

# What's Happening at the IAFC?

## Strategic Direction Update

November 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017

### IAFC Strategic Direction

The IAFC strategic direction document reaffirms the IAFC's priority strategic goals to **LEAD, EDUCATE and SERVE**. The 2015-16 Strategic Direction (extended through 2017) aligns the association's goals and strategies and serves as the foundation for the development of ongoing action items for IAFC leadership, members and staff. This report, *What's Happening at the IAFC*, captures completed tasks directly relevant to the IAFC strategic direction. It is intended to capture the depth of the IAFC's overarching accomplishments at a high level.

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

#### Leadership in Action

- In February, President John Sinclair, chief of Kittitas Valley (Wash.) Fire and Rescue, testified before the House Homeland Security Committee Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications on FEMA's future. [Read press release](#). [Watch video](#).



VIDEO: President Sinclair recaps his day on Capitol Hill testifying on the future of FEMA. [Click on image to watch video](#).

- On February 27, Chief Sinclair announced creation of the [IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program \(iDELP\)](#). iDELP is designed to increase fire-service diversity by supporting fire-service leaders from underrepresented identity groups and others who are interested in fostering a diverse workforce, all while advancing the leadership ranks of the IAFC and the fire and emergency service.

#### In the News

- On February 15, President Sinclair was quoted in a prominent *Washington Post* story, [Urgent care on wheels: Fire departments rescuing patients from costly ER trips](#).

- Christina Randall, a member of the IAFC Wildland Fire Policy Committee, was interviewed by IAFC media partner Praetorian Digital for FIRECHIEF.com: [WUI fire expert shares best practices for prevention, mitigation.](#)

## Government Relations

- With strong IAFC support, the following legislative priorities were achieved:
  - The House passed the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act in November (H.R. 4365).
  - President Obama signed the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act into law in December (P.L. 114-326).
  - President Obama signed into law the First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act in December (P.L. 114-268).
  - The House passed the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act in January (H.R. 437).
- The IAFC sent [a letter in support of the nomination of General John Kelly](#) to be secretary of Homeland Security to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

### Developing Leaders

- The Professional Development Committee (PDC) has been working to improve awareness of and increase distribution of the *Officer Development Handbook (ODH)*. The committee is also developing a training class on the use and implementation of the ODH, Second Edition, and is working with the IAFC Program Planning Committee & Council to ensure topics follow the recommended self-development dimensions identified in the ODH. Additionally:
  - PDC has partnered with the Company Officers Section (COS) and Executive Fire Officers Section (EFOS) to expand the reach of professional development and to align goals and objectives of the three groups.
  - ODP-COLS I (Company Officer I) was offered in Durham, N.C., as part of a grant funded by Motorola Solutions Foundation and administered through the IAFC Foundation. Ninety individuals attended the ODP-COLS I offering.
  - PDC Chair Chris Armstrong attended the National Fire Academy (NFA) Leadership Symposium to participate on a panel discussion on professional development and promote training in the areas of professional development.
- COS developed a working relationship with the NFA to build IAFC membership through the Managing Officer Program.
- EFOS leaders continued to support the EFO Symposium both financially and with team management to educate executive and other officers at the yearly NFA meeting.

## **Emergency Management**

- Chief Kim Zagaris, chair of the Emergency Management Committee (EMC), participated in the review of Chief Sinclair's February 14 testimony before the House Homeland Security Committee. Chief Zagaris and other EMC members are submitting comments regarding FEMA's Public Assistance Deductible Concept.

## **Emergency Medical Services**

- In November, Chief Mike McEvoy, EMS Section vice chair, taught a series of classes at the Fire-based EMS Conference in Olathe, Kansas.
- In December, Chief Mike Metro, EMS Section board member, spoke about the future of EMS at the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association meeting and the Santa Barbara County Fire Chiefs Association meeting.

