

What's Happening at the IAFC?

Strategic Direction Update
August 1 – November 30, 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.

LEAD

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 International (FRI) was held August 8-11 in Dallas, Texas, with the participation of 10,315 fire and emergency service leaders, experts, exhibitors, guests and industry partners. This represents a 5% increase in attendance from 2017. There were 431 exhibiting companies. The IAFC implemented new data technologies to better understand FRI attendees and their needs.
- The Volunteer & Combination Officers (VCOS) Symposium in the Sun was held November 8-12 in Clearwater Beach, Florida, with 710 participants. There were 39 participating vendor sponsors and more than 40 educational sessions were offered. The event was again sold out.
- The IAFC joined the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council in filing concurring comments with IACP, NASEMSO and the National Sheriffs' Association, requesting that the Federal Communications Commission require carriers to provide floor-level accuracy when providing mobile phone-based location accuracy to 911 public-safety answering points.
- Peter Gaynor, the former emergency manager for Rhode Island, was endorsed by the IAFC and confirmed for the position of deputy FEMA administrator.



Chief Dan Eggleston was sworn in as IAFC president and chairman of the board at FRI 2018 in Dallas.

- Chief Jo-Ann Lorber, Executive Fire Officers (EFO) Section chair, presented the section's new strategic directive at the IAFC Board of Directors meeting at FRI 2018.
- The Safety, Health & Survival (SHS) Section, at the direction of the IAFC Board of Directors, developed the [Diesel Exhaust Report](#), making critical recommendations to minimize firefighter exposure to contaminants from diesel engines.
- The Wildland Fire Policy Committee (WFPC) chair, Chief Erik Litzenberg, and Shawn Stokes (then IAFC Community Solutions director) participated in the Wildland Fire Leadership Council meeting on September 17 in Washington, D.C., to coordinate implementation of the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and related long-term strategies.

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

- Congress passed the FAA Reauthorization Act (P.L. 115-254) with language authorizing a report to Congress about obstacles to greater fire and emergency service use of unmanned aerial systems. The act also included the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, which promotes the adoption of building codes after disasters and allows communities affected by wildland fires to receive hazard-mitigation assistance.
- Congress passed the 9/11 Heroes Medal of Valor Act (P.L. 115-276), which would allow public-safety officers who participated in the response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and died as a result from a World Trade Center-related health condition to be eligible for the 9/11 Heroes Medal of Valor.
- Members of the SHS Section, working on the NFPA 1500 committee, worked with members of the NFPA 1906 standards committee to submit a tentative interim amendment to prevent individuals from riding on the outside of brush trucks.
- During FRI 2018, WFPC reviewed their action plan, reviewed work products of staff and committee members and reported as needed to the IAFC leadership on topics of interest concerning wildland and WUI issues. In addition, the committee received reports from committee liaisons to the various organizations, received briefings and provided guidance and feedback on the status, direction and plans for the Ready, Set, Go! (RSG!) Program and initiatives related to promoting the Cohesive Strategy and fire-adapted communities.
- Will May, 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.

Goal 1c. Provide innovative solutions to emerging trends.

- Fire & Life Safety Section (FLSS) Board members Chief Michael Whim, Chief Ray Reynolds, Fire Marshal Greg Rogers, Industry Affairs Manager Dan Finnegan and Chief Michael O'Brian worked on major code changes at the International Code Council Code (ICC) Hearings.
- The SHS Section's Bullying Task Force developed a yearlong work plan of how to reduce bullying in the workplace. The section has solicited support from the Human Relations Committee (HRC), VCOS, iWomen and the IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program.
- The IAFC hosted the Forest Service Partner Summit on October 23-24. The purpose of the summit was to bring partners together that bring about change in how communities view, react to and mitigate against the devastating effects of wildfire on a national level.
- On September 14, Chief Rizzi, Human Relations Committee Chair, and Professional Development Committee member Desmond Simmons, attended the State of the Volunteer Fire Service Summit at IAFC Headquarters in Chantilly, Virginia. Mission was to create a report on the state of the volunteer fire service and the volunteer of the future.

