

# FIRE LINK

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## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by Andy Rocca

Well, here it is, the month of March and I'm confident that your fiscal year 2005 budgets are just about wrapped up! In the past few months, I've heard from a number of fire chiefs about significant cuts in their budgets, staffing levels, and the ability to provide quality fire and EMS services. Rest assured, you're not alone in these difficult times. Remember what I said in the last newsletter about "*Managing the Forces of Change*"? A number of states have attempted to balance their budgets by eliminating state aid that directly affects a city's general fund and ultimately the locally provided services. Many fire departments have responded by implementing revenue-generating programs and fees for services. If you have a program that you would like to feature in the upcoming edition of the *FIRE LINK*, please let us know. We would be happy to showcase the "best practices" of the MVD.

The Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness and the United States Fire Administration have announced the availability of the 2004 Assistance to Firefighter's Program guidance document. The document is intended to provide applicants with insight into the priorities and eligible activities for the program. The application period was planned to open on March 1, 2004. Details of the program are available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp). As you will recall, Congress approved \$75 million for this year's program.

Once again, congratulations to the ever-growing number of MVD fire departments on your 2003 FIRE Act grant awards. As of last month, over \$73.2 million has been awarded to MVD fire departments. As always, be 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 for the fire service.

Last month, the executive board and representatives of several state fire chief associations met in Kansas City, MO, for our annual planning session. During the session, we discussed components of the MVD Strategic Plan and revised our position statements. The session gave us the opportunity to discuss progress on the plan to date and to refine the plan including action steps and executive board assignments. The plan is truly the driving force of the MVD and is regarded as a model plan for other divisions in the IAFC. My thanks to Chief Rich Lehmann (Past President, 1998, and ret. Liberty, MO) for an excellent job of facilitating the process. The updated strategic plan and position statements will be available in the near future on our web site at [www.mvdiafc.org](http://www.mvdiafc.org).

As a reminder, the MVD Annual Conference is scheduled for July 14-16, 2004, in Sioux City, IA. For you history buffs, this will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the travels of Lewis and Clark and re-live their adventure through Iowa. Registration forms and conference information will be mailed out soon, so mark your calendars and plan to attend!

My thanks to the Nebraska Municipal Fire Chiefs Association and the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs for their hospitality last month at their respective meetings. It was a privilege to be in attendance and learn about the many initiatives and activities you are endeavoring to achieve. Please accept my sincere wishes for your continued success. As well, I will look forward to spending time with Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs this month and making the trek in April to

Wyoming for the Wyoming State Fire Chiefs Conference and firefighter memorial service.

In closing, I'd like you to know that our International Director, Steve Westermann is recuperating from surgery. Steve, on behalf of the entire MVD, we wish you a speedy recovery and good health as you hit the campaign trail on your bid for IAFC Second Vice President in 2005!

Be safe! ☐



### Calendar of Events

**April 26-28, 2004**  
Fire Rescue EMS  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**April 2004**  
Leadership Partnership  
Des Moines, IA

**June 10-12**  
Public Ed Seminar  
Overland Park, KS

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

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

# Fire Service Leadership Partnership

## Registration Deadline - March 22, 2004

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.

►Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to be appreciated.

►Don't carry a grudge.

►Commit yourself to constant self-improvement.

►Don't allow the phone to interrupt important moments. It's there for your convenience, not the caller's.

►Don't waste time grieving over past mistakes. Learn from them and move on.

►When complimented, a sincere "thank you" is the only response required.

The program is limited to 50 departments. Registration is \$200 per person for each session. If your department is interested in attending, fill out the form and mail back. Additional registration information and a tape on the program will be sent to you.

### Fire Service Leadership Partnership April 2004

#### Registration Deadline - March 22, 2004 Des Moines, Iowa

Department Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Public Education Conference

The Public Education Section of Missouri Valley Division has an exciting conference planned for this year! **The Amazing Safety Race** will be June 10, 11, 12, 2004, at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Overland Park, Kansas.

