



# IAFC

International Association of Fire Chiefs

## What's Happening at the IAFC?

Strategic Direction Update

March 1, 2019 – July 31, 2019

### IAFC Strategic Direction

The [2018-2020 Strategic Direction](#) is a declaration of the IAFC's priority strategic goals to **LEAD**, **EDUCATE** and **SERVE** the fire and emergency service in North America and abroad. It was created in the spring of 2018 in a collaborative, face-to-face environment with participation from nearly 100 members holding leadership positions in the major components, including the IAFC Board of Directors, divisions, sections and other groups. This report, *What's Happening at the IAFC*, captures completed tasks directly relevant to the IAFC strategic direction. It is intended to capture the depth of the IAFC's overarching accomplishments at a high level.

### LEAD

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



In April, IAFC leaders met with Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan. From left: Chief Richard Carrizzo, Chief Gary Ludwig, Chief Dan Eggleston, Sec. McAleenan, Chief Otto Drozd, and CEO Mark Light.

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

- On May 1-2, the IAFC US&R Committee met at IAFC headquarters in Chantilly, Virginia. This was the first in-person meeting of the committee. The committee organized itself and focused on an effort to catalog and type federal, state and local urban search and rescue teams.
- On May 21-22, the IAFC Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee met at IAFC headquarters. They focused on the issue of cybersecurity and fire departments and met with stakeholders like AT&T FirstNet, DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis and the new DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.
- On April 9, the IAFC joined with the other fire service organizations to request that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees appropriate the authorized amount of \$2.5 million for the Firefighter Cancer Registry in FY 2020. Later the IAFC supported an amendment on the House Floor by Representative Bill Pascrell (D-New Jersey) to achieve this funding level in June. The IAFC also signed letters with the other fire service organizations to support funding for the U.S. Fire Administration, FIRE and SAFER grant programs, and Urban Search and Rescue system.
- On April 19, the IAFC joined with CFSI, NVFC and that National Association of State Foresters to urge Congress to fund the State Fire Assistance program at \$87 million and the Volunteer Fire Assistance program at \$18 million.
- On March 25, the IAFC submitted a joint letter (with the CFSI, NVFC, NAEMT, NACo, and NATaT) to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Appropriations to encourage them to fund the SIREN grants at \$30 million in FY 2020.
- On April 29, the IAFC joined a broad coalition of industry groups to urge Congress to pass the Restoring Investment in Improvements Act (H.R. 1869/S. 803). This legislation would allow the full expensing of the retrofit of fire sprinklers in buildings along with other building improvements.
- The VCOS Board met with Capitol Hill staffers, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Office of Rural Development, and the Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division April 24-25 prior to attending the CFSI dinner. In the meetings, the VCOS discussed volunteer recruitment and retention, financing for rural and remote departments, emergency communications, and support for emergency medical services.
- Leaders in the hazmat response industry and subject matter experts convened at IAFC headquarters to participate in a roundtable to discuss critical issues and suggested plans of action to strengthen hazmat response throughout the country. [A final report of the roundtable outcomes](#) is available.
- As part of the pilot program for the Community Safety Emergency Planning Response and Outreach Program, pilot participants took part of a roundtable discussion of the current issues within the Local Emergency Planning Community (LEPC) and made recommendations for resources and materials that will be featured on the webpage. Additionally, they participated as subject matter experts during the recording of the program’s web-series which will be featured on the Hazmat Center’s webpage, YouTube page and social media outlets.
- On Thursday, May 23, FLSS board members George Michehl and Peg Paul participated in the Illinois Home Fire Sprinkler Week. The event featured recognition of seven Illinois communities and fire districts that adopted home fire sprinkler codes/ordinances in 2018-2019 and other community recognitions.



*Left to Right: VCOS At-large Board Member Chief Ron Oettel, VCOS At-large Board Member Chief Jim Cook, VCOS At-large Board Member Chief Ed Rush, VCOS International Director Chief Donna Black, VCOS Chair Emeritus and Immediate Past Chair Chief Timothy S. Wall, VCOS Chair Chief Chuck Flynn, VCOS Vice-Chair Chief Rich Cowger.*

- On Wednesday, May 22 FLSS board members Chief Michael O’Brian, Vickie Pritchett and Peg Paul participated in the National Home Fire Sprinkler Week media event at NFPA Headquarters in Quincy, Massachusetts. The event is a project of the NFPA Fire Sprinkler Initiative and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC). IAFC serves on HFSC’s board.



*HFSC board members including FLSS board members Chief Michael O’Brian, Fire Chief, Brighton Area Fire Authority and International Director, FLSS, Vicky Pritchett and Peg Paul with event speakers Denis Onieal, Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration*

- FireEngineering.com published an article written by Assistant Chief Todd LeDuc, secretary of the Safety, Health and Survival Section on April 26. His article, [“Excellence Requires Commitment to Action and Empowerment,”](#) focused on the behavioral and occupational health risks to firefighters and the steps organizations can take to reduce those risks. They also published his article, [“Behavioral Health: Rescuing the Rescuers,”](#) which focused on the steps departments can take to increase their department’s mental health support.
- Assistant Chief Jo-Ann Lorber, EFO Section chair, represented the IAFC for Fire Prevention & Safety grant reviews May 28-31.