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

- The SHS Section held its first Workplace Bullying and Violence Symposium at FRI 2018. More than 50 leaders participated in the symposium, which highlighted the need to address critical issues around workplace bullying and violence.

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.

- Program Planning Committee: FRI 2018 was a huge success in Dallas with the introduction of a new program format using 30-, 60- and 90-minute programs. In addition, FRI 2018 had speakers and attendees from 22 different countries, helping ensure that we keep the “international” in FRI.
- The IAFC Terrorism and Homeland Security (THS) Committee presented the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Team symposium on August 7 at FRI. THS drafted articles for *On Scene* based on the lessons learned from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) mission to the United Kingdom to examine the response to terror attacks in 2017.
- Ken LaSala, IAFC government relations and policy director, presented a legislative update to attendees at FRI.
- In October, the VCOS held a train-the-trainer session at the IAFC for their new courses, Member and Leadership Collaboration (MLC) and the Yellow Ribbon Course. MLC is a facilitated discussion between leadership and members that teaches communication based on personalities. The Yellow Ribbon Course raises awareness about mental health in the fire service and options available for helping individuals.



VCOS/Member and Leadership Collaboration: From left to right: Scott Martus, Jason Catrambone, Randy Larson, Skip Straus, William Stacy, Kevin Sehmeyer, Gregg Goodwin, Peter Starkel, Jim Wamsley, Ed Rush, Chuck Flynn, Joe Chornock, Brian Mulligan, Greg Flynn, Dustin Creager, Tim Wall, Greg Render, Shane Crutcher, Nathan Stoermer, Mary-Ellen Harper, Matt Missildine, Ken Rosgen, Adam Carroll, Adam Farrar, Jim Cook, David Lewis, Landon Churchill, John M. Buckman III, Norvin Collins, and Peter Struble.

- In early November, the National VWS grant launched a three-part training series on the IAFC Academy. *The Volunteer of the Future Training Series* gives volunteer fire departments the ability to understand how diversity and inclusion can benefit their departments, ways to overcome our traditional approach to recruitment from

diverse communities and tactics to make inroads into under-resourced communities to encourage volunteerism with local fire departments.

- The Connecticut Volunteer Workforce Solutions team completed the creation of a new online course for chief-level officers, [Chief 101](#), during the first week of October. This course has been designed to help new chiefs learn the skills necessary to run their fire departments. We currently have 117 enrollments nationwide including some students from Canada. All course evaluations have maintained 4+, with 5 being the highest.
- A full-day VWS seminar with Chief John Murphy on “Preventing Legal Fires” in the volunteer fire service was well attended by about 40 people in Connecticut in October. This seminar explored relationships between the law and the fire service and highlighted some of the legal issues affecting the volunteer fire service.
- On October 18, Tim Hopkins, Rob Brown and Jeff Dulin attended a ResponderXLabs event showcasing up-and-coming fire/EMS technology, in Washington, DC, hosted by Amazon Web Services.

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

- A PHMSA Community Safety Training Grant was awarded to the IAFC. This 12-month, \$250,000 award for the Community Safety – Emergency Planning, Response and Outreach program is designed to create community training on how to prepare for road, rail and pipeline hazmat incidents, especially in rural areas. Communities will collectively work together to be educated and informed about how to operate in the event of hazmat emergencies. The trusted voice of the fire department, local emergency planners and local emergency-planning committee will be the leaders of the message. This program will assist these groups with education, tools and resources to actively implement this program within their communities.
- On November 2-3, Chief Joe Pulvermacher and Chief Jo-Ann Lorber participated in the Program Planning Committee and Council meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, to establish the educational training programs for FRI 2019, especially the ODP and ECO I and II classes.
- The SHS Section debuted such resources as medical-evaluation tools, fire-behavior studies, exposure-reduction initiatives, [workplace-bullying and harassment-prevention education](#) and mental-health awareness programs at FRI 2018.
- Chief Dan Kerrigan of the SHS Section presented “An American Perspective on Firefighter Health and Fitness” at the [FireFit Conference](#) in November.
- Chief Todd LeDuc, SHS Section secretary, represented SHS at the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation/Fire Responder Center for Excellence’s Behavioral Health Gathering in Baltimore, Maryland.

