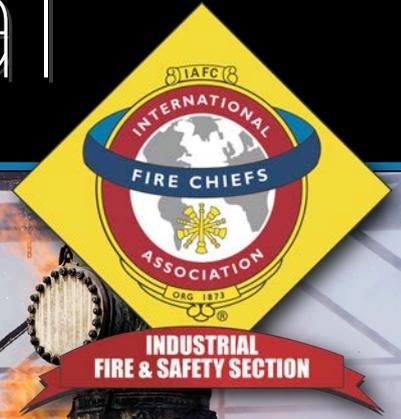


IAFC Industrial

JANUARY 2026



REFINERY TERMINAL FIRE COMPANY (RTFC)

Industrial Emergency Response Spotlight

The Refinery Terminal Fire Company (RTFC) is one of the most respected and capable industrial firefighting organizations in the United States. Based in Corpus Christi, Texas, RTFC provides industrial fire protection, emergency response, staffing support, and technical expertise to refineries, terminals, petrochemical plants, LNG facilities, and chemical manufacturers along the Gulf Coast and beyond. RTFC protects approximately 60 facilities for 25 member companies and maintains one of the largest industrial emergency response teams in the nation, staffed by more than

110 full-time industrial firefighters. Their mission is rapid, specialized emergency support to high-hazard facilities with a strong focus on prevention, readiness, and incident mitigation.

In addition to emergency response, training is a central part of RTFC's value to the industry. The Training Division, led by Assistant Chief Riley Maxson, prepares industrial responders through realistic drills, hands-on fire scenarios, foam application skills, and industrial emergency management programs.

RTFC demonstrates how shared services and regional industrial emergency response can create safer operations, faster deployment capability, and better preparedness

for large or complex incidents. As one of the largest industrial fire service organizations in North America, RTFC plays a critical role in advancing industrial firefighting, strengthening cooperation among member companies, and building a safer and more resilient industrial sector.



**Brian McDonald, CEO,
Refinery Terminal Fire Company**

“We take a lot of pride in protecting and serving our members and also giving back to the community.”

ON THE ROAD

US Fire Pump

The IAFC Industrial Section Board visited US Fire Pump in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for an inside look at one of the most capable industrial firefighting companies in North America. Founder and CEO Chris Ferrara and his team walked board members through design, manufacturing, and testing operations that support some of the most powerful industrial fire pump systems in the world.

US Fire Pump is a recognized leader in high-capacity fire pumps, mobile apparatus, and large-scale water movement packages engineered for refineries, tank terminals, petrochemical facilities, and marine operations. Their products have supported major industrial emergencies around the globe and continue to advance flammable-liquid firefighting technology.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE & CAPABILITY

In addition to technical innovation, US Fire Pump maintains one of the largest industrial emergency response teams in the sector. The team brings decades of real-world experience from major petrochemical, refining, bulk storage, and marine incidents—combining advanced equipment with field-tested leadership to support large-loss industrial events when needed.

TRAINING & COLLABORATION

US Fire Pump works closely with industrial fire brigades and regional response teams through joint drills, pump demonstrations, and hands-on foam and water movement training. These relationships help responders understand how to deploy and maximize large-capacity systems during real emergencies and strengthen preparedness across the industrial sector.

INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT

Chris Ferrara is widely respected for his dedication to the industrial fire service. His contributions include safety initiatives, training support, and professional development programs. He is also one of the major sponsors of the FDIC/IAFC 2026 Industrial Summit in Indianapolis, helping establish the first full industrial track on the FDIC national platform.



WHAT WE OBSERVED

During the IAFC Board visit, several things stood out:

- The manufacturing facility was highly impressive, showcasing precision fabrication, engineering, and testing operations that support industrial pumps and large-capacity systems.
- A wall of incident photographs documented the company's response history at major fires throughout the world, each image representing teamwork, innovation, and real-world impact.
- The culture of professionalism and readiness reflected strong leadership, technical capability, and commitment to advancing industrial firefighting.

ON THE ROAD

Lockheed Martin Emergency Response Team

The IAFC Industrial Section held a board meeting at the Lockheed Martin facility in Fort Worth, Texas, home to one of the most advanced aerospace manufacturing operations in the world. The emergency response mission is critical in this high-hazard industrial environment and supports both personnel safety and national-security manufacturing.

Lockheed Martin's Fire & Emergency Services Department is a full-service industrial emergency response team, providing fire protection, HazMat response, medical support, technical rescue, and incident planning. The team operates with strong discipline, professionalism, and close integration with site safety and continuity operations.

LEADERSHIP & READINESS

Chief McDonald and his team shared insights into daily operations, emergency planning, and their strong focus on preparedness. The department maintains the capability to respond to aircraft incidents, hangar operations, fuel-related emergencies, and industrial hazards unique to aerospace manufacturing.