The conference is featuring several well known speakers. Mary Feeley, CSP, known as "The Provocateur" has delivered motivational messages and presentations to major corporations all over the country and will be speaking in June about change and how to work with it.

June 10 will have a Youth Firesetter Focus featuring a nationally known expert on the subject.

Chief Alan Brunacini will be the opening speaker on June 11 and will be providing additional workshops throughout the day.

In addition there will be workshops all three days on topics such as working with non-English speaking people, using service

learning programs, working with special needs populations and playground safety, to name a few. You NEED to send SOMEONE to this conference!!! It's a bargain at \$125 or \$60 per day, BUT, if you register early, you can come to the whole thing for \$100! That includes breakfast and lunch! The hotel is offering a special conference rate of \$89 per night. Registration forms will be going out the middle of March, but if you would like more information or want to be sure you are on the mailing list, contact Sharon Fricke at (913) 971-6706 or [sfricke@olatheks.org](mailto:sfricke@olatheks.org)

(See flyer in this publication).



### MVD Web Site

The Missouri Valley  
Division web site is  
[www.mvdiafc.org](http://www.mvdiafc.org)

# IAFC Leadership Summit

by Mark Young

The IAFC Leadership Summit was held on October 17-18, 2003, in Washington, DC

IAFC President Ernie Mitchell opened the session and gave an overview of the two-day session. The purpose of the Summit was to allow an opportunity for fire service leaders to be debriefed by top federal officials on programs and issues and discuss how the fire service fits into their future plans.

FEMA/U.S. Fire Administrator Dave Paulison discussed the reorganization of the USFA and its relationship with the Department of Homeland Security. The Director also spoke about the importance of the National fire service speaking with a single voice. He urged everyone to develop positive relationships with their Congressional Representatives and Senators.

DHLS Under Secretary Mike Brown discussed preparedness issues.

Senior NASA Advisor Dr. Amy Donahue presented a program on the space shuttle disaster response.

Jerome Hauer, Acting Under Secretary of the Office of Public Health Preparedness, with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, presented a program entitled, "Chem-Bio Threat and Reality." Under Secretary Hauer gave an overview on the reality of such a chem-bio attack on the U.S. Under Secretary Hauer believes that our nation's food source is very vulnerable to Botulinum. He also recommends that fire department haz-mat teams do not rely on current field assay kits. Fire Department response teams should not rely on these kits and should always get samples to labs to ensure reliable results. He did suggest the kits should be used as a back up to lab tests.

SAFECOM Director Dr. David Boyd gave a program update on interoperable communications in Public Safety.

Acting Director of Domestic Preparedness Andy Mitchell gave an overview of the Office of Domestic Preparedness. The Acting Director informed us on a new Master's Degree Program in Homeland Security. This is through the Naval Post Graduate School.

He also informed the participants of technical assistance which is provided through their ODP web site and of 11 propositioned response equipment caches which re-located across the U.S. This equipment is capable of equipping 100 fire fighters.

Josh Filler, Director of State and Local Government Coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, gave a presentation of what DHS has accomplished over the past six months. He reiterated that valuable intelligence information is being sent out to State Homeland Security Offices as well as FBI and local law enforcement.

The first day of the Summit concluded with presentations on labor/management issues by IAFF Chief of State Mike Crouse and a look at significant IAFC accomplishments by IAFC First Vice President Bob DiPoli, who also hosted a town hall meeting.

IAFC by Government Relations Director Alan Caldwell gave an update on existing communications challenges. He presented information on the nation's public safety radio interference program and the associates Consensus Plan Solution.

Chief Jim Broman handed out the final draft of the IAFC Officer Development Handbook. This handbook provides fire service leaders with valuable information and benchmarks that systematically increases a person's leadership skills and professional development.

