



IAFC

International Association of Fire Chiefs

What's Happening at the IAFC?

Strategic Direction Update

March 1 – July 31, 2018

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 of 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.



[Watch video](#) of the 2018 IAFC Leadership Forum.

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

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

- Fire-Rescue Med 2018 saw a great increase in exhibitors. We had 50 exhibitors participate in the conference, which is up from 31 in 2017 and the highest it has been since 2013.
- The 2018 International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference was very successful for exhibitors:
 - We sold out of exhibitor space and had to create additional spaces.
 - We had 47 companies rebook for 2019 while onsite, compared to 30 rebooks while onsite in 2017.
- Fire-Rescue International (FRI) 2018 met and exceeded its exhibit/sponsorship budget goal on June 22.
- The IAFC was awarded the conference management contract for AHIMTA Training & Education Symposium. The Symposium is December 4-6 in Hilton Head, South Carolina; attendees have backgrounds in incident management, fire and rescue, law enforcement, emergency management, the forest service and the military. The cross-boundary approach is designed to develop and strengthen the efforts of incident-management teams who face a variety of hazards.
- The IAFC Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee met at IAFC headquarters in May.
- Two new connexions marketing videos were completed, one for chiefs, one for vendors. [Watch video #1](#). [Watch video #2](#).
- In May, Chief Mike McEvoy, EMS Section chair, led the inaugural conference call of the IAFC Concealed Carry Weapon Task Force. The task force will present its findings to the IAFC Board of Directors.
- In April, Chief Dave Driscoll presented at the American Planning Conference in New Orleans. There were 50 attendees in the session, primarily from the Western U.S. All were involved in emergency or community planning with a mix of public and private employees. Chief Driscoll's presentation focused on repeat fires in fire corridors as well as Ready, Set, Go! and Go Home.
- In March, Chief Jo-Ann Lorber, EFO Section Chair, attended the IAFC's Leadership Forum (Strategic Directive) at the National Conference Center in

Virginia. She worked with others in attendance to establish the IAFC's new strategic directive.

- In May, Chief Lorber, Chief William Hyde (EFO Vice Chair) and Chief Greg Barton (EFO Secretary/Treasurer) held a strategic directive meeting in Beverly Hills, California, and developed the EFO Section's Strategic Directive for 2018 -2020.

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

- President Trump signed the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act (P.L. 115-94), which will create a resource to examine the link between firefighting and cancer. [More](#)
- In March, Chief Tom Jenkins, IAFC president and chairman of the board, testified before the Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee about the impacts of the 2017 wildfires in the U.S. [More](#)
- During Congressional Fire Services Institute Week in April, Chief Jenkins led the IAFC with a series of meetings discussing the association's legislative, regulatory and federal funding priorities with key lawmakers, appropriators and the press. [Watch Video](#)



Chief Tom Jenkins, left, on Capitol Hill during CFSI Week. [Watch video.](#)

- On May 3, Chief Jenkins, Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC) members Chief Rich Cowger and Chief Rich Harvey, and IAFC staff participated in the

Western Division Wildland Fire Summit in Sisters, Oregon. This one-day summit looked at concerns and issues around wildland fire in the west. Topics included reimbursement, response, insurance issues and Fire Adapted Communities programs including Ready-Set-Go! and emergency management.

