



# What's Happening at the IAFC

## Strategic Direction Update

July 16 – December 31, 2014

The following is a record of milestones achieved in moving the IAFC forward as directed by the board of directors. It captures completed works directly relevant to the IAFC's 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.***

- In a major victory for the IAFC and the fire service, the CR-omnibus legislation included language allowing the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to use previous year funding (estimated to be \$4-\$5 million) returned under the emergency preparedness grant program to create web-based training programs for emergency responders. The bill also increased funding for wildland-fire suppression programs at the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior.
- Chief Keith Bryant, president and chairman of the board, was quoted in *CQ Roll Call* (Dec. 8) on the impact on the fire service if Congress provides only stopgap funding through Feb. 27 for DHS, including FEMA and USFA. Related: The IAFC, joined by other leading fire service organizations, sent a letter to the House and Senate appropriations committees citing similar concerns.
- Rick Edinger, vice chairman of the IAFC's Hazardous Materials Committee, was quoted in *McClatchy Newspapers* (July 29) regarding challenges fire departments face responding to derailed trains carrying crude oil and other hazardous materials.
- The IAFC provided comments to the FCC that addressed indoor 9-1-1 location-accuracy technology using wireless phones.
- Following pressure from the IAFC and other groups, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the EPA agreed to fully resume transfers of excess DOD property to fire departments.
- The IAFC supported introduction of the Firefighter Equipment Protection Act of 2014 (H.R. 5483) sponsored by Rep. Tim Griffin (R-Ariz.), which would codify protections for the ability of fire departments to obtain excess property from DOD.
- The IAFC filed comments with DHS and USFA about how to improve the National Fire Incident Reporting System.

- The IAFC and other national fire service organizations submitted joint testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations on the president's emergency supplemental for Ebola expenses.
- Chief John Sinclair, IAFC second vice president, represented the IAFC at a meeting of the National EMS Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.
- IAFC CEO/Executive Director Mark Light and the IAFC Government Relations Department participated in a briefing at FirstNet headquarters.
- The IAFC and EMS Section supported introduction of the Medicare Ambulance Access, Fraud Prevention, and Reform Act of 2014 (H.R. 5460) sponsored by Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore).
- The IAFC will be managing Phase 2 of the Connecticut Fire Chief Association's SAFER recruitment and retention grant through the Volunteer Workforce Solutions program. Fifteen departments throughout Connecticut have been selected to participate.
- The IAFC, through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, continues to coordinate with DLA to ensure local government fire service access to the Wildland Fire Protection Program that has transitioned from the General Services Administration to DLA.
- The IAFC has entered into a media partnership with Praetorian Digital, publisher of FireRescue1.com and FIRE CHIEF.com.
- The EFO Section held its first annual meeting at FRI in Dallas, elected a new board member to represent the Western Division, formed five subcommittees (bylaws/election, membership, professional development, education and NFA/EFO) and assisted the National Fire Academy in the 2014 EFO Symposium with the Don Manno Awards.

## **EDUCATE**

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

- VCOS Symposium in the Sun was held Nov. 6-9 in Clearwater, Fla. with a record-high 641 attendees.
- VCOS delivered leadership training, including:
  - five Beyond Hoses and Helmets courses
  - one Fire Rescue Organizational Guidance for Volunteer Leaders class
  - one Leading the Transition course
  - three On-Fire Leadership webinars
- Chief Bryant formed the Ebola Task Force, consisting of EMS Section and other section's members, to analyze information and best practices related to Ebola. Chief John Sinclair, past EMS Section chair, was named chair of the task force.