Nextel gave a presentation on their public safety communication solution. Nextel has developed and implemented an interoperability program using their "Direct Connect" product. They have established an emergency response team comprised of 500 people nationwide. This team can be activated to provide emergency responders with phones during a federal or state declared emergency and/or disaster. They also provide phones during homeland security field training exercises at no cost to the hosting agency. Another element of their communications program is provide public safety agencies with mobile satellite trucks that can provide up to 288 simultaneous phone conversations. Nextel can also support State EOC's. To request this type of special event support, a public safety official should call 1-888-639-0020.

The Summit program concluded with a discussion on volunteer and combination departments led by Chief Larry Curl, and a look at the State fire chiefs associations and mutual-aid systems which was facilitated by IAFC Second Vice President Bill Killen. IAFC Executive Director Garry Briese and President Mitchell wrapped up the program with a presentation titled, "Who is the Fire Service?" followed by a town-hall meeting.

I would like to thank President Andy Rocca for the opportunity to attend this event. I was proud and honored to represent the Missouri Valley Division.

## Resources:

**USDA:** [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sf\\_grants/sfa\\_grants.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sf_grants/sfa_grants.html)

**USDI:** [www.blm.gov/natacq/FIRE/assistance.html](http://www.blm.gov/natacq/FIRE/assistance.html)

**USFA:** [www.sfa.fema.gov](http://www.sfa.fema.gov)

# State News...

## Nebraska Fire Fighters Mourn

A community of family, friends, and neighbors came together to bid farewell to two of their own in Wood River, Nebraska.

Captain Bob Heminger and Captain Kenny Woitalewicz took their final ride on Wood River Engine No. 30 to the Wood River Cemetery. The two long-time Wood River fire fighters died after a roof collapsed on them during a Valentine's Day

fire in Wood River while trying to rescue a 73-year-old woman trapped inside. Schools in the city were closed and buses were used to ferry fire fighters from across the state to the funeral service at Wood River High School.

Over 500 fire fighters from across the Midwest paid their final respects to the two fallen fire fighters.

## Nebraska

by Jim Rowell

The Omaha Fire Department was awarded \$355,000 for an exhaust abatement system for our fire stations. The City must provide some matching funds in order to receive this grant.

The fumes from diesel exhaust contain well-known cancer causing agents. An exhaust abatement system will provide a cleaner, healthier working environment for our firefighters. It is anticipated that all 23 fire stations will be able to be outfitted with this grant.

\* \* \*

Beatrice has been successful in our grant application for the first time. We were awarded \$104,675 to be formally received in seven to ten days to upgrade our breathing apparatus and obtain a new refill compressor. Senator Hagel notified us in January. There is a ten percent match.

Terry Burger, Fire Chief  
Beatrice Fire & Rescue



**MVD**  
**Web Site**

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**Division web site is**  
**[www.mvdiafc.org](http://www.mvdiafc.org)**

## Colorado

by Chief Jerry Rhodes

Colorado sadly joins Nebraska with a fire fighter Line of Duty death. FF Lynch from the Penrose, CO, Fire Department was killed while operating at a motor vehicle accident. He was struck by a motorist. Remember the International has information on proper PPE for operations in traffic. Class three vests are recommended. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all three families and to our extended fire service family.

All states in the Division are spending time at their capitol working on legislation. Colorado hot topics are auto insurance transition from no fault to tort, fire-works, and pension issues. All bills are on the Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association web sites.

Combination Department Section of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association is addressing a lot of issues that are more unique to combination department and departments in transition. Contact Chief Bruce Mygartt of the Boulder Rural Fire Protection District, Section Chair for more information. [bruce.mygartt@brfd.boulder.co.us](mailto:bruce.mygartt@brfd.boulder.co.us)

Colorado Resource Mobilization Plan is up and running. Data is currently being loaded by all response agencies. This charge was lead by the State Division of Fire Safety, State Fire Chiefs, and the Colorado County Sheriffs. Resource categories and typing is instep with the national prototype, Texas, Florida, and

California.

