



IAFC

International Association of Fire Chiefs

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE IAFC



STRATEGIC DIRECTION UPDATE

DECEMBER 1, 2017 – FEBRUARY 28, 2018

The IAFC strategic direction reaffirms the IAFC's priority strategic goals to **LEAD, EDUCATE and SERVE**. This report 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.

(Photo: The future home of IAFC headquarters, Chantilly, Virginia.)

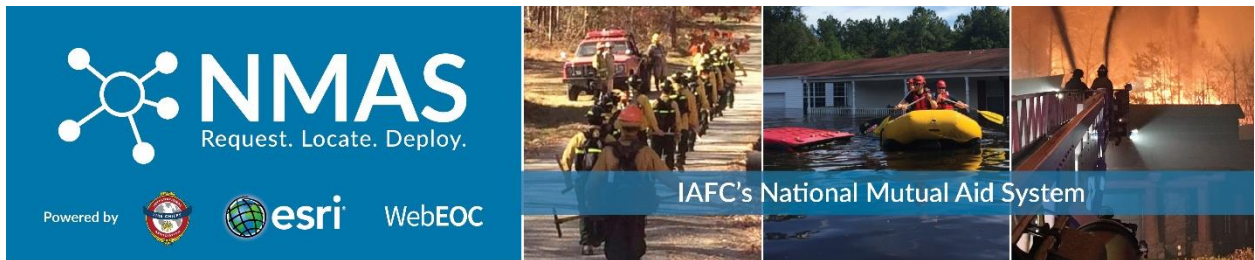
What's Happening at the IAFC

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LEAD — GLOBAL ADVOCATES FOR THE FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICE

In the News

- On February 28, the IAFC, Esri and the Intermedix Preparedness Division, soon to be Juvare, announced that beta testing of the new [National Mutual Aid System \(NMAS\)](#) will begin in four states.



"It is an exciting accomplishment to get to this point in such a short period of time. Ensuring that emergency managers and responders have real-time information and resources at their fingertips is an essential element in protecting to protecting their communities. I commend the fire and emergency service leaders in these four pilot states for seeing us through this important phase of the plan."

— IAFC President Tom Jenkins

- On January 25, the IAFC signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University \(ERAU\)](#) to explore Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) related education, training, certification activities and or events.

Government Relations

- On December 1, IAFC staff (Evan Davis and Shawn Stokes) met with the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property (NASASP) regarding Firefighter Property Program (FFP) and the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP). Both federal programs help fire departments obtain vehicles/equipment from the U.S. Department of Defense that have been deemed "excess property" and are administered by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate efforts on defending the FFP/FEPP programs as well as discussing ways to improve DLA's management of FFP/FEPP.
- On December 22, President Trump signed the **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act** (P.L. 115-97). This legislation included the following provisions to help fire prevention and volunteer fire service priorities:
 - Allows small business owners to deduct the cost of retrofitting fire protection systems, including automatic fire sprinklers, into buildings under Section 179 of the tax code. This provision would affect commercial buildings, such as restaurants, bars, night clubs, and other establishments. Allows

volunteer firefighters to increase their contribution to Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAP) to \$6,000 per year. This provision will serve as an incentive for recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

