

# What's Happening at the IAFC?

Strategic Direction Update  
March 1 – June 30, 2017

## IAFC Strategic Direction

The IAFC strategic direction document reaffirms the IAFC's priority strategic goals to **LEAD, EDUCATE and SERVE**. The [2015-16 Strategic Direction](#) (extended through 2017) aligns the association's goals and strategies and serves as the foundation for the development of ongoing action items for IAFC leadership, members and staff. 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.

## TO LEAD — Global Advocates for the Fire and Emergency Service

### Leadership in Action

- In April, President John Sinclair, 1st Vice President Tom Jenkins and 2nd Vice President Gary Curmode [met with more than a dozen key congressional offices](#) over two days to discuss the IAFC's legislative, regulatory and funding priorities. They met with the House Appropriations Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee, several other lawmakers and key Congressional staff as well as officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. [Watch the video](#).
- On April 27, President Sinclair [testified before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management](#) about mitigating damage and recovering quickly from disasters. He was joined at the hearing by Chief David Paulison, IAFC president 1996–1997 and former FEMA administrator.
- On June 13, President Sinclair announced the participants accepted into the inaugural year of the [IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program \(iDELP\)](#). iDELP is a new program developed by the IAFC to bring together a group of current and future leaders to foster a diverse and inclusive leadership and workforce. The program aims to provide them with the tools necessary to become national leaders in the fire and emergency service and the IAFC.



*President Sinclair discusses IAFC priorities for a Capitol Hill Day video.*

- On May 21–22, the IAFC hosted the inaugural meeting of the [Women Fire Chiefs Council \(WFCC\)](#) in Henderson, Nev. It was a tremendous success; 16 of the America’s top women fire chiefs discussed issues that pertain directly to the future of the fire and emergency service. The WFCC was created earlier this year by the IAFC Board of Directors with the goal of creating a group to focus on issues that specifically impact women fire chiefs. In addition, the WFCC will make recommendations to the IAFC on strategies to increase the number of women leaders in the fire service.
- The IAFC’s International Fellowship Program, featuring our partnership with Saudi Aramco, continues to exceed expectations. [Watch the video.](#)



*WFCC participants. The council is led by co-chairs Donna Black of Duck, N.C., and Kara Kalkbrenner of Phoenix.*

## In the News

- On April 4, President Sinclair, 1st Vice President Jenkins and 2nd Vice President Curmode met with the publisher, editor and reporters from *Governing* magazine to discuss IAFC priority issues. Chief Sinclair and Chief Jenkins were quoted in the *Governing* article [Your Image of a Firehouse Is Probably Wrong](#).
- CEO/Executive Director Mark Light was quoted in an ASAE *Associations Now* article [Fire Chiefs Group Launches Program to Diversify Workforce and Leadership](#).
- Chief Mark Lockhart, Stafford County (Va.), represented the IAFC at a nationally televised press conference with the deputy U.S. attorney general, director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and representatives from other national organizations representing first responders.



*President Sinclair, 1st VP Jenkins and 2nd VP Curmode meet with editorial staff at Governing magazine to discuss IAFC priority issues.*

## Government Relations

- On June 5, [the IAFC endorsed Brock Long as FEMA administrator](#). He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 19.
- President Sinclair created the IAFC EMS Reimbursement Task Force to examine issues related to EMS reimbursements. Chief Vane Riley, Pearland (Texas), was appointed task force chair.
- On April 5, Chief Tim Wall, chair of the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS), Evan Davis (staff) and members of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) held a staff briefing on Capitol Hill to educate congressional staffers on issues related to the volunteer and combination fire service.

## TO EDUCATE AND SERVE — Education, Training, Services, Products

### Developing Leaders

- The IAFC Company Officers Section (COS) produced a 34-page report titled *Succession Management for the Fire-Rescue Service*. The report was researched and written by a COS work group that included officers from all ranks and representatives from the International City/County Management Association, the National Fire Academy (NFA) and consultants in the field. The report will be officially released at Fire-Rescue International (FRI) in July.

- Executive Fire Officers (EFO) Section leaders supported the EFO Symposium both financially and with team management to educate executive officers and others at the annual meeting at the NFA. The April 2017 Symposium was a huge success, with close to 200 attendees.

## Emergency Management

- Chief Zagaris, chair of the Emergency Management Committee, participated in the review of Chief Sinclair's April 27 testimony to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives.
- Chief Zagaris participated in the review of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) refresh submitted on May 9.

## Emergency Medical Services

- Chief Mike McEvoy, incoming EMS Section chair, delivered the keynote address at the FDIC Conference in Indianapolis. Chief McEvoy was the first EMS chief ever to keynote the conference.
- Chief Norris Croom, International director, EMS Section, worked with the National Association of State EMS Officials to help secure the 10 states required to implement the REPLICA EMS Compact. The compact is the nation's first and only multi-state agreement for the EMS profession.

## Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement

- Chief Michael O'Brian, chair of the Fire and Life Safety Section, participated in a roundtable discussion about the importance of adopting model building codes. The discussion was hosted by the BuildStrong Coalition in the U.S. Capitol's Visitor Center.

## Firefighter Safety and Health

- The Safety, Health and Survival Section (SHSS) and the IAFC Research Center have helped to distribute more than 3,000 *Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals* at conferences and meetings since its debut in November 2016. It is available on the SHSS website and FSTAR website and has been viewed nearly 15,000 times.
- The Safety Stand Down Program established the largest working group in recent years to deliver this year's program on mayday, self-rescue and rapid intervention. Read Chief Don Abbott's critical study, *Project Mayday*, at [ProjectMayday.net](http://ProjectMayday.net).
- SHSS and the Research Center co-hosted a webinar on *Project Mayday* with 110 participants. The session was a comprehensive study of maydays – identifying types of maydays and where, when and how they occur.
- Chief Matt Tobia, Loudoun County (Va.) Combined Fire Rescue System, spoke at a Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)-sponsored session about firefighter cancer issues. He is immediate past chair of the SHSS.
- The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association's (VFCA) Officers Academy Modular Program is currently on its third and four modules. Some of the topics being delivered in Module 3 include the company officer's role in firefighter safety and health, cancer education and prevention, principles of leadership and advanced team building. The program will run through August 2017. The IAFC provides program management for the VFCA SAFER grant.

## Hazmat Preparedness and Response

- The IAFC Hazmat Center has significantly increased its social-media presence and reach on Facebook and Twitter. The goal is to increase awareness about the Hazmat Center's offerings, especially training offered under the Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grant.

- The National Volunteer Fire Council, a partner on the ALERT grant, has also used its social-media platform to announce hazmat training opportunities from the Hazmat Center to its followers.
- The Regional Rail Response (RRR) training program, developed by the IAFC, the American Association of Railroads and other experts, has become a class in high demand. The IAFC has a long waitlist and continues to host additional classes under the existing ALERT grant. To date, the IAFC has held 13 classes and trained approximately 290 participants.
- The IAFC and TransCanada [have extended their partnership](#) through June 2020. This partnership continues to focus on educating first responders on the importance of energy and pipeline safety, preparing them for disaster response and helping them update their emergency-operations plans.
- As of June 23, more than 2,300 first responders had been trained through the IAFC Academy to an awareness level concerning propane, ethanol and hydrogen.
- The Hazmat Center featured the NFPA Mobile App [in a blog post](#), highlighting the tool's benefits to first responders.
- The Hazmat Conference in Baltimore brought in more than 1,300 attendees and 90 vendors.
  - The Hazmat Committee had a successful meeting, discussing current projects and future goals of training first responders for safe and effective incident response.
  - The TransCanada Panel brought together experienced first responders and industry and regulation experts to present best practices in pipeline-incident response and fielded questions from the audience.
  - The Hazmat Center held a Twitter contest that helped raise awareness of the Fusion Center; the center's social media platform gained new followers and increased engagement. The residual effects should help the Hazmat Center continue to provide resources and updates about training opportunities to emergency responders.

## Human Relations, Diversity and Inclusion

- SHSS, the Human Relations Committee, VCOS and iWomen released a [Bullying, Harassment and Workplace Violence Toolkit](#), which will be presented at FRI.

## Wildland Fire Prevention

- Chief Erik Litzenberg and Shawn Stokes (staff) represented the local-government fire service and the IAFC on the Wildland Fire Leadership Council meetings in Washington, D.C., in March and June.
- On March 3, Wildland staff provided a history and overview of IAFC's wildland fire programs to representatives of the U.S. Forest Service to and discussed the general programmatic direction.
- May 31-June 2, Chief Richard Elliot, member of the Wildland Fire Policy Committee, participated in the National Association of State Foresters Meeting in Grafton, Ill.
- Chief Will May participated in the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board meetings in Boise, Idaho, in March, April, May and June.
- In March, the IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC), with significant involvement from the late Christina Randall of the Colorado Springs Fire Department and WFPC member, created a [Leader's Guide](#). This guide helps develop and implement a Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan in communities across the U.S.
- On March 22, [Mitigation Awards were presented](#) at the Wildland Urban Interface Conference (WUI 2017) to 14 winners.
- IAFC's Ready, Set, Go! (RSG!) Program presented the 2017 RSG! Program Awards at WUI 2017.
  - Fire Chief (Ret.) Bob Roper, EFO, was the inaugural recipient of the [RSG Special Recognition Award](#).

