

# FIRE LINK

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## From the President

by Buck Hartley

It is hard to believe that a year has almost passed since I was elected to be your President. There are several people that I would like to THANK for the successful year. First, the Executive Board. Second, our International Director, Bob Pottberg, who has done an outstanding job of informing the Association about all the happenings on the national level. Last, but not least, I want to personally THANK our Division Secretary, Mike Merwick. Mike has kept me moving in the right direction all year. Thank you, Mike!

Many things have come up during this last year from NFPA 1710 and NFPA 1720, but the most exciting thing

I believe is the FIRE GRANT. As of May 3, 2001, more than 1,900 applications from fire departments across the nation have reached the Assistance to Firefighters Grant office before the May 2 deadline.

The Association assisted with the PUBLIC EDUCATORS conference in Olathe, Kansas, entitled, "Safe Odyssey 2001." The conference was a great success with several educators in attendance. Great job to all that put this conference together!

In closing, I want to say THANK YOU to the membership of our ASSOCIATION for making this year a very special part of my fire service career. □

## EMS Section Update

The EMS Division continues down the road of formation. The first formal meeting of the Section occurred on April 9, during the Fire/Rescue Med Conference in Las Vegas. Fire/Rescue Med provided an excellent backdrop for the Division's first meeting and certainly set a motivated and energetic tone for those who attended the Division meeting.

Twenty-eight persons from the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs attended the Section meeting. Chief Beaty opened the meeting by welcoming participants and initiated a conversation with participants. Dave Becker with Castlerock Fire Department provided an overview of the motivation for formation of the Section and numerous other people made points about the roles and potential

voids that the Division could fill for the membership.

The group discussed the bylaws as proposed by the Association's Executive Board. Numerous concerns were placed on the table over language clarifications and Board intent. The group also expressed the need to remain attached to and active with the International Association of Fire Chief's EMS Section. Chief Beaty will carry this information back to the Board at the annual July meeting in Casper, Wyoming.

Chief Beaty made interim appointments for Vice Chair and Secretary. Tad Rowen, Montrose Fire Protection District, Montrose, Colorado, was appointed as Vice Chair. Mark Thorp, Clayton Fire Department, Clayton, Missouri, will fill the Interim Secretary.



### Calendar of Events

**July 11-13, 2001**  
**Annual Missouri Valley Assn. of Fire Chiefs Conference**  
**Casper, Wyoming**  
**Board Liaison:**  
**1st VP Steve Westermann**  
**Ph 816-229-2522**  
**Chief of Casper-Mark Young**  
**Ph 307-235-8222**  
**See Casper FD's Website for details**

**August 24-27, 2001**  
**International Association of Fire Chiefs - FRI**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**November 29-December 1, 2001**  
**Colorado Fire Leadership Challenge**

**December 3-4, 2001**  
**Colorado Labor/Management Leadership Partnership, Part 2**

Formal elections will be held during the Division's annual meeting in July.

Persons wishing to join the Section should submit a letter to Chief Beaty. The letter should be accompanied with \$25 for dues. Division Secretary Mike Merwick will maintain the Section's account and funds. □

Chief Rick Beaty  
 330 So. 6th Street  
 Grand Junction, CO 81501

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## **Curmode to Run for MVAFC Second Vice President**

**G**ary E. Curmode, Fire Chief of Sedgwick County Fire District #1, Kansas, announces his candidacy for second vice president of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Chief Curmode was appointed Fire Chief of Sedgwick County Fire District #1, January 17, 1995. Curmode has a double Master's in Administration of Justice and Public Administration from Wichita State University. Chief Curmode graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program in 1991. In January 2001, he completed the requirements for Chief Fire Officer Designation and is awaiting results at this time. He is a member of the Kansas State Chiefs Association,

the Kansas Pro Chiefs Association, and the National Society of Executive Fire Officers. In his 29-plus years, Chief Curmode has been active in state, regional, and national issues. Chief Curmode has been married to his wife, Patti, for 19 years and they have three children: Rory, Mogie, and Kasey.