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

- During another successful [IAFC connexions](#) October 22-24 in Reston, Virginia, 21 company representatives connected with 19 fire chiefs. The "48-hour focus group" brought together fire-service purchasing decision makers and businesses in one-on-one sessions. The top hot topics during the popular Shakers Session included firefighter cancer prevention, behavioral health/PTSD, labor relations



and budget. The popular Shakers session revealed the following challenges facing fire-service leaders:



- Chief Jo-Ann Lorber, EFO Section chair, was the moderator for Career Impact Training that was offered at FRI 2018.
- The EFO Section contributed a number of articles to IAFC *On Scene*:
 - Chief Greg Barton – August: “The Business Side of the Fire Department”
 - Chief Jo-Ann Lorber – September: “SIMPLE Ways Leaders Can Hold their Employees Accountable”
 - Chief Pat Kelly – October: “Fire Prevention... Outdated”
 - Chief Trisha Wolford – November: “Are We Killing Our Own Diversity”
 - Chief Joe Pulvermacher – December: article on active-shooting responses (to be published midmonth)
- The SHS Section continued the education of incident safety officers and health safety officers, in conjunction with the Fire Department Safety Officers Association, by hosting pre-cons during FRI 2018.

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

- The Chief’s Edge Leadership Symposium was offered once again at FRI 2018; 38 individuals participated in this unique program offering for aspiring, new or less-tenured fire and EMS chiefs.
- In partnership with Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association, a Chief’s Edge symposium was offered November 14 at the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Conference in Kauai, Hawaii; 35 individuals participated in the program.
- [The Officer Development Program](#) (ODP), in partnership with the Colorado State Fire Chiefs, offered ODP-COLS III and ODP-CHIEF II at the Colorado Fire Leadership Challenge in Keystone, Colorado; 32 individuals attended ODP-COLS III and 59 attended ODP-CHIEF II.
- As of November 2018, ODP statistics are as follows:
 - 4,239 ODP participants since 2007 program launch
 - 358 have graduated from ODP-COLS (completed all three levels)
 - 368 have graduated from ODP-CHIEF (completed both levels)
 - 146 have graduated from ODP-ECO (completed both levels)
 - 14 have completed all seven levels of the ODP (COLS-CHIEF-ECO)
- EFO Section Board members Chief Trey Mayo and Chief Jo-Ann Lorber participated in the development of the EFO Symposium that is held each year at the National Fire Academy (NFA).
- EFO Section Board members Chief William Hyde and Chief Pat Kelly completed their ad hoc committee work with the NFA Board of Visitors on recommendations and program advancement of the EFO program at NFA.

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.

- The SHS Section debuted a video, *2018 IAFC SHS Survive and Thrive*, encouraging fire and rescue personnel to join the section so they can contribute to the section's efforts to increase first-responder safety. The video was published on the IAFC website and pushed out through social media. [Watch the video.](#)
- The VCOS Board and VCOS members were honored and humbled to attend the NFFF Memorial Service on October 7 and remember 103 U.S. fallen firefighters.



NFFF Memorial Service: From left to right: VCOS Board Member Chief Norvin Collins, VCOS Chair Chief Chuck Flynn, VCOS Board Member Chief Jim Cook, VCOS Staff Liaison Jenny Bragiel Cozad, VCOS Chair Emeritus Chief Timothy S. Wall, VCOS Member Chief Jim Wamsley, VCOS Board Member Chief Ed Rush, VCOS Member Chief Matt Missildine.

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

- EFO Section board member Chief Trisha Wolford, who is also a member of the IAFC Human Relations Committee, was appointed chair of the Professional Development Committee. Chief Chad Roberson, EFO Section board member, was appointed to the IAFC's Urban Search & Rescue Committee.
- Chief Randy Larson, an at-large director with the SHS Section, has been trained to be an advocate for the VCOS Leadership Employee Collaboration Project.

