

FIRE LINK

• COLORADO • IOWA • KANSAS • MISSOURI • NEBRASKA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA • WYOMING

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by Andy Rocca

As you read through this edition of the *Fire Link*, it becomes blatantly obvious that we are in fact, "Managing the Forces of Change," which is IAFC President Ernie Mitchell's theme for this year. Keep reading and you'll see what I mean.

I'm sure you are aware that Congress has approved FIRE Act funding for next year at \$750 million and moved it from the U.S. Fire Administration to the office of Domestic Preparedness, both of which are in the Department of Homeland Security. The IAFC strived to keep the funding within the USFA, unfortunately this did not occur. The highlights of the FY04 FIRE Act Grant program are: to remain a separate appropriation within the ODP; maintain the current administrative process, USFA involvement, continue the peer review of applications, and the funds will be available until September 30, 2005. The FIRE Act grant programs have been extremely successful and I encourage you to begin to plan for next year's process.

Once again, congratulations to the ever-growing number of MVD fire departments on your FIRE Act grant awards. As of last month, over \$48.9 million have been awarded to MVD fire departments. Make sure to write your respective members of Congress and let them know how much you appreciate their support and hard work to maintain this funding.

Congress recently passed another important piece of legislation known as the SAFER Act (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response). The SAFER Act makes \$7.6 billion available over seven years to career, combination, and volunteer departments for retaining and/or hiring additional fire fighters. President Bush is expected to sign the legislation into law.

At FRI in Dallas, the Executive Board

met to discuss the MVD Strategic Plan. We agreed to establish vice president/executive board assignments in order to provide a "local" contact. The contact assignments are as follows: President Rocca-Wessel (IA) and O'Neill (ND); 1st VP Keating-Meyer (KS), Carrizzo (MO), and Rowell (NE); 2nd VP Young-Sarff (WY), Shepherd (SD) and Rhodes (CO). It was our intent to give the MVD Board members some time to work on their assignments prior to the MVD planning meeting that is scheduled for February 20-22, 2004, in Kansas City. You can review the strategic plan on our web site at www.mvafc.org (Editor's Note: after December 15, see www.mvdiafc.org).

The MVD monthly teleconferences continue to be very productive. The teleconferences are generally held on the second Friday of the month and are well attended by the Board members. Our International Director, Steve Westermann, does an excellent job of communicating on important fire service issues and the current activities of the IAFC.

Another item worth mentioning is that the MVD is working with the IAFC and the IAFF on sponsoring the Fire Service Leadership Partnership program. The two-part program is attended by a department's fire chief and union president, and is designed to foster and enhance good labor-management relationships. The Des Moines Fire Department and Chief Phillip Vorlander are working out the details for the regional delivery of the program which is tentatively scheduled for April, 2004. The goals of the program are to: start productive communications, understand the cooperative process, and associated benefits, and to provide tools to enhance partnerships. The program has been conducted in Missouri and Colorado; both deliveries were deemed quite successful.

The word around Iowa is that Chief Bob Hamilton and the Sioux City Fire Department are finalizing their plans for an excellent MVD conference in July. Mark your calendars now, July 13-16, 2004, and plan to attend in Sioux City, IA!

In closing, my wife, Terri, and I, and our sons, Nick, Joel, and Ben, send holiday greetings to you and your families and wish all of you a Happy New Year!

Be safe! ☐



Calendar of Events

January 2004
Wyoming State Fire Chiefs
Riverton, WY

February 27, 2004
North Dakota State Fire Chiefs
Location TBA

April 2004
Leadership Partnership
Des Moines, IA

July 14-16, 2004
MVD Annual Conference
Sioux City, IA

August 12-15, 2004
IAFC-FRI
New Orleans, LA

Sioux City Conference, 2004

The 2004 MVD Conference on July 14-16, 2004, is on target with great facilities, entertainment, and speakers. The Conference will be held at the downtown Sioux City Hilton and the adjoining Convention Center. Lewis & Clark celebrations and activities are ongoing throughout the summer. Information and registration on the Conference will be mailed to all members in late March 2004. For information on Sioux City and the Convention Center, go to www.siouxcitytourismconvention.com or for Lewis & Clark activities go to www.siouxlan.com/ccat or for Downtown Sioux City, go to www.downtownsiouxcity.com. □