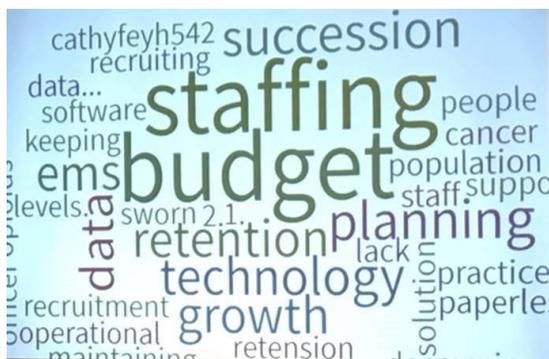
- The National Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) Pilot Departments and Council for Future Volunteer Firefighters (CFVF) met at the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) Symposium in the West to discuss where they are with the goal they set in November and to create a plan of action for this summer and fall's recruitment activities.
- In April, Chief Timothy Wall, VCOS chair; Chief John Butler, Human Relations Committee; and Ms. Monica Willemsen (IAFC staff) represented the IAFC and the National VWS Grant at the Congressional Fire Service Institute's Annual Symposium to lead a session on creating a more inclusive and diverse workforce, as it relates to both career and volunteer fire departments recruitment and retention efforts.
- In May, Chief Donna Black, VCOS international director; Lt. Tina Takahashi, Westminster Fire Rescue (Colorado); and Ms. Monica Willemsen represented the IAFC and the National VWS Grant at the I-Women's International Conference in a discussion on volunteer fire recruitment and retention efforts as it relates to diversity and inclusion.
- Wil May, the IAFC's WFPC representative to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board (NWCG), participated in monthly meetings and conference calls representing the voice of the local government fire service as it pertains to NWCG.
- In March, an IAFC Wildland Fire Programs panel session at the WUI Conference 2018, titled "Making your Community Wildland Fire Ready," provided an overview of IAFC wildland fire programs. The session emphasized the program's value and importance and offered an open Q&A. Panelists provided a synopsis of their experience with IAFC WFP; presenters included Porfirio Chavarria, Rich Cowger, Dave Driscoll and IAFC staff.
- In March, WFPC Chair Chief Erik Litzenberg and Shawn Stokes (IAFC staff) participated in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council meeting in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to collectively discuss and develop strategic direction related to:
 - Preparedness for the upcoming 2018 fire year
 - Initiatives to increase efficiency and effectiveness of wildfire response

- Increasing the use of active land management to address landscape challenges and reduce wildfire risk
- Use of research, data, tools and technology to inform priorities and increase the efficiency of joint systems
- Mitigation of post fire impacts
- Ways to increase the use of fire as a land management tool
- In March, Shawn Stokes participated on the National Cohesive Strategy Meeting in Reno, Nevada. Forums and networking on the Cohesive Strategy were participated in and coordination on regional response concerns were worked.
- Chief Rich Elliott, WFPC member, participated in a National Association of State Foresters' meeting in late May. NASF is a critical partner, and continued coordination to reconcile various policies and needs took place.
- In June, Chief Litzenberg and Shawn Stokes participated in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of the meeting was to:
 - View, understand and build from on-the-ground successes that support WFLC priorities and the goals of the Cohesive Strategy
 - Discuss leaders' intent and build strategic opportunities to encourage additional successes
 - Further the WFLC priorities
 - Give strategic direction to the Regional Strategy Committees and agency and organizational leadership
- Chief Mark Chubb, Fire & Life Safety Section (FLSS) Board member, attended the Institution of Fire Engineers' International General Assembly meeting in the United Kingdom as a member of their board of directors.
- Members of the FLSS Board served as AFG reviewers.
- Chief Michael O'Brian and FLSS Board Member Angie Wiese attended a UL test burn in Chicago.
- Through FLSS, the CRR Leadership Conference has been scheduled for Reno, Nevada next year in conjunction with the IAFC board meeting and the Wildland Urban Interface Conference.
- The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and FLSS have renewed their memorandum of understanding, allowing continuation of the fight to increase the use of residential sprinklers.
- In March, the IAFC Board of Directors adopted a Position Statement submitted by FLSS on [The Use of Cross-Laminated Timber in the Construction of Tall Wood Buildings](#).

- In March, the IAFC Board of Directors adopted a Position Statement submitted by FLSS on [Maintaining Building and Fire Safety During Active Assailant Events and Other Terrorist Events](#).
- FLSS has been supporting a proposal for NFPA 1001 to require firefighter training on community risk reduction. FLSS Board members spoke in favor of the proposal in Las Vegas in June at the NFPA Conference.
- Chief Adolf Zubia represented FLSS at this year’s Congressional Fire Service Institute dinner.

Goal 1c. Provide innovative solutions to emerging trends.

