



IAFC

International Association of Fire Chiefs

To LEAD by being the preeminent global advocate for the fire and emergency service on leadership, policy, management and service delivery.

Strategy: Equip current and future fire and emergency service leaders to meet evolving and emerging challenges and opportunities.

- *International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference (HAZMAT) was held May 28-31 in Baltimore, Md. with a record number of attendees (1,147) and 87 exhibiting companies. More than 140 educational sessions were offered.*
- *Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) was held March 21-25 in Henderson, Nevada with participation of 358 attendees and 35 exhibiting companies. Two days of preconference sessions were followed by the opening General Session, breakouts and closing General Session.*
- *Wildland Urban Interface Conference (WUI) was held March 24-26 in Reno, Nevada with a record number of attendees (535) and 54 exhibiting companies. More than 30 educational sessions were offered.*
- *The IAFC and U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released the [National Safety Culture Change Initiative \(NSCCI\) report](#). It documents the findings of a study that identified and examined types of individual and organizational behaviors that adversely impact firefighter health and safety. The IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival (SHS) Section provided key support to the study.*

Strategy: Provide innovative leadership by advocating for and guiding the fire and emergency service to create, recognize and respond to emerging trends and opportunities.

- *The IAFC participated in a panel discussion at the White House with U.S. Secretary of Labor Tom Perez on diversity in first responders. Representing the IAFC on the panel*



was Chief John Butler, Howard County (Md.) Department of Fire-Rescue, a member of the Human Relations Committee. Also in attendance as special guests on behalf of the IAFC were Chief Keith Bryant, IAFC president; Chief Donna Black, Duck (N.C.) Fire Department; Assistant Chief Manuel Fonseca, vice chair of the Human Relations Committee; and Chief Niles Ford, Baltimore City Fire Department. (July 15)

- The top elected leaders of the IAFC [met with key congressional and senate offices over two days in April](#) to raise awareness on Capitol Hill about issues critical to the association's 11,000 members. In particular, they were seeking support of federal programs that assist the nation's firefighters and EMS personnel.
- President Bryant [testified before a U.S. House of Representatives panel](#) about how violent extremists would like to use chemical weapons in terrorist attacks within the U.S. He stated that local emergency responders must be prepared with assistance from the federal government. (April 1)
- President Bryant [testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation](#) how FirstNet's goal of building a nationwide public-safety broadband network to meet first responders' needs is critically important for public safety. (March 11)
- President Bryant [appeared before the Federal Communications Commission](#) and delivered a statement articulating the importance of 911 location technologies to first responders and public safety. (January 29)
- Chief Brian Fennessy, Wildland Fire Policy Committee member, testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management. He discussed the nation's growing wildland fire problem and the challenges for local communities as they recover from wildland fires. (January 27)
- IAFC staff participated in a meeting on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in Crystal City, Va. regarding UAV's and the impact of their use in the wildland arena. (January 16) Staff also participated in a meeting at Oklahoma State University regarding UAV's and wildland fire partnership opportunities between OSU and IAFC. (April 22)



Strategy: Enhance the profession, culture and effectiveness of the fire and emergency service leadership.

- *Wildland Fire Leadership Committee (WFLC) recently chartered a new group called the National Strategy Committee (NSC). Chief Fennessey is the IAFC representative to the NSC and participated in its first meeting in Washington, D.C. to discuss roles and direction of this committee as chartered by WFLC. (May 19)*
- *Chief Will G. May, National Wildland Fire Coordinator, represented the IAFC at the IAFC's National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Executive Board monthly meetings in Boise, Idaho as the local government voice within the NWCG representing all local governments and local fire departments with wildland fire responsibilities in the U.S. and its territories.*
- *Chief Litzenberg and Wildland staff participated in the FAC Learning Network Annual Workshop in Santa Fe, N.M. along with other members of the Fire Adapted Communities Coalition and other interested participants. (June 3)*

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

Strategy: Make the knowledge and experience within the IAFC easily accessible for research and problem solving.

- *The Digital Center offered 20 webinars from January to July. Averaged 138 registrants, 60% attendance, and 32 downloads/streams for each webinar.*
- *The new FSTAR site, through the Digital Center, focused on making safety research more accessible. Special attention paid to the ease of access of this information through good user interface design to remove as many barriers as possible between users and the available information.*

Strategy: Supplement, develop, enhance and effectively deliver education, training and professional development programs to address the needs of the membership.