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.

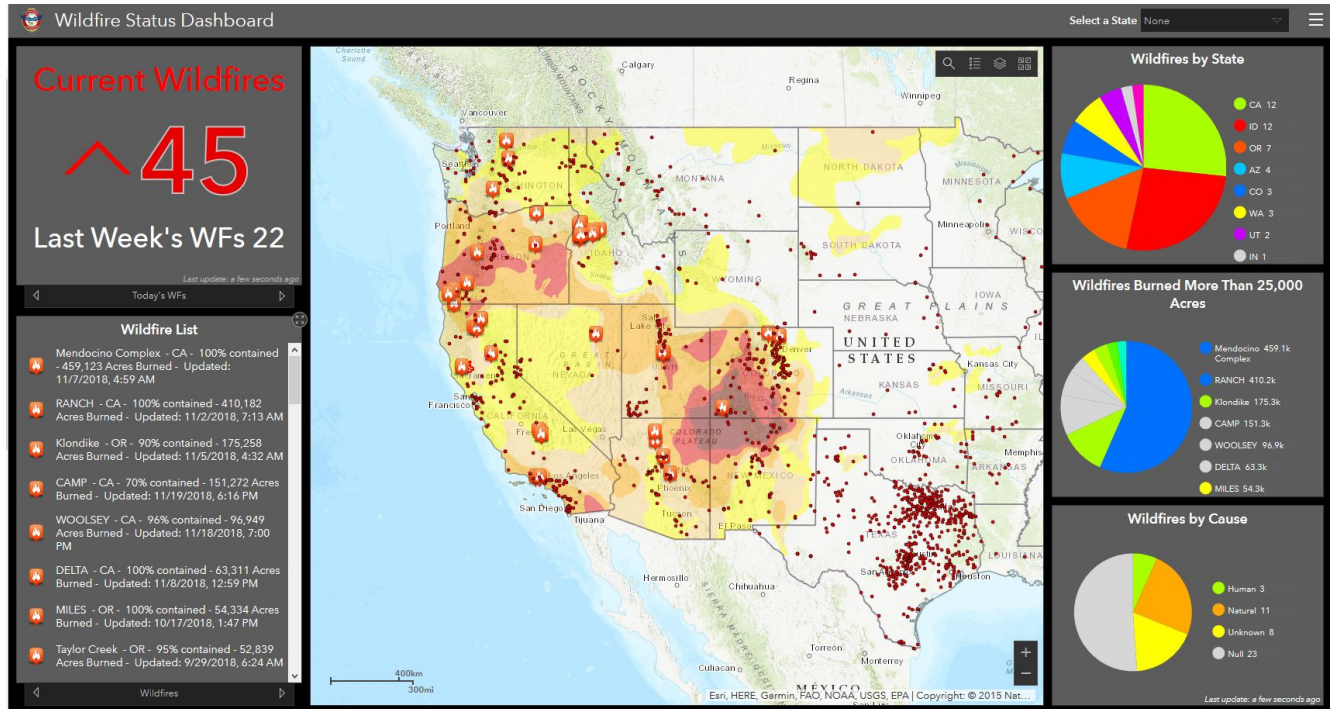
- During Hurricanes Michael and Florence, the IAFC provided a suite of tools, along with technical support, to the state fire marshal office in Florida to allow first responders to quickly map out victims and their status, hazards in the field and damage to structures.
- The IAFC began work as a subcontractor in November for the DHS S&T Innovative Mutual Aid Technology & Capacity Building program.
- Chief Scott Kerwood, SHS Section chair, and Chief Shawn Oke, an SHS at-large director, have been representing the IAFC on NFPA 1500 series.
- Chief Scott Kerwood; Chief Billy Goldfeder, SHS international director; and Richard Miller, IAFC program manager and former SHS liaison, participated in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study regarding PPE life extension.
- Members of the SHS Section are providing technical expertise on new developments in self-driving vehicles and threats to fire and rescue personnel's safety.
- Members of the SHS Section are assisting NIOSH researchers in a study regarding health and retirement.
- The SHS Section entered a strategic partnership with the Fire Rescue Center of Excellence (FRCE). Through this partnership, the section will work with other experts to craft a national strategy for improving access to proper fire-service physicals. Chief Todd LeDuc represented the section at the FRCE strategic planning session held in Nashville, Tennessee, in October in conjunction with Firehouse Expo.