WHAT WE OBSERVED

During the visit, IAFC board members met response personnel, viewed response equipment, and observed how the department maintains readiness within a large industrial footprint. The team demonstrated a high level of professionalism, strong technical knowledge, and an impressive emergency response posture both inside and outside the manufacturing environment.

The IAFC Industrial Fire & Safety Section greatly appreciates Lockheed Martin for hosting our board meeting and for supporting collaboration across the industrial fire service community. Their partnership reinforces the importance of specialized industrial emergency response in mission-critical manufacturing operations.



ON THE ROAD

Jack Daniel's Fire Department

The IAFC Industrial Section held a board meeting at the world-famous Jack Daniel's Distillery in Lynchburg, Tennessee, where Chief Justin Whelan and his emergency response team shared an inside look at the unique fire protection requirements associated with one of the most recognizable brands on the planet.

The Jack Daniel's Fire Department provides full-service industrial emergency protection for the distillery, aging warehouses, high-hazard production areas, barrel operations, confined spaces, and rural-industrial environments that present complex flammable-liquid and property-exposure risks. Their mission combines hazard mitigation, incident planning, prevention, and emergency readiness across a massive and historically significant footprint.

The IAFC Industrial Fire & Safety Section extends sincere appreciation to Chief Whelan and the Jack Daniel's Fire Department for hosting our board meeting and sharing best practices. The visit highlighted strong leadership, disciplined training, and a culture of safety that supports both heritage preservation and modern industrial emergency operations.

LEADERSHIP & EXPERIENCE

Chief Whelan brings extensive industrial and aerospace emergency response experience from his prior leadership role with the Boeing Fire Department. His expertise has strengthened the distillery's risk management, emergency preparedness, and training strategies, aligning Jack Daniel's emergency response operations with national industrial fire service standards.

TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Firefighters receive ongoing professional development and certification through the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy (TFACA) in Bell Buckle, TN. This commitment ensures responders remain highly trained and nationally credentialed for the unique operational challenges of flammable-liquid storage, large property protection, and specialty industrial hazards.

APPARATUS & EMERGENCY CAPABILITY

One of the most impressive features is the department's on-site fire apparatus, customized with Jack Daniel's branding and equipped for rapid industrial response. These units reinforce the company's strong commitment to safety, brand protection, and emergency readiness throughout the distillery environment.



ON THE ROAD

Y-12 Fire Department

Our board had the opportunity to sit and discuss the Y-12 fire department with the Fire Chief and Chief Officers at the National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee—one of the most secure and historically significant facilities in the United States. Built in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project, Y-12 now supports national defense, uranium operations, and nuclear security missions.

At the center of emergency protection is the Y-12 Fire Department, a highly trained, full-service industrial firefighting organization supporting one of the most complex nuclear environments in the country. The department operates with approximately 100 personnel, structured for 24-hour coverage with specialized teams for emergency response, fire systems inspection, testing, and maintenance.



LEADERSHIP & MODERNIZATION

Y-12 recently promoted Chief James Arnold, formerly with the Knoxville Fire Department, to lead the next stage of operational improvement and workforce development. Under his leadership, the department transitioned from a rotating 12-hour schedule to the Detroit Kelly Shift Model, improving staffing consistency and long-term wellness. A new, purpose-built state-of-the-art fire station was also added to support future mission requirements, improved training space, and firefighter health and safety.

CAPABILITIES & SPECIALIZED OPERATIONS

Y-12 firefighters receive advanced training for nuclear, radiological, HazMat, EMS, technical rescue, and industrial fire response. The department maintains more than 100 annual training hours per responder, including programs for paramedics, HazMat specialists, critical care, and instructor development. Emergency operations are supported through a highly capable Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure mission continuity at all times.

MUTUAL AID & REGIONAL SUPPORT

The Y-12 Fire Department actively participates in regional emergency support and has assisted with major incidents including the Sevierville, Tennessee wildland fire and the recent North Carolina floods caused by Hurricane Helene. The organization participates in the Tennessee TMAS system, DOE fire chief workshops, HazMat competitions, and multi-agency preparedness programs, reinforcing its role as a regional and national emergency asset.





CHIEF MARK GARVIN

MARATHON PETROLEUM

Galveston Bay Refinery Leadership Changes



CHIEFS MICHAEL PHARES (LEFT) AND CURTIS CITY (RIGHT)

After an impressive 43-year career with Marathon Petroleum, Chief Mark Garvin is retiring from his role as Emergency Response and Crisis Manager at the Galveston Bay Refinery (GBR) in Texas City, Texas. His leadership has been defined by prevention-focused safety, a culture of teamwork, and strong emergency response capability within one of the largest refineries in North America.

Chief Garvin began his Marathon career in safety and process operations before assuming leadership of the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Division. Under his guidance, the GBR Emergency Response Team developed into a 90-person industrial firefighting organization, capable of managing fires, hazardous materials incidents, rescues, and medical emergencies across a massive refinery footprint.