- In April, IAFC leadership met with members of Congress, staff and the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture while attending the National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner.
- Members of the IAFC EMS Section Board of Directors met with members of Congress, Congressional staff, and senior staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to discuss issues related to ambulance reimbursement policies.
- Successful conneXions events took place in March in Orlando, Florida, and in June in Phoenix, Arizona. The next event is scheduled for October 22-24 in Fairfax, Virginia.



Shakers: Challenges expressed at Orlando event.



Shakers: Challenges expressed at Phoenix event.

- In March, a Connecticut Volunteer Workforce Solutions seminar featuring speaker Gordon Graham was held. Topics included:
 - Top Ten Things that get a Firefighter into Trouble
 - Five Concurrent Themes for Success
 - Seven Rules of Admiral Hyman Rickover

The event was hosted at Central Connecticut State University and was well attended by more than 150 members of the fire service from all over the state.

- In March, IAFC staff — Kaitlin Lutz and Taylor Munday — presented Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) at the New Jersey Firewise Community Meeting in Barnegat, New Jersey. They gave a presentation that highlighted what RSG is, how RSG has been used in New Jersey and how RSG and Firewise interact with one another.
- In April, IAFC staff participated in Arizona WUI and Firewise Summit. This two-day summit was designed for homeowners, community members and emergency-response agencies to exchange information on various wildfire preparedness and mitigation actions. Topics included the Firewise USA program, hazard fuel-reduction grants, insurance issues, Fire Adapted Communities program, Ready-Set-Go!, emergency management, forest stewardship, forest health and urban forestry.
- In June, IAFC staff Jenn Dietz and WFPC member Fire Chief Rich Cowger delivered an RSG! Program Training: Implementing Community Fire Adaptation in Frenchtown, Montana. Attendees from Western Montana represented local fire departments, emergency management, tribal reservations, Montana DNRC and the U.S. Forest Service. This interactive training covered the elements of wildfire risk reduction and included collaborative exercises to identify resources and plan future efforts.
- Applications for the upcoming face-to-face Fire Department Exchange (FDX) in Boise, Idaho, on October 9-11 opened in June; the deadline is July 13. As part of IAFC Wildland Fire Programs, FDX provides in-person and online exchange platforms for fire departments facing wildland-urban interface outreach and mitigation challenges. The core focus is to encourage exchanges among departments to broaden their knowledge base, consider alternative measures, create new solutions and improve overall practices and procedures within their wildland fire programs.

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

- The IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program (iDELP) achieved a number of accomplishments:
 - The 2017-2019 iDELP Fellows met during the Leadership Forum to help provide input on the IAFC's Strategic Direction, as well as to present group projects aimed at fostering a more diverse and inclusive fire/EMS service.

- The 2017-2019 iDELP Fellows were selected to be ad-hoc members of several IAFC committees and section, with a focus on bringing a deeper focus on diversity and inclusion.
- iDELP Promotions:
 - Deryn Rizzi was promoted to fire chief of Vaughn Fire and Rescue in Canada.
 - Joe Dixon was selected as the new fire chief in Goldsboro Fire and Rescue, North Carolina.
 - John Butler, iDELP coleader, was selected as the new fire and rescue chief of Fairfax County Fire & Rescue, in Virginia.
 - Debbie Carpenter was promoted to assistant chief of Support Services at Carrolton Fire and Rescue in Texas.

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 Hazmat Center developed and launched a Regional Rail Response Course online. The class, called The Rural Response to Rail Incidents, is a two-hour, awareness-level course on responding to rail incidents involving hazardous materials. This course is the result of the combined efforts of the IAFC, Association of American Railroads, International Society of Fire Service Instructors, IAFC Hazmat Committee and American Shortline and Regional Railroad Association. It was made possible by the ALERT Grant from DOT PHMSA.
- Thirteen ILT Regional Rail Response classes will take place between July and September as both ALERT and ALERT II Grants come to a close. So far, this initiative has trained more than 800 first responders; with these 13 new courses, hundreds more will gain timely hazmat-response information.
- In April, the IAFC government relations and policy staff held a legislative briefing, hosted by the Great Lakes Division.
- In March, the VCOS & NVFC hosted a second webinar, presenting best practices 1-5 for preventing firefighter cancer. The [recording is available online](#). In May, they hosted the third webinar, about best practices 6-11. The [recording is available online](#).