Chief Curmode comments, "I am looking forward to our MVAFC convention in Casper, Wyoming, this July and the opportunity to delineate my candidacy for second vice president, my professional qualifications, and the myriad of fire service issues that chief officers are faced with routinely. I would appreciate your support in July 2002." □

## **NFPA to Conduct Fire Department Survey**

**A**s part of the Federal fire department grant program signed into law by President Clinton in late December 2000, Congress chartered a study on the needs of fire departments for such federal funding assistance. The legislation specifies the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) use NFPA's expertise on data collection and analysis. Fire departments should expect to see the survey questionnaire in the mail this June. It is imperative that fire departments complete the survey promptly and return it to NFPA so that the study can be completed for FEMA and the Congress. □

## **NFPA 1710, 1720 Pass in Anaheim**

**T**housands of fire service professionals attended the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) annual business meeting in Anaheim, California, to vote on several proposed standards including NFPA 1710 (*Standard for the Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*) and NFPA 1720 (*Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Departments*).

Both standards passed with an overwhelming majority. Nearly 3,500 NFPA members participated in the voting process on Wednesday, May 16.

"We worked very hard with other major organizations, like the IAFF, to make this the best possible standard for the entire fire service. Now we must work together, labor and management, to help fire departments implement the standard," said IAFC President Mike Brown.

On December 1, 2000, the

International Association of Fire Chiefs (ICHIEFS) Board of Directors approved a motion to support the proposed NFPA 1710 and 1720 standards. Since then, members of the association assigned to the standards technical committees have worked with key leadership and staff to make the standards solid benchmarks for measuring fire service delivery objectives.

"While participating in the process, ICHIEFS was able to affect significant changes in three critical areas of the 1710 standard: staffing, response times and EMS," said Brown. "Used as a benchmark, these standards will help fire departments evaluate and improve service delivery within their communities."

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) General President Harold Schaitberger commented, "Just as we did with the OSHA 2 in/2 out fire fighter safety standard, we will work in tandem with ICHIEFS to educate elected officials and the public about the benefits of NFPA 1710."

"We have provided a plan for the future of our profession that will save

the lives of civilians and fire fighters now and for generations to come," added Schaitberger.

The standards must still be reviewed and approved by the NFPA Standards Council before hitting the streets. The council will meet in July to review the standards, consider any amendments made during the floor vote in Anaheim, hear any appeals and either approve or reject the standards. □

**MVAFC Web Site —**  
**[www.mvafc.org](http://www.mvafc.org)**  
**Check out the MVAFC Web site. There is more information than you care to know.**

# **HOT NEWS!**

## **FIRE CODES**

The ICHIEFS Fire Safety in the Built Environment Committee met in Dallas March 30, 31, and April 1 to listen to presentations from the International Code Council and the NFPA on how their Code processes function. A set of questions was asked of both groups and the entire process was videotaped for the committee to use in further review prior to the committee meeting in June to finalize a recommendation for the ICHIEFS Board of Directors' meeting in August, 2001.

Questions dealt with how the Code process works; financial cost to jurisdictions and what financial support could be expected from the Code organization; and technical review of the Code and how it addresses the needs of a community.

A full report will be given to the membership at the Casper Conference at one of the General Business Session meetings.

## **STIPEND**

The Stipend provided by MVAFC for new or one-time seminars has been used this year by Kansas for a Public Education Training seminar; by North Dakota for a State Chief's Leadership and Training Seminar; and by Missouri and Colorado for the IAFC Labor Management Seminar. Training and education opportunities for MVAFC members is one of the goals of MVAFC and these seminars provide the knowledge and growth for Chief Officers.

## **CASPER ELECTIONS**

SINCE THERE ARE NO CONTESTED POSITIONS FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE, THERE WILL BE NO ELECTIONS AT CASPER.

## **ROCCA TO BE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF MVAFC**

Andy Rocca, Fire Chief of Iowa City, Iowa, filed for position of 2nd Vice President of MVAFC and, with no other filings, will be sworn in as the new 2nd Vice President at the Friday banquet in Casper. Congratulations and welcome to a leadership role in the MVAFC.

## **MVAFC DIVISION LUNCHEON AT FRI IN NEW ORLEANS**

The Division luncheon at FRI-New Orleans will be held at the Convention Center on Saturday, August 25, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Casper Conference or from any State Vice President. IAFC Officers and Executive Director Briese will be at the luncheon.

