



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **The North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs Announces the Kick-Off of Its Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Campaign**

**“For Community, For Unity: Be a Volunteer”**

**Shelby, North Carolina, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018...** Today, the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs (NCAFC), in partnership with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), formally kicks off their volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention campaign. The campaign is part of the Volunteer Workforce Solutions program designed to help North Carolina’s fire departments achieve a viable and sustainable volunteer firefighter workforce. The program is funded by a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant awarded to the NCAFC by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a model to enhance the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

Fifteen North Carolina fire department groups, consisting of over 50 departments from across the state, are participating in the 2-year program, designed to address the shortage of volunteer firefighters in the state. The fire departments will use geographic information systems (GIS) to take in-depth looks at their communities, measuring demographic, cultural and economic data to predict the best way to recruit a volunteer firefighter workforce. The results and findings from the program and the recruitment efforts will benefit all fire departments in the state. In addition, several leadership workshops aimed at improving retention will be offered to all departments statewide.

Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience and one of the best ways someone can make a difference in the community. The skills and experience gained as a volunteer firefighter are invaluable and have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of others. Local fire department need volunteers of all skill levels and abilities who are willing and able to respond to emergencies when needed.

Local events will occur with the fifteen selected organizations that will involve the community and provide opportunities for all stakeholders to be engaged in the process.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer firefighter and joining a local volunteer fire department, please visit [www.VolunteerFireNC.org](http://www.VolunteerFireNC.org).

### ***About the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs. (NCAFC)***

*The mission of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs is to provide a wide range of programs designed to meet the needs and enhance the skills of Fire Service Managers, so they may better protect and educate the fire service and public from the adverse effects of fire, sudden medical emergencies, or exposure to dangerous conditions created either by man or nature. The NCAFC sets out to do this by providing education and training for executive development and management, collecting and disseminating information and establishing formal positions on relevant issues, administering mechanisms for networking, and providing a process to address legislative issues. Learn more at [www.ncafc.com](http://www.ncafc.com).*

### ***About the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)***

*The IAFC represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders worldwide. IAFC members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, EMS, terrorism response, hazmat spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public-safety legislation. Since 1873, the IAFC has provided a forum for its members to exchange ideas, develop professionally and uncover the latest products and services available to first responders. Learn more at [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org).*