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

- On April 23-25, IAFC leadership visited with federal leaders in Washington, DC. The meetings included discussions with FCC staff, the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Kevin McAleenan, and the Chief Forester, Vicki Christiansen. The EMS Section and VCOS also met with federal agencies and congressional leaders to discuss important federal issues.
- On April 2, [Chief Dan Eggleston, the IAFC President and Chairman of the Board, testified](#) before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials about reauthorizing pipeline safety legislation.

- On April 9, [Chief Dan Eggleston testified](#) before the House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery about the homeland security impacts of a changing climate.



*Chief Dan Eggleston testified before the House Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery about the homeland security impacts of a changing climate.*

- On May 7, the IAFC asked the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to fund important fire service programs, like the FIRE and SAFER grant programs, US&R teams, the State and Volunteer Fire Assistance programs and the ALERT grant training program at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
- On May 7, the IAFC joined with the IAFF, CFSI and NVFC to ask the General Services Administration to sunset the KKK-A-1822F ambulance design specification and adopt the NFPA 1917: Standard for Automotive Ambulances.
- On May 7, the IAFC recommended Chief Wade Buckner of the Southside (Alabama) Fire and Rescue Department for the FCC's Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council.
- On May 8, the IAFC expressed support for an amendment by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) to allow fire police to become eligible for the PSOB program. This amendment was added to the Protecting America's First Responders Act (S. 1208) during a mark-up in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill later passed the Senate (with the Blumenthal amendment) on May 16.
- On May 9, the IAFC endorsed the Fire Police Fairness Act (H.R. 2709) by Representative Joe Courtney (D-Connecticut).
- On May 17, the IAFC recommended Chief Tom Jenkins for the Board of Visitors of the National Fire Academy.
- On May 18, the IAFC submitted joint comments (with National Association of State EMS Officials and the National Sheriffs' Association) urging the FCC to maintain the three-meter accuracy metric in the z-axis for wireless 911 calls. The letter asked the FCC to review and potentially narrow the metric to less than three meters in five years as technology matures.
- On May 23, the House of Representatives passed the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 (SECURE Act, H.R. 1994) which is a collection of retirement-related bills and contains a one-year reauthorization of tax protections of incentives for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. The IAFC is working with Senate offices to secure passage of the SECURE Act in the Senate.
- On May 28, the IAFC joined with NAEMT, CFSI, IAFF, and NVFC to ask the House Energy and Commerce Committee to protect fire departments and third-service EMS departments from legislation to prevent surprise/balance billing of patients.
- On May 28, the IAFC submitted comments to The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) about how the agency should conduct outreach to sign up firefighters in the National Firefighter Cancer Registry.
- On May 30, Representatives from the IAFC and the Metro Chiefs attended a meeting to form a NG 911 Alliance to advocate for the passage of legislation to fund the nation's transition to NG 911.
- On May 30, representatives from the IAFC met with the Acting FEMA Administrator, Pete Gaynor, to discuss FEMA's use of the National Mutual Aid System to catalog US&R teams.
- June 3-7, The IAFC EMS Section held Fire-Rescue Med in Henderson, Nevada.
- On June 10, the IAFC endorsed Mr. Jeffrey Byard's nomination for FEMA Administrator.
- In June, the IAFC and other national public safety organizations filed joint comments reiterating IAFC support for the three-meter metric for the z-axis. These were "reply" comments to other organizations' comments on this topic.

- On June 24, the IAFC joined with other national public safety organizations to endorse the Don't Break Up the T-Band Act (H.R. 451).
- Chief Scott Kerwood, chair of the Safety, Health and Survival Section, attended the NFPA 1500 and 1561 Second Draft Technical Committee meeting May 6-8 in Nashville (Tennessee) as the IAFC representative.
- On May 16, Chief John Sullivan, vice-chair of the Safety, Health and Survival Section, attended the first-ever Public Safety Summit put on by the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.
- Chief Ian Emmons, newly elected at-large director for the SHS Section, was appointed an IAFC representative to a group of stakeholders who collaborate on presumptive legislation related to post-traumatic stress. The group was formed after the Public Safety Summit in May. Chief Emmons will work with Evan Davis, strategic manager with the IAFC's GR Department, and Chief Ed Rush, at-large director for VCOS, to represent the IAFC.
- Chief Will May, Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC) and representative to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board (NWCG), participated in monthly in-person meetings in Boise (Idaho) and conference calls to represent the voice of the local government fire service as it pertains to National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board (NWCG EB). Chief May also participated in Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) training in Boise which now allows Chief May to be added to the list of potential CMAT members/trainees.
- IAFC WFPC members and program staff participated in meetings or events with International Code Council, Argonne National Labs, American Planners Association, NEMA Wildland Fire Alert and Notification Workshop, Western Fire Chiefs Wildland Initiatives Technology Summit and Wildland Fire Leadership Council to represent WFPC and IAFC interests.
- IAFC provided testimony at a hearing on April 9, on "Assessing the Homeland Security Impacts of a Changing Climate:" A related [Q & A published on June 6](#) by our media partner, FireRescue1, featuring WFPC member Chief Rich Elliot.
- On April 26, leadership from the IAFC and American Medical Response (AMR) met to discuss ways to expand the IAFC/AMR partnership and produce additional content to educate fire and EMS leaders about innovative EMS delivery systems. As a result of these conversations, the IAFC and AMR co-delivered a presentation at Fire-Rescue Med (FRM), which was focused on the new ET3 EMS reimbursement program. Through this presentation to 40 attendees, IAFC and AMR leaders discussed important aspects of the ET3 program, what fire departments need to remember when developing their application to join the ET3 model and ways that the ET3 program could lead to improved EMS reimbursement. This class completely sold out within two days of session registration opening. Based on this success, the IAFC and AMR plan to repeat this class at FRI.



