



# What's Happening at the IAFC?

Strategic Direction Update  
January 1, 2014 – April 15, 2014

The following is a record of milestones achieved in moving toward the IAFC direction. It captures completed works directly relevant the IAFC strategic direction. It is intended to capture the depth of the association's overarching accomplishments at a high-level.

## **LEAD**

*To LEAD by being the preeminent voice and advocate for the fire and emergency service on national policy and in government.*

- Chief Bill Metcalf presented before iWomen's 2014 International Conference in Tucson, Ariz. It was iWomen's largest conference ever with 225 attendees.
- Chief G. Keith Bryant, CEO Mark Light, several IAFC board members and representatives from the Safety, Health and Survival Section (SHSS) and Volunteer Combination Officers Section (VCOS) participated in the "Tampa2" Firefighter Life Safety Summit March 10-12.
- Chief Will May was named as the IAFC's National Wildland Fire Coordinator representing the IAFC and local government on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board.
- Chief Norris Croom represented the IAFC on a teleconference to announce the new Model Interstate Compact on EMS Personnel Licensure.
- Chief Adolf Zubia (Fire & Life Safety Section-FLSS) participated in the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition meeting held in Las Vegas and Florida.
- Chief Michael O'Brian (FLSS) participated in the first Firefighter Throwdown in San Diego. Approximately 100 firefighters from 38 states participated in the fitness challenge.
- IAFC Foundation received a Motorola Solutions Foundation grant to hold two Company Officer Leadership Symposia (COLS). In partnership with the IAFC, these classes will be held in Richmond, Va. in May and Atlanta, Ga. in October.
- The Emergency Medical Services Section (EMS) collaborated with the Government Relations Department to support House passage of the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act (H.R. 1791).
- EMS Section collaborated with the IAFC's Government Relations Department to support congressional actions to reauthorize the Medicare Ambulance Add-On Payments.
- VCOS officially formed a partnership with iWomen to support each other's mission.

- The new Executive Fire Officer Section reported it has 325 members. The bylaws are awaiting final approval.

## **EDUCATE**

*To EDUCATE current and future fire and emergency service leaders by providing training, education and professional development opportunities.*

- The IAFC announced the cadre of students accepted into the 2014 session of the Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI). Now in its second year, the FSEDI is a year-long leadership-development program developed by the IAFC to provide new and aspiring chiefs with the tools they need to have successful and productive tenures.
- Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) was held March 17-19 at the Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nev. WUI 2014 had record attendance with more than 520 attendees and 48 exhibiting companies.
- conneXions was held Feb. 3-6 in Orlando, Fla. The following departments participated: Albemarle County, Va.; Beaumont, Texas; Cambridge, Mass.; Green Bay, Wis.; Gulfport, Miss.; Los Angeles County, Calif.; New Haven, Conn.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Portland, Maine, and Rockford, Ill. The following businesses participated: FireDex, Grainger, Hale, Honeywell, Scott Safety, Sutphen, Target Solutions, MSA and Workrite. GPO and ESCI also joined conneXions in Orlando.
- IAFC and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) announced the theme for the 2014 International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week: Train Like You Fight. Fire departments are encouraged to suspend all non-emergency activity during the week of June 15-21 to focus on safety and health training and education.
- IAFC held nine webinars on topics including the volunteer fire department exemption from the Affordable Care Act, how fire departments can take a proactive approach toward a positive public image, and a forum for members to meet the candidates running for IAFC 2nd vice president.
- VCOS delivered leadership training throughout the country, including three Beyond Hoses and Helmets courses, one Fire Rescue Organizational Guidance (FROG) for Volunteer Leaders class, one Leading the Transition course, and continued with its monthly On-Fire Leadership webinar series.
- IAFC launched [www.safequickclearance.org](http://www.safequickclearance.org) to raise awareness of Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training. IAFC is partnering in this effort with the Federal Highway Administration.
- The Hydrogen E-Learning program is ending on the TEEX platform and is moving to the IAFC Academy platform on May 1. To date, 7,350 first responders have participated in the program.

- The RSG! Program reached a milestone of over 1,000 members during WUI 2014 and all 50 states are represented. This was accomplished within three years of the program going national and shows the widespread interest in wildland-fire preparedness. We thank our members for their part in this achievement and for the great work they're doing with RSG outreach in their communities.