## **CHANGE IN FRI CITY ROTATION**

The new rotation: New Orleans 2001, Kansas City 2002, Dallas 2003, New Orleans 2004, Denver 2005, Dallas 2006, New Orleans 2007, Denver 2008, Dallas 2009.

## **FIRE EXTINGUISHER FAILURES**

BRK Brands, Inc., is voluntarily recalling about 600,000 First Alert® household fire extinguishers. The extinguishers can fail to discharge when the trigger is activated. CPSC and BRK have received five reports from consumers; no injuries have been reported. Only First Alert

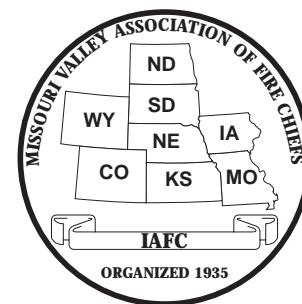
model FEIA10G with serial numbers beginning with RH, RK, RL, RP, RT, RU, or RW are included in the recall. The extinguishers were sold from September 1999 through September 2000 for \$9 to \$15.

## **IAFC ELECTIONS**

Chief Ernie Mitchell of Pasadena has submitted his nomination for 2nd Vice President in 2001. He, along with Greg Cade, will be on the 2001 ballot along with Julian Taliaferro and Ron Siarnicki for Treasurer.

## **MVAFC LOGO**

The new logo for MVAFC identifies the member states and links us



to the IAFC with a circle that signifies we work together. Logo can also be found on MVAFC Website.

## **IAFC Second Vice President Candidate, 2002**

Division Second Vice President Chief Nick Russo of Hull, Massachusetts, has announced his candidacy for second vice president of the IAFC for 2002.



## North Dakota News

For the first time in four years, the North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association held a mid-winter Fire Chiefs Conference in Bismarck.

President Jim Jarland provided the attendees with an overview of the day's conference and introduced the featured speakers: Jr. Jim Vossler, Director of the Harold Schafer Leadership Center at the University of Mary in Bismarck, and Mr. Jim Davis, Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. The topics for the day's conference were: The Leadership Engine, Motivation, and Coping with Stress. Dr. Marvin Erhardt from the North Dakota L.E.A.D. Center was also on hand to make a presentation on Multi-Hazard Planning for Schools.

The North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association was able to get its conference back on track with a dynamic agenda and with help in the form of a grant from the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs. President Jarland expressed his and the Association's gratitude to the MVAFC for this help. President Jarland stated that the North Dakota Fire Chiefs Association has a commitment to provide training for fire service leaders and the conference will continue to work toward that commitment.

Chief Bert Gray, North Dakota State Vice President of the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs, provided the North Dakota chiefs with the latest information about the MVAFC, and put in a pitch for new members.

NDFCA executive Board Members elected to a second term of office: President—Chief Jim Jarland, Williston; Vice President—Chief Pete O'Neill, Grand Forks.

Board Directors: Chief Bruce Hoover, Fargo; Chief Harold Haugstad, Minot; Chief Joel Boespflug, Bismarck; Chief Terry Wehner, Dickinson; Chief George Schlittenhardft, Valley City.



## Wyoming News

The Wyoming Fire Chiefs held their annual meeting on April 5 and 6. An election of officers was held and the officers for the coming year are: President—Brad Sarff, Rock Springs; First Vice President—Don Huber, Gillette; 2nd Vice President—Jim Wingert, Laramie; Secretary-Treasurer—Gene Diedtrich, New Castle.

At the meeting, Chief Mark Young, Casper, was selected to replace Chief Taylor on the MVAFC's Board as Wyoming State Vice President. Chief Taylor will resign from the Board at the close of the Casper Conference. A Memorial Service for Fallen Firefighters was held on Saturday, April 7.

Randy Vickers was selected as the new Chief for the City of Laramie. Randy has spent his fire service career with the Laramie Fire Department.

Casper Conference is on track and all is going well. Room reservations at the Parkway Plaza are filling up fast. If you do not have yours, you need to very soon.



## Nebraska News

Scottsbluff Fire Department received a \$10,000 grant from NEMA to put towards a large decon tent for our HazMat team. It may cost up to \$29,000. We are planning on using MFO funds to balance out the required 50/50 match.

