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LETTER FROM THE IAFC PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Last month, President Bush announced the nomination of former IAFC president, Chief Dave Paulison, as undersecretary for federal emergency management at the Homeland Security Department and director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

For the first time in our nation's history, a fire chief will lead the federal government's emergency response to disasters.

Once confirmed, Chief Paulison's acceptance of this awesome responsibility will be a challenge of immense proportions. He will need our support and our prayers.

I am asking you—our members, to remember Chief Paulison in your churches, synagogues and mosques and ask God's blessing for Chief Paulison and his family.

Sincerely,

Chief Bill Killen, CFO
President, IAFC

Paulison nominated to head FEMA

IAFC calls for agency improvements

After serving nearly six months as acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Chief R. David Paulison has been nominated by President George W. Bush to permanently head the agency.

Paulison was head of the U.S. Fire Administration when President Bush tapped him last September to replace then-FEMA director Michael Brown in the aftermath of the gulf hurricane disasters.

"FEMA needs a successful emergency services manager with a sound understanding of the political scene and who is recognized as someone of influence. Chief Paulison has established himself as a credible, knowledgeable professional in fire and emergency services and understands how to obtain resources and legislation necessary to provide quality delivery," said Chief Bill Killen, president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Since Paulison assumed the reigns of FEMA, he has led the agency with tremendous dedication and skill during the most challenging time in its history. He has actively overseen the efforts to re-tool FEMA, successfully coordinated the federal response to Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, and overseen the efforts for 25 disaster declarations.

"Now that a permanent director

has been nominated, it is important that the president and Congress take the appropriate measures to support Paulison in his new position and improve FEMA operations and the federal response to future natural and man-made disasters," said Killen. "No matter where FEMA resides, specific changes need to be made to FEMA's operating structure to make it an efficient agency."

Among several recommendations, the IAFC believes the FEMA director should report directly to the president during major incidents (as defined under the Stafford Act) so that all resources of the federal government and any authorities the director may require will be available without delay.

FEMA should also draw upon the expertise of fire and EMS leaders in planning, training and responding to disasters. "We are the local experts on response to all hazards. Our departments must be ready to respond to events ranging from structural fires to tornadoes, hurricanes and terrorist attacks. Why not use us?" said Killen.

"The IAFC is extremely pleased with the Paulison nomination and we know he is the right individual to guide the agency through changes that we see as necessary for the future safety and protection of our nation's



people. We are looking forward to supporting his nomination in the confirmation process in the Senate," said Killen.

If confirmed by the Senate, Paulison would become undersecretary for federal emergency management at the Homeland Security Department. The new title was requested by DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff in a letter to the chairman and ranking minority member of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, keeping Paulison as a direct report to the secretary. ✖

18th annual CFSI dinner energized by large attendance and Paulison announcement

Themed "Leadership Saves Lives...So Everyone Goes Home," this year's annual Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) dinner was held in Washington, DC on April 6. It was an opportunity for more than 2,000 fire and emergency service leaders to engage congress and administration officials in discussion about federal programs and legislation addressing the needs of local first responders.

Throughout the day, CFSI hosted a series of seminars addressing issues that directly relate to the safety of first responders. During the day, fire service officials met with their members of Congress to exchange information and share ideas on how the federal



IAFC President Chief Bill Killen and APCO President-elect Chief Willis Carter receive the prestigious CFSI Fire Service Organization of the Year Award presented by Congressman Sherwood Boehlert.

Please see 'CFSI dinner,' page 5

Excellence Award Profile: West Palm Beach Fire Camp is a life-changing week for teens

By Gloria Sturzenacker

This program was a finalist in the 2005 Fire Service Excellence program, co-sponsored by the IAFC and U.S. Safety Fire Technologies. Visit www.iafc.org/awards for more information on this award.

The third annual installment of Firestorm, the West Palm Beach (FL) Fire Department's demanding spring-break program for kids aged 14 to 19, finished in March, and Capt. Kimberlee Smoke already knows of a dozen alumni who'll be back next year as mentors. In addition, one camp alum is now taking the department's entrance exams; two are taking basic firefighter training at the community college. "It's shaping up as a good recruitment tool," Capt. Smoke says.

