

U.S. Fire Administration 2023 Accomplishments

USFA leads the Fire Service with One Voice

#FireServiceOneVoice has become the prominent motto of the national fire service organization collective. The Fire Service One Voice leadership group has come together on multiple occasions showing unity and solidarity during USFA Fire Stop tours on the East and West Coasts, Fire Rescue International 2023, the Congressional Fire Service Institute Conference, Fire Department Instructors Conference 2023, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Conference, and many other events.



USFA establishes National Fire Strategy

Following the [October 2022 Summit on Fire Prevention and Control](#), the Fire Administrator, along with leaders of the national fire service organizations and researchers, established the National Fire Strategy for the nation. Based on the National Strategy, six workgroups were formed to collaborate over the following 12 months to better understand the challenges facing America's fire service and how to confront them together. The workgroups delivered their report at the [2023 Summit](#).



#FireServiceOneVoice kicks off World Fire Congress initiative

USFA launched its World Fire Congress initiative during the Metro Chiefs Conference in Kansas City May 2023. The launch drew immediate attention from global partners including the UK, Netherlands, France, Mexico, Belgium, and Israel who, along with leaders from regional international associations, now form the steering committee for the World Fire Congress scheduled to take place in Washington DC May 2024.



usfa.fema.gov

USFA goes international with Mexico and Israel MOUs

USFA signed MOUs with the fire service in Israel and Mexico to address common challenges and to enable collaboration and sharing of research, training, and community risk assessment. USFA also met with the Canadian Fire Chiefs Council to provide information on the origin of the U.S. Fire Administration, our mission, and enabling legislation as a model for them to work toward establishing the same.



USFA kicks off new data platform for first responders

As directed in the FEMA Administrator's CY23 Annual Planning, USFA formally established a partnership with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and the Fire Safety Research Institute for the development of standardized fire data schemas and the build out of the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). This partnership around NERIS ensures NERIS is developed on a foundation of sound scientific research and technological innovation. Further, in 2023, drafts of the standardized fire incident data schemas were developed and released for national engagement, and the building of the prototype version of NERIS commenced. These milestones serve as the foundation for development and launch of NERIS in 2024, which will serve as the Nation's interoperable fire data capture and analytics platform. [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/national-emergency-response-information-system-neris)



USFA/IAFF start WUI training for firefighters

USFA's National Fire Academy in collaboration with IAFF launched "Responding to the Interface" that includes wildfire conflagration training for structure firefighters.



Wildland Commission delivers its report to Congress

The Fire Administrator co-chaired the Wildland Fire Management and Mitigation Commission that delivered its report and recommendations to the Congress on September 27. [Media Advisory: Wildland fire mitigation and management commission report \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/media-advisory/wildland-fire-mitigation-and-management-commission-report)



USFA supports Wildfire Prize Competition by XPRIZE

USFA collaborated with XPRIZE to launch the Wildfire Innovation Challenge to engage the tech world in addressing the need for faster fire ignition sensing and faster delivery of suppression resources to address a potential wildfire in its incipient stages. [XPRIZE Wildfire | XPRIZE Foundation](#)



Fire Service wins at the Hill

Several legislative initiatives championed by the National Fire Service organizations were enacted into law.

- President Biden signed into law the Empowering the US Fire Administration Act ([PL 117-246](#)). The legislation gives USFA the authority to conduct on-site fire safety investigations of major or unusual fires.
- The President also signed the Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances (PFAS) Act ([PL 117-248](#)), which tasks the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with developing guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on training, education programs, and best practices to protect them from exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), from firefighting foam and to prevent the release of PFAS into the environment.
- Included as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act ([PL 117-263](#)) was the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act, legislation that creates a line of duty/workplace presumption for a federal firefighter who dies or becomes disabled due to certain occupational illnesses.
- President Biden also signed the Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act ([PL 117-328](#)), which included legislative language requiring all federal funding public housing to be equipped with tamper-proof, long-life smoke alarms when hardwired alarms have not already been installed.



Firefighter Cancer becomes DHS priority

At the direction of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the USFA held first ever Firefighter Cancer listening session in May 2023. Top researchers and subject matter experts attended to provide insights on existing research, along with gaps and pending resource needs to address the increasing numbers of firefighter occupational death due to cancer.