The Reeves-Modeo Mass Casualty Decon System is an internationally recognized system that is easily stored and transportable. The system continuously processes up to six people simultaneously and utilizes heated neutralizing solution and fresh rinse.

This project will result in the team's ability to decon patients and team members with privacy from on-lookers and provide protection from the elements of the weather. This system will allow us to provide a better primary decon of the patient and team member, making the secondary decon shorter at the hospital prior to a more intense and aggressive treatment process.

# Call for Resolutions

The MVAFC Board of Directors and Resolutions Committee are seeking resolutions from the membership.

If you have any resolutions you would like the MVAFC Membership to vote on at the Casper Conference, July 12-13, 2001, send resolutions to [donner@ci.boulder.co.us](mailto:donner@ci.boulder.co.us)

# *Incoming ICHIEFS President Buckman to be in Casper*

John M. Buckman serves as Fire Chief of the German Township Volunteer Fire Department in Evansville, Indiana. Chief Buckman has been a member of the department for 31 years. Chief Buckman is Vice President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and former chairman of the Volunteer Chief Officers Section. Chief Buckman is a co-author of the third edition book, *Recruiting, Training, and Maintaining Volunteer Firefighters* and has written over 50 articles in a variety of fire service publications, as well as having presented in all 50 states and Canada. In 1996, *Fire Chief Magazine* selected Chief Buckman as the first Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year.

Second Vice President of ICHIEFS, John Buckman and former chair of the volunteer Section of Fire Chiefs will be in attendance at Casper as a management speaker and also available to discuss current issues (91710, Fire Act) and bring everyone up to date on where we are going as an organization.

If you are a Volunteer chief or Career chief, this is YOUR opportunity to discuss issues with the incoming PRESIDENT of ICHIEFS.

**The Casper Conference offers this opportunity and much more. If you have not registered for the Casper Conference, turn this sheet over and register today!**

John M. Buckman

## SEE YOU IN CASPER!

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## Public Education Conference

*by Mary Kay Crall, Olathe Fire*

The Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs, in conjunction with the Johnson County Fire Chiefs, sponsored a fire and life safety conference on April 20-22, 2001. Titled "2001: A Safe Odyssey," this conference targeted the fire service burn nurses, health departments, and other life safety professionals. Educators from Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado, Nebraska, Washington, DC and Texas spent three days learning, networking and enjoying Kansas hospitality.

The conference received a jumpstart from the recently retired Fire Chief of Denver, Colorado, Richard Gonzales. Lying flat on the floor, he began his keynote address as he challenged the fire service to embrace change. Chief Gonzales' analogy of ducks and dogs represents the thinking of fire service and life safety per-

sonnel. Ducks are caught up in tradition and resistant to change. They fly in formation and don't like to get their feathers ruffled. Dogs, however, tend to stir up the duck pond and look forward to finding new and exciting ideas. Chief Gonzales challenged the fire and life safety educators to learn how to "woof" instead of "quack."

Another national speaker, Phil Schaenman, President of TriData Corporation, addressed the puzzling dilemma of evaluation. Prevention folks especially have a difficult time evaluating the non-event. How do you measure what didn't happen? Phil, who has published many papers for the USFA, gave many practical ideas and ways to show results of programs and projects.

Several break-out sessions covering topics from program development to

NFPA's "Remembering When" to grant writing and C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Teams) provided the conference attendees with valuable insight and methods. Networking opportunities abounded and made the conference a great place to share ideas, find out about new programs, and a chance to see what other departments and organizations are doing in fire and life safety.

Next year's conference is heading to the Hawkeye State. Waterloo Fire Rescue in Waterloo, Iowa, has agreed to host the 2002 Conference next spring. Make plans to attend what has truly evolved into a great fire and life safety conference. Please e-mail Lou Ball at [firepals@cedarnet.org](mailto:firepals@cedarnet.org) for additional information. □



## International Director's Report...Bob Pottberg

The IAFC Board of Directors' meeting was held on May 13 and 14 in Anaheim, California. The location was selected to facilitate participation in the NFPA meeting, which followed the Board meeting. The Western Division also held their annual conference at the same time. This gave the Board a great opportunity to participate in everything that was going on.