Firestorm is more than that, though. "I didn't know it was going to be so successful," the Firestorm founder continues. "I *certainly* didn't realize it was going to have such an impact on kids' lives."

The number of West Palm Beach families living below the poverty level is five percentage points higher than in the nation as a whole. The city has been ranked among the country's most dangerous. One alum is being raised by an older brother. Another was living in a halfway house for teens; after completing Firestorm, Capt. Smoke recalls, "she wrote the most beautiful poem about how she found herself at Firestorm."

Before they're accepted into the program—on the strength of a written application, an oral interview, and a 250-word essay on leadership—each student must sign a form committing to participate fully in all activities. "They don't get to say no," says Smoke. "That's what builds character." For five 10-hour days, that means reporting for physical training at 7 a.m., then going on to hose evolutions, ropes and knots class, vehicle extrication, aquatics training, rappelling, a smoke maze, and a live structure fire. Even



Firestorm campers get a wide range of hands-on experience under close guidance. Red helmets are professional WPBFD firefighters, yellow are alumni mentors, and black are this year's campers.

this year's student who was deathly afraid of heights climbed the 105-foot aerial ladder.

Firestorm is a hit with WPBFD members, as well. Two professional firefighters are assigned to each team of five or six students. They, the camp's command staff, and a support staff of about 25 all donate their time.

The professionals' involvement helps campers see their commitment through. But another central feature helps get kids to Firestorm in the first place: The camp is free of charge. Donations from several businesses let the department provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks, as well as two shorts-and-T-shirt uniforms for each participant. Turnout gear is available from firefighter attrition and left over from a change in vendor.

By the Friday graduation dinner, complete with bagpipe band, the students have a new self-respect—but also "the discipline to know they're not professionals—they can't do what we do," Smoke notes. "We call it a camp for young adults. But it's when they leave that we see adults." ❖

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VCOS Election Announcement

VCOS election information is available by going to the VCOS Web site, www.vcos.org, under "elections." The chair of the election committee, Chief Brett Waters, may be reached at bwaters@centralvalleyfire.com.



DHS and USFA announce outstanding research award winners

George Foresman, Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Directorate, and Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Charlie Dickinson have announced the four fire service executives receiving the National Fire Academy's (NFA) 2005 Annual Outstanding Research Awards. More than 600 Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) applied research papers were completed during 2005 and submitted for review.

The Outstanding Research Award recognizes excellent applied research projects completed by EFOP students. This year, four research efforts were judged to be outstanding by their faculty and peers. The award winning papers were presented at the 18th Executive Fire Officer Symposium on April 21-23, 2006, at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The 2005 Outstanding Research Award recipients are:

Executive Development Course Awardee: Marcus G. Lusk, District Chief, City of Amarillo Fire Department, Amarillo Texas. Paper: Evaluating the Amarillo Department Mayday Guidelines.

Leading Community Risk Reduction Course Awardee: Ray A. Webber, Fire Chief, The Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati Ohio. Paper: Identifying Alternative Approaches To Fire and Hazard Protection at Procter & Gamble.

Executive Analysis of Fire Service Operations in Emergency Management Course Awardee: Kevin O. Milan, Division Chief, City of Golden Fire Department, Golden, CO. Paper: Evaluation of Electronic Student Response Technology in an Introductory National Incident Management System Training Course.

Executive Leadership Course Awardee: Mark Brown, Superintendent, New South Wales Fire Brigades, Sydney New South Wales, Australia. Paper: The Effectiveness of Fire Safety Training for Employees in Commercial Premises.

To obtain a copy of the four projects, contact the U.S. Fire Administration, Executive Fire Officer Program, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland, 21727; or call 800/238-3358, extension 1639, and leave your request on voice mail. You can also obtain a copy of the individual outstanding research projects from the U.S. Fire Administration's Web site at www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/efop/applied_research/awards.shtm.

KELVIN J. COCHRAN for
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
IAFC, 2006

"The trend of electing strong leaders with vision, drive and determination must continue. Working together we can chart a course that will enhance the excellence of our organization."