*Todd LeDuc and other participants at the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) conference.*

### **Goal 1c. Provide innovative solutions to emerging trends.**

- On March 11, the IAFC filed comments the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to help it improve fire department cooperation with the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS).
- On June 20, for Safety Stand Down Week, the VCOS partnered with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) to provide a webinar on firefighter cancer prevention using the VCOS and NVFC's [Lavender Ribbon Report](#).
- On March 14, The IAFC worked with Senators Pat Toomey (R-Pennsylvania) and Doug Jones (D-Alabama) to support the introduction of the Restoring Investment in Improvement Act (S. 803) which would restore tax incentives to assist business owners in fully recouping the costs of fire sprinkler retro-fit installation.

- On March 20, the IAFC wrote a letter urging the House and Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations subcommittees to fund the Mental Health First Aid program at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The program helps firefighters and EMS personnel learn about their own mental health and develop ways to keep themselves and their fellow first responders mentally healthy. The IAFC asked for \$26.9 million for the program.
- On March 26, the IAFC worked with Representatives Jimmy Panetta (D-California) and Jackie Walorski (R-Indiana) to support the introduction of the Restoring Investment in Improvement Act (H.R. 1869) which would restore tax incentives to assist business owners in fully recouping the costs of fire sprinkler retro-fit installation.
- On March 31, the IAFC endorsed the Fair Licensing Access for Governments (FLAG) Act (H.R. 1999). It would allow states to copyright their flags, insignia, symbols and seals.
- On April 9, the IAFC joined with the other fire service organizations to request that the House and Senate Appropriations Committees appropriate the authorized amount of \$2.5 million for the Firefighter Cancer Registry in FY 2020. We later supported an amendment on the House floor by Representative Bill Pascrell (D-New Jersey) to achieve this funding level in June. The IAFC also signed letters with the other fire service organizations to support funding for the U.S. Fire Administration, FIRE and SAFER grant programs, and Urban Search and Rescue system.
- On April 23, the IAFC submitted comments to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in support of a program to monitor the frequency of hospital emergency department admissions for suspected drug, opioid and stimulant overdoses.
- Assistant Chief Todd LeDuc, secretary of the Safety, Health and Survival Section, met with Ed Klima of the First Responder Center for Excellence in June. The two discussed outreach efforts regarding the need for firefighter physicals and a greater understanding in the medical community of what should be included in a firefighter physical.
- Chief Nathan Trauernicht, at-large director for the SHS Section, and Chief Fire Marshal Dan Kerrigan, at-large director for the SHS Section, worked with NVFC and NFPA to put on the 2019 [Safety Stand Down](#). This year's theme was Reduce Your Exposure: It's Everyone's Responsibility. Webinars, podcasts, and other resources made available for the week revolved around steps firefighters can take to reduce their cancer risk. More than 30,000 people accessed the website in 2019. The Stand Down was discussed far and wide on social media and received news coverage across the country. The SHS Section, NVFC, and NFPA collaborated once again to put together the Safety Stand Down quiz, hosted by NFPA, and provide 200 randomly selected winners with a commemorative challenge coin. The quiz was taken more than 5,000 times by firefighters all over the country.



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

- In April, the IAFC Digital Center built and launched a new, mobile-friendly [Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association website](#) focused on streamlining and automating parts of the membership join process, contact inquiries and more.
- The Digital Center launched new IAFC email marketing system to connect between new member database and provide additional tools for personalizing and automating member and constituent communications.
- The Digital Center worked with the volunteer team to create resource categories to make it easier for departments to access the many tools provided by the [Volunteer Workforce Solutions](#) program.

- The VCOS provided a successful [Beyond Hoses & Helmets](#) course in Williamstown (Kentucky) on April 6.
- Chief Wolford and Chief Lorber participated in ESCI's webcast April 30 – Taking Command of Persistent People Problems.
- Chief Trisha Wolford and Chief Jo-Ann Lorber participated in ESCI's webcast May 28 – Inclusive Leadership
- Chief Joe Pulvermacher, EFO Section board member, attended a workshop on the inclusion of LGBTQ employees on April 30.