- On January 3, President Trump signed the **United States Fire Administration, AFG, and SAFER Program Reauthorization Act** (P.L. 115-98). This legislation:
 - Authorizes \$76.49 million for the USFA through Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.
 - Authorizes approximately \$750 million for the AFG and SAFER grant programs through FY 2023.
 - Moves the termination date for the AFG and SAFER programs to September 30, 2024.
 - Clarifies that SAFER grants can be used to change the status of part-time firefighters to full-time positions.
 - Develops online training programs, through USFA, to help fire departments to better manage AFG and SAFER grants.
 - Develops a framework at the Federal Emergency Management Agency to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of AFG and SAFER funds.
- On February 9, Congress restored the add-on payments that fire departments receive for [ambulance transport of Medicare patients](#). This legislation was added to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-23). Of note:
 - Under this program, fire departments receive an additional 2%, 3% or 22.6% addition to their reimbursement for transporting of Medicare patients for urban, rural, or super-rural zip codes, respectively.
 - The new law extends the add-on payments for the next five years.
 - It requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create a survey to collect information about the cost of providing EMS care. Our hope is that we can use this cost data to revise the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule in the future.
- On February 13, the IAFC joined representatives from New York City, Boston, Los Angeles, Washington DC, and other areas affected by the statutory requirement that the Federal Communications Commission auction begin auctioning public safety spectrum in the T-Band (470-512 MHz) by February 2021. The IAFC requested that Congress repeal this requirement. Representatives Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Lee Zeldin (R-NY) introduced a bill on February 26 to repeal the T-Band auction requirement.
- On February 27, Assistant Chief **Matthew Tobia**, Loudoun County (Virginia) Combined Fire Rescue, represented the IAFC at a combined National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health-U.S. Department of Justice meeting on prevention of incidents in which law enforcement officers are struck-by passing motorists on roadsides.
- All 56 U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia [opted into FirstNet](#).

EDUCATE AND SERVE — EDUCATION, TRAINING, SERVICES, PRODUCTS

Developing Leaders

- On February 20, the IAFC announced it is organizing the first [International Fire Operations Conference, April 10-12, 2018](#), at the Ritz-Carlton in Manama, Bahrain. The prestigious event is being organized in collaboration with Saudi Aramco, a Saudi Arabian national petroleum and natural gas company based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Emergency Management

- In February, the Emergency Management Committee (EMC) in conjunction with Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC) reviewed and provided comment to FEMA regarding Fire Engine Strike Team position description.
- EMC Vice-Chair Chief **Michael Mavrogeorge** attended FEMA's NIMS Implementation Objective Workshop in December 2017. The purpose of the workshop was to collect information regarding current implementation of NIMS broadly and among specific constituencies, to gain input on defining NIMS implementation, and to obtain participant perspective regarding how FEMA can describe indicators that are meaningful, consistent, measurable, and operationally based Emergency Medical Services.

Emergency Medical Services

- Chief **David Becker**, EMS Section immediate past chair, was elected to serve as the secretary/treasurer of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professions. CoAEMSP is the leading body which accredits paramedic training programs.

Executive Fire Officers

- January 2018, Chief **Trey Mayo**, EFO Section board member, was a presenter at North Carolina Association of Fire Chief Mid-Winter conference – “Real World Rules: Social Media Issues and the Press.”
- January 2018, Chief **William Hyde**, EFO Section vice chair, attended the Heart of America Accreditation Consortium, Lenexa, Kansas, and the CPSE Quality Improvement Through Accreditation, Springdale, Arkansas.
- In December 2017, Chief **Jo-Ann Lorber**, EFO Section Chair, published an article for Florida Fire Chiefs Association on Leading with Character.
- Chief **Mayo** and Chief **Lorber** planned the NFA's Executive Fire Officer's Symposium for 2018 (April 2017 – January 2018).
- December 18-20, Chief **David Kerr** served as a subject matter expert at the NFA for the review of the Fire Prevention Technical Committee.
- Chief **Gary Weiss**, EFO Section board member, wrote an article in October 2017 for Wisconsin Fire Chief Magazine – Executive Fire Officer Section Update.
- The EFO Section published several articles for IAFC On Scene.

Volunteer Fire Service

- VCOS and NVFC hosted the first of three webinars on cancer best practices in December. The recording is available online. The second webinar will be in March.
- In partnership with the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, the IAFC announced Phase I of its Volunteer Workforce Solutions program. This is funded through a FEMA SAFER grant with a two-year period of performance. In Phase I, the program will select 15 departments to benefit from customized GIS Tapestry reports, printed recruitment materials and leverage turnkey marketing solutions to enhance their volunteer recruitment strategies and efforts. In addition, there will be a statewide media campaign and trainings available to all departments in North Carolina.