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Clarifying the IAFC's role in mutual aid initiatives

As previously reported, the IAFC has two mutual aid projects that will help the fire service's ability to support the National Response Plan and implement concepts presented in the National Incident Management System. The first project is the National Fire Service Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS), which is addressing intrastate mutual aid (within states). The second is focusing on interstate mutual aid (between states), and is known by the name of the IAFC task force which is formulating recommendations on the subject: the Mutual Aid System Task Force (MASTF).

Misunderstanding about the two programs have surfaced in recent weeks, and contributed to confusion about their scope and objectives. In this article, the IAFC hopes to clarify the purposes of these two important mutual aid initiatives.

"Please take the time to read through this document and to get your questions answered," said IAFC President Chief Bill Killen. "This country needs the fire service and other emergency response disciplines to come together to develop solutions that will better

protect our citizens. We should all be able to support the goals of a national mutual aid system."

"This will be a model for law enforcement, public works, EMS or anyone else with an operational requirement to move resources and we will freely share," said Killen.

Creation of an Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS)

The first project, which was funded last July by the NIMS Integration Center within FEMA, is to create a National Fire Service *Intrastate* Mutual Aid System (IMAS). The ultimate goal of the National Fire Service *Intrastate* Mutual Aid System (IMAS) project is to support the creation of formalized, comprehensive, exercised *intrastate* mutual aid plans.

While many states have mutual aid agreements or compacts, developing operational plans is the next step needed to implement those agreements. Through the IMAS project, assistance is being provided to states through the state fire chiefs associations to develop formal, comprehensive *statewide* mutual aid plans for efficiently mobilizing

and deploying fire service assets to incidents within their states. The plans that are produced will provide mutual aid models that can be adopted and adapted to suit the needs of other emergency services and disciplines.

Ten states have agreed to participate in the first year of this project, and it is hoped that another 10 will participate in the second year. The 10 states currently participating are: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas in the Gulf region, and Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and New Mexico in the Rocky Mountain region.

Improving the Interstate Mutual Aid System

In conjunction with IMAS, the Fire Service Mutual Aid System Task Force (MASTF) is developing a plan for strengthening mutual aid between states. The MASTF effort, which will help shape an improved interstate mutual aid system, began with the appointment last fall of the IAFC Mutual Aid System Task Force (MASTF). The goal of the MASTF is to bring a fire service perspective to recommendations to improve the

sharing of resources across state lines.

The MASTF was charged by the IAFC Board of Directors with completing its task by fall of 2006. Among other things, the task force has reviewed lessons learned from recent national disasters about how to most efficiently and effectively mobilize and deploy fire service resources to large scale incidents across state lines. Under direction from the MASTF, workgroups within each of the IAFC divisions and sections have been providing recommendations addressing the many complex issues involved in this concept.

Clearly, these projects are interrelated—a network of states across the country experienced in providing mutual aid within their own borders will provide a strong foundation for effective mutual aid between states. By addressing mutual aid at both the national and the state level, the IAFC is helping to move the nation's fire service forward in preparing for the next national disaster.

For more background on IAFC Mutual Aid, go to www.iafc.org/mutualaid. ❖

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How's your physical? Results from the IAFC's survey on annual physicals

By David H. Fischler

Recently, the International Association of Fire Chiefs conducted a membership survey about fire department physical exams. The purpose was to determine the status of these exams in the fire service, to identify areas that need improvement and to consider new initiatives.

When considering the question "How valuable is a firefighter's life?" we acknowledge that the most valuable resource any fire department has is its firefighters. We know that we need a certain number of firefighters on scene to perform various functions; yet, what are we doing to assure that our firefighters are physically capable of performing these functions? How many more firefighters will die in the line of duty because they had an underlying medical problem that could have been identified with a required annual physical?