## **EDUCATE**

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

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

- The Digital Center upgraded IAFC.org to provide single-sign-on (SSO) capabilities to expand the set of fire/EMS applications.
- In January, the Hazmat Center released the 50 Hazmat Questions videos. The videos were filmed in 2018 at The IAFC Hazmat Conference in Baltimore. The 50 Hazmat Questions videos featured leaders in the hazmat industry, answering common questions about hazmat and hazmat-related issues. The videos are released every Thursday on the Hazmat Fusion Center's YouTube and Facebook page until the end of the year. Since the release, there has been over 13,000 views and 38,000 people reached via Facebook.
- Chief LeDuc provided opening remarks for the South Florida Regional Safety Stand Down Kickoff. The Florida Firefighters Safety & Health Collaborative offered a 3-day, shift-based regional program during the Stand Down with 75-100 members participating each day.

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

- Launched digital interest form to [streamline requests for IAFC-facilitated hazmat training](#).
- Created [Local Planning page](#) to provide information and resources for local emergency planning committees (LEPCs)
- The Community Safety Grant Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is a subcomponent of the Community Safety Grant that provides guidance to the IAFC Hazmat Center implementing the Community Safety Grant funded by PHMSA. The TAG is a group of LEPC members throughout the country who provide best practices, feedback and case studies regarding LEPCs. The TAG meets once a month with Hazmat Center staff to discuss the status of the grant and monthly topics. Funded by PHMSA, the Community Safety-EPRO Program is designed to create community training, preparing residents for surface, rail and pipeline hazmat incidents, especially in rural areas and will be a trusted resource for LEPCs around the country.
- Members of the IAFC Program Planning Committee (PPC) met at IAFC headquarters with IAFC staff in April to re-imagine Fire-Rescue International (FRI). The PPC worked with staff to explore ways to enhance the FRI experience to ensure continued long-term success and growth of the world's premier fire and EMS leadership conference and expo.
- On May 2-4, VCOS held the 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium in the West in Phoenix, Arizona. This year's theme was organizational wellness for you, your staff and your department. Speakers presented on the topics of leadership, cancer prevention, mental wellness, post-traumatic stress, and bullying prevention.



Ali Rothrock speaking on her experiences of overcoming adversity and PTSD in the fire service at Symposium in the West.

- The VCOS launched [Member and Leadership Collaboration](#) (MLC) on March 22. This is a facilitated, two-day workshop to create effective communication in your department and between firefighters, officers and chiefs through understanding DISC behavioral styles. [Learn more about the program](#)
- Over 2,200 people have enrolled in the Volunteer Workforce Solutions online courses in the IAFC Academy. This includes Chief 101, the Volunteer Administrative Leadership Series, and the Volunteer of the Future Series on Inclusion and Diversity.
- The Tennessee VWS program, in partnership with the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA), created a new online learning resource that focuses on mentoring within the fire service. This course has two parts to it. Mentoring I focuses on re-energizing your department culture through positive influence and Mentoring II focuses on developing and retaining firefighters through relationships. Each session is a one-hour course. It can be accessed in the IAFC Academy.
- The VWS National 2 program completed work on the Volunteer Administrative Leadership Series (VALS) by adding the last track, leadership through engagement. VALS offers four tracks: leadership through engagement, recruitment and retention, records management, and finance. These ten hours of e-learning are geared toward the volunteer department that is a 501(c)(3) or is heavily involved in administration.

Since February, the IAFC's VWS National 2 program has facilitated seven Recruitment & Retention Coordinator certification courses. After completing six hours of prework, students come to class not to be lectured to, but to be immersed in the role of someone who works to bring in and keep quality volunteers. As a "final exam," the students develop a plan specific to their department's needs. Over 80 people have been certified from all IAFC divisions and more classes are planned.

- Through the Tennessee VWS program, a full-day workshop for the East Tennessee volunteer and combination fire service was held in Pigeon Forge (Tennessee) titled *Enhancing Volunteer Retention through Effective Communication, Cooperation and Collaboration*. The presenters were Chief John M. Buckman III, Tiger Schmittendorf, and Vickie Pritchett. Chief Buckman and Mr. Schmittendorf spoke on the importance of building effective communication, cooperation and collaboration in organizations. Ms. Pritchett spoke on effective communication tactics with the media to ensure positive coverage. The event was attended by 48 people. The topic and theme were selected based on a common struggle for departments discovered during the Tennessee VWS site visits.
- Chief LeDuc participated in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Town Hall meeting at the Congressional Fire Services Institute's [National Fire & Emergency Services Symposium](#), "Preventing Occupational Illnesses, Injuries, and Deaths" as a representative of the IAFC's SHS Section.
  - Firefighter health and safety is garnering more attention than at any time in our history. Research continues to show that firefighters face significantly higher risks for cardiovascular disease and cancers than the general population due largely to repeated exposures to heat and toxins, and exertion under

extreme conditions. In addition to the physical hazards, firefighters often suffer emotional and mental stress after responding to traumatic situations. Access to comprehensive wellness programs that address both the physical and psychological health issues are critical. Fortunately, the mindset that firefighter deaths and injuries are an “acceptable” part of our calling is no longer an accepted norm. However, without sustainability through appropriate support and resources, we are at risk of losing momentum. This town hall meeting will feature an open discussion between attendees and subject matter experts representing several of the nation’s prominent fire service organizations to address this sustainable need.

