:** Enhance the profession, culture and effectiveness of the fire and emergency service leadership.

- FLSS worked with the divisions and leadership of the Vision 20/20 project to find chief officers to represent the IAFC at the Model Measures in Fire Prevention symposium, which emphasized the value of community risk reduction programs.

## Goal Two: To EDUCATE

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

**Strategy:** Make the knowledge and experience within the IAFC easily accessible for research and problem solving.

- VCOS delivered the following training in 2015: eight Beyond Hoses and Helmets classes; three Fire Rescue Organizational Guidance for Volunteer Leaders (also known as FROG) classes; three You and ISO classes; three Leading the Transition classes, and seven On-Fire Leadership webinars.
- FSTAR is translating more than 25 selected research studies into





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short, simplified fact sheets focusing on providing research outcomes and critical fire service takeaways at the chief and fire station level. The fact sheets include topics such as fire dynamics, cardiac health, wellness and fitness programs, and fire prevention.

- FSTAR has partnered with the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology to deliver five fire dynamic town hall events (Hutto, Texas; Boston; Oakland; San Francisco, and San Jose). Approximately 500 fire service personnel from all ranks attended.
- The IAFC Company Officers Section produced a series of four podcasts that covered credentialing, creating a culture of safety, political engagement and cancer.
- FLSS developed a Fire Service Voting Guide providing guidance and voting recommendations to proposed changes to the International Building Code, International Residential Code and International Mechanical Code.

**Strategy:** **Supplement, develop, enhance and effectively deliver education, training and professional development programs to address the needs of the membership.**

- Chief Norris Croom and Chief Kristen Andersen wrote monthly EMS leadership articles for On Scene.
- Members of the PPACA Task Force taught courses on the PPACA at a variety of conferences and workshops hosted by state fire chiefs associations.
- PPACA Task Force members developed articles for fire service publications including On Scene and the Journal of Emergency Medical Services.

**Strategy:** **Support leadership development at all fire service levels.**

- The IAFC received a fourth year of grant funding from Motorola Solutions Foundation for the Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI). More than 100 applications were received – the largest number ever submitted. Seven new chiefs and 14 aspiring chief officers from throughout the U.S. and Canada were selected.
- The 2015 FSEDI Cohort is scheduled to meet for the last session of its yearlong program in April. Following the session they will continue as alumni and network with all FSEDI members through the on-line FSEDI Alumni Community on KnowledgeNet.
- Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Section Chair Pat Kelly presented an IAFC update at the 2015 EFO Program Graduate Symposium at the National Fire Academy in September.



- The EFO Section discussed development of a single recommendation on a total professional development plan with VCOS, the Company Officers Section and the Professional Development Committee.
- EFO Section Secretary/Treasurer Chief Jo-Ann Lorber spoke at Fire Rescue East (Florida Fire Chiefs Association) in January on Weird Weather: Affects to the Fire Service, and at Florida Fire Chiefs Association's Health & Safety Conference in December on Adrenal Fatigue the 21st Century Disease.
- Officer Development Program events notes:
  - Company Officer Leadership Symposium (COLS) I programs were offered in the Kansas City, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Phoenix areas. (These events were funded by the IAFC Foundation.)
    - Kansas City, 81 participants
    - Dallas-Fort Worth, 82 participants
    - Phoenix, 62 participants
  - COLS III and CHIEF II programs were offered in Keystone, Colo. as part of a licensing agreement.

## Goal Three: To SERVE

*To **SERVE** by providing services and products of value to our membership, affiliates and partners.*

**Strategy:** Encourage increased membership and participation through the enhancement of IAFC's image as a valuable organization.

- VCOS partnered with Kidde on a national volunteer recruitment and smoke alarm campaign in conjunction with country singer Craig Morgan.
- VCOS and Safety, Health and Survival Section worked with the National Volunteer Fire Council to release a new report on personally operated vehicle safety for responders.
- The IAFC's Volunteer Workforce Solutions program received a 3-year SAFER recruitment and retention grant for about \$2.8 million from FEMA to increase the number of volunteer





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firefighters with an emphasis on women and other under-represented groups in communities across the country. The IAFC and VCOS will partner with the International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services (iWomen) and other national interest groups.

- The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association received a two-year SAFER recruitment and retention grant to implement Phase 3 Volunteer Workforce Solutions program. The IAFC Volunteer Workforce Solutions team will provide project management services for this grant.
- The Connecticut Volunteer Workforce Solutions program has the following results among the 15 participating departments in the first 11 months of data collection:
  - 342 volunteer membership applications received
  - 215 new volunteer members joined
  - more than 400 media contacts made
  - 45,000 marketing materials distributed
  - 600 recruitment/retention events conducted
- IAFC Wildland programs and the Ready Set Go! Program offered educational sessions at FRI, Backyards and Beyond and other shows, events and meetings on topics including:
  - “The Wildland Fire Interface Paradigm Shifts and Change Management”
  - “Where Do Residents Go and How Do They Go Home: A Look at Wildland Fire Event Evacuation and Repopulation Processes”
  - “FEMA Wildfire Mitigation Grant Funding – Implementing the Cohesive Strategy”
  - “Fire Adapted Communities for the Fire Service”
- The IAFC and American International Group, Inc. announced a partnership in late 2015 to provide direct no-cost-share grants to Ready, Set, Go! Program members of \$1,000 each for outreach and \$5,000 for fuels mitigation efforts in communities. The grants are intended to assist local fire departments with community fuels mitigation, educational outreach and implementation of the RSG! Program.
- The IAFC Company Officer Task Force worked hard to receive enough signatures and payments from IAFC members to form the new IAFC Company Officers Section.
- In partnership with CSX, the IAFC will support the Albermarle County (Va.) Fire and Rescue's efforts to educate and improve responder rail incidents through several planning and training tasks. Partnership also includes development of training and toolkits to be used by hazmat responders.