- In May, the VCOS held another successful Symposium in the West in Phoenix. The theme for the event was “If Not You, Then Who? If Not Now, Then When?” It focused on providing actionable takeaways on hot-topic issues, such as cancer prevention, innovative ways to improve recruitment and retention, and successful succession planning, for volunteer and combination leaders to take back to their departments.
- The National VWS program conducted a second successful radio ad run for its 10 pilot departments with iHeart Radio media. In total, on-air ads were run in seven markets and had over 11 million impressions. From there, the program received a surge of interest forms, totaling 156 across all departments.
- Twenty-two departments applied to be part of the NCAFC VWS program and 19 departments were interviewed. The final 15 departments were selected, and the IAFC issued a press release with the names of the selected departments. An orientation webinar was held in April, detailing the program’s requirements, support and outcomes.

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

- In March, Chief Jenkins and the IAFC government relations and policy staff presented the Federal Legislative Update webinar.
- The Hazmat Fusion Center has seen clear growth in its social-media outreach efforts. In the month of June, our social media platforms reached 37,000 people with related response tips, world news and training opportunities.
- The IAFC and TransCanada have extended their partnership, which provides training and resources for emergency responders on pipeline safety and effectively responding to a pipeline emergency. Our efforts with TransCanada have led to a new initiative that has involved players at the local level, leading to a tailoring of deliverables that better serve local needs. There are presently six locations throughout the U.S. that the IAFC and TransCanada will visit and work with in the 2018-2019 calendar years.

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

- [NFA’s EFO Symposium](#) was held in April. Approximately 180 graduates attended the Symposium. Five EFO Section Board members attended the Symposium (Chief Jo-Ann Lorber, Chief Patrick Kelly, Chief Trisha Wolford,

Chief Charles McGarvey and Chief Tray Mayo). Four Don Manno awards were presented to the outstanding research award winners.

- In May, Chief Trisha Wolford, Western Director, EFO Section, was appointed as chair of the IAFC's Professional Development Committee.
- Chief Pat Kelly, immediate past chair of the EFO Section, attended eight subcommittee meetings on the evaluation of the current EFO Program (NFA Board of Visitors).
- Chief Trey Mayo, Southeastern Director, EFO Section, chaired the NFA/EFO Symposium (Planning Committee) from April 2017 through April 2018.
- Chief William Hyde, EFO Section vice chair, participated in the NFA/BOV EFO program evaluation committee. In June, he wrote an EFO Section update for the Wisconsin Fire Chief Publication.
- The EFO Section contributed a number of articles to *IAFC On Scene*:
 - "The New Terrorism – Gray" by Chief Jo-Ann Lorber
 - "Tipping Over" by Chief Christopher Norris
 - "EMS Performance Matrix" by Chief William Hyde
 - "Who is Really Responsible for Health & Safety in the Fire Service" by Chief Pat Kelly
 - "Employee Assistance and Peer Support" by Chief Joe Pulvermacher
 - "Opportunity Missed" by Chief Keith Padgett

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

- The VCOS announced the winners of their FRI scholarship. This year's winners are Firefighter George Bradt, Beaver Lake (Arkansas) Fire Department, and Deputy Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson, Brooklyn Center (Minnesota) Volunteer Fire District. Please congratulate them if you see them at FRI. Learn more and apply for a VCOS [scholarship](#) or [VCOS Award](#).
- In May, the Virginia VWS program successfully ended its 2½-year grant. The program ran a radio ad campaign statewide and graduated 103 students from its modular Officers Academy. More than 20 leadership, recruitment and retention classes were offered across the state and basic firefighter classes were offered in six counties. Also, some volunteer fire departments received reimbursements for NFPA Physicals. New members were recruited statewide.
- In May, Tennessee VWS conducted its first leadership workshop in Franklin at the Public Safety Center of Williamson County Fire and Rescue; the workshop was titled Tactical Retention for the Modern Leader. The presenters, Chief Matthew Love and Tiger Schmittendorf, focused on

cultivating motivation and identifying if a department's retention program needs rescue, recovery or a reboot.