Approximately half of firefighter deaths occur from cardio/cerebral vascular disease—heart attacks and strokes. Many of these deaths may have been prevented by annual physicals that could have identified underlying medical conditions. Two years ago, a young firefighter from a major city died in the line of duty from a heart attack. He was obese and had medical problems of which the department was unaware. This firefighter was able to avoid the annual department physical for more than four years! Would these medical conditions have been found if he took the annual physical? Absolutely! Would his firefighting career have been limited? Probably! Would he have been able to continue to enjoy his family—a wife and two young boys? Definitely!

The survey shockingly found that 32 percent of career, combination and volunteer fire departments do not require physical examinations for their members (see Table 1). As chiefs, we know that these exams are required under OSHA 1910.120 for use of respiratory apparatus and adopted in NFPA 1500 and NFPA 1582. It is interesting and exciting to note that 61 percent of the departments reported that they require physical exams for all firefighters who respond. They care about *all* of their members. It is no longer acceptable for these exams to be limited to interior firefighters or drivers. *Any* firefighter who responds to an incident must have an annual physical evaluation. We need to protect all our members and assure that we all go home. Don't we care about *all* our

firefighters and not just a select group?

In looking at Table 2, we see that no single standard is being applied to these physical exams; however, NFPA physical standards are being applied in the majority of all departments. Departments that use locally established standards should ensure that they meet or exceed those of national organizations and state agencies.

Mental health is just as important as a firefighter's physical condition, and can just as easily impact job performance. We have created critical incident stress management programs to address issues after a major call, and hotlines have been established for firefighters in need of mental health assistance. Yet 91 percent of the reporting fire departments do not include a mental health component in their annual physical. We are not looking for a four-hour test with interpretation of ink spots (see Table 3). What we need is a simple, written assessment tool that could be completed as part of the annual physical. The fire service may be able to provide interventional support which would improve firefighter productivity and retention. As chief officers, we can no longer ignore mental health issues and their effects on job performance. Our next challenge is to incorporate a mental health assessment in our annual physicals.

Table 4 indicates that the majority of physical examinations are performed by qualified medical professionals with an understanding of both the firefighter's job and the appropriate medical criteria according to recognized standards. A nurse or paramedic may be useful for initial screenings, but a physician knowledgeable in the appropriate firefighter medical standards must make the final evaluation and determination of a firefighter's medical status.

The challenge that we have as chief officers is to ensure that *all* firefighters—interior, exterior and drivers—receive annual medical physicals. We must implement the use of generally accepted firefighter medical standards. Physicals need to be performed by qualified physicians knowledgeable about the firefighter's job and the appropriate standards. Finally, we must begin the process to include a required mental health evaluation in the annual firefighter physical.

This brief survey has shown that major improvements have occurred in the implementation of the annual firefighter physical. The survey also indicates that we still have a long way to go to achieve 100 percent compliance. The initial premise

Table 1: Does your fire department require annual physicals for:

| | Total | Fully Career | Primarily Career with Volunteers | Primarily Volunteer with Career | Fully Volunteer |
|---|-------|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total | 1824 | 805 100% | 391 100% | 375 100% | 251 100% |
| All firefighters | 1116 | 69.2% | 65% | 49.9% | 46.6% |
| Firefighters who use breathing apparatus only | 95 | 3.5% | 5.4% | 8% | 6.4% |
| Interior firefighters and drivers only | 27 | .1% | 1.3% | 2.4% | 4.8% |
| Does not require physicals | 586 | 27.2% | 28.4% | 39.7% | 42.2% |

Table 2: What standards do the medical professionals performing the physicals use? Please select all that apply.

| | Total | Fully Career | Primarily Career with Volunteers | Primarily Volunteer with Career | Fully Volunteer |
|---------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total | 1227 | 580 | 278 | 224 | 144 |
| OSHA | 799 | 40.7% | 40.3% | 35.3% | 50% |
| NFPA | 785 | 65.7% | 66.9% | 62.9% | 52.8% |
| IAFF | 101 | 12.6% | 7.2% | 2.2% | 2.1% |
| State | 149 | 12.4% | 15.5% | 8.9% | 9.7% |
| Locally established | 385 | 32.6% | 32.4% | 30.4% | 26.4% |

Table 3: Does your physical include a mental health component that would identify post traumatic stress or other significant mental health issues?