Largest Fire Station in the Air Force

Chief Robin Gullie of the Offutt Air Base in Omaha, Nebraska, reports that Congress has approved construction of a new fire station at Offutt that will cost \$11 million and will cover 40,000 sq. ft. on one level, and make it the largest fire station in the Air Force. Support from Senators Nelson and Hagel and Congressman Terry was instrumental in getting the appropriation. Construction has already started, and the completion date is October 2004. □

MVD Web Site

The Missouri Valley Division access to the web site will be changing December 15 to www.mvdiafc.org but the old mvaafc.org will still work for the next few months.

Opportunity to Serve

If you want to become involved in the Missouri Valley Division, the opportunity to lead and serve your fellow Chiefs is now.

The Office of 2nd Vice President will be filled by election at the Sioux City Conference. The position of 2nd Vice President is for one year with the incumbent expected to move to 1st Vice President the next year and then to President the third year. Duties of the position can be found in the MVD Constitution & Bylaws on the web site.

If you wish to run for the position, you must file your intention to run with the Secretary of the Division 120 days before the July 14, 2004, Sioux City Conference.

To date, Missouri State Vice President Chief Richard Carrizzo, is the only announced candidate for the office. □

2005 MVD Conference

Columbia, Missouri, has informed the Board of Directors of the Missouri Valley Division that they would like to host the 2005 Division Conference. The Conference will be jointly hosted by Chief Bill Markgraf of Columbia and Chief

Steve Paulsell and Chief Rob Brown both from Boone County, Missouri. Information on the 2005 Conference will be available at the Sioux City Conference in July. □

IAFC Introduces New Merchandise Vendor

The IAFC has entered into a partnership with E Group, a merchandise and apparel branding company based in Reston, Virginia, to develop and deliver an exclusive merchandising program for the association's members.

E Group has designed and implemented an online store at www.firechiefstore.com. The e-store will feature the Insignia

Collection, an assortment of IAFC-branded jackets, shirts, caps, and other products. Phone orders also may be placed by calling E Group at 800/859-3958.

The IAFC looks forward to offering its membership the opportunity to purchase exclusive IAFC merchandise and apparel at an affordable price. □

**Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes
for a
Happy, Healthy,
New Year!**

Omaha Fire Department Receives Grant to Start Juvenile Fire Starter Diversion Program

by Captain Jim Palensky, Omaha Fire Department Public Education Bureau

The Omaha Fire Department (OFD) has been awarded a grant from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for the implementation of a Juvenile Fire Starter Diversion Program for Douglas County. This grant will make it possible for law enforcement to refer juvenile cases involving the use of fire, when the age of the juvenile is between eight and eighteen years of age, to the Douglas County Attorney's Office for review for diversion.

When diversion is appropriate, the juvenile's case will be sent to the Douglas County Diversion Coordinator who will then determine if the Omaha Fire Department's Juvenile Fire Starter (JFS) Diversion Program is appropriate. Prior to the start of the juvenile's entrance into the JFS Diversion Program, fire risk surveys will be administered to the juveniles to determine the need for family support services.

The JFS Diversion Program will consist of two educational sessions, a fire prevention and survival packet, and character-building activities for the juveniles to take home. The program will also include at least 20 hours of community service, writing assignments and projects. Juveniles will also be monitored for school performance.

The JFS Diversion Program's goal is to reduce the number of juvenile fire starter incidents. In order to reach this goal, the program will also be expanding our already-in-place juvenile fire starter program which includes juveniles between the ages of three and seven years, the ages that account for a high percentage of fires started by juveniles. Unfortunately, the reason that these juveniles play with fire is often because adults in their home leave matches and lighters within their reach.

Juveniles who enroll in this program will receive a three-hour course on fire safety geared to their age group. Juvenile referrals, along with non-diversion juveniles between eight and eighteen years of age who are in need of fire

education, can be referred to the program by parents, guardians, teachers, counselors, health professionals, fire fighters, officers, and community leaders.