## **Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement**

- Members of the Fire and Life Safety Section (FLSS) board have begun their work with the International Code Council (ICC) on the Fire Code Action Committee. The ICC had a major change of moving up the code-development process for the International Fire Code by one year.
- Meri-K Appy has been working on behalf of the FLSS to represent the section on a smoke-alarm marketing campaign.
- FLSS drafted a position paper on corrugated stainless-steel tubing, calling for changes in codes and standards and voluntary compliance in non-utilization in new homes.
- FLSS has continued its partnership with Vision 20/20, which recently rolled out a new podcast to spread information related to community risk reduction.
- Five FLSS members worked with industry and IAFC members to update the smoke-alarm position paper and provide recommended changes for ensuring the position paper meets the current technology available.
- Chief Michael O'Brian, FLSS chair, is working on a smoke-alarm listening task force to look at new technology proposed for vacant-building-use notification on smoke alarms.

## **Firefighter Safety and Health**

- A group of representatives from Safety, Health and Survival Section, Volunteer & Combination Officers Section (VCOS), iWomen and the Human Relations Committee convened to address the issue of bullying in fire/EMS. A session description was drafted and approved for presentation at FRI 2017. Also, a digital collection of resources is being created to share with the fire/EMS industry.

## **Hazmat Preparedness and Response**

- The Hazardous Materials Committee is assisting the Government Relations and Policy Department in providing input and recommendations for President Trump's infrastructure bill.

- The Hazmat Committee is providing input to the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act and the proposed Cargo Tanks legislation.
- The Hazmat Center received approval on its modification request for the ALERT Grant to host additional Regional Rail Response classes this summer. The team is working with five departments to schedule the classes. The IAFC and fire-service partners have trained approximately 545 students and expect to train another 700-750 at in-person events. For online classes, about 760 students have enrolled and about 620 have completed the courses, giving an average of 85% completion rate.
- The Hazmat Center is continuing its partnership with TransCanada to provide in-depth training and planning support to selected communities each year. The organizations recently met for a strategic-planning session for the extended three-year partnership.
- The Hazmat Center is updating the content of the Hazmat Fusion Center and has reengaged with its social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn). This new focus has already reached thousands of new individuals and provided resources to help keep them safe during their responses to incidents with hazardous materials.

## **Human Relations, Diversity and Inclusion**

- In January, the IAFC hosted coleaders for the Women Fire Chiefs Council (WFCC) and iDELP at headquarters, kicking off the board-approved initiatives. WFCC will meet for the first time at FRM in May. iDELP released applications on February 28, and will meet for the first time at FRI 2017 in July.

## **Learning Center**

- Forty students, including two Australian and two Canadian students, completed the Learning Center’s “Leadership Is Action” course in November. Held in San Diego, the intense, interactive course for senior leaders used the San Diego County “megafires” as a case study.

## **Wildland Fire Prevention**

- In November, IAFC staff submitted a final report to American Insurance Group Inc., (AIG) regarding the Outreach and Mitigation Grants. With \$150,000 donation from AIG made in December 2015, The RSG! Program awarded 26 fuels mitigation grants, totaling \$107,038.
- In November, Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) chair Erik Litzenberg attended the WFLC meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss the four strategic priorities and help prepare the briefing for the presidential transition. In addition, he met with U.S. Fire Administrator Ernie Mitchell to discuss local WUI response and firefighter safety.
- In December, the Wildfire Mitigation Awards panel met in San Diego to review the 2017 award nominees. The panel is made up of the four partners: the IAFC, the National Association of State Foresters, the National Fire Protection Association and the USDA Forest Service.

- In January, senior members of IAFC's Wildland Policy Committee (WFPC) met in Orlando and discussed topics such as mutual aid, IAFC fire adapted programs review, and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Guide.
- In January, Will May, the IAFC representative to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), participated in the NWCG Executive Board meetings in Boise, Idaho. He served as the local government voice within the NWCG, representing all local governments and local fire departments with wildland-fire responsibilities in the U.S. and its territories.
- In January, WFPC member Richard Elliot participated in a National Association of State Forester's meeting in Tallahassee. Items included Type 3 Incident Management Team credentialing, Resource Ordering and Status System replacement, mobilization in the Northeast Region and presentations from Florida and the Southeast region.
- In January, the RSG! Program cohosted two Community Wildfire Preparedness Planning sessions at the Utah Winter Fire School in St. George, Utah. The class educated and empowered local fire-department leadership on how they could develop a CWPP and engage with community members to participate in the Wildland Fire Policy.
- In February, the RSG! Program hosted a train-the-trainer session at the Virginia Fire Rescue Conference. The session provided attendees with the information and guidance on a fire department's role in establishing wildfire readiness and strategies to implement in its community.
- In February, the Florida Forest Service promoted a new Florida Wildland Fire Preparedness resources through its Florida Ready, Set, Go! Campaign to its partner organizations. The kit contains a Florida version of the Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Action Guide, among other RSG program resources.