Fire Rescue International 2005 will be in Denver, Colorado. It is within a reasonable drive from anywhere in the Missouri Valley Division. Heart of America Chiefs has shown us the benefit of getting line personnel to FRI.

The Colorado Leadership Challenge was a great success this last December. Mark your calendars and set your budget for December 2004 and 2005. It is always an excellent program in a great setting in the Rockies with skiing and shopping.

Homeland Security Regions are operational and getting work done in a multi-discipline arena. We are in the second year of grand appropriation. For more information, contact MVD Past President, Chief John O'hayre at North Metro Fire Rescue.

Executive Director Sue Mencer of ODP will come home to Colorado in April for a visit. Executive Director Mencer will be the keynote Speaker at the Colorado Fallen Fire Fighter Foundation annual Memorial Ceremony.

Have a "Fire Safe Day."

# Manual on Standards of Response Coverage for Fire Departments Available

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) recently published the fourth edition of *Creating and Evaluating Standards of Response Coverage for Fire Departments*. The manual was produced with assistance of a grant from PERI.

The manual can be downloaded at no charge from either PERI's or CFAI's Web site; a CD-ROM version may be ordered from CFAI for \$9.95. (See the end of this article for Web and ordering information.)

The purpose of the manual is to provide a standardized methodology for the development or review of a community's standards of coverage plan.

According to the CFAI, there are usually three reasons to redo or challenge existing levels of service – expansion, contraction of service areas, or a change in risk expectations. Contraction is typically the result of a reduction in service area, a decline in risk or value, or a decline in available fire protection funding. Regardless of the reasons, elected officials need to base changes in levels of service on empirical evidence and rational discussion, leaving to effective, informed policy choices, CFAI believes. The purpose of the standards of response coverage process is to prepare fire service leaders to conduct just such an analysis and then lead an informed policy discussion.

Standards of response coverage, the CFAI says, are those written procedures that determine the distribution and concentration of fixed and mobile resources. This process includes reviewing community expectations, setting response goals, and establishing a system of measuring performance. This plan encompasses everything an agency should understand to prepare and determine resource deployment.

This process uses a system approach to deployment rather than a one-size-fits-all prescriptive formula. In a comprehensive approach, each agency should be able to match local need (risks and expectations) with the costs of various levels of service.

The CFAI manual says that to clearly define standards of response coverage,

agencies should have a policy statement regarding how risks are categorized within the context of their own jurisdiction. Because of the wide range of complex issues for which individual agencies are held accountable, it is necessary that there is a method for identifying risks and expected outcomes. Based upon that risk assessment and anticipated workload, a standard of response coverage is developed for fire fighting and EMS functions.

Utilizing the standards of response coverage concept may help to define a more in-depth approach to required crew and staffing needs, which takes into account not only what would be required of the first arriving company, but also the additional companies necessary to ensure an effective response force for fire suppression, emergency medical services, and specialty response situations such as hazardous materials incidents.

## Download or Order CD-ROM

*Creating and Evaluating Standards of Response Coverage for Fire Departments, 4th edition*, can be downloaded at no charge from PERI's Web site ([www.riskinstitute.org](http://www.riskinstitute.org)) from the Reference and Information section of the Publications, Tools, and Resources page. It can also be downloaded from CFAI's Web site at [www.cfainet.org](http://www.cfainet.org); a CD-ROM version can be ordered for \$9.95, also from CFAI's site. The CFAI, located in Chantilly, VA, can be contacted at 703-691-4620.

## JOIN AN IAFC SECTION TODAY!

Network with colleagues who share your special interests and concerns for the future of the fire service. Section membership is optional and can be added or dropped at any time during your IAFC membership. Many IAFC members belong to more than one section. Call the Section Chair or Staff Liaison for further information on membership.