- Chief LeDuc:
  - Led “Surviving the Fire Service: Translating a Decade of Science to the Street” at the Congressional Fire Services Institute’s [National Fire & Emergency Services Symposium](#).
  - Presented at the [Surviving the Fire Service Seminar](#) in Oregon, put on by the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association Safety & Health Section & DPSST in May. Chief LeDuc worked with Dr. Jahnke, Dr. Horn, Dr. Smith, FDNY Captain Frank Leto and Chief Bryan Friends of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. The seminar focused on sharing research into occupational health threats for the fire service.
  - Presented at the Fire Department Instructor’s Conference in April. Chief LeDuc taught “[Firefighter Survival: From Science to Street](#)”.
  - Presented “Rules of Engagement: Firefighter Health and Wellness” at the 2019 NFPA Conference & Expo.
- Chief Joe Pulvermacher worked with the VCOS Section on a New/Interim Fire Chief Guide coming out at FRI and proofed and reviewed Jones & Bartlett Fire Officer (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) Chapters 5 (Administration) and 6 (Pre-Incident Planning and Code Enforcement).
- Chief Jo-Ann Lorber has become an IAFC Social Media Ambassador to promote FRI.

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

- In June, participants were accepted into the [second official IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program \(iDELDP\)](#). iDELDP is a two-year program developed by the IAFC in 2017 to bring together a group of current and future leaders to help foster a diverse and inclusive leadership and workforce. The program aims to provide changemakers the tools necessary to become national leaders in the fire and emergency service and the IAFC.

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

- Two successful conneXions events took place March 4-6, Orlando (Florida) and May 13-15, Dallas (Texas) with 11 departments and 11 companies participating in each one.
- Chief Dave Daly, EFO Section, taught a class on Annual Program Reviews to the Rocky Mountain Accreditation Consortium at South Metro headquarters in Centennial, Colorado.
- Chief Trey Mayo and Chief Jo-Ann Lorber participated in the development of the EFO Symposium that is held each year at the NFA.
- Chief Joe Pulvermacher presented at the Ohio Emergency Management Conference on May 1 addressing active shooter response and the adaptive leadership associated with implementation of response policies/procedures.

## **SERVE**

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

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

- IAFC membership and digital teams collaborated to build a new Get Involved webpage to showcase the many ways IAFC members can connect, participate and engage.
- The Hazmat Fusion Center sold limited edition 2019 Hazmat Challenge Coins during the Hazmat Conference. The Challenge Coins were sold as part of a raffle in which all proceeds from sales funded hazmat education and programs for first responders. Winners of the raffle received free registration for the 2020 Hazmat Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, and other prizes donated by vendors at the Hazmat Conference. The Hazmat Fusion Center will continue to sell Challenge Coins on its webpage until the end of the year.
- Chief Jo-Ann Lorber participated on monthly (April – July) conference calls for the Bullying/Harassment Task Force (Human Relations Committee and Safety, Health & Survival Section.)
- Chief Jo-Ann Lorber participates in monthly conference calls with the Fire & Life Safety Section.
- Chiefs Mayo, Lorber, McGovern, Daly, Roberson, and Wolford attended the EFO Symposium in April.
- Chief Jo-Ann Lorber attended the Southeastern Division Conference in Murfreesboro (Tennessee) in July.
- Chief Joe Pulvermacher attended the Michigan Fire Chief’s Conference in support of the Great Lakes Division April 16-17.
- Chief Pulvermacher attended the Wisconsin State Fire Chief’s Association meeting on June 20-24.
- Chief Chad Roberson participates in monthly Southwestern Division Board of Directors telecons as the Louisiana Vice President.

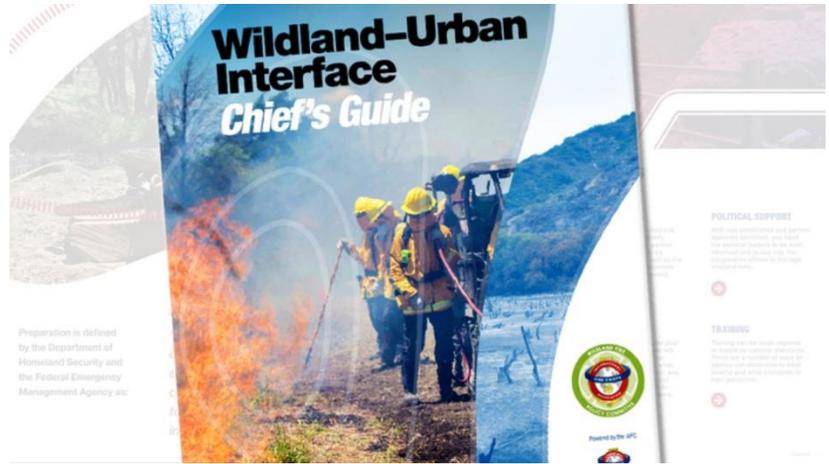
### **Goal 3b. Promote and foster a culture of inclusivity to the IAFC membership.**