## **SERVE**

*To SERVE by providing services and products of value to our membership, affiliates and partners.*

- IAFC launched the Firefighter Safety Through Advanced Research (FSTAR) online toolkit on April 15. The toolkit is designed to provide the fire service with critical information about new, appropriate and safe operations on firefighting tactics that are built on scientific research.
- The Near-Miss Reporting System was re-launched in January to better serve firefighters directly by enabling analytics and the development of training resources derived from the real-world experiences. The new training resources include a monthly, online, immersive training offering that focuses specifically on decision making in crisis situations and a monthly training package.
- Ready, Set, Go! (RSG!) program offered an online panel discussion with fire service representatives on building an RSG! Program, effective practices and lessons learned.
- RSG! program was present at the New England Forest Fire Protection Compact meeting in Southport, Maine, on Jan. 21-23; the New Mexico County Fire and Emergency Management meeting on Jan. 24; the Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) workshop in Yakima, Washington, on Jan. 30, and the Wildland-Urban Interface Conference in Reno, Nev., on March 18-19.
- RSG! program created a Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) PSA titled, "The Hero in You." The 60-second PSA showcases actions residents can take to become fire adapted, improving the safety of their home, family and firefighters so that they too can return home to their families. This is one of the first products produced by the Fire Adapted Communities Coalition.
- IAFC managed the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)/SAFER Criteria Development meeting Jan. 8-9, in Emmitsburg, Md. Twenty-seven representatives from nine fire service organizations participated to provide input and feedback on the grant criteria for each grant program within the AFG programs.
- The Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) Program sponsored the Beyond Hoses and Helmets leadership training course and the Fire Rescue Organizational

Guidance (FROG) for Volunteer Leaders class at the VFCA's Fire and Rescue Conference during February in Virginia Beach. The program offered scholarships to the participating VWS departments to attend the classes and the rest of the conference.

- Propane Education Training proposal was awarded a one-year contract to create training and outreach with the Propane Gas Association.
- National Programs submitted a proposal to the Federal Rail Administration to build and conduct new training and outreach on rail incident management and current issues like the Bakken Crude Oil transportation on the rail system.
- The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (Metro) completed an updated Fire-Based EMS Tool Kit and is working with the IAFC and IAFF to market and promote fire-based EMS operations.
- FLSS reviewed AFG grants on behalf of the section and the IAFC.
- EMS Section has officially released their e-book *Enhancing Fire-based EMS: Transitioning to the Next Level*. It is now [available for sale on Amazon](#).

### **NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS**

- **Chief Gary Ludwig** received the 2014 James O. Page/JEMS Award at the EMS Today conference in Washington, D.C.
- The inaugural RSG! awards were presented during the Wildland-Urban Interface Conference on March 18:
  - The RSG! Fire Department Award for Excellence
    - *Paid Department*: Colorado Springs Fire Department, Christina Randall
    - *Volunteer Department*: Barnegat Volunteer Fire Company, John Cowie
  - The RSG! Innovation Award: Texas A&M Forest Service, Nick Harrison
  - The RSG! Leadership Award: Ventura County Fire Department, Bill Nash

### **STAFF UPDATES**

- **Joann Douglas** was welcomed as member services assistant.
- **Richard Miller**, who had been a contractor with the National Programs Department, was welcomed as a full-time program manager.
- **Jim Philipps** was welcomed as the assistant director of information and strategic services. Jim came to the IAFC from the National Association of Counties (NACo).
- **Cynthia Cox**, program manager for the Whole Community Planning for Disaster Course, resigned effective February 7 to pursue an opportunity within the local arts community to provide local artisans a place to create and display their works.

### **What People Are Saying...**

- “We continue to increase the situation awareness of our residents and Ready, Set, Go! makes it easy on us with a straight forward, clear set of messages and information.” – Chief Bruce Evans, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District (Colo.)
- “RSG is the core of the wheel spoke for FAC!” – Chief Riley, Fire Safety Education Group Coordinator, Towns County (Ga.)
- “VCOS’ FROG class provided great present-day information, especially the timely and relevant news articles.” – FROG class participant in Virginia Beach
- “As a former member of the IAFC (now retired), I was fortunate today to be able to take part in your excellent webinar on fire dynamics. I don't know that I have ever been part of a one-hour presentation where so much important information was shared so well.” – Deputy Fire Marshall Barry McKinnon, Gravenhurst, Ontario (retired)
- “Thank you for hosting the (webinar) today on the Marriage of Tactics and Research. All presenters did an excellent job. I am convinced it will save firefighters lives.” – Chief Cliff Jones, Tempe (Ariz.) Fire Department (retired)

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