Volunteer Fire Services

- The VCOS released their Federal Regulators Compliance Toolkit to assist fire departments with tax issues and member benefits. This includes a checklist with best practices in the case of a U.S. Department of Labor audit.
- On September 14, the National VWS Grant held a summit, the State of the Volunteer Fire Service, to create a report on who the volunteer of the future is, what they look like and what fire service leaders need to change to recruit and retain them. The summit was attended by representatives from multiple internal and external organizations such as the VCOS, HRC, the IAFC's Diversity Leadership Program, iWomen, the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Volunteer Fire Council.
- On October 5, the IAFC's National VWS Grant launched the [Chief's Administrative Rapid Information Tool \(A-RIT\)](#). This online tool is a constantly updated, curated collection of resources that benefits fire officers with the administrative tasks of running a volunteer fire department. These resources can be saved to create a plan for future members of a department to reference when dealing with topics such as community relationships, leadership and development, and financial and personnel management.
- The National VWS Grant held a final meeting of their pilot representatives and the Council for Future Volunteer Firefighters at VCOS's Symposium in the Sun in Clearwater, Florida. These pilot and council members have assisted in creating the Volunteer of the Future Training Series, the Chief's A-RIT, more diverse and inclusive marketing schemes, webinars and case studies on recruitment strategies, and assisted in shaping the discussion for the State of the Volunteer Fire Service Summit.
- The Connecticut VWS team partnered with Operation Save A Life for the month of October to work on recruitment and retention throughout the state. This program included a week long [cooking segment](#) on WTNH-TV as well as a couple of [interviews](#).
- VWS partner departments in North Carolina hosted and or participated in more than 100 events focused on recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Departments distributed almost 2,500 marketing materials. In the 19 VWS participating departments from North Carolina, 100 online interest forms were submitted this quarter for volunteer recruitment.
- Tennessee VWS and TFCA presented "Overcoming Conflict through Tactical Leadership" in Savannah, Tennessee, on November 3. Speakers included Chief Shane Ray, Vickie Pritchett and Tiger Schmittendorf. This full-day workshop focused on how to identify and overcome conflict in a positive way that will improve your departments retention rate.

Wildland Fire Programs

- IAFC Wildland Fire Programs presented “Helping Your Community Be Wildfire Ready” at FRI 2018. IAFC Wildland Fire Programs and the Texas A&M Forest Service partnered at FRI 2018. WFP also presented sessions on “WUI Case Studies in Change Management.”
- The [Wildfire Status Dashboard](#) (below) shows current U.S. wildfires and pertinent details at a glance. Users can view various information about wildfires in the panels on the left side of the app and charts with additional information on the right side. Users can use the dropdown menu at the top right to review wildfires by state.



- The IAFC’s Ready, Set, Go! Program has developed a red flag warning resource. This provides safety tips for residents during Red Flag National Weather Service warnings. RSG! Program members can access the resource electronically at WildlandFireRSG.org.
- The IAFC, as part of a cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service, has been awarded RSG mitigation grants for six departments or emergency response agencies operating in areas with a high risk of wildland fire.
- [Fire Department Exchange \(FDX\)](#) was held in Boise, Idaho, on October 9-11. As a 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.