## Data, Research and Technology

- The Digital Center [redesigned the IAFC website](#), focused on providing the best and most relevant fire and emergency-service content in an easy-to-find, mobile-friendly way. We are looking for your feedback! Please [fill out this survey](#) to tell let us what you think.
- Homeland Infrastructure Foundation–Level Data approved an IAFC request to be the steward of fire-station data used by DHS programs.
- The IAFC Board of Directors approved a plan to move forward to replace the IAFC's 20-year-old customer database.



*The new mobile friendly IAFC.org.*

## Volunteer/Combination Fire Service

- The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association's (TFCA) SAFER grant kickoff meeting was held in February in Murfreesboro. The IAFC Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) staff, who will manage the grant, met with the TFCA board, steering committee and more than 40 attendees to present information about the exciting recruitment and retention opportunities the program will bring to Tennessee. The program website is [VolunteerFireTN.org](http://VolunteerFireTN.org).
- VCOS Symposium in the Sun, held in November in Clearwater Beach, Fla., had a record-high 717 attendees and 37 participating vendor sponsors. More than 140 educational sessions were offered.
- The National VWS Program's Council for Future Volunteer Firefighters and the pilot departments met in November at VCOS Symposium in the Sun to share solutions to pressing recruitment and retention issues. They also benefited from the educational and networking opportunities of the conference.
- The IAFC's VWS staff has been selected to assist Albemarle County (Va.) Fire Rescue with its SAFER grant by providing marketing services to improve volunteer recruitment and retention programs.
- Phase II of the Connecticut Volunteer Workforce Solutions program officially ended on January 31 with the following results:
  - 393 new members joined the departments (the goal was 150).
  - 587 new membership applications were received.
  - More than 68,000 campaign marketing materials were distributed.
- The National VWS program staff made site visits to about half of the pilot departments to help them with their recruitment and retention needs.
- The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Conference was held in February and the VWS program staff attended to promote the IAFC's programs and membership opportunities.



*TFCA SAFER grant kickoff meeting. From the left: Shawn Stokes, IAFC assistant director, Shakir Mohammed, IAFC program manager, Chief Eddie Phillips, TFCA treasurer & program coordinator, Jenny Bargiel, IAFC program coordinator, and Chief Gary West, deputy commissioner of Fire Prevention, Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Commerce and Insurance.*

## INSIDE THE IAFC

### Association News

- In February, Emergency Services Consulting International, the consulting arm of the IAFC, announced it has [expanded its services and product line with the acquisition of Fields Consulting Group](#).
- President Sinclair shared a ["Thank You, IAFC"](#) letter from outgoing U.S. Fire Administrator Ernie Mitchell, past IAFC president.

## News About Our Members

- Past IAFC President Myrle Wise who served as Denver's fire chief for 18 years, [passed away on November 14 at the age of 98](#). Chief Wise served as IAFC president in 1976-1977. Chief Norris Croom, international director for the EMS Section, attended the funeral services.
- In December, Chief Vance Riley (Pearland, Texas), EMS Section treasurer, was selected to receive the 2016 Journey of Excellence Award from the Texas Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC). This statewide award is presented to one individual each year. Chief Riley was selected in recognition of his 12 years of service on the GETAC, with six of those years spent as chair. Chief Riley was first appointed to the GETAC in 2004 by Gov. Rick Perry.
- In January, the IAFC announced the [participants accepted into the fifth year of the Fire Service Executive Development Institute \(FSEDI\)](#). FSEDI is a yearlong leadership-development program developed by the IAFC to provide new and aspiring chiefs with the tools they need to have successful and productive tenures.
- Chief Gary Weiss, EFO Section member, was voted Citizen of the Year in Germantown, Wis., and appointed to the Wisconsin EMS Advisory Board.
- Congratulations to the following award winners, who were recognized at VCOS Symposium in the Sun:
  - John M. Buckman III Leadership Award (sponsored by Provident Insurance): Chief Rich Cowger, Columbus (Mont.) Fire Rescue
  - Retention & Recruitment Award (sponsored by VFIS): Old Mystic (Conn.) Fire Department
  - Illness and Injury Prevention Award (sponsored by VFIS): IAFC's Safety, Health & Survival Section