Photo from the February VCOS board meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia hosted by Chief **Ken Stuebing** and Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency department. From left to right beginning in the front are: Chief **Rich Cowger**, VCOS Board Member, Chief **Stuebing**, IAFC Director-at-Large (Canadian Division), Chief **Ed Rush**, VCOS Board Member, Chief **Norvin Collins**, VCOS Secretary-Treasurer, **Beth VanGorder**, Manager, Volunteer Sector - Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency, **Jenny Bragiel Cozad**, IAFC Program Coordinator, Chief **Jason Catrambone**, VCOS Board Member, VCOS Chairman **Timothy S. Wall**, Chief **Fred Windisch**, VCOS Board Member, Kelly Ameen, IAFC Assistant Director and VCOS Staff Liaison, Chief **Chuck Flynn**, VCOS Vice-Chair, Chief **Donna Black**, VCOS International Director, Chief **Jim Seavey**, VCOS Board Member, Chief **Jim Cook**, VCOS Board Member.

- The new Tennessee VWS volunteer recruitment videos were released at the TFCA Winter Conference in February. There are 90-, 60- and 30-second PSA videos available for use.
- The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association conference was held February 21-25. IAFC VWS staff attended and facilitated two recruitment and retention discussions.
- The National VWS Grant conducted two webinars increasing awareness in volunteer departments on how to recognize your membership and how to recruit new members from diverse backgrounds.
- Several VCOS Beyond Hoses and Helmets courses and Fire Rescue Organizational Guidance courses were delivered. The National VWS program used these courses in its pilot departments.

Wildland Fire Programs

- IAFC's Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC) representative to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board, **Will May**, participated in monthly NWCG meetings and conference calls representing the voice of the local government fire service as it pertains to NWCG. **Jeremy Taylor**, who is involved with IAFC Wildland Fire Programs, also participated in the December 2017 NWCG WUI Mitigation Committee meeting.
- On December 14, a pilot of the 8-hour Instructor-Led Delivery of the Fire Adapted Communities for the Fire Service training was held at the Jackson County Fire District 33 in White City, Oregon. Presenters were **Chris Chambers**, **Porfirio Chavarria**, **Alison Lerch** and **Jenn Dietz**. Draft Participant Workbooks were issued, and participants were asked for feedback on the training.
- January 16-20, the IAFC managed a Fire Department Exchange (FDX) in Austin, Texas. Fire Department Exchanges serve as a platform for those facing wildland fire challenges to share what's working and discuss potential multi-level partnerships in, and resolutions to, continued barriers faced in their efforts to plan, educate and prepare themselves and their communities. Participants included Ashland (Oregon) Rescue, Colorado Springs (Colorado) Fire Department, Helotes (Texas) Fire Department, Jackson County (Oregon) Fire District 3, Austin (Texas) Fire Department, Oakland (California) Fire Department, Pinetop (Arizona) Fire Department, Santa Fe (New Mexico) Fire Department and Vail (Colorado) Fire Department.

- On January 22, WFPC member **Richard Elliot** participated in the National Association of State Forester's (NASF) Wildland Fire Committee meeting in Prescott, Arizona.
- February 25-26, the IAFC's Wildland Fire Policy Committee held an in-person meeting during the WUI 2018 Conference in Reno. During the meeting the WFPC reviewed their action plan and updated as needed, reviewed work products of staff and the committee, reported as needed to the leadership of the IAFC on topics of interest dealing with wildland and WUI issues, received reports from committee liaisons to the various organizations, received briefings and provided guidance and feedback on the status, direction and plans for the Ready, Set, Go! program, Community Wildfire Readiness and initiatives related to promoting more fire adapted communities.
- On February 27, the Fire Department Exchange Program (FDX) offered a preconference session. FDX is an in-person exchange that is designed to address the need for continued mitigation efforts regarding the growing risk of wildland-urban interface fire. This mini 7-hour exchange featured the FDX Steering Group, and WFPC members who facilitated productive large and small group break-outs and other activities revolving around on-the-ground efforts of fellow departments. Discussions covered topics such as fuels management, community outreach, wildfire regulation, planning, and effective response.
- WFPC and the Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (FACC) partners had a pavilion at the WUI 2018 conference. FACC brings together the federal land management agencies with national organizations and state and local interests to stress that with proper community-wide preparation, human populations and infrastructure can successfully adapt to their wildland fire challenge.
- WFPC members and IAFC staff presented several engaging and interactive educational sessions including:
 - "Evacuation Form and Function – How much is Art, and How Much is Science?"
 - "High-Risk Integrated Wildfire Response"
 - "Local Level Cohesive Wildfire Strategies"
 - "Wildland Urban Interface, Managing the Reality"
 - "Make Your Community Wildfire Ready: IAFC Wildland Fire Programs Panel"
 - "Ready, Set, Go! – A Florida Partnership in Public Safety Preparedness"
 - "Developing Remote Firefighter Capability Down Under"
- On February 28, the RSG! Awards for Excellence were presented at the Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Networking and Award Reception. These awards recognize the exceptional efforts and achievements of RSG! member organizations and individuals associated with implementing the fire-adapted concept and maintaining a successful RSG! program in their communities. The winners were Kittitas County (Washington) Fire District #7 and the Florida Forest Service.
- On February 28, the [Wildfire Mitigation Awards](#) were presented during the WUI general session. The Legacy Award went to Christina Randall, recognizing her outstanding contributions toward reducing risk in the wildland-urban interface.