***Fire Department Exchange:** Division Chief Marty Long, Spokane County Fire District 8; Brian Oliver, City of Boulder Fire Department; Captain Zsolt Szoke, Charleston Fire Department; James Carpenter, City of Boulder Fire Department; Chief Julie Linney, Santa Clara County Fire Department; Lt. Adam Griggs, Lake Travis Fire Rescue; Captain Jerry McAdams, Boise Fire Department; Christie Moore, Santa Clara County Fire Department; Chief Tom Hatley, Spokane County Fire District 8; Justice Jones, Austin Fire Department; John Justice, Santa Clara County Fire Department; Porfirio Chavarria, City of Santa Fe Fire Department; Jeremy Taylor, Colorado Springs Fire Department; Chris Chambers, Ashland Fire & Rescue; Chris Rea, Lake Travis Fire Rescue; Nate Casebeer, Austin Fire Department, and Amber Wells, IAFC.*

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 IAFC welcomed YASREF, Yanbu Aramco Sinopec Refining Company, as a group member of the association.
- A captain from the Israeli fire service contacted the EFO Section to report that she had found the IAFC Code of Ethics on the website and she has translated it into Hebrew and presented it to her fire chief.
- Tim Hopkins presented to the IAFC board of directors and IAFC member meeting attendees on how the IAFC is collecting and protecting data.
- The IAFC Digital Center provided support and digital tools to areas affected by hurricanes, in partnership with ESRI and National Alliance for Public Safety GIS (NAPSG).

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

- The IAFC hosted a delegation for two weeks in the U.S. from the Royal Commission of Yanbu and Civil Defense Bahrain to showcase IAFC’s abilities and partnerships.
- SHS Section Vice Chair Chief John Sullivan is now the IAFC’s representative on the Education Development Center’s [Action Alliance Public Safety Task Force](#).
- Chief Tim Mock, McKinney (Texas) Fire Department, represented both the SHS Section and the IAFC at the Department of Transportation’s [National Dialogue on Highway Automation](#) Workshop 5 – Infrastructure Design and Safety in Dallas, Texas, on November 14-15.
- SHS Section Chair Scott Kerwood submitted a public comment on NFPA 1500-2018 [New Section after 12.2] on behalf of the IAFC regarding sleep deprivation and fatigue.

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

- The EFO Section each month recognizes an EFO Section member who has received an award, been placed on a committee or produced an outstanding research paper and implemented it:
 - September: Chief Charles McGarvey was appointed to a commission to review state's fire and EMS resources.
 - October: Chief Richard Mikel was named 2018 Illinois Fire Chief of the Year.

Inside the IAFC

In the News

- On October 25, the IAFC celebrated its 145th birthday!



- Great local TV coverage of an IAFC hazmat-training event in Moss Point, Mississippi: [Special training deals with train derailment dangers.](#)
- FLSS Section International Director Chief Michael O'Brian published an article in his local newspaper: [Mobile app keep first responders, communities safe.](#)
- For the VWS program, there has been a fair amount of statewide media coverage on the need for volunteers. See [NC Volunteer Recruitment](#) for a sample media article.
- FLSS Chair O'Brian penned an editorial for Livingston Daily: [Mobile app keep first responders, communities safe.](#)

News About Our Members

- Chief Richard Carrizzo, IAFC treasurer, [was appointed by U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross](#) to serve on the board of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet).
- FLSS Board member Angie Wiese, fire protection engineer, St. Paul, Minnesota, was elected to the ICC Board of Directors. First appointed to fill a portion of a term in 2018, the membership in October elected her to a full three-year term.
- Chief Mary Cameli, Mesa (Arizona) Fire & Medical Department, was appointed as the IAFC representative on the Center for Public Safety Excellence Board of Directors for a three-year term.
- Chief Randy Larson, Pagosa Fire Protection District in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, has joined the board of the SHS Section.
- Chief I. David Daniels, an at-large director with the SHS Section, has been nominated to join the board of directors of the National Safety Council.
- All EFO Section Board members attended FRI in August 2018. In addition, EFO Section leaders and members were active in the follow ways:
 - Chief Greg Barton was elected to serve as the 2nd Vice President on the Fire Chief's Department for the California League of Cities in September. He also became a Fellow with the Institute of Fire Engineers.
 - Chief William Hyde was appointed to the Southwestern Division Conference Resolutions Committee.
 - Chief Jo-Ann Lorber was placed on the Southeastern Division's Strategic Planning and Initiatives Committee.
 - Chief David Daley was reelected to Missouri Valley Division director.
 - Chief Chad Roberson was sworn in as Southwestern Division director at FRI.
 - Chief Steve Achilles was sworn in as New England Division director at FRI.
 - Chief Steve Achilles was appointed to the USFA/NFA Professional Development Committee.
 - Chief Trisha Wolford received her EFO Certificate.