### Apparatus/Maintenance Section (\$15/year)

Section Chair: Instructor Don Henry, 780-853-8553 • [don.henry@lakelandc.ab.ca](mailto:don.henry@lakelandc.ab.ca)  
IAFC Staff Liaison: Meg Hammerstrom, 703-273-0911 • [mhammerstrom@iafc.org](mailto:mhammerstrom@iafc.org)

### Emergency Medical Services Section (\$15/year)

Section Chair: Past Deputy Chief John Sinclair, 253-973-1606 • [jds606@aol.com](mailto:jds606@aol.com)  
IAFC Staff Liaison: Matt Spengler, 703-372-0911 • [mspengler@iafc.org](mailto:mspengler@iafc.org)

### Federal & Military Fire Service Section (\$20/year)

Section Chair: Chief Gary Brouse, 717-770-5014 • [Gary.Brouse@dla.mil](mailto:Gary.Brouse@dla.mil)  
IAFC Staff Liaison: Sacha Dick, 785-423-1818 • [sdick@iafc.org](mailto:sdick@iafc.org)

### Fire & Life Safety Section (\$15/year)

Section Chair: Chief Jackie Gibbs, 770-794-5451 • [jgibbs@city.marietta.ga.us](mailto:jgibbs@city.marietta.ga.us)  
IAFC Staff Liaison: Joelle Fishkin, 703-273-0911 • [jfishkin@iafc.org](mailto:jfishkin@iafc.org)

### Industrial Fire & Safety Section (\$15/year)

Section Chair: Chief Scott Dornan, 907-659-7882 • [scott.a.donan@conocophillips.com](mailto:scott.a.donan@conocophillips.com)  
IAFC Staff Liaison: Mary Marshall, 703-273-0911 • [mmarshall@iafc.org](mailto:mmarshall@iafc.org)

### Volunteer & Combination officers Section (\$25/year)

Section Chair: Past Chief Larry Curl, 317-557-2884 • [wfdcurl@comcast.net](mailto:wfdcurl@comcast.net)  
IAFC Staff Liaison: Sacha Dick, 785-423-1818 • [sdick@iafc.org](mailto:sdick@iafc.org)

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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.

## **New Members**

### **A Big Welcome to our Newest Members**

Chief Michael Walker – Fort Madison, IA  
Chief Mike Weiss – Winfield, MO  
DC Robert Rocha – Kansas City, KS  
BC Steve Meng – Arvaka, CO  
Chief Rob Cleveland – Cheyenne, WY  
Chief Terry Hill – Warrensburg, MO  
AC Marty Allen – Branson West, MO  
Chief Robert Rinhe – Littleton, CO  
DC Brian Daley – Littleton, CO  
DC Joseph Gonzales – Denver, CO  
Bil Wallis – Lakewood, CO  
DC Roob Sontag – Golden, CO  
Chief Jeff Davis – Bailey, CO  
DC Norm Crouch – Fairplay, CO  
Chief Mike Osmun – Allenspark, CO  
Chief Trent Harwig – Peyton, CO  
Capt. Robert Helton – Colorado Springs, CO  
Chief John McDougall – Cheyenne, WY

Chief Dan Smith – Solon, IA  
Chief Ron Koan – Sturgis, SD  
BC Stan Cleveland – Lee's Summit, MO  
Chief Charles Fraley – Saint Robert, MO  
AC Rance Duffy – Nixa, MO  
AC Bryan Newberry – Nixa, MO  
AC Jon Trent – Olathe, KS  
Ops. Chief Henry DuPont – Overland Park, KS  
Chief Jimmy Shaver – Andover, KS  
Chief Larry Hay – Valley Center, KS  
Chief Jeff Smith – Valley, NE  
AC Anbdrew Prker – Lakewood, CO  
Chief Larry Schmidt – Conifer, CO  
Chief Scott Dorman – Estes Park, CO  
BC Allen Weese – Montrose, CO  
BC Michael Schell – Montrose, CO  
BC Craig Willsie – Montrose, CO  
Fire Warden Craig Haslam – Riverton, WY