- In May, the [IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program](#) (iDELP) met in Phoenix (Arizona) during the VCOS West Conference and collaborated with the Women Chiefs Council (WCC) on joint strategies to foster more diverse and inclusive fire/EMS.
- Chief Lorber continues to participate in the monthly IAFC Board teleconference calls.
- Chief Chad Roberson participates in the monthly IAFC’s US&R Committee and Southwestern Division conference calls.
- Chief Jo-Ann Lorber participates in monthly conference calls for SEAFC - Diversity and Safe Haven Committees.
- The VWS National grant held a stakeholders meeting May 14-15 to create an online-interactive training that specifically addresses how to manage interpersonal department issues when it comes to issues of diversity and inclusion.
- The VWS National grant has awarded nine scholarships to IAFC conferences to assist volunteer fire department leadership learn better ways to recruit and retain a more diverse and inclusive workforce.
- The VWS National grant has selected six volunteer and combination departments from around the United States to serve as pilot departments who will aid grant efforts in creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce. These departments have been given a survey to distribute to their members to better gauge the internal culture of their department and assist department leadership in creating a more inclusive culture.
- The Connecticut VWS team put together an in-person training on March 8 with Ali Rothrock and Ann Baldwin to discuss the issues of harassment in the fire service and working with the media. This training was attended by over 30 people who had the opportunity to experience real life media interactions.

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

- The Digital Center launched [Community Safety Grant page](#) to provide information on accessing grant services.
- The Connecticut VWS PSA titled “See You Out There” has won a New England Emmy in the category of outstanding PSA. The Emmy presentation was held on June 15 in Connecticut at an award ceremony with over 300 people in attendance. This PSA also won a GOLD Telly award for its 60-second video about the volunteer fire service.

- A full-day workshop for the East Tennessee volunteer and combination fire service was held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, titled *Enhancing Volunteer Retention through Effective Communication, Cooperation and Collaboration*. The presenters were Chief John M. Buckman III, Tiger Schmittendorf and Vickie Pritchett. Chief Buckman and Mr. Schmittendorf spoke on the importance of building effective communication, cooperation and collaboration in organizations. Ms. Pritchett spoke on effective communication tactics with the media to ensure positive coverage. The event was attended by 48 people. The topic and theme were selected based on a common struggle for departments discovered during the Tennessee VWS site visits.
- The [WUI Chief's Guide](#), designed to help chiefs of all experience levels in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), has been released. The Guide is a complete, interactive resource that provides tools and tips to help prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from WUI events and is a product of the IAFC's [Wildland Fire Policy Committee](#).
- The Ready, Set, Go! program updated its National Action Guide as well as its Spanish Action Guide with new zones for creating defensible space. These new zones reflect current research that emphasizes the 0-5-foot zone immediately around the structure. Electronic and printed versions of Ready Set Go! program's National and Spanish Action Guides are available for RSG members on the [RSG Member Dashboard](#).
- IAFC staff presented at the Fire Adapted Communities Ambassador Training at the New Jersey Forest Resource Education Center on March 7. Trainees learned of the RSG! program and its resources and funding opportunities. New Jersey Forest Service and New Jersey Fire Safe Council representatives also presented.
- IAFC and its partners (FAC Learning Network and NFPA/Firewise USA) delivered a pre-conference session at the WUI2019 Conference on March 26 entitled "Putting it All Together" for approximately 80 participants. The interactive session focused on implementing different tools and resources to maximize community risk reduction, presenters also held a listening session to gather feedback from participants.
- A pre-conference session at WUI2019 on Unmanned Aerial Systems was held on March 3. This four-hour panel session provided participants with an opportunity to hear firsthand how UAS are currently being utilized in a community by fire departments including their policy considerations, the rules and regulations of operations and what the future looks like.
- "Make Your Community Wildfire Ready" session was presented at WUI2019 on March 27. Presenters shared their experience with the IAFC's Ready, Set, Go! program and Fire Department Exchange (FDX) program, and an overview of all IAFC Wildland Fire Programs was delivered. Jenn Dietz served as a speaker along with WFPC member Craig Daugherty and Frenchtown Rural Fire District (Montana) Firefighter Taylor Blakely.
- IAFC Wildland Fire Programs hosted a Fire Adapted Communities Pavilion at WUI2019. Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/ the Watershed Center and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) also exhibited. Wildland staff answer attendee questions on the RSG! program, WUI Chief's Guide and FDX Program. Staff interacted with conference attendees and assisted them with identifying how IAFC Wildland Fire Programs could serve them and their community. IAFC staff also provided RSG! registration information to attendees who are not RSG! members.
- On April 17-19, Jenn Dietz, IAFC program staff, attended a Preparedness Learning Lab event "Can Central Oregon be the Next Paradise" to engage RSG! members in Northern California and Central Oregon and use the lessons learned from the tabletop exercise to enhance RSG! implementation trainings. Twenty RSG! Members, fire and emergency response agencies and attendees participated.