| | Total | Fully Career | Primarily Career with Volunteers | Primarily Volunteer with Career | Fully Volunteer |
|--------------|-------|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total | 1227 | 581 | 278 | 223 | 144 |
| Yes | 116 | 12% | 9.4% | 8.1% | 1.4% |
| No | 1111 | 88% | 90.6% | 91.9% | 98.6% |

Table 4: Who performs your physicals? Please select all that apply.

| | Total | Fully Career | Primarily Career with Volunteers | Primarily Volunteer with Career | Fully Volunteer |
|--|-------|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total | 1233 | 584 | 279 | 224 | 145 |
| Local physician | 372 | 31.7% | 26.2% | 29.9% | 32.4% |
| Nurse/physical assistant/paramedical professional | 86 | 7.5% | 5.7% | 7.6% | 6.2% |
| Occupational health services | 599 | 45.2% | 54.1% | 51.3% | 46.9% |
| Physician with knowledge and experience of firefighter health and safety | 486 | 41.8% | 40.9% | 33.9% | 35.9% |

of this brief review is that our firefighters are the most important component to the success of the fire service. As chief officers, we are obligated to assure the health and welfare of our personnel. Line-of-duty deaths are not acceptable, especially when they may have been prevented with an annual physical. *All* of us must ensure that "EVERYONE GOES HOME." ✖

Commissioner David H. Fischler is retired from the Suffolk

County (NY) Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services with 28 years in the career fire service. He is a former chief of the St. James Fire Department and still an active member with 39 years in the volunteer fire service. Commissioner Fischler serves the IAFC on the board of the Safety, Health and Survival Section and as a member of the Terrorism/Homeland Security Committee.

CFSI dinner

Continued from page 1

government can address the challenges of the fire service, both nationally and locally.

The day culminated at the 18th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner where Chief R. David Paulison, acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), was scheduled as the keynote speaker. Adding to the excitement of the day and just two hours prior to the event, President George W. Bush nominated Paulison as the Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). With numerous standing ovations, Paulison's comments echoed what many had been conveying throughout the day: that America is at a historic moment in emergency management and there is not an option for failure.

In addition to Chief Paulison, the program included remarks from Sen. Joe Biden (D-DE), Sen. Mike DeWine (R-OH), Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-

MD), Congressman Robert Andrews (D-NJ), Congressman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA).

The IAFC was honored jointly with the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO). The two organizations were awarded the 2006 CFSI Fire Service Organizations of the Year for their tireless efforts to secure additional broadcast spectrum for first responders. In February of this year, Congress passed a broad legislative passage that included language establishing a hard date of Feb. 9, 2009, for the reallocation of the 24 MHz of spectrum for public safety. This new spectrum will be used for operable, daily incident management and also enhance the ability to communicate in major disasters and for interoperability purposes. IAFC President Chief Bill Killen accepted the award on behalf of the association. ✘

NEAR-MISS REPORTING

Report of the Week

More than 700 near-miss reports have been filed at www.firefighternearmiss.com. Have you filed yours? To receive the "Report of the Week," visit the Web site, or send an e-mail to nearmiss@iafc.org, with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Each week, you'll get a valuable report like this one:

Report Number: 06-0000131
Report Date: 03/02/2006 1828
Department type: Volunteer
Job or rank: Fire Chief
Department shift: Respond from home
Age: 52 - 60
Years of fire service experience: 30+
Region: FEMA Region V

Event Information

Event type: Fire emergency event: structure fire, vehicle fire, wildland fire, etc.

Event date and time: 02/26/2006 0134

Event participation: Involved in the event

Do you think this will happen again? Yes

What do you believe caused the event?

- Human Error
- Situational Awareness
- Command
- Decision Making
- Task Allocation

What do you believe is the loss potential?