Installed at FRI as 2018-2019 IAFC officers (from left): Second Vice President Chief Otto Drozd, First Vice President Chief Gary Ludwig, and President and Chairman of the Board Chief Dan Eggleston.



2017-2018 IAFC President Chief Tom Jenkins presents VCOS Section Chair Chief Tim Wall with a President's Award of Recognition during FRI for his contributions to the IAFC and the volunteer fire service.

News About Our Staff

New hires, job changes, certifications and degrees, work-related awards and other news for IAFC staff members:

- Jim Goldstein, government relations manager, retired.

- Brandon Allen joined the IAFC in October as the new government relations manager for telecommunications and transportation. Brandon interned for the IAFC in 2013.
- Leanne Shroeder, conference manager, earned her Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation by the Events Industry Council. Sara Stehle, conference manager, was accepted to participate in the ASAE's NextGen Summit.
- Chelsea Lear was hired as exhibit operations manager.
- Taylor Munday is now the IAFC staff liaison to the SHS Section.
- Shawn Stokes has been promoted to assistant executive director.
- Kelly Ameen has been promoted to director of Community Solutions.
- Abena Bonso-Bruce has been promoted to assistant director of Volunteer Workforce Solutions.
- Amber Wells has been promoted to assistant director of Wildland Programs.
- IAFC has hired two new program coordinators in Volunteer Workforce Solutions, Malak Abdulhamied and Catherine Lugo.
- On October 12, the IAFC held a dedication ceremony [in memory of Heather Westphal](#), a former IAFC employee who passed away in October 2008. People are encouraged to donate to the Westphal Fund. Each year since 2009, one women first responder has been awarded this scholarship. If you are interested in supporting the Westphal Fund, please [complete this form](#) (PDF) and return to Terri Crowder (tcrowder@iafc.org).



2017-2018 IAFC President Chief Tom Jenkins presents IAFC Chief Strategy Officer/Deputy Executive Director Tommy Hicks with a President's Award of Recognition during FRI for his leadership and vision to expand the IAFC's international presence.

What Others Are Saying

- I am here in Indianapolis at the Indiana Fire Chiefs strategic direction meeting. The programs at the IAFC have been mentioned at least 8 times from LMI, WFS, Symposium, Education pieces, SAFER grant assistance. Certainly is good to see the level of visibility for the IAFC is very high here in Indiana. Keep up the good work.
— John M. Buckman III, 2001 IAFC president
- Cherryville Fire Department feels extremely blessed to have been chosen to be a part of this wonderful grant [North Carolina Volunteer Workforce Solutions]. Everyone involved has been very helpful in our efforts to recruit volunteers. The marketing materials provided to us by this grant have brought in numerous applications. The materials are all excellent quality and catch the attention of potential volunteers and the community. With all of the struggles that come along with recruitment & retention, we are so thankful that a grant like this was offered to assist with these efforts!
— Jeff Cash, Fire Chief/City Manager, City of Cherryville
- Chief Hajek asked me to pass along “his appreciation for everything the IAFC does to share information with members and lead the fire service.” Chief Hajek has been a member for 9 years and said that while he’s never before contacted the IAFC after a member alert, he appreciates that the IAFC routinely shares relevant, actionable and important information with members.

- Jim and Leslie, I am headed back to the airport. Thanks for everything!!! When you get a chance, please let me know how to retrieve the pictures of the ceremony. You guys did an amazing job! Have a safe trip home!