Pictured Left to Right: Williamson County (Tenn.) Fire and Rescue's Captain Keith Holtje, Captain Scot Hughes, Captain Steve Homrich, and Fire Coordinator Jay Bonson, Presenter Tiger Schmittendorf, TFCA VWS Program Coordinator Chief Eddie Phillips, Tenn

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 elections for second vice president and bylaw changes ended June 24; 22.75% of eligible members voted, an increase from 19.01% last year, and 97.9% reported being very satisfied or satisfied with the voting process.
- The IAFC has continued to expand outreach efforts outside of IAFC events. The IAFC has exhibited and/or presented at the following:
 - NC Fire Chiefs Conference, Virginia Fire Rescue Conference, Southeastern Fire Chiefs, South Carolina Fire Rescue Conference, Firehouse West Conference, ESRI FED GIS Conference, CalChiefs Technology Summit, FIRESCOPE Board of Directors Meeting, Western Fire Chiefs Wildfire Policy Group Meeting, Oregon Fire Chiefs Meeting, Georgia Fire Chiefs Conference, Arizona Fire Chiefs Meeting, WalMart Emergency Management Team Meeting, DHS First

Responders Group, ESRI Partner Meeting, Juvare WebEOC Summit, Colorado Emergency Management Meeting, Atlantic States Hurricane Meeting, Multiple DHS and FEMA Meetings, and Louisiana Fire Chiefs Conference.

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

- The Human Relations Committee (HRC), the VCOS and VWS partnered to create one new “Be Inclusive” posters. It is [available on the IAFC website](#).



- The National VWS Grant has finalized the content for three online trainings to assist volunteer fire department create a more inclusive and diverse volunteer workforce. These trainings have been given to an instructional designer to create an online, one-hour format to be uploaded to the IAFC Academy by September.

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.

- In March, 15 Arizona sheriffs adopted RSG. [More](#)
- The [Ready, Set, Go! National Action Guide](#), version 8, was released in April and is available for use by RSG! Program members.
- Through the Digital Center, the IAFC signed a data-sharing agreement with the state of Tennessee to update Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level (HIFLD) Data and potentially work on other shared data initiatives in the future.

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 International Fellowship Program (IFP) wouldn't be possible without the fire departments that become partners by hosting IFP cohorts. The IFP sponsored for its first six partner department to send the individuals who acted as their project manager to participate in the first-ever International Fire Operations Conference, sponsored by Saudi Aramco, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain April 10-12.

During the opening ceremony, Saudi Aramco recognized these individuals and the Fire Departments they represent for their contribution to growing the Saudi Aramco Fire Protection Department leadership:

- Battalion Chief Daniel Froelich of the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD). SDFD hosted the cohorts 1, 2, and 3.
 - Battalion Chief Larry Hansen from the City of Oklahoma City Fire Department who hosted Cohort 4.
 - Fire Chief Tom Jenkins of the Rogers Fire Department who hosted cohort 5.
 - Assistant Fire Chief Christian Wargo from Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department who hosted Cohort 6.
 - Battalion Chief William Voorhies from the Dekalb County Fire Rescue Department who hosted Cohort 7.
 - Captain Jason Fernandez from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue who hosted Cohort 8.
- In March, the eighth cohort of the International Fellowship Program (IFP), embedded with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR), graduated.
 - In April, the IFP's ninth cohort graduated from the Columbus Division on Fire.
 - In June, the IFP's tenth cohort, embedded with the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (SMFD), graduated. To mark the milestone of Saudi Aramco sending a tenth cohort, the IFP commissioned a special video project. The purpose of the video is to portray the lifecycle of a cohort from beginning to end and to highlight the team that makes them successful. The full "mini-documentary" will be released at Fire Rescue International 2018. [Watch trailer.](#)

- In April, building on the success of Cohort 8, MDR welcomed the eleventh cohort into their department and Greater Naples Fire District (GNFD) joined the Fellowship family by embedding Cohort 12.



Cohort 10 thanks Fire Chief Todd Harms, Metro Fire, during their graduation ceremony on June 13, 2018.