- Life threatening injury

Event Description

Arrive on scene of a 2-story 3000 square foot residential structure. The structure was built of logs, 6"x12", and the interior walls were lined with wood paneling. 2 - 1 3/4" attack lines were laid to the front door. The fire was visible from the B Side at the roof level. As I stood at the front of the house, I remarked that this was not a good fire. The smoke was yellowish in color and it was heavy all around the structure. Command was on scene requesting additional resources. Ventilation needed to take place. The ventilation occurred at the rear of the structure. I opened the front door and the smoke was rapidly being sucked back into the building. I was on my knees and looking inside the door to see what I could see. I decided to crawl inside to see where the fire was coming from. As I got to a couch that was about 8 foot inside the door, I stopped as heavy embers of fire were dropping on the floor. I found the smoke had lightened and I could see the roof. All I saw was fire. The gas vapor at the highest level of the structure was burning. I immediately retreated to the exterior of the structure through the doorway. As I turned from the front porch and looked back at the door, the fire was lapping out of the front door about 12 feet. The second line was deployed to knock that fire down and give me a chance to get farther away from the structure. When I regained my position, both hand lines were deployed at the door and the front window. The entire living room was on fire from flashover. I realized how bad the situation was inside but still had to find out from first hand experience. Staff was great. Water application did what it was supposed to do.

Lessons Learned

Trust your instincts. Overcome the need to verify what you see and know. ✘

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I want to serve you by making IAFC stronger. I will advance the concept for the 2nd Vice President to become the designated liaison with the Divisions, Sections and even the Committees.

We are prepared to Stand Up, Stand Out and Stand Firm for the safety of our homeland and the communities we protect. With your support, as your Vice President, I will aggressively reach out and find more people to Stand With Us.

2006
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Fireman's Fund HeritageSM: Fulfilling a core mission to help fire departments serve their communities better

The Fireman's Fund Insurance Company launched a new program in 2004 that carries one of its 1863 core missions, supporting the fire service, to the 21st Century. The Fireman's Fund HeritageSM program seeks to reduce the "do more with less" scenario many fire departments are facing today. Grants are available to fire departments where they are needed most: firefighting tools, firefighter training, fire safety education and community emergency response programs. The 143-year old company has taken the original core mission, supporting the widows and orphans of San Francisco firefighters, to a new level by already awarding millions of dollars to assist fire departments and fire service organizations across the country.

The HeritageSM program uses three avenues to distribute funds. Fireman's Fund employees may nominate local fire departments and fire prevention non-profit organizations through the "Bucket Brigade" for grants. A panel of employees reviews the nominations and approves awards based on need. Under

the Bucket Brigade, fire departments have received grants for automated external defibrillators, thermal imaging cameras, self-contained breathing apparatus, turnout gear, hydraulic rescue tools and gas monitors. Funds have also been provided to support fire prevention programs in at-risk communities. Fireman's Fund employees are also encouraged to provide their local departments with volunteer support for non-emergency activities.

Independent agents with the company provide the second means for funding possibilities. As the agents' businesses grow through Fireman's Fund products, the agents can have grants directed to fire departments within their service areas. The independent agents' nominations also provide much needed equipment ranging from duty pagers and portable radios to new computers.

The third funding stream is provided to national programs that seek to improve firefighter

Please see 'Heritage program,' page 8

Recent Fireman's Fund HeritageSM Recipients

Benecia (CA) VFD—\$2,771 for AED.
 Rohnert Park (CA) DPS—\$8,895 to help fund USAR tools, ladder escape belts and firefighter escape kits.
 Elk Creek (CO) FPD—\$12,014 for gas monitors.
 City of Waterbury (CT) FD—\$25,965 for AEDs in each of its stations.
 Geneva (IL) FD—\$9,500 for new thermal imaging camera.
 Paw Paw (IL) VFD—\$15,000 for hydraulic extrication equipment.
 Forsyth County (GA) FD—\$9,700 for thermal imaging camera.
 Atlanta (GA) FD—\$155,200 to purchase 16 thermal imaging cameras for the city's ladder companies.
 Greater Metropolitan Atlanta (GA) Area—\$305,000 to 16 area career and volunteer FDs for equipment, public education and training.
 Gaylord (MN) FD—\$4,100 for pagers to alert members.
 Osseo (MN) VFD—\$16,600 for 10 sets of turnout gear.
 Central County (MO) F&R—\$25,000 to build a rescue training facility for technical rescue.
 Rahway (NJ) FD—\$39,168 for SCBA.
 Long Beach (NY) FD—\$10,000 for dispatch communications equipment.
 Loveland-Symmes (OH) FD—\$20,000 for radios, turnout gear for CERT unit.
 Wyoming (OH) Fire-EMS Department—\$17,000 for thermal imaging camera and turnout gear.
 Upper Nazareth (PA) FD—\$1,800 for ventilation saw.
 Garland (TX) FD—\$7,000 for portable radios.
 Hartland (WI) FD—\$10,000 to provide medical training to volunteers.