- The Ready, Set, Go! program offered Wildfire Mitigation Grant Awards of up to \$50,000 through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service in early 2018. These funds assist RSG! departments in areas of high risk of wildland fire whose work crosses boundaries with national forests to complete actionable wildland fire mitigation projects. Upper Pine River Fire Protection District (Colorado), Chelan County Fire District #1 (Washington), Frenchtown Rural Fire District (Montana), Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire District (Minnesota), Custer County Office of Emergency Management (Colorado), Pinetop Fire District (Arizona), Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Weed Fire Department (California), Grand Fire Protection District (Colorado), Forked River Volunteer Fire Company (New Jersey), Tri-County Fire Safe Working Group (non-profit partnering with four volunteer fire departments in Helena, Montana) all completed these mitigation projects by June 2019.
- IAFC staff conducted site visits to RSG! grant winners in Colorado on June 3-4 to Custer County Office of Emergency Management and Grand Fire Protection District. IAFC staff conducted site visits to RSG! grant winners in Montana on June 11-14 to Big Sky Fire Department, Baxendale Volunteer Fire Department, Tri Lakes Fire Service Area, Montana City Volunteer Fire Department, Wolf Creek/Craig Fire Service Area, and Frenchtown Rural Fire District. Staff viewed project sites, reviewed administrative details, observed community chip day event, gathered feedback and participated in roundtable discussions.
- Ready, Set, Go! program Community Fuels Reduction Awards of up to \$5,000 were made available through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service in March. These awards will help local fire departments engage their communities in fuels-reduction efforts while educating and encouraging community members to share the responsibility of wildfire-risk reduction in their own neighborhoods. Eighteen winners were selected. These projects such as chipper days were completed by June 30.
- IAFC staff conducted a site visit to Barnegat (New Jersey) on June 24 to tour the project sites in the Brighton at Barnegat community, where they used RSG! grant funds for fuels reduction work in areas adjacent to where the New Jersey State Forest Fire Service had performed large scale fuels reduction earlier in 2019. Dietz also met with the community to answer questions about the RSG! program and wildfire risk reduction efforts.
- A summary report to the funder on the Fire Department Exchange (FDX) program to date was submitted in June. This program facilitated face-to-face and web-based exchange platforms for fire departments facing wildland urban interface (WUI) challenges. The focus was exchanges among departments to broaden their knowledgebase, consider alternative measures, create new solutions and improve overall practices and procedures within wildland fire educational outreach planning mitigation and response to wildfire threat.
- A webinar on the RSG! program's Red Flag Resource was held July 1. Fire Chiefs Mark Novak (Vail, Colorado) Fire Department, and Craig Daugherty (San Juan County, New Mexico) Fire Department shared information about the smart practices that can be implemented ahead of and during a Red Flag Warning. RSG! staff provided an overview of the Red Flag Warning resource, a customizable tool that can be used to increase your community's situational awareness during high fire conditions.

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

- The IAFC launched the new [iCHIEFS Podcasts](#). Each month co-hosts Tom Jenkins, Rogers (Arkansas) fire chief and 2017-2018 IAFC president, and Sheldon Gilbert, ESCI chief executive officer, will discuss hot-button issues with leaders in the fire and emergency service.

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

- The fourteenth cohort of the International Fellowship Program, embedded with the Prince George’s County (Maryland) Fire and EMS Department (PGFD), graduated on March 8. Mark Light, IAFC CEO and executive director, delivered remarks on behalf of the IAFC executive leadership. IAFC’s Christine Booth, Laura Bell, Bill Polen, and Donna Rivera attended their graduation ceremony. This was PGFD’s second time hosting a cohort.

- The fifteenth cohort of the International Fellowship Program, embedded with the DeKalb County (Georgia) Fire and Rescue Department (DCFR), graduated on March 28. David Nuckols, IAFC’s Chief Operations Officer, delivered remarks on behalf of the IAFC executive leadership. IAFC Subject Matter Expert John Morris worked closely with Assistant Chief William Voorhies to ensure the success of the program. DCFR went above and beyond by hosting their second cohort and helping create invaluable connections in the Atlanta area.



- The sixteenth cohort of the International Fellowship Program, embedded with the Rogers (Arkansas) Fire Department (RFD), graduated on May 22. IAFC Subject Matter Expert Bill Polen worked closely with Megan Vanatta and Captain Josh Chapman to ensure the success of the program. This was RFD’s second time hosting a cohort.

- On June 17, the seventeenth cohort of the International Fellowship Program started their six-month journey with the Atlanta (Georgia) Fire Rescue Department (AFRD). IAFC Subject Matter Expert John Morris worked hand-in-hand with Assistant Chief Valerie Jackson and Captain Truman Oetting to onboard the group and get them through their first month of training. The members of Cohort 17 were released to their assigned stations on July 15.

- On June 19, the new Saudi Aramco Fire Protection Department (SAFrPD) Manager Albadr Jannah and acting Fire Operations Superintendent Rami Kurdi visited IAFC headquarters to discuss new ways the IAFC can help strengthen operational culture within their department at all levels. IAFC President Dan Eggleston and executive and program staff were all in attendance during the meetings throughout the day to discuss the new proposed International Fire Service Institute. In addition to the International Fellowship Program, the IAFC is proposing to add programs geared toward officers, instructors, and inspectors.

- The Hazmat Center is in negotiations with TC Energy, (formally TransCanada), to expand our existing partnership and bring the pipeline training program into Mexico. The Hazmat Center will conduct a six-month assessment and provide trainings in three states in Mexico.