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

- Phase 1 of “Building the Leader Within” Campaign” ended May 11, resulting in 177 new members.
- Connecticut Volunteer Firefighter Day was held on April 15 in conjunction with the Cohanzie Fire Department this year. Photojournalists from three of the four local television affiliates were at the event at one time or the other to cover the event. This publicity helped to generate statewide awareness and visibility to the need for more volunteers.
- The Connecticut VWS recruitment PSA was finalized and aired on WTNH and NBC-CT. A marketing campaign was launched in conjunction with the XL Center and Hartford Wolfpack. On April 8, the Connecticut VWS program had a big presence at the XL Center for the Hartford Wolfpack hockey game. The PSA was shown on the jumbotron during the game while a live interview was aired with the Connecticut Chiefs. Attendance at the game was 3,026. The campaign also included interviews featuring the CFCA Steering Committee on both WTNH and NBC-CT. On social media alone, the PSA was viewed more than 129,000 times and shared more than 3,800

times. Social media “likes” increased from 594 to 1,005. [Click PSA Interview](#) for a sample interview that aired in May.

- On June 23, a North Carolina VWS kickoff meeting occurred at the Raleigh Convention Center. This event brought together representatives from all the selected departments and some board members of the NCAFC to discuss the program’s initiatives GIS reports, and establish recruitment goals. This event was [covered by three TV stations](#) with 57 attendees.

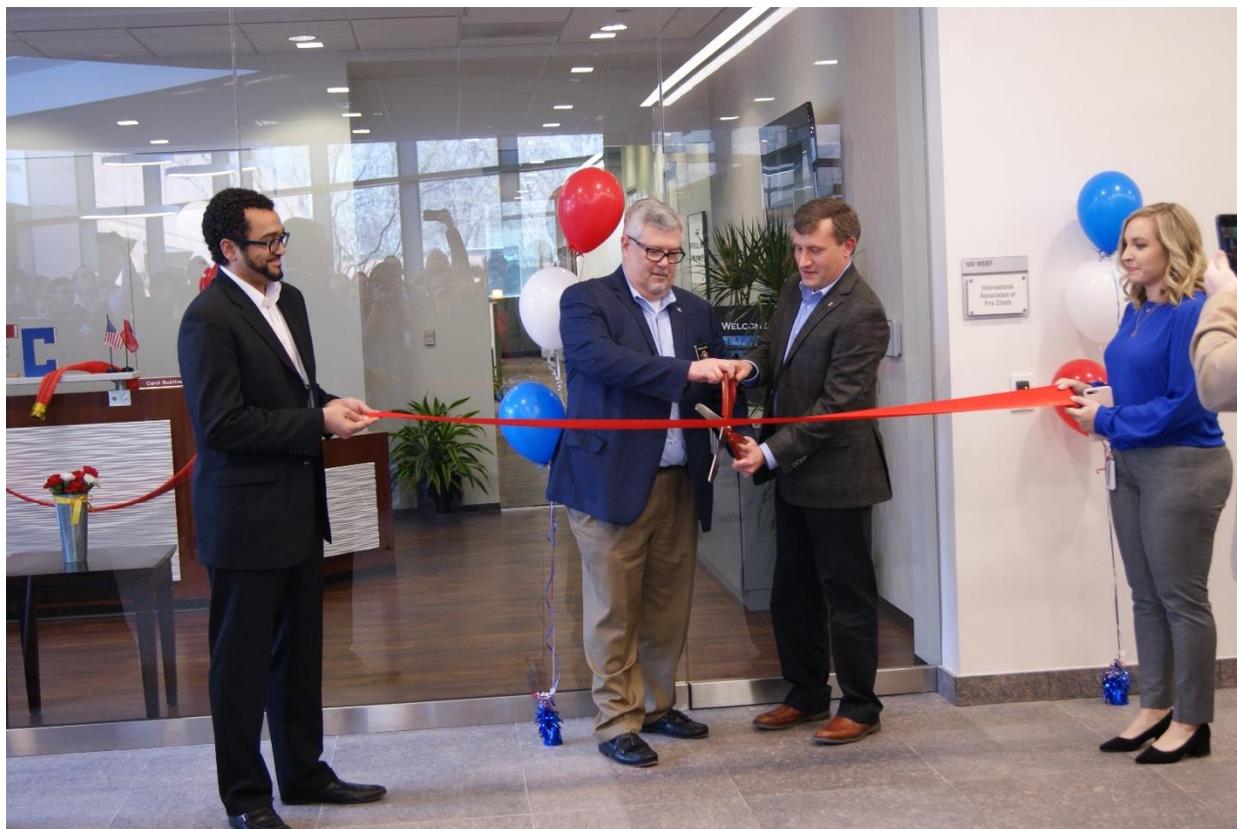
Goal 3f. Expand recognition to those showing exceptional or extended service to their organizations or the industry.