Juvenile fire play is the leading cause of fire deaths among preschoolers.

The OFD, schools, and counseling agencies can connect you with experts trained to help with this problem. □

NFPA Report: Home Fire Deaths Down Sharply in 2002

reprinted from *Wildfire News and Notes*, September 2003

The number of people who died in home fires dropped an exceptional 14.1 percent last year compared to 2001, according to the annual report on fire loss by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The NFPA study found that 2,670 people died in home fires in 2002, the lowest number that NFPA has ever recorded.

The latest results continue a decades-long trend toward safer homes. The home fire death toll in 2002 was 54 percent lower than in 1977 when comparable statistics were first developed. The reduction is especially significant because home is the location where one is most likely to die in a fire: Four out of five fire deaths occur in the home.

The NFPA analyzed survey results from 3,460 fire departments in the United States. The study found that 1.69 million fires were reported to America's 30,000+ fire departments in 2002, a decrease of 2.7 percent from 2001. About half the fires occurred outside, 30 percent in structures and 20 percent in vehicles.

Home fires were also responsible for 70 percent of total civilian fire deaths. Overall, there were 3,380 civilian fire deaths in 2002, a decrease of 98 percent from the previous year, exclusive of fires connected to the September 11 terrorist attacks ("Civilian" refers to anyone who is not a firefighter.)

In addition to fewer people dying in fires in 2002, fewer were injured. There were 18,425 civilian injuries in fires, a decrease of 9.2 percent from 2001 and the lowest number since 1977. Three-quarters of these injuries occurred in homes. Fire also caused an estimated \$10.3 billion in direct property damage, a decrease of 2.2 percent (excluding the events of September 11). More than half the total property loss also occurred in homes.

A condensed version of the NFPA report, *Fire Loss in the United States during 2002*, also has information on intentionally set fires and can be obtained by logging on to: <http://www.nfpa.org/Research/OneStopDataShop/OneStopDataShop.asp>. □

Resources:

USDA: www.fs.fed.us/r4/sf_grants/sfa_grants.html

USDI: www.blm.gov/natacq/FIRE/assistance.html

USFA: www.sfa.fema.gov

State News...

Colorado

by Chief Jerry Rhodes

Hot topics in Colorado center on the economy, federal grants, resource mobilization plan, and some outstanding education.

Like many of you, Colorado is working to coordinate many of the different Federal and State grants that are available to emergency services. We have successfully consolidated 18 different State planning region maps into one by an order from Governor Owens.

Eleven regions in the State with councils comprised for all responder agencies, County, and State planners. This allows all the agencies to review the available funds and make regional decisions on the allocation of resources.

A statewide Resource Mobilization Plan is in beta test mode. Patterned after the National Wildland Coordination Group, California Department of Forestry, Florida, and Texas models is inclusive of all response agencies. This will allow local and regional response of resources while monitoring area coverage and back fill. This mobilization plan should be available next quarter and will be sent to our IAFC committee members.

Colorado wants you to come visit and participate in your professional education. December is our annual Colorado Leadership Challenge in Breckinridge, CO. National Speakers in ski country U.S.A., at local prices. Our MVD President, Chief Rocca, will join the fire services best and brightest this year.

MVD members mark your agency calendars for August 2005 Fire Rescue International. As we have learned in the East end of our division, the opportunity to get our firefighters to this conference with minimal impact to our budget is most excellent. We are working hard to make your FRI 2005 Conference experience one to remember. There will be good deals for your fire fighters who are just coming to see the most awesome fire service equipment show in the land. Come see us. □

Missouri

by Chief Richard R. Carrizzo

The Missouri Fire Chief's association recently met at Big Cedar Lodge, south of Branson, Missouri, February 28-March 2 for its Winter Leadership Seminar. Dennis Compton, Retired Fire Chief of Mesa, Arizona was the speaker for the Seminar.

The first part of the discussion was the teachings of Lao Tzu of China in 600 B.C. The ten concepts that Tzu taught are the same concepts that are taught throughout management and leadership courses.