- The Ebola Task Force [posted a variety of resources](#) on the EMS Section website to assist emergency medical services agencies and other healthcare providers in preparing to care for patients with known and suspected Ebola virus disease.
- Members of the EMS Section and Ebola Task Force provided commentary on an Ebola PPE Calculator being developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- IAFC's Communications Committee hosted a seminar at FRI on public-safety communications issues. The speakers addressed fire service needs for the national broadband network (FirstNet), the single point of contact for the state of Texas, the state's activities preparing for FirstNet, the IAFC's participation in frequency coordination for new land mobile radio frequencies and IAFC activities on the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council.
- IAFC's Terrorism and Homeland Security Committee hosted a seminar at FRI on information-sharing and terrorism-preparedness. In addition, the National Counterterrorism Center and the committee hosted a one-day symposium during FRI on terrorism preparedness.
- The Safety, Health and Survival Section hosted the International Society of Fire Service Instructors premier of "Principles of Modern Fire Attack – The SLICE-RS Method" at FRI.
- Chief Bob Roper, chair of the IAFC's Wildland Fire Policy Committee, gave a Cohesive Strategy and National Wildfire Coordinating Group presentation to the FIRESCOPE board of directors meeting Oct. 8 in Sacramento, Calif. Cohesive Strategy presentations also were given to the National Association of Counties, the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns.
- Chief Bryant attended a staff ride and overview of the King Fire in Sacramento, Calif. on Sept. 24 to learn more about wildland fire operations and concerns.
- Chief Will May, IAFC National Wildland Fire Coordinator, presented to the Alaska State Fire Chiefs Association Sept. 21-26. Topics included the Cohesive Strategy and Implementation Plan, Quadrennial Fire Review and national wildland management and fire management. Ready, Set, Go! (RSG!) program and IAFC highlights were also shared.
- IAFC staff member Shawn Stokes attended a local Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Learning Network Coalition meeting hosted by the Barnegat Fire Company on Oct. 8 as a representative of national FAC and RSG! efforts. Networking with representatives of the state of New Jersey including Lynn Fleming, the state forester, and coalition partners took place and strengthened relationships and helped to open new ones.

- IAFC staff member Shawn Stokes attended the state of Nevada FAC symposium representing and providing a perspective on national FAC and RSG! program efforts, strengthening our ties with Living with Fire and the state of Nevada.
- While at FRI, Wildland Fire Policy Committee members Erik Litzenberg and Christina Randall and RSG! program advocate Nick Harrison were interviewed by IAFC-TV. These videos and more from FRI 2014 can be found at [YouTube.com/user/IAFCtv](https://www.youtube.com/user/IAFCtv).
- The RSG! program exhibited or presented at the following shows and meetings to raise awareness about the program, increase program membership, provide wildland-fire preparedness resources to the fire service and promote the FAC concept:
  - Firehouse Expo, Baltimore, July 17-19
  - South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo, Raleigh, July 25-27
  - Fire-Rescue International, Dallas, Aug. 12-18
  - Fire Show Reno, Reno, Oct. 22-24
  - VCOS Symposium, Clearwater, Nov. 6-9

## **SERVE**

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

- The Safety, Health and Survival Section, in partnership with *FireRescue* magazine, published the Rules of Engagement for Safe Fire Service Training posters. Posters are available free of charge both online and in print for departments.
- VCOS celebrated its 20th anniversary and recognized this milestone by creating commemorative coins and a special printed 20th anniversary publication showcasing its impressive progress and accomplishments since 1994.
- IAFC's wildland programs supported Fire Adapted Communities with the release a new toolkit to help agencies and individuals promote the fire-adapted concept in their areas.
- Fire Adapted Communities PSA video *Be A Hero, Save A Hero*, created by the IAFC's wildland programs, is available at [Vimeo.com/105252616](https://vimeo.com/105252616) as a free educational resource to RSG! program members.
- IAFC created the 2015 Fire Adapted Communities calendar to highlight FAC and its mission to the fire service. This calendar was distributed to all RSG! program members in early December.
- The RSG! program website has been enhanced. The clean design and easy-to-navigate menus allow RSG! members to utilize RSG! for their efforts.
- IAFC wildland programs created several other products for fire departments to use in public-education outreach. This includes RSG! program postcards and

door hangers. Several target audience-specific four-pagers were also created, including:

- Ready Set Go! Wildland Fire Preparedness for Farmers, Ranchers and Growers
- Ready Set Go! for the Seasonal Resident
- A youth-preparedness activity brochure
- Fire Adapted Communities for the Fire Service
- Fire Adapted Communities for the Resident
- A guidance document for fire departments on how to implement the RSG! program with no funding