- The annual Metro Chiefs Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas, in May. Mark Light, IAFC CEO/executive director, was recognized with the [Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association’s Life Time Achievement Award](#). Also, during the conference, Presidents Awards of Distinction were presented to Chief David Downey, Miami-Dade County (Florida) Fire Rescue, and Mr. Ken LaSala, IAFC director of government relations and policy.
- The EMS Section presented the Heart Safe Community Awards to the Peachtree City (Georgia) Fire/Rescue Department and the Spokane (Washington) Fire Department.
- Chief Gary Ludwig, newly elected IAFC first price president, was awarded the [IAFC James O. Page EMS Achievement Award](#) at FRM 2018.
- The VCOS and TargetSolutions announced the winner of the 2018 Training Officer Award. This year’s winner is Deputy Chief Josh Blum, Loveland-Symmes (Ohio) Fire Department. Please congratulate him if you see him at FRI.
- Dwayne Garriss, Georgia State Fire Marshal, will receive the IAFC/ICC FLSS Excellence Award in Dallas.

INSIDE THE IAFC

Association News

- After 26 years at its Fairfax, Virginia, location, the IAFC moved on March 12 to its new headquarters in Chantilly, Virginia. The new office brings the growing IAFC staff together on one floor in a collaborative environment. It provides a modern, professional work environment with ample meeting space and incorporates the latest technology. [Watch video.](#)



News About Our Members

- Chief Mike McEvoy, EMS Section chair, was elected to serve as the secretary/treasurer for the [National EMS Quality Alliance](#).
- In May, Chief Trisha Wolford, EFO Section, was appointed as chair of the IAFC's Professional Development Committee.
- In March, Chief Chas McGarvey, EFO Section, was appointed as chair of the Government Support Committee of the Pennsylvania State Senate Resolution 6 Commission.

- WFPC Chair Chief Erik Litzenberg was selected to be the city manager of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in June. Chief Litzenberg will remain in his role on the WFPC.
- In May, Chief Joe Pulvermacher, Great Lakes Director, EFO Section, was appointed as Great Lakes Division Director.
- In June, the RSG! Program learned of the untimely passing of one of the pioneers of our program and the 2014 RSG! Award for Excellence honoree, John Cowie of the Barnegat Volunteer Fire Department and New Jersey Forest Fire Service. He will be remembered for his dedication to making his communities safer. He will be missed.
- Chief Trisha Wolford, Western Director, EFO Section, completed the IAFC's FSEDI program in April, graduated from NFA's EFO Program in May and participated in curriculum review for NFA Leadership Courses in Emmitsburg, Maryland.
- FLSS Chair Andy King has been appointed to represent the SEAFIC on the ICC Fire Service Governance Council.
- Shawn Hanson, Greater Naples Fire, an iDelp Fellow, has elected to become involved in the FLSS Board and we welcome her input into our section.
- FLSS Board Member Angie Wiese has been appointed to the International Code Council Board of Directors.

Staff Arrivals and Departures

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

- Derek Bullington was hired in May as administrative support coordinator.
- In July, Brittany Bowman moved to Professional Development as a conference coordinator. She is also the new staff liaison to the Company Officers Section.
- In July, Rhiannon Bogozi moved to Professional Development as a conference coordinator.
- Alice Thompson worked as a summer intern in Government Relations.
- Khalid Alkhadi worked as a summer intern in Global Services.
- Jenny Bragieli Cozad is the new staff liaison to the VCOS.