- *The VCOS delivered the following trainings: three Beyond Hoses and Helmets classes; two Fire Rescue Organizational Guidance for Volunteer Leaders (FROG)*

classes; two You and ISO classes; one Leading the Transition (LTC) class, and five On-Fire Leadership Webinars.

- *The Volunteer Workforce Solutions program conducted seven trainings focused on leadership, recruitment, and retention in Virginia and Connecticut.*
- *The RSG! Program session presentation at WUI2015 entitled, “Where Do Residents Go and How Do They Go Home: A Look at Wildland Fire Event Evacuations and Repopulation Processes” was given by Chief Driscoll, Assistant Chief Fennessy and Justice Jones.*
- *An educational session on “FAC for the Fire Service: Making your community more fire adapted in the wildland urban interface, a core responsibility of any fire department. But how to do it? Where do you fit in?” was given at WUI215 by John Cowie and Police Lt. Keith Germain.*
- *A Fire Adapted Communities session/presentation was given at the Congressional Fire Services Institute on “Partnership Building Before the Disaster: A New Jersey Volunteer Department Tackles Local Risks with Help from Federal Tools” by John Cowie and Police Lieutenant Keith Germain. (April 15)*
- *A Ready Set, Go! Program session was provided in Salem, Ore. to provide tips on how to promote the wildland fire preparedness message with a free Ready, Set, Go! Train-the-Trainer. (Feb. 4)*
- *RSG! Program had booths at:*
 - *Virginia Fire and Rescue Conference in Virginia Beach. (Feb. 20)*
 - *National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium, hosted by the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) in Washington, D.C. (April 15)*
 - *South Carolina Fire-Rescue Conference in Myrtle Beach, S.C. (June 11-13)*
 - *NFPA Conference & Expo, Chicago, Ill. (June 20-24)*

Strategy: Enhance IAFC’s system to support career progression and mentoring at all fire service levels.

- *The Digital Center is developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) web-based infrastructure that will provide geospatial data analysis on fire/EMS issues and valuable geospatial information to users. Examples include geospatial analysis for firefighter recruitment maps, historic and predictive wildfire maps, and real-time tracking of Mutual Aid resources.*
- *The Digital Center built interactive maps showing IAFC member status related to past FRI attendance to assist FRI 2015 marketing efforts. The maps provide a valuable marketing tool by geographically identifying marketable departments in proximity to Atlanta or potential other areas. Geographic analysis and data*

presentation in maps provide leadership the knowledge to efficiently allocate resources.

- *The Digital Center created Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) recruitment and retention studies based on geographic marketing software. It revised the VWS Connecticut Phase II studies to include simple targeted marketing maps and more thorough recruitment and retention recommendations. The VWS Studies provide a product that can help departments throughout the U.S. develop their recruitment and retention programs.*
- *The EFO Section held its first elections and elected three new board members.*

Strategy: Support leadership development at all fire service levels.

- *The IAFC received a third-year of grant funding from Motorola Solutions Foundation for the Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI) in February. More than 60 applications were received for the program. Twenty new and aspiring chiefs from throughout the U.S. were selected for the 2015 cohort and met for the first time in May.*
- *The 2014 FSEDI cohort participated in its third and last session of its program in June 2015. The group will continue with the FSEDI program as alumni and network with all FSEDI members at FRI and through its on line KnowledgeNet community.*

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

Strategy: Encourage increased membership and participation through the enhancement of IAFC's image as a valuable organization.

- *The IAFC was recognized by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) with a 2015 Gold Circle Award in the membership recruitment category for its "We are the IAFC" campaign. Launched in January 2014, the campaign featured IAFC members of different ranks and experience levels. Each*



member profile—under the headline “I Am the IAFC”—featured a photo of the member and briefly described their need, IAFC resource used and the result.

- *EFO Section membership has grown 85.9% since becoming a section in May 2014 (446 to 829).*

Strategy: Provide IAFC products and services that are relevant to current and emerging issues, and topics important to the target audiences, affiliates and partners.