Congratulations also to the following Symposium scholarship winners:

- Chief Zachary Albright, Gurley (Ala.) Volunteer Fire Department
- Chief William Rector, Dunkirk (Md.) Volunteer Fire Company
- Emerging Leader Scholarship Winner (sponsored by Gasaway Consulting Group): Captain Jeff Gooch, Cranberry (Pa.) Township Volunteer Fire Company.

## In Case You Missed It

- Here's a list of the [five most read On Scene articles in 2016](#):
  - Nine Qualities for Excelling at Team Leadership
  - The ACA and Ambulance Transport Revenue
  - Five Core Competencies of Executive Leadership
  - 5 Notable Traits of High-Performing Management Teams
  - Why So Many Unhappy Firefighters?

## Staff Arrivals and Departures

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

- Erin Gibbs was promoted to marketing specialist.

- Sara Stehle was promoted to conference specialist.
- Shakir Mohammed and Jennifer Bragiel joined the Community Solutions Center as part of the Volunteer Workforce Solutions team and Adam D’Agostino joined the Center as part of the Wildland team.
- Diana Rothe-Smith has moved from the Community Solutions Center to the Research Center.
- Abbi Boose is the new marketing coordinator, focusing on conferences.
- Steven Ilchishin joined the Hazmat Center as a program specialist.
- The Finance Department welcomed Christine Terrell, accounting specialist, and Greg Crawford, accounts receivable accountant.
- Robin Zahory joined the IAFC staff as the new assistant to the CEO in the Executive Operations Department.

## What Others Are Saying

- In October, the IAFC delivered *conneXions* in Fairfax for 11 fire departments and 11 companies. Among the comments received:
  - “*ConneXions* was a great opportunity to talk with other fire service leaders about issues affecting the fire service.” — *Steve Dirksen, EFO, Fire Chief, Fargo (N.D.) Fire Department.*
  - “Very organized and structured learning opportunity. Great opportunity to build your peer network. — *Damian Owens, Battalion Chief, Charlotte (N.C.) Fire Department.*
- In November, 90 students attended the regional COLS I program in Durham, N.C. Special thanks to Durham Fire Chief Dan Curia for hosting the program and to the IAFC Foundation and Motorola Solutions Foundation, which provided the grant funding that made this program available at no cost to participants. Among the comments received:
  - “The COLS I was an eye-opening experience. The information provided really hit home about what we will face in our careers. It showed how science, study and technology has proved we need to change our ways of thinking and training both on and off the fire ground.” — *Fire Inspector/Investigator Alfred L. Everington Jr., Greenville (N.C.) Fire and Rescue Department.*
  - “The COLS program is an awesome tool for any dedicated company officer (who) truly wants to better (himself) and (his) crew. These are people who are doing the job and living it and using their experience both good and bad to grown future generations. These are not people who have never lived the life they are trying to teach about.” — *Captain Matthew Rogers, Hickory (N.C.) Fire Department.*
- VCOS Symposium in the Sun:
  - “VCOS is an excellent venue to hear some of the best speakers within the fire service and in private industry as well as hearing from our men/women in the military as they discuss the meanings of duty, pride and traditions along with their vision of comparison of the fire service. It is also great to visit and talk with

the members of VCOS salt of the earth Volunteers and Combination FD leaders.  
Well done, Conference Committee.” — *anonymous attendee*.

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