### **News about Our Members**

- Captain Chip Everett, Oshtemo (Mich.) Fire and Rescue, won the Training Officer Award sponsored by TargetSolutions and VCOS at FRI.
- VCOS awarded two scholarships to FRI. The winners were Lieutenant Charles Bailey, Rineyville (Ky.) Volunteer Fire Department, and Chief Timothy Morrissey, Sherborn (Mass.) Fire Department.
- Awards and scholarships were presented in November at the VCOS Symposium in the Sun:
  - Retention & Recruitment Award (sponsored by VFIS): Seymour (Tenn.) Volunteer Fire Department
  - Safe Driving Award (sponsored by VFIS): Rineyville (Ky.) Volunteer Fire Department
  - John M. Buckman III Award (sponsored by Provident): Chief Mike Morgan of Colorado River (Colo.) Fire Rescue
  - VCOS Chair Award: Pierce Manufacturing
  - VCOS-sponsored scholarships: Chief Jennifer Williams, Southeast Chickasaw (Miss.) Volunteer Fire Department; Chief Ken Ranalli, Demorest (Ga.) Fire Department
  - Emerging Leadership Scholarship (sponsored by the Gasaway Consulting Group): Asst. Fire Marshal/Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Dan Kerrigan, East Whiteland Township (Pa.) Department of Codes and Life Safety
- Chief Bob Roper and Chief Douglas "Mac" MacDonald received IAFC President's awards during FRI from Chief William Metcalf for their work with the Wildland Fire Policy Committee in regards to the Cohesive Strategy.

### **Staff Updates**

- Lisa Yonkers was welcomed as director of conferences and education.
- Samnang (Sam) Som was welcomed as general ledger accountant.

- Leslie Distler was welcomed as corporate account executive, handling conneXions and IAFC's corporate relationships.
- John Von Holle was welcomed as the new GIS manager in the Digital Center.
- Monica Willemsen joined the executive operations team as executive operations coordinator.
- Sharon Baroncelli, components relations manager, moved on to a position with the NFFF. Stephen Boensel took her place as Safety, Health and Survival staff liaison; Jim Philipps took over as EFO Section liaison; Ken LaSala is the new Metro Chiefs staff liaison; Diana Rothe-Smith is the iWomen and IAFC Foundation staff liaison.
- Amber Wells was promoted to Ready Set Go! program manager.
- Judy Kirk has been promoted to program specialist.

### What People Are Saying

- Dear Jim - As you can see by the attached photo, I did in fact receive the medal in time to lead the procession on our Veterans Day ceremony and was most proud and happy to do so. I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank you, your association and all the good people at the Motorola Corporation for your kind and quick response to my request. You made one old firefighter very proud and happy.



- District Chief Robert Cooper (retired), Windsor Fire and Rescue, winner of the 1972 Ben Franklin Award

[NOTE: Ben Franklin Award recipients back then didn't receive medals. He wrote the IAFC and requested a medal to leave behind for his family.]

- Great conf. and expo, in Dallas! The trade show was awesome and the panel discussion as keynote amazing. Can't wait 4 Atl.

- Deputy Chief Mike Mulligan

- #FRI14 was a smash hit! Thanks @IAFC for putting on great conference ... Can't wait for next year!

- Target Solutions

- Nice to know Customer Service is alive and well in some companies!!

- Ben Meche, Emergency Response Map

- You make our life so easy at FRI.

- Debbie Sobotka, CPSE

- I appreciate the follow up and actions that IAFC has taken.

- Dawn Karvis, City of Burlington

- You were both an amazing support leading up to the event and I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated it.

*– Chief Sutcliffe, Texas Task Force 2*

- Hello, Cathy: Thank you very much for your prompt reply ... Your assistance is very much appreciated ... The IAFC is fortunate to have you, and I have certainly enjoyed corresponding with you. There are infrequent opportunities to tell you and other IAFC staff members how much your services are appreciated firsthand, but I don't want to overlook this opportunity to say "thanks" and tell you how much those of us in the membership category benefit from the efficiency and professionalism that you and other IAFC staff members display. I've never received anything less than superior assistance during my infrequent calls and emails. Again, thanks!!! Best wishes.

*– Phil Johnston*

- We've burned through just about all of our copies of the RSG Wildland Fire Action Guide, distributing them to property owners in our fire district, and the demand remains high. We think it's the best, most comprehensive and most appropriate publication that we hand out these days!

*– Steve Lipsher, Public-Information Officer, Lake Dillon Fire-Rescue*

- We're so blessed to have the opportunity to work through the RSG! Program. It's been our most central and successful outreach tool and we will definitely continue to carry on the RSG messages moving forward.

*– Pablo Beimler, Coordination Assistant, Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization*

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