For a complete list of Heritage Program recipients, visit www.firemansfund.com. Click on "Supporting Firefighters," then click on "Heritage in Action," then click on the "these grants" phrase in the "Grants Awarded to Date" box.

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Virginia Governor Kaine Presents SAFER Grant to Arlington

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine presented Arlington County with a \$32,000 Virginia Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) matching grant to help enhance fire protection efforts. Along with an \$800,000 SAFER grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, awarded in February 2006, this grant enables Arlington County to add eight new firefighters/emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and increase the safety of its firefighting staff.

"Arlington County has clearly demonstrated its commitment to public safety, and has been a leader in working with regional and state partners since September 11th," said Kaine. "With this Virginia grant, we're sharing in Arlington County's commitment to providing the best-possible fire protection for the community."

The Arlington County Fire Department was the only agency in Virginia to receive the grant specifically given for hiring firefighters. The grant



Governor Tim Kaine presents check to Arlington County Fire Chief James H. Schwartz and Arlington County Board Chairman Chris Zimmerman.

requires the county to match an increasing proportion over a four-year period; in the fifth year of the grant,

the county absorbs the entire cost of the firefighter positions. The Virginia SAFER grant match covers a portion

of the first-year cost to the county. Virginia is the only state to provide the first-year match.

The eight new Arlington County firefighters/EMTs are currently part of a 21-member recruit school. They each will be assigned as a fourth member of a firefighting crew—allowing Arlington to meet the National Fire Protection Association's minimum standard of four firefighters on engine, rescue and truck companies.

"Four-person staffing on our fire apparatus allows us to increase our on-scene emergency capabilities," said Arlington County Board Chair Chris Zimmerman. "This grant is a significant step toward better protecting our community and creating safer working conditions for our firefighters."

Currently, the fire department staffs 10 of its 14 suppression units with four firefighters. This grant allows the department to staff two additional units (Ladder or Rescue) with four firefighters. ✖

IAFC On Scene

Volume 20, Number 8

IAFC On Scene is read by 12,400 highly qualified fire chiefs and company officers with a pass-on rate of six to eight additional readers for every subscriber. To advertise, please call (703) 273-9815 ext. 307 or e-mail Editor Cathy Cruise at ccruise@iafc.org.

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IAFC On Scene (ISSN 0893-3936) is an official publication of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Our goal for this newsletter is to provide fire and emergency services managers with information to help them make timely and appropriate decisions. The opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the association. The International Association of Fire Chiefs, organized in 1873, is dedicated to the advancement of the fire service. Its mission statement: Provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the international community through vision, information, education, services and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities.

Questions about material in this issue should be directed to the editor at: 703/273-9815 ext. 307. The IAFC main number is 703/273-0911; fax 703/273-9363. Unless otherwise noted, all material in

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CLASSIFIEDS

FIRE CHIEF

City of Montpelier, Vermont – population 8,200

Montpelier, the capital city of Vermont, is seeking a fire chief. Current chief retiring 6/1/06 after 13 years of service. Department head position answering directly to the city manager. Combination fire/EMS department with 18 full time employees, three regular part time employees and up to 15 call force members. Approximately \$1.5 million budget.

The fire chief is responsible for all fire suppression and prevention activities within the city and as part of regional mutual aid. Responsible for ambulance service in Montpelier and through contract with three neighboring towns. Responsible for administering local/state building/health codes including permit issuance, inspection, plans reading and enforcement. Facilities and equipment are in top condition and department has an established record of excellent service and response to public. A heavy emphasis is placed on fire prevention, education and training.