Ethical Commitments to external customers, internal customers, leaders and followers, professional conduct and personal responsibility was talked about.

Systems management and leadership model of a fire and life safety infrastructure was reviewed with everyone. Chief Compton used an additional model of a three-legged chair to help prove his point. The model showed the fire and life safety mission being supported by public education, emergency response and fire prevention. If one of the legs fails, then the system would fail until repaired.

Chief Compton discussed how leaders of career and volunteer fire departments are challenged to manage and lead full service organizations that are focused on the mission. Key components to the fire department structure and key leadership and management responsibilities can be institutionalized to achieve the maximum success. A new model for the department structure was discussed that had internal and external customers encompassed by the division and functions of the department. This model was one way that chief officers could develop a management structure that possessed leadership skills to help get the job done.

Chief Compton's leadership ended Saturday. A business meeting was held on Sunday. Approximately 90 chief officers attended the event making this one of the Missouri Chiefs most heavily attended seminars.

One of the draws, in addition to the wonderful educational experience, is the "best kept secret," Big Cedar Lodge. □

Wyoming

by Chief Scott Alvard

A Fire and Rescue Training Complex was a dream and a vision for the Cheyenne Fire Department for many years. After much planning, this vision moved much closer to being a reality when the State of Wyoming agreed to provide \$1.5 million through a state grant to the City of Cheyenne to start this project. The City of Cheyenne provided \$1.8 million and Cheyenne Leaders, an economic development group, donated 32 acres of land.

With the financing in place and having acquired the land, the project was ready to move ahead. In February of 2001, the planning phase started; by April of 2002, the contract had been awarded and construction began.

On August 2, 2003, the City of Cheyenne Fire and Rescue Training Complex/Station 4 was dedicated. The complex is located on 32 acres of land. The site contains a multi-purpose building with bays, classrooms, officers and the ability to expand as a functional Fire Station. There is a six-store Training Tower that is designed for a multitude of training evolutions involving search and rescue, high angle, confined space, ventilation, and many other uses. There is a two-store Burn building that is designed for live fire training. A vehicle extrication pad, a pump test pit, roof and ventilation props, electrical and structural props are also located at the site.

In September, the first Firefighter recruit academy started and for the next ten weeks, this first class of recruits and instructors completed the dedication of this facility and it performed magnificently.

On November 7, 2003, the First Recruit Academy Graduation was held. Many proud firefighters and their families attended the ceremonies.

This training facility is a great addition to the training and development of firefighters in the City of Cheyenne. It is Cheyenne's desire to reach out to other local and state departments and offer them the opportunity to come and train at this wonderful facility.

The next meeting of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs will be January 9, 2004, 1:00 p.m., Wyoming Fire Academy, Riverton, www.rivertonfire.com. □

Iowa

by Chief Mark Wessel

The Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs met in October in Ames, Iowa, for their Fall Conference. Chief Rick Roe of Clive was elected to a two-year term as President and Chief Bob Platts of Mason City was elected to Vice President. Chief Terry Sesker of Waukee is the Secretary/Treasurer; Chief Dan Brown of Dubuque is Director; and Chief Mark Wessell of Keokuk is Past President.

This conference was the first time that the combination chiefs met prior to the actual conference to discuss issues exclusive to their departments. The combination forum was a great success and will continue in the future at the spring conference.

The conference subject matter evolved around issues such as funding cuts mandated by the State Legislature, Homeland Security funding, and USAR team updates. A presentation was given from Chief Phillip Vorlander of Des Moines on the formation of an Iowa Regional Incident Management Team. Missouri Valley Division (IAFC) President Andy Rocca (Iowa city) presented to the membership an update of the division's activities. □