— *Herbert G. Leusch, 2018 Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year*

- Terri, thank you very much for all of your assistance in providing me information and coordination of my travel and trip to Dallas to receive the [IAFC Fire Chief of the Year Award](#)... it was quite an honor! I appreciate all of your efforts. Best.

— *Joanne Hayes-White, 2018 Career Fire Chief of the Year*



Pierce Manufacturing President Jim Johnson (left) and 2017-2018 IAFC President Tom Jenkins (right) present 2018 Fire Chiefs of the Year Awards to Chief Joanne Hayes-White (career) and Chief Herbert Leusch (volunteer) during FRI 2018.

- Thank you very much Terri. The travel, hotel and coordination for our trip has been outstanding. On behalf of me personally and Clackamas Fire, thank you for all you've done to make this an incredible experience for our Firefighters.

Fred Charlton, nominating chief, [Ben Franklin Award for Valor](#) winner

- Lisa: What an outstanding conference. You guys really hit a home run and you, specifically, went above and beyond and I appreciate you more than I can express. Thank you! Thanks again for all of your efforts.

— *Chief Jack Taylor, Emporia Fire Department, Missouri Valley Division Secretary*

- The show went great and I was extremely pleased. Peter stated that senior management, including Chris Lonnett, VP North American Government, said that he was pleased with the in-depth service level we provided. Motorola saw booth scans/lead retrieval up 33% from last year! This was an area of improvement that we identified at the beginning of the year. Peter further shared that the roundtable went great. The setup worked well, and the conversation was very productive. Their interaction with the Ben Franklin Valor winners was outstanding. Overall Peter said that everything at the show was sweepingly positive.

—*Peter Jorjorian, North America Vertical Marketing Lead*

- October conneXions: Very nice event. Would love to participate again. In discussing ongoing projects within our department with vendors, conneXions introduced us to a new vendor that provides services that meets the scope of a major project that was ongoing. A conneXions vendor presented some ideas that could not be ignored. The ongoing project was put on hold to investigate and explore the new ideas presented at the event. Turns out the ongoing project will likely turn into a different direction due to this event.

—*Matthew Rickman, Deputy Fire Chief, Salem, Virginia*

- The IAFC ConneXions program is a great way for Chief Officers and those in charge of procurement to share information in a relaxed and non-invasive manner. The program is extremely professional and includes great networking opportunities with peers from around the country. Thank you, Leslie and Mac. Great job.

—*Keith Johnson, Fire Chief, Loudon County (Virginia) Fire and Rescue*

- Great conference (conneXions) to speak with vendors in a low key, no stress environment.

—Gary Gula, Battalion Chief, Champagne, Illinois

- conneXions is an outstanding opportunity to build relationships with both peers and innovators of fire service technology.

—Mark Steward, Assistant Chief, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

- (conneXions) is an incredible opportunity to learn and network. The exposure to new products and technology, and how these are being used at other departments will help your department gain a better understanding of the issues we face today.

—Chris Wilson, Division Chief, Memphis Fire Department, Tennessee

- Great dialogue during the shakers. It was refreshing to know that we aren't the only ones with the heightened concerns. It was great to have the personal time with the vendors and express the concerns that are applicable to my organization.

—Chantal Botting, Deputy Fire Chief, City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida

- FRI is an excellent industry conference that balances, education, networking, vendor interaction along with an enjoyable time for attendees. Keep up the good work.

—Anonymous comment from the FRI 2018 Attendee Survey

- IAFC staff are professional, “get it done” people (who) work well together as a team. There are not enough superlatives to express our gratitude for your efforts. This show set a precedent for all others.

— Candace James, FirstNet Built with AT&T

- ...we were in awe of how smooth everything was run and the folks helping us out were so nice and accommodating. It says so much about the IAFC, Motorola, and especially you (Terri). Your care and emotion can be seen and felt even through an email and you made everything so easy and smooth that we can't thank you enough ... you made an already unforgettable experience even better and more special.

— Matt Towner, 2018 Ben Franklin Award for Valor winner