Candidate should have demonstrated experience with all aspects of fire suppression—including incident command, experience with ambulance service delivery—including billing and collections, experience with active fire prevention efforts, some familiarity with building codes and inspection systems, supervisory experience in a unionized environment, experience with recruitment and retention of a call force, experience with other aspects of departmental operation including meeting with the public, budgeting, purchasing, strategic planning and personnel management.

The successful candidate will have excellent communication and public presentation skills, have demonstrated ability to track multiple priorities and activities, must be able to creatively work with tight budgets for the best public value and have demonstrated strong leadership skills. Applicant must have a Bachelor's Degree, preferably in Fire Safety or Public Administration. Completion of Executive Fire Officer program at the National Fire Academy is required. Applicant must have served as Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer for a comparable department. Must have or once had valid certifications in firefighting and EMS. Building code certifications a plus. Must have or be able to obtain a valid State of Vermont Driver's License.

The City of Montpelier offers a comprehensive benefit package. Compensation is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience, current budgeted annual salary is \$68,200. Letters of interest, resume and list of references should be received by the City Manager's Office, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 on or before Monday, May 22, 2006. www.montpelier-vt.org.

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference will educate and motivate you and your team

By Chris Hawley

Registration is now open for the International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference, scheduled for June 1-4 at the Baltimore Marriott Hunt Valley Inn in Hunt Valley, MD. The conference provides hands-on education that covers a variety of the topics your team needs to master; an expo displaying the latest in technologies and services to deal with hazmat challenges, and countless opportunities to exchange ideas with hazmat responders from around the globe.

Although the conference attracts participants from all over the world, this year there will be an extra number of international attendees. Gene Carlson will be hosting a group of delegates from the Hazardous Materials Commission from the International Association of Fire & Rescue Services. The delegates will hold one of their regular meetings to coincide with the conference. In addition to attending the conference, the European attendees will be hosted at various fire and hazmat activities in and around the Baltimore area.

Thursday, June 1, will be action packed as always, with full day sessions and field trips. Two notable highlights of the day will be the Advanced Operations in the Hot Zone, where Glen Rudner will lead about a dozen instructors

and 50 participants in a full day of challenging practical exercises. The IAFF hazmat training division will also present a full day Response to Illicit Drug course; if you have not received training in this area, this course is a must attend.

Friday, June 2, we will officially kick off the conference at the opening ceremonies as Chief John Eversole, chairman of the IAFC Hazmat Committee, welcomes the participants to the conference and highlights the upcoming changes to NFPA 472. Keynote speaker Tom Creamer is a dynamic speaker who should not be missed. He is one of the best instructors in this field and will provide attendees with an overview of WMD response issues. He is currently training coordinator for the State of New York Homeland Security Agency and was previously the special operations chief for the Worcester (MA) Fire Department. Tom has a great deal of experience and is eager to share it with you.

The conference activities will



Attendees at the 2005 Hazmat Conference participate in a hands-on training exercise at the Metro Training Facility in Prince George's County, MD. The exercise simulated a scenario involving a chemical release in a metro train tunnel.

proceed through the weekend, along with a fantastic exhibit floor and many entertaining events. Register now online at www.iafc.org/hazmat. See you in Hunt Valley. ❖

Heritage program

Continued from page 6

safety. Fireman's Fund is currently providing supporting grants to the IAFC-managed National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's "Everyone Goes Home" campaign, and the National Volunteer Fire Council's Heart Healthy initiative.

Organizations interested in funding should fill out the online Fireman's Fund HeritageSM survey at www.firemansfund.com/heritage. Information provided in the survey is shared with agents and employees who are interested in directing or nominating organizations for grants.

For more information about the Fireman's Fund HeritageSM program, please visit www.firemansfund.com/heritage, call 866/440-8716, or speak to an agent who carries Fireman's Fund products. ❖

For a complete list of Heritage Program recipients, visit www.firemansfund.com. Click on "Supporting Firefighters," then click on "Heritage in Action," then click on the "these grants" phrase in the "Grants Awarded to Date" box.

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