- *Phase 2 of the Virginia Volunteer Workforce Solutions program (funded through a SAFER R&R grant) officially ended in April. Key results include: 1,117 membership applications received; 656 new volunteers joined; 1,833 recruitment/retention events conducted; 300 media contacts made throughout the state; 30,000 training hours delivered; and 78,000 recruitment campaign marketing materials distributed.*
- *The Connecticut Volunteer Workforce Solutions program started data collection for Phase 2 with the following results among the 15 participating departments in the first three months: 97 membership applications received; 63 new members joined; more than 100 media contacts made; 13,000 marketing materials distributed; and 200 recruitment/retention events conducted.*
- *A webinar on Grant Availability and ISO Ratings provided information on grants that are available to RSG! members (FP&S) and informed members of the ½ ISO credit available. This online panel discussion highlighted tips provided by industry experts on the ISO's Public Protection Classification Program and the FY2014 AFG Fire Prevention and Safety Funding Opportunity. (Feb. 24)*
- *A webinar on “Do You Have the Tools You Need to Become A Fire Adapted Community?: Implementing RSG! as a step toward FAC, other FAC programs and an overview of IAFC FAC Tools” was offered (May 28).*
- *To help establish Fire Adapted Communities, the Ready, Set, Go! program has developed three new English-language videos for use by RSG! program members in their prevention outreach efforts. Each highlights the successes of different members within a fire adapted community: the resident, fire department and state-level agency.*

Strategy: Strengthen the IAFC role in the global community as a resource for sharing best practices and knowledge based in real-world experience. Develop an effective international presence and delivery of value in the association.

- *Two representatives of the New Zealand Fire Service traveled to the United States to learn about diversity programs in the U.S. among career and volunteer fire departments in the areas of race and gender. Their research was to learn about different recruitment and retention programs in place to encourage diversity in membership. In June 2015, IAFC staff coordinated visits for the two firefighters with four area fire departments and their career and volunteer staffs.*
- *Ready, Set, Go! program and Fire Adapted Communities maps were developed, using input from FAC Coalition members, which are used to illustrate the general fire-adapted outreach that is occurring across the U.S.*
- *The Firefighter Safety Through Advanced Research (FSTAR) program has finalized its new website, www.fstaresearch.org. The website will launch at Fire-Rescue International and features a searchable library of fire/emergency service research and user-friendly summaries of relevant research.*

Strategy: Increase awareness of the IAFC as the go-to resource for policy and subject matter expertise.

- *IAFC's Chief of Programs and Technology Officer and Assistant Executive Director Tommy Hicks, met with Ready, Set, Go! program and IAFC members at six locations in California in late June to brief them on wildland fire program tools and resources as well as public safety initiatives that can expand fire departments' technology goals.*
- *Wildland staff provided statistics and documentation to U.S. Fire Administrator Ernie Mitchell on the wildland urban interface and fire adapted communities in support of a White House meeting he was attending on the topic. (June 6)*
- *Fire-Rescue International received the [Top 250 Tradeshow award](#) from the Trade Show News Network (TSNN). FRI 2014 in Dallas was ranked the 150th top trade show of 2014 in the U.S. Winners are determined by square footage, show attendance and exhibitor participation.*

Strategy: Expand recognition of those showing exceptional or extended service to their organizations or the industry.

- *Ready, Set, Go! program awards were given at the FAC reception during IAFC's Wildland-Urban Interface Conference in Reno, Nevada. (March 25)*
 - *The RSG! Award for Excellence - Assistant Chief Steve Deffibaugh, Princeton Fire Department*
 - *The RSG! Innovation Award - Lieutenant Andre de la Reza, Austin Fire Department*

- *The RSG! Leadership Award - Career Department: Lieutenant Brian Fox, Albuquerque Fire Department*
- *Volunteer/Combination Department: Emergency Management Assistant Bobette Mauck, Lucas Fire Department*
- *The IAFC helped lead the first ever [Wildfire Mitigation Awards program and presentations](#) at WUI2015. The IAFC partnered with The National Association of State Foresters, The National Fire Protection Association and The USDA Forest Service to establish the Wildfire Mitigation Awards in 2014 given for outstanding work and significant program impact in wildfire preparedness and mitigation.*

News About Our Members

Notable achievements such as awards and appointments.

- *Chief Brad Pinsky of Manlius (N.Y.) Fire Department won the VCOS-TargetSolutions Training Officer Award that will be presented at FRI.*
- *WFPC's Chief Fennessey was part of an [NBC story](#) that covers wildfire (April 2015)*
- *EFO Section Chair Pat Kelly took a lead position on an NFA committee to develop the 26th annual EFO Symposium at the NFA in September.*
- *Chief Tom Jenkins, Rogers (Ark.) Fire Department, received the majority of IAFC members' votes and will become the IAFC's second vice president in August at Fire-Rescue International 2015 in Atlanta. The following were uncontested elections: Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, Austin (Texas) Fire Department, for IAFC president and Chief John Sinclair, Kittitas Valley (Wash.) Fire & Rescue, for IAFC first vice president.*

Staff Updates

Hires, departures, job changes, certifications/degrees, and work-related awards.