What Others Are Saying

- conneXions provides a high level professional platform for innovative and relative learning through highly qualified speakers, group discussion and interaction with chief officers from all different type of cities.

— *Steve Olson, Division Chief of Logistics,
Cape Coral (Florida) Fire Department*

- conneXions is a great opportunity for chief officers to network with other chiefs from across the country. It is an exceptional chance to learn how other departments have addressed challenges and issues that you may be facing. One-on-one time with the vendors is a tremendous way to learn of new products and technologies coming down the pipeline. I highly recommend this event!

— *Rick Poeschl, Fire Chief,
Lee's Summit (Missouri) Fire Department*

- As far as I can assess, hour for hour, conneXions was the best use of my time away from the department.

— *John Butler, Fire Chief,
Howard County (Maryland) Fire and Rescue Services*

- The Shakers sessions were by far my favorite part. The intentional time to provide discussion platforms was extremely insightful, especially for a couple of "young" chiefs.

— *Seth Miller, Executive Deputy Chief,
Chattanooga (Tennessee) Fire Department*

- conneXions was a welcome departure from the typical fire service conference. There was a much more intimate learning environment and the networking opportunities were very valuable.

— *Bob Baker, Fire Chief,
South Metro (Colorado) Fire Authority*

- The companies did an outstanding job of presenting, listening and offering solutions. It was nice not to have to share issues, concerns and solutions time with another department. Very nice to focus on our department only. No pressure.

— *David Mowry, Deputy Chief of Training and Communication,
Albuquerque, New Mexico*

- Great job! The IAFC staff is second to none. You seem to truly understand your ability to be a resource for chief officers, and you do a great job in making it happen. If there had been an associated cost with this

programming, our department would have never gone. You have done a great job leveraging vendor resources and providing opportunity to connect with other chiefs and industry leaders. THANKS!

— *Seth Miller, Executive Deputy Chief,
Chattanooga Fire Department*

- The IAFC staff was incredible. They stayed two steps ahead of everything. I'm very impressed with the talented crew that managed the conference.

— *Loren Cone, Assistant Fire Chief,
Cary (North Carolina) Fire Department*

- Your show in Baltimore last week was the most professionally and attendee-oriented show I have ever seen. Well done. The food service was exceptional. It was a privilege to be a vendor.

— *Tom Lochner, President,
FireCraft® Safety Products*

- We gathered valuable feedback on trends in the fires service and also were able to identify some critical leads that required future follow-up by our local sales teams.

— *Derek Roy, 3M Scott Fire & Safety*

- conneXions is a priceless experience.

— *Zoila Hernandez, AT&T FirstNet*

- conneXions was a good mix. We were able to introduce our solutions to several agencies that had not seen our products before. We got a couple of good shorter term leads as well.

— *Spencer Anderson, Deccan*

- OCFA is proud to be one of the founding departments that helped create the RSG! Program. It has been an effective tool in engaging our community to participate in wildfire risk reduction through dialogues, the program has, between OCFA and the residents and businesses we serve.”

— *Orange County Fire Authority Fire Chief,
IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee member Brian Fennessy*

- Thanks again for the RSG materials. The event in April started an avalanche of interest, and we just wrapped up our third of three big public events last night, well-attended and very successful! Your support with handouts and information is greatly appreciated.

— *Robin Adair, El Paso County Office of Emergency Management*

- I started as the DES Coordinator in January, so I am trying to learn as much as possible. I appreciate the RSG Training class and came away with a lot of great ideas to try and help my community. Thank you again.

— *Lori Dove, Mineral County DES Coordinator,
RSG Training class attendee*

- Having the ability to participate in the Fire Department Exchange (FDX) was an integral part of moving Frenchtown Rural Fire District's wildland fire, hazardous fuel mitigation and Fire Adapted Communities programs forward ... Our programs have moved forward a great many steps in all areas including capacity to accomplish projects, sustainability to keep projects moving forward and the financial means to accomplish both of these. I have no doubt that this was made possible by the help we received from the FDX.

— *Firefighter/Paramedic Taylor Blakely, FDX*