- Jack Cohen, USDA Forest Service retiree, received the [2017 Wildfire Mitigation Legacy Award](#) for being instrumental in developing the science behind many effective wildland-fire mitigation concepts used today across North America.
- The IAFC's RSG! Program announced the program's [2017 Award for Excellence recipients](#):
  - Volunteer/Combination Department: Brushy Mountain (Oklahoma) Volunteer Fire Department
  - Career Department: South Metro (Colorado) Fire Rescue
- The session, "Community Wildfire Readiness (CWR) for the Fire Service," was offered at WUI 2017. CWR recognizes that all community members play an important part in preparing a community for the threat of wildfire.
- In April, the RSG Youth Coloring Book was translated into Spanish with assistance from RSG members from San Diego Fire-Rescue and the Austin (Texas) Fire Department.
- On May 19, Tommy Hicks, IAFC's chief programs & technology officer and assistant executive director, presented on wildland risk reduction strategies at the Emergency Preparedness and Fire Safety Summit in San Diego.
- May 22-26, the IAFC hosted a fire department exchange event in Colorado Springs, Colo. to explore fire educational outreach and operational processes. Participants included IAFC staff members Shawn Stokes, Amber Wells, and Meghan Rhodes.
- On June 23, IAFC's Ready, Set, Go! (RSG!) Program participated in a train-the-trainer event to teach wildland fire preparedness and strategies to engage communities to become fire adapted.

## Data, Research and Technology

- In June, a new [Hazmat Fusion Center](#) website was launched, providing resources to the hazmat community.
- The IAFC updated the free [Public Safety GIS Viewer](#) to make accessing risk-analysis tools easier for small departments.
- The FSTAR Health program partnered with SHSS to update the *SHS FSTAR Provider's Guide to NFPA 1582*. This popular guide has been downloaded 10,000 times since 2013 and has had more than 13,500 page views in the last eight months. The updated version, *The Emergency Services Road Map to Health and Wellness*, is a PDF that will be launched as an interactive microsite this summer.
- FSTAR Health continues to partner with other firefighter organizations as well as healthcare membership organizations to promote firefighter wellness, representing the IAFC at several meetings and conferences this quarter.
- The FSTAR website released four updated fact sheets:
  - Understanding the Durability of a Fire Department Wellness Program
  - Firefighter Fitness: Improving Performance and Preventing Injuries and Fatalities
  - Exploring Occupational and Health Behavioral Causes of Firefighter Obesity: A Qualitative Study
  - Physiological Determinants of Candidate Physical Ability Test in Firefighters
- Chief Gary McCarraher, chair of the IAFC's Communications Committee, spoke at a CFSI-sponsored educational session about next-generation 911 issues.
- The IAFC finalized a new relationship/contract with the PulsePoint Foundation in collaboration with the Western Division. Both parties believe their respective members will benefit from awareness of



*New Hazmat Fusion Center website.*

PulsePoint's public-safety mobile applications that improve communications with citizens and empower them to help reduce the millions of annual deaths from sudden cardiac arrest.

## Volunteer and Combination Fire Service

- In May, the National Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) program finalized content for three web-based trainings on diversity and inclusion. These training units will be made available by December and will focus on an introduction to diversity and inclusion, overcoming barriers and how to enact better inclusivity within a department and during outreach efforts.
- The second annual VCOS Symposium in the West was a huge success, with about 160 attendees, a 43% increase compared to last year.
- The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association's (TFCA) SAFER Volunteer Recruitment and Retention grant kick-off meeting was held in June at Williamson County Public Safety Center in Franklin, Tenn. The IAFC VWS staff was joined by 96 members of the 19 participating departmental groups (consisting of 64 fire-service departments), the TFCA steering committee, University of Tennessee's County Technical Assistance Service, and Creative Design, a public relations and marketing agency.
- The VCOS Yellow Ribbon Report *Under the Helmet: Performing an Internal Size-Up – A Proactive Approach to Ensuring Mental Wellness* was approved by the IAFC Board of Directors for release at FRI. Copies will be distributed in Charlotte and a downloadable version will be available from the website.
- The annual Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association and VWS Volunteer Firefighter Day was held in April; 62 departments held open houses at 77 locations. Media-coverage tracking shows more than 843 million impressions, valued more than \$1.1 million. Both numbers are considerably higher than last year's, representing a 633% increase in impressions and a 37.5% increase in value.