USFA / NIST join forces

USFA signed an MOU with NIST to promote collaborative projects in the areas of fire science, response, and resilience. The initial project is focused on individual and community evacuation planning.



USFA joins Metro Fire Chiefs in fight against Climate Change

USFA collaborated with the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs to release a position statement on climate change and the need for fire departments across the nation to rethink their risk and prepare for the evolving impacts of climate change. [UFF23_Climate-change-Position-Statement.ashx \(nfpa.org\)](#)

NFA courses receive college credits

The NFA submitted 18 courses for American Council of Education (ACE) college credit evaluation or reassessment. All 18 courses received credit recommendation.

NFA Program recognized at graduate level

All classes in the NFA's updated EFO Program were recognized by the American College of Education (ACE) at the graduate level. This is the only professional development program within FEMA/DHS to achieve this recognition.

NFA holds first ever Wildfire Investigation Class

In partnership with US Forest Service and CAL FIRE the NFA hosted the first-ever hands-on Wildfire Investigations class in Redding, CA for fire investigators from SLTT fire and law enforcement agencies.



On the ground in Lahaina, Maui

The Fire Administrator accompanied the FEMA Administrator to Lahaina following the tragic wildfire on the island. The USFA focused on the investigative opportunities including how the fire moved, the wind impact, the fuel load that enabled rapid and extensive spread, and human behavior during evacuation. USFA participated in a FEMA postfire Mitigation Assessment Team (MAT) and collaborated with NIOSH to ensure Firefighter well-being and exposure tracking.

NFA offers new classes in 2023

A new 2-day class, "Fostering Belonging in the Fire and Emergency Services" was offered as an alpha delivery with very good results, and a new 1-day-class, "Fire as a Weapon" was developed and delivered as an alpha delivery by our Fire Investigative Sciences team to address the needs of our SLTT partners.

NFA holds first ever Women's Weekend on campus

The first-ever Women's Weekend at the NFA, held in partnership with Women in Fire, was a huge success. More than 200 attendees from 32 states and the District of Columbia attended a variety of classes that were offered.



EFO Class of 2023 graduates

Our first Executive Fire Officer (EFO) class, under the new two-year curriculum, graduated on April 15, 2023.

NFA trains Secret Service leaders

The NFA worked with the U.S. Secret Service to develop a scenario-based class for their senior leaders that embraces NIMS and All-Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT) concepts. This weeklong class, P0295 Executive Incident Command and NIMS was successfully delivered to U.S. Secret Service senior leaders from around the nation in the NFA's Incident Management Simulation Lab in Emmitsburg, Maryland from January 16-21, 2023. Additional classes are being discussed for executives and those who will be managing DNC and RNC incident management teams.



The Weekly InfoGram delivers its 1100th issue in 2023

The EMR-ISAC is an infrastructure protection information sharing hub, the weekly InfoGram, delivered over 1,100 editions since it debuted in January of 2001. The InfoGram is distributed to over 187,000 members of the Emergency Services Sector nationwide. Each edition contains timely and relevant information regarding responder safety, awareness, planning, prevention, education, training, and funding opportunities affecting emergency services sector personnel.



USFA publishes web tool to track home fires

Home Fire Fatalities and Social Vulnerability Explorer: The USFA published a web application tool to the FEMA Geospatial Resource Center that allows public stakeholders to assess or identify community fire risk based on home fire fatality incidence and social vulnerability. The tool supports targeted community risk reduction campaigns and public outreach initiatives.



USFA releases app to educate public on wildfire risks

The USFA completed a prototype of its web application tool that will allow individuals to visualize where wildland urban interface communities are located based on relative proximities of vegetative fuels and human development. The tool is intended to increase public awareness of wildfire hazards and direct users to resources for community risk reduction, outreach, and mitigation. Future versions of the tool will incorporate additional data sources and capabilities.



USFA launches pilot on building code adoption policy

The USFA launched a pilot study to characterize the efficacy of the adoption and enforcement of building and fire code provisions relative to the impacts of structure fires and wildfires. The study will serve as a supplement to FEMA's previous Building Codes Save Study, which did not address the structure fire and wildfire hazard types. The pilot study will provide benefit-cost insights to inform future nationwide studies and support for policy decisions at the SLTT level.