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

- EFO Section leaders contributed the following articles for publication in *IAFC On Scene*:
  - Chief William Hyde – Executive Fire Officer Program: A New Evolution
  - Chief Joe Pulvermacher – Looking for the Executive Within
  - Chief Jo-Ann Lorber – Inclusive Behaviors Leaders Need to Embrace
  - Chief Greg Barton – Are Your Firefighters Good Hotel Employees?
  - Chief William Hyde – Diversify Your Experience

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

- During the Fire Adapted Communities networking reception at WUI2019, The Ready Set Go! program's Award for Excellence was presented to Frenchtown Rural Fire District (Montana). The Ready Set Go! Special Recognition award winner was John Cowie (Barnegat, New Jersey). RSG! awards recognize the exceptional efforts and achievements of career and volunteer fire departments, state agencies and individual fire service members associated with implementing and maintaining a successful RSG! program to help reach fire adapted goals within communities.
- [Wildland Mitigation Award](#) winners were presented at WUI2019 by IAFC's President. These awards, offered through a partnership with The USDA Forest Service, the IAFC, the National Association of State Foresters and the National Fire Protection Association were created to honor and recognize individuals and organizations that, through mitigation efforts, have excelled in programs and education to make their communities more fire adapted. The awards work to bring together amazing people who fundamentally change the way we work to mitigate and improve our communities.
- The VCOS opened the following scholarships to encourage people to attend Symposium in the Sun and experience the great education it offers at little to no cost:
  - [Emerging Leader Scholarship](#), sponsored by the Gasaway Consulting Group, LLC, closes August 2
  - [Emerging Leader Alumni Scholarship](#), sponsored by the Alumni of the Emerging Leader Scholarship, closes August 2
  - [Chief James P. Seavey, Sr. Scholarship](#), closes August 9
  - [Chief Robert T. Bettenhausen Scholarship](#), closes September 6
- The VCOS opened and closed the application for their FRI Scholarship. This scholarship provides a complimentary registration and a \$1,500 check for two individuals to attend FRI and experience the many educational courses on hot industry topics. They will be announcing the two recipients in the near future.
- The VCOS and TargetSolutions opened and closed the Training Officer Award. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a significant role in fire service training through creativity, commitment to best practices and operational effectiveness at their department. The recipient of the award will be announced in the near future.

## Inside the IAFC

### Association News

- A [video which features Connecticut fire personnel and seeks to recruit volunteers](#) won the Boston/New England Regional Emmy® Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The production efforts, managed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Volunteer Workforce Solutions program, in partnership with Hebron volunteer firefighter and New York City-based cinematographer Matthew Troy, highlights volunteer firefighters, from 16 different departments responding to emergencies.

### News About Our Members

- William Garrett, iDELP 2019-2021, selected as fire chief of Winchester (Virginia) Fire & Rescue
- Deputy Chief Ian Emmons, Washington Township (Ohio) Fire Department – Montgomery County, was elected to serve as an At-Large Director on the Safety, Health and Survival Section's Board of Directors. Chief Emmons will begin his three-year term at FRI 2019.
- On March 14, the IAFC recommended Chief Jim Schwartz, the deputy county manager of Arlington County (Virginia), for the FEMA National Advisory Council. Chief Schwartz was the incident commander during the response at the Pentagon during 9/11.

### News About Our Staff

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

- Rob Brown is now chief strategy officer/deputy executive director
- John Woulfe, director of the Hazmat Center, received the Chairman Award at the 2019 Hazmat Conference in Baltimore.
- Derek Bullington and Taylor Munday moved to IAFC Community Solutions as program coordinators.
- Derek Bullington is the new staff liaison to the Fire & Life Safety Section.
- Steven Ilchishin moved to the Strategic Communications Department as content and communications manager.
- Diedre Dockery moved to ESCI.
- Cathy Feyh, member engagement manager, is now Cathy Meadows.
- Meghan Rhodes, program specialist/wildland fire programs, is now Meghan Marklewitz.

## What Others Are Saying

### 2019 conneXions

- The ability to interact with companies directly for the purpose of product development, service delivery and satisfaction is mission-critical to providing our communities and members the excellence they deserve.  
—Peter Siecienski, Fire Chief, Greenwich (Connecticut) Fire Rescue
- conneXions is a tremendous amount of value packed into a few days. Every Chief Officer that has the opportunity to participate should attend. conneXions gives you the chance to address the current needs in your department and at the same time shape the future of the fire service.  
—Mike Stanley, Fire Chief, Oshkosh (Wisconsin) Fire Department
- The conneXions event provide a really great, no-pressure environment to speak candidly to the chiefs about FirstNet and help guide their understanding of the need to adopt the service.  
—Maggie Rosen, FirstNet Built with AT&T
- Obtained several good leads, strengthened two relationships that were already strong, and educated one department that had never heard of Grainger.  
—Ellen Holditch, Grainger
- We use conneXions for research for new projects. This year I am researching internet connectivity needs and cloud. The comments were not what I expected and so this was extremely worthwhile. PS - I expected some departments to indicate they had no interest in cloud-based programs. 100% were interested, and each interview gave me a new insight into possibilities.  
—Lynn Feiner, Honeywell

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