He also directed the site's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with technical discipline and calm incident leadership. Training, certification, and prevention were major priorities, supported through the TEEC Fire School and regional emergency response partners.

As Chief Garvin retires, Marathon has announced a leadership transition that supports both local and companywide emergency operations. Chief Michael Phares has been promoted to Chief of Emergency Response at GBR, bringing operational expertise and more than 17 years with Marathon. Chief Curtis City will serve as Corporate Lead Fire Protection Specialist, supporting global emergency response strategy and protection programs across Marathon Petroleum locations.

The Galveston Bay Refinery processes more than 600,000 barrels per day and employs thousands of personnel and contractors. Its emergency response team protects refinery assets, personnel, and surrounding communities, demonstrating excellence in industrial firefighting, emergency planning, and prevention-focused risk management.

Chief Garvin leaves a legacy marked by mentorship, professionalism, and operational readiness. His leadership and commitment to workforce development will continue through the team he helped build and the leaders taking the mission forward. The IAFC Industrial Fire & Safety Section congratulates Chief Garvin on his retirement and recognizes his decades of service to the industrial fire community. We also congratulate Chief Phares and Chief City on their new roles and continued emergency leadership within Marathon Petroleum.

HONORING RICK ISAACKS

Celebrating Over Two
Decades of Service to the
IAFC Industrial Fire &
Safety Section



For more than 20 years, Rick Isaacks has been a respected and trusted member of the IAFC Industrial Fire & Safety Section Board. His experience, steady leadership, and commitment to advancing industrial emergency response have made a lasting impact on our section and the broader industrial fire service.

Rick's background spans decades of industrial firefighting, emergency response, and training, including years as an instructor with the TEEX Industrial Fire School. His mentorship and instruction have benefited generations of industrial firefighters and strengthened emergency readiness across multiple high-hazard industries.

In his role as Training and Sales Manager at National Foam, Rick has built strong relationships across the industrial fire service and played a meaningful role in improving foam application, industrial response capability, and emergency preparedness for facilities around the world.

This year, Rick is stepping down from the IAFC Industrial Section Board to begin the next chapter in his fire service journey. He was recently elected to the Executive Board of the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, where he will continue supporting firefighters and strengthening emergency response programs on a statewide platform. His leadership, influence, and passion for professional development will continue benefiting the fire service for years to come.

The IAFC Industrial Fire & Safety Section sincerely thanks Rick Isaacks for his decades of service, advocacy, and friendship. His contributions have elevated our mission, supported countless responders, and strengthened the professionalism of industrial firefighting across the country. We wish him the very best in his new role and look forward to seeing his continued impact in the fire service.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DAN KING,

IAFC INDUSTRIAL

FIRE & SAFETY SECTION CHAIR

The industrial fire service continues to evolve rapidly. Whether in chemical plants, semiconductor facilities, or defense installations, our teams face complex hazards that demand specialized training and strong leadership. The IAFC Industrial Fire & Safety Section has remained committed to advancing our mission—growing membership, expanding partnerships, and promoting excellence within the industrial fire service.

This year has been one of significant progress and collaboration. One of the most exciting developments is our newly announced partnership with FDIC. In 2026, the IAFC Industrial Section will work closely with the FDIC conference coordinators to introduce a dedicated Industrial Track at FDIC in Indianapolis. This new track will bring together subject matter experts, instructors, and leaders from across the industrial fire service—chemical, petrochemical, technology, manufacturing, energy, pharmaceutical, and defense—to share lessons learned, best practices, and emerging technologies that are shaping our industry.

At the 2026 FDIC event, we will also present two new recognitions: the Industrial Fire Chief of the Year and the Industrial Organization of the Year. These awards will honor exceptional leadership, dedication, and innovation within the industrial fire community.

We are very excited about this partnership and the opportunities it brings to showcase the professionalism, capability, and commitment of industrial firefighters on a national stage. We look forward to seeing our members, partners, and friends in Indianapolis in 2026 as we take another major step forward for our section and our profession.

We are officially launching our monthly Industrial Section Newsletter, which will feature leadership insights, industry updates, and member highlights. This new publication will serve as an ongoing connection point for industrial fire service professionals around the world.

I encourage all industrial fire leaders to remain engaged—share your experiences, challenges, and successes. Together, our board members will continue to advance the professionalism, unity, and visibility of the industrial fire service.

Respectfully,

DAN KING

CHAIRMAN, IAFC INDUSTRIAL FIRE & SAFETY SECTION

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INDUSTRIAL FIRE

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APRIL 21-22, 2026

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<https://www.fdic.com/industrial-fire-summit>



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Serving the industrial fire service through leadership, collaboration, and professional development.

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We welcome input from professionals across the industry. If you have comments, insights, or topics you would like to suggest for an upcoming newsletter, please contact us at industrial@iafc.org.