The following is a summary of issues discussed at the meeting. A full set of minutes will be available soon:

1) The Treasurer presented the 2000 audit. All finances are in order and the organization received a very good letter from the auditing firm in reference to improvement made since the last audit. Chief Garcia thanked staff for the outstanding work they did on the budget and for their assistance during the audit.

2) Officers and Directors gave activity reports, which reflected the great amount of work going on in the organization and the Divisions. Other Divisions are starting to develop Strategic Plans and are being encouraged to develop Position Statements which would be shared between Divisions so everyone would know where each division stands on the issues. Again, it is evident that the Missouri Valley Division is ahead of other divisions and continues to be a leader.

3) The Executive Director's report included items too numerous to present in this report, but I will cover some of the issues with recent changes:

a) The Strategic Plan has been sent to all meeting attendees, as well as to the 50 state fire chiefs associations. Action items assignments have been made and will be tracked and reported on each board meeting.

b) The Leadership Partnership Program continues to be a great success. A video is now available to interested parties that outlines the program and its importance. Workshops have been conducted in LA, Missouri, Kansas City and the Central Jackson County FPD. In May workshops will be

conducted in Ohio and Colorado.

c) The ICHIEFS/IAFF Initiatives on physical fitness is progressing. The peer fitness trainer certification is on track for completion this summer. Information workshops on this new program will be offered at FRI. USFA is going to provide ICHIEFS and the IAFF each with \$50,000 to implement this program.

d) An outside contractor has been hired to assist in the update of the ICHIEFS Website. Changes should be seen soon.

4) Chief Debra Carlin gave a report for the Fire Safety in the Built Environment Committee. This group's focus is on codes and the single national code issue. There was no recommendation at the board meeting as there is still some work to accomplish. The solutions that might be considered are support ICC, support NFPA, get both groups back to the table or not support either and be involved in both processes. Final recommendations will be given at FRI in New Orleans.

5) The Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee report was primarily about the legal opinion received about the Board of Directors' seats and who could run for those positions. After lengthy discussion, the Board took action and passed a motion that all IAFC board seats must be occupied by active five bugle chiefs of a fire department. In addition, the Board also

passed a motion that this requirement would not apply to the Divisions thus maintaining the autonomy within the Divisions in how they choose to operate.

6) The EMS section brought forth three issues the Board took positive action on. The first is to examine the feasibility of the IAFC involvement in ambulance billing. Second to authorize the HCFA task force to work toward increasing the conversion factor for HCFA ambulance fee schedule and third to endorse the EMS section in their legislative efforts on EMS issues. These include the expansion of the definition of "Emergency Ambulance Service," Sustaining Access to Vital Emergency Medical Services Act of 2001, Access to Emergency Medical Services Act of 2001 and Medicare Education and Regulatory Fairness Act of 2001.

I would like to personally thank everyone in our Division who serves on any of the committees and task forces for their work. Without this commitment by our members, our organizations would not be as successful as they are. Keep up the great work!

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their input and support as we deal with the national issues that face our organizations. This type of support will continue to make the Missouri Valley Division a leader in today's fire service. □

## Senator Campbell to Co-Chair Fire Caucus

Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado will be the newest co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. He takes over for Sen. Bill Roth of Delaware who was unsuccessful in his reelection bid for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress. Senator Campbell served for six years in the U.S. House of Representatives before being elected to the Senate in 1992. As the only Native American Indian in the Senate, he is a recognized leader in public

land issues and has always been supportive of fire service interests. Campbell was successful in the previous 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, with more of his legislation signed into law than any other member of Congress. This spring, Senator Campbell will most certainly be seen once again cranking up his motorcycle for his ceremonial trip up to Capitol Hill to celebrate better weather in our nation's capital. □

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.

**IAFC-FRI-NEW ORLEANS  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2001**  
12 noon-4:00 p.m. Professional Development Committee  
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Apparatus Maintenance Section Meeting

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2001**  
7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Communications Committee  
Communications Technology Task Force  
Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee  
Cultural Diversity Committee  
Elections Committee  
Fire Prevention Committee  
Fire Safety in the Built Environment Committee  
Hazardous Materials Committee  
Health and Safety Committee  
Membership Committee  
Policy Review Task Force  
Program Planning Committee  
Terrorism Committee

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. EMS Section Committee

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2001**  
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Volunteer Chief Officer Section Meeting  
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Section Meeting