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**Strategy:** Provide IAFC products and services that are relevant to current and emerging issues, and topics important to the target audiences, affiliates and partners.

- Fire and Life Safety Section (FLSS) development of voter recommendations for the Group A code changes with the International Code Council was shared with more than 3,000 fire service and building code professionals.
- FLSS continue to participate as a member of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition in an effort to continually educate our communities and members on the safety benefits of residential sprinklers.
- With support from a new \$2.6 million federal grant, the IAFC will develop a training program for first responders to effectively manage emergency events involving rail incidents. The Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to provide hazmat training for volunteer or remote emergency responders.

**Strategy:** 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 in the association.

- FLSS Board member Chief Andy King and FLSS member Chief Traci Harvey represented the IAFC at the National Fire Protection Association Summit on NFPA 13R multi-family sprinkler system.

**Strategy:** Increase awareness of the IAFC as the go-to resource for policy and subject matter expertise.

- EMS Section collaborated with U.S. Centers and Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to review and publish Ebola guidance for emergency response agencies.
- EMS Section collaborated with CDC to review Ebola Patient Transportation Guidance.
- EMS Section provided comments to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on updates needed for ambulance fee schedule and to support community paramedicine development.
- FLSS Board members represented the IAFC on the International Code Council Fire Code Action Committee and proposed more than 90 code changes to



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address emerging trends, firefighter safety, occupant safety and usability of the code.

- FLSS Board members proposed changes to the International Fire and Building Codes that support the IAFC's cooktop safety initiative in assisted living facilities and college dorms.

## News About Our Members

Notable achievements such as awards and appointments.

- Austin Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, a fourth-generation firefighter, was installed as IAFC president and chair of the board at FRI. She becomes the first woman to lead the IAFC in its 142-year history.
- Chief Roper, Wildland Fire Policy Committee member, became the State Forester for the State of Nevada.
- Lt. Randall Hanifen, vice chair of the new IAFC Company Officers Section, was awarded Fellow Status with the Institute of Fire Engineers. He is the only company officer to hold this designation.
- Michael O'Brian, chair of the Fire and Life Safety Section was nominated to the UL Fire Council.

## Staff Updates

Hires, departures, job changes, certifications/degrees, and work-related awards.

- Russell Chandler joined the IAFC in August in the Learning Center. He is also the staff liaison to the Fire and Life Safety Section.
- Joel Billings was hired by the IAFC in September as a part-time research specialist.
- Laura Peard joined the IAFC in September as a program manager to work on HazMat in the Learning Center.
- Carol Buettner replaced Evan Sawyer as the receptionist in September.
- In October, Abena Bonso-Bruce, program manager; Spencer Cheatham, SME; Kayla Duff, program coordinator; and Tina Thirakounh, program coordinator, joined the IAFC in the Community Solutions Center.
- Erin Gibbs joined the Membership and Marketing Department in October as event marketing coordinator.
- Rob Brown joined the IAFC in November as strategic manager in the Learning Center, as well as Program Manager Dale Rollason.



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- Kaitlin Sullivan joined the Wildland team in the Community Solutions Center in November as program coordinator.
  - Monica Willemsen was promoted to program specialist in the Community Solutions Center.
  - Jeff Dulin joined the IAFC staff in November as assistant director of the new Research Center.
  - Joe Kratochvil joined the Learning Center in December as a program SME.
  - Chris Reilly joined the IAFC as program manager in the Research Center.
  - In December, Ginger Gould joined the IAFC as controller, replacing Laura Sieders.

## What People are Saying...

Quotes received directly from members or others about the IAFC, its services, programs, webinars or staff professionalism/assistance. Can be from phone calls, emails, surveys or letters.

- *“Because of the discussions we have had surrounding FSTAR, IFSI [Illinois Fire Service Institute] made an additional financial commitment to purchase open journal access to one of our research studies, ensuring that the outcomes are open and accessible to the fire service.”* – Gavin Horn, Ph.D., Director of Research, University of Illinois Fire Service Institute
- *“Great work and accomplishments on the part of the Company Officers Section—wishing your group the best of success.”* – Battalion Chief Lisa Baker, Oakland (CA) FD
- *“I believe that approving the Company Officers Section was a great move by the IAFC, and that it will help to raise the leadership bar at all ranks. As I told Lt. Hanifen, I’d be glad to do whatever I can to support the Section.”* – Pat Lynch, Ph.D., President, Business Alignment Strategies, Inc.

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