- *Two members from the IAFC Programs and Technology staff were contracted by the Fairfax 2015 World Police and Fire Games to create and implement its Volunteer Services operational program. The IAFC team surpassed the original goal of recruited volunteers by nearly 2,000 for a total of 5,987 volunteers. In the five months, the team successfully determined the headcount and role assignments, recruited the volunteers, implemented an online orientation and created an accompanying handbook, assigned the volunteers to the 18,500 required shifts, credentialed and outfitted the workforce, and managed shift changes, venue changes, workforce demands, and other immediate responses by way of a volunteer operations center.*

- *More than 30 IAFC staff volunteered at the World Police & Fire Games in Fairfax, Va. The staff's assignment: working all day at the tug-of-war competitions.*
- *Mark Hull joined the IAFC team in January as IT programmer.*
- *Melvin Byrne and Todd Lupton both joined the Learning Center as part-time subject matter experts. Both bring a fire service background to the IAFC.*
- *Terri Fisher joined the IAFC team in February and has recently moved into a new position of administrative assistant in the Membership and Marketing Department.*
- *Brandon Cox joined the Learning Center as program assistant working on FSTAR.*
- *Stephen Boensel, program coordinator in the Community Solutions Center, has left the IAFC to become a full-time firefighter.*
- *Jenn Dorsey and Bree Willging both joined the IAFC as program coordinators in the Community Solutions Center. Willging also assisted with coordinating volunteer efforts for the World Police and Fire Games.*



What People are Saying...

- *“I can't remember a Fire Rescue Med that was this well run, and I was happy to depart the conference feeling positive about not only this conference, but Fire Rescue Med 2016, too.”*
(Deputy Chief Norris W. Croom III, International Director, EMS Section)
- *“We have integrated RSG into our overall FAC strategy as a foundational element. If a community requests a Firewise presentation we insist that our RSG guide be distributed to residents prior to our presentation. Our tenet is Firewise communities should arise out of a group of collectively informed individuals that*



in turn can support the concerted efforts of the Firewise board.” (Justice Jones, FAC coordinator, Austin Fire Department)

- *“The RSG program is the most integrated program I have used, and it is a bridge to other programs.” (Curt Christy, Firefighter/NREMT, Cherry Volunteer Fire Association)*
- *“Fire-Rescue Med is one of those valuable opportunities to engage in learning, networking, and meeting people from all disciplines that have a passion for excellence in emergency medicine as well as presentations on relevant and current topics in fire based medical response.” (Division Chief Bill Kinsey)*
- *“Thank you for your exceptional servant leadership during FRM. You are both great and I am so happy you are working with the IAFC. The way you artfully and diplomatically navigate the needs of the EMS Section leadership to remain involved and see to the needs of the conference attendees, speakers, and IAFC members to have an outstanding experience was awesome. I have been involved with the conference for 18 years and I know how intricate and complex it can be. Thank you for your professionalism and talents.” (Chief Sinclair, IAFC Second VP)*
- *“The quality of the (Hazmat conference) programs is very good. Not only can I expect an excellent presentation but I also have so much to choose from. Each year I have classes that I would like to attend but conflict with other classes that I also want to attend. This is not a bad thing. I would rather have too many to choose from rather than having to choose from subjects that do not interest me. Excellent choice of classes and instructors. This will keep me coming back for more.” (from post conference survey)*
- *During testing of www.fstaresearch.org, end users provided feedback on the website:*
 - *“Just wanted to say that I really like that you have the Summary, Takeaways and Findings page when you open the study. This is key to its usefulness!”*
 - *“...I thought it was great that the studies gave you a brief overview, and final analysis, but yet it was very easy to go to the full study. I like that there are other articles that are related easily accessible.”*
- *“The (WUI) conference seems to improve every year. As a presenter, exhibitor and coordinator of a pre-conference session, I felt the coordination with Sara Stehle and Jennifer Cooke was highly professional, timely and helpful. I appreciate the ample communication from the organizers. The tone and content of this conference has shifted toward wildfire mitigation and how fire chiefs and departments can partner with others, which is refreshing, helpful and positive. I was extremely impressed with the turnout at our pre-conference offering as well*

as our Tuesday morning "filler" session where 100 people showed up and stayed for two hours!" (from post WUI conference survey)

- *"The WUI Conference is a hub for the exchange of refreshing new ideas from proactive individuals from every corner of the wildfire world. I am excited to use what I have learned from the event as soon as I return to my community and get back to work!" (Pablo Beimler, Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization)*

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