INSIDE THE IAFC

Association News

- In January and February, the IAFC was packing up IAFC headquarters located at 4025 Fair Ridge Drive in Fairfax, Virginia, in preparation for its March 9-11 move to Chantilly, Virginia. The [new headquarters](#) will be located at 4795 Meadow Wood Lane, Suite 100, Chantilly, VA, 20151 beginning March 12.

News About Our Members

- VCOs Chairman **Timothy Wall** was selected to be inducted into the Connecticut Firefighters Hall of Fame for his commitment and dedication to the volunteer and combination fire service in Connecticut and throughout the U.S. The ceremony will be on April 5.
- In February 2018, Chief **William Hyde** and Chief **Pat Kelly** (ret.), past EFO Section chair, resumed work with the National Fire Administration Board of Visitors – EFO Program Analysis Committees.
- Chief **David Kerr**, EFO Section, attended the Texas State Fire Marshals conference and received a Life Time Achievement Award.
- Chief **Gary Weiss**, EFO Section, and his department, Germantown (Wisconsin) Fire, was recognized by the ARC and the Southeastern Trauma Advisory Council for being the first community in Wisconsin to have all governmental employees trained in CPR/AED/Stop-the-Bleed programs and placed Stop-the-Bleed packs in all governmental vehicles.

News About Our Staff

Hires, job changes, certifications/degrees, work-related awards and other news:

- Tommy Hicks was promoted to Chief Strategy Officer/Deputy Executive Director.
- Christine Booth was promoted to IAFC chief of staff.
- Rob Brown, former Virginia Department of Emergency Management, chief regional coordinator, Region VII/NCR and previous IAFC staffer, was hired to fill the assistant executive director position.
- Shannon Gilliland was promoted to director, Business Development.
- Harriet Parker was promoted to Grants Administrator.
- Jaleya Leonard was promoted to HR manager.
- Erin Gibbs has been promoted to marketing manager.
- Adam D'Agostino has been promoted to program coordinator, Community Solutions.
- Kelly Ameen has been promoted to assistant director, Community Solutions.
- Carly Zoerb was promoted to digital specialist.
- Kaitlin Sullivan has been promoted to program specialist, Community Solutions and has upon marrying, changed her name to Kaitlin Lutz.
- Meghan Rhodes has been promoted to program specialist, Community Solutions.
- Terry Crowder was promoted to program manager, Professional Development.
- Cathy Feyh's title has been changed to more accurately reflect her role. Her new title is member engagement manager.
- Jeff Dulin's position has changed to Strategic Advisor, Business Development.
- Chris Reilly has returned to work with IAFC on a part-time basis as a program manager, HazMat Center.
- Brandon Cox has left the IAFC to become a firefighter with Prince William (Virginia) Department of Fire and Rescue.

What Others Are Saying

- "RSG! is the best program I've ever seen. The support system you all have in place for your members is phenomenal. Everything a fire department could need to help implement the program and connect with their residents, you all are right there. It's great!"

— John Cowie, Barnegat (New Jersey) Volunteer Fire Company