## INSIDE THE IAFC

### Association News

- IAFC members [elected Chief Dan Eggleston, Albemarle County \(Va.\) Department of Fire Rescue](#), as 2nd vice president, effective at the conclusion of FRI.
- In April, Fairfax County (Va.) Fire and Rescue hosted 15 IAFC staff members at a condensed citizens' fire-rescue academy.
- In June, IAFC staff participated in "Stop the Bleed" training by a paramedic team from Prince William County (Va.) Department of Fire & Rescue. The training was initiated at the request of the IAFC Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee.
- In May, a successful connexions event was held in Dallas for 11 fire departments, where they discussed challenges and developed solutions. In addition, they met with companies and learned about the latest products and services and future initiatives in the pipeline that they shaped via feedback in individual vendor meetings.
- In April, Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI), the consulting arm of the IAFC, [announced a significant expansion in its services and product line with the acquisition of Fields Consulting Group](#).



Chief Richard Bowers, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, addresses IAFC staff during a citizens' fire-rescue academy session.

## News About Our Members

- Chief Keith Bryant, 2014-2015 IAFC president, was [appointed U.S. Fire Administrator](#) by President Trump.
- Chief Mike Metro, Los Angeles County (Calif.), was reelected to serve as a director-at-large on the EMS Section Board of Directors.
- Chief Mike McEvoy, Waterford (N.Y.), was elected to serve as chair of the EMS Section Board of Directors.
- Chief Gary Morris is the IAFC lead participating with UL on basement fire research.
- Commissioner Dave Fischler and Chief John Sullivan presented at NFPA on the great work on the Health Care Providers Guide at June NFPA meetings.
- Chief Ken Kehmna, a member of the Emergency Management Committee, was appointed to represent the IAFC on the NIMS Integration Committee of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

## In Case You Missed It – Articles of note from IAFC On Scene:

- [Yes, Bullying, Harassment and Violence are Alive in the Firehouse](#)
- [Safety & Health: Risk Reduction—A Global View](#)
- [What ESCI's Purchase of Fields Consulting Group Means for You](#)
- [Firefighter Physicals: Where Are We Now?](#)
- [911 Indoor Location Accuracy: Can a Caller Be Located?](#)

## Staff Update – Hires, job changes, certifications/degrees and work-related awards:

- Julian Johnson joined the IAFC staff in the Learning Center as program coordinator.
- Monica Willemsen was promoted to program manager and Lexie Coulson was promoted to program specialist in the VWS team of the Community Solutions Center.
- Rhiannon Bogozi joined the VWS team in April as program coordinator.
- Shawn Stokes was promoted to director of the Community Solutions Center.
- Sara Stehle earned her Certified Meeting Professional designation.
- John Woulfe was promoted to program director of the Hazmat Center.
- Bree Willging was promoted from program coordinator to program specialist.
- Brittany Bowman joined the IAFC as event marketing coordinator.
- Jim Goldstein was elected to the board of directors for the Land Mobile Communications Council.
- Adam D'Agostino, program assistant, moved from Community Wildfire Initiatives and RSG! to the Volunteer Workforce Solutions Program.

## What Others Are Saying

- At Fire-Rescue Med, Chief Matt Morris of Henderson, Nev., gave an impassioned testimonial at the general session about the value of the recent conneXions event, May 8-10, in Dallas. He cited three areas where he personally gained insights and actionable opportunities: diversity and inclusion, innovation and creativity, and why we do what we do for the people.
- "This conneXions [event] allowed me to see what's trending in the fire service, not only from the vendor's perspectives but other departments as well. I have a list of new contacts, appointments and changes for the future – all based on many conversations over the last two days! The most common phrase stated among all the chiefs attending: 'I feel so much better knowing you have the same challenges.'" — *Justin Sinnett, Captain, Littleton (Colo.) Fire Rescue*
- "Outstanding event! Well worth my time. My community and department will realize solid benefit from my participation. Terri, Leslie and Cathy are remarkable!" — *Doug Hall, Fire Chief, City of Westminster (Colo.)*

- “The chiefs provided candid conversation about technology, cost of adoption and impacts of varying technology when weighed with lifesaving. Truly helped provide insight into our product and sales teams.” — *Brian Maholic, AT&T/ FirstNet*
- “conneXions is an excellent opportunity to meet decision makers in a comfortable, no-stress environment. The relationships that have started here have certainly lead to increased sales for my company.” — *Sean Meigs, Fire Service Marketing Manager, MSA*
- “conneXions provides a no-nonsense, intimate and professional setting where vendors and fire department personnel can interact at the highest level of openness and efficiency.” — *Derek Roy, Associate Director, Americas Sales, Scott Safety*
- “In my 12 years with Kansas Forest Service, this publication (the [Kansas version of the Ready Set Go! Program Wildfire Action Guide](#) (PDF) is easily the one that is most often requested by local level fire, emergency management, and extension agencies.” — *Jason Hartman, fire protection specialist, Kansas Forest Service.*

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