New Members

A Big Welcome to our Newest Members

Batt. Chief Todd Cipolla - Raymore, MO
 Batt. Chief Alan Fletcher - Denver, CO
 Batt. Chief Edwin Murray - Raymore, MO
 Batt. Chief Robert Norman - Raymore, MO
 Asst. Chief Michael Van Akem - Raymore, MO
 Batt. Chief Rick Martin - Castle Rock, CO
 Batt. Chief Anthony Cerrone - Colorado Springs, CO
 Chief Mike Long - Grand Lake, CO
 Batt. Chief James Schanel - Colorado Springs, CO
 Chief Andy Nemmo - Joplin, MO
 Chief D. Kent Smock - Evandale, IA
 Chief Jack Brown - St. Joseph, MO
 Chief Jimmy Bumgarner - Larkspur, CO
 Chief Jim Narva - Cheyenne, WY
 Fire Chief - Berkley, MO
 Deputy Chief Ed Pfiefer - Kansas City, MO
 Chief Nolan Paulsen - Omaha, NE
 A/C John York - Omaha, NE

Fire Service Leadership Partnership

The Missouri Valley Division will host the Leadership Partnership program in April 2004 in Des Moines, Iowa. The program consists of a two-day session in April followed by a two-day follow-up session about six months later.

The Fire Service Leadership Partnership is a program designed to foster and enhance good labor-management relationships. This program, developed as a cooperative initiative between the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), is intended for fire departments with an organized workforce. The program's goals are:

- To start productive communications
- To understand the cooperative process
- To understand the benefits of a cooperative process
- To provide tools to enhance partnerships

The program is delivered in two separate two-day workshops. One fire chief and one union president facilitate the workshops and take the participating fire chiefs and union presidents through the process of gaining trust and learning to work together as a team rather than behaving as adversaries. Through this program, fire

chiefs and union presidents who graduate and develop partnerships will be able to not only enhance their labor-management environment, but also improve their departments and concentrate on critical issues facing their departments and communities.

Who Should Attend?

The Fire Service Leadership partnership is delivered in cooperation with state fire chief and fire fighter associations. For

a fire department to participate, the fire chief and union president must attend both parts.

The program is limited to 25 departments or a total of 50 participants. Registration is \$200 per person for each session.

Additional registration information and a tape on the program will be sent to you if your department and union is interested in attending, and you **fill out the form** and mail it back.

Fire Service Leadership Partnership

April 2004

Des Moines, Iowa

Department Name _____

Chief Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: Secretary MVD, Box 80003; Lincoln, NE 68501

Missouri Valley Division

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Lincoln, NE 68501

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The Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs is dedicated to supporting professional development of its members through educational, leadership, and networking opportunities, while serving as a liaison between State Chiefs' organizations and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FIRE CHIEF - WARRENSBURG, MISSOURI

The City of Warrensburg, Missouri (17,000 pop.), a university community located 50 miles east of Kansas City, is seeking qualified applicants for this department head position. A council/manager community, the Fire Chief is appointed by and reports directly to the city manager.

The successful candidate must have a proven track record in fire management; organizational planning and development; fire tactical supervision; the ability to effectively communicate both orally and in writing; plus an exceptional ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships both internally and externally. Additionally, this position requires demonstrative knowledge of medical first responder services and operation of multiple (2) stations. The department has 24 FTE and 26 PT personnel and a \$1.5 million operational budget. Minimum qualifications included demonstrated leadership/supervisor/management skills; proven administrative skills; High School Diploma or equivalent; 10 years progressive experience with at least 5 years in upper management in a paid professional fire department and F/F I, F/F II and EMT Certification. Preference may be given to applicants with bachelors in fire service management, fire science, public or business administration. Likewise certification or licensing as Fire Officer or Fire Executive, First Responder, and/or Paramedic considered a plus.

Dependent upon experience and qualifications, the salary range is \$47,200-\$59,200 with an excellent benefit and retirement program. Applicants desiring reasonable accommodation or additional information should contact Personnel at 660-747-9131.

Applications for employment may be requested in person, by phone, mail or via e-mail at personnel@warrensburg-mo.com and must then be returned with a resumé to the City of Warrensburg, Attention: Personnel, 102 S. Holden St., Warrensburg MO 64093 by 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 16, 2004. The City of Warrensburg reserves the right to notify only those individuals selected for an interview as to the status of their application for employment. EOE/ADA.