

# FIRE LINK

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

## From the President

by Steve Westermann

It is almost inconceivable that the New Year is just around the corner.

This will surely be a year that will not be forgotten but marked as a turning point in history. But when you look at other major events in history, not one affected each and every citizen's lifestyle like the events of 2001. Our private lives and the securities we have enjoyed will undoubtedly be changed forever.

And what about our responsibilities as fire chiefs? Do you think we will conduct business as usual next month after this all "blows over"? Impossible.

With the changes that are coming, ranging from how we respond to anthrax threats, to preparing for homeland security, to communicating with and developing a positive working relationship with your police department, to new training, to budgeting for all the associated costs, our lives and jobs as fire service leaders will never be the same either.

How you and your department react will depend on your leadership, skills, knowledge, and information sources. It will depend on how wide a network of associates you converse with. It will depend on how open to change and new ideas you are. It will depend on how active you are in your sphere of fire and community organizations.

As President of the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs, I urge you to become involved (not merely

attending) in your local associations, state chiefs' associations, the Missouri Valley Division and in the IAFC. MVAFC will continue to strive to improve our services and opportunities to you, whether it is educational, support, or simply providing that networking environment.

The Board of Directors will again be meeting in January to update the strategic plan. Enclosed with this edition of Firelink is a questionnaire. I constantly receive questionnaires, many from people or organizations I've never heard of so I make a conscious decision on which ones I fill out. I can't say this one is any different, but I can say this one is important. It is important that we hear from our members. What do you expect from the Division? How can we help you in the performance of your duties? What speakers would you like to hear? What services are or are not important to you? Please, take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts as we enter into our planning process. It would be very helpful in our planning if we have a good feeling of what our membership wants and needs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope that you have a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

God Bless, Steve Westermann



### Calendar of Events

**January 4 - Riverton  
Wyoming Fire Chiefs**

**January 18-20 - Kansas City, MO  
MVAFC Board of Directors**

**February 22 - Bismarck  
North Dakota Fire Chiefs**

**April 5 - Riverton  
Wyoming Fire Chiefs**

**May 6-8 - Fire-Rescue Med 2002  
Las Vegas, NV**

**May 18 - Kingdom City, MO  
Missouri Firefighters Memorial  
Dedication**

**May 30 - Dickinson  
North Dakota Fire Chiefs**

**June 6-9 - Pierre  
South Dakota State Fire School**

**July 10-12  
MVAFC Annual Conference  
Castle Rock, CO  
Contact Chief Rob Brown,  
303.660.1069  
[www.ci.castlerock.co.us/fire](http://www.ci.castlerock.co.us/fire)**

**Fire-Rescue International 2002  
August 23-26  
Kansas City, MO**



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

## MVAFC Departments Respond to 9-11-01 Tragedy in New York

Members of three Task Forces from the Missouri Valley responded to New York City to help in the search and recovery of victims of the World Trade Center devastation. USAR Task Forces from Colorado, Missouri, and Nebraska were deployed with their 62-person teams along with search dogs to assist the thousands of rescuers at the WTC. Each Task Force spent seven to ten days at the site or working in New York Engine Houses on 12-hour shifts. Each Task Force member has

stories to tell about experiences with NY construction workers, the citizens of New York, the camaraderie with fire fighters from across the U.S. and about the great experiences and relationships forged with members of the New York Fire Department.

The tragedy has brought the work that Fire Service Professionals do daily to the attention of the American people and to the politicians. Thanks to all Task Force members who went to New York...YOU ARE TRUE HEROES. □

## Candidate for 2nd VP MVAFC, Jim Keating

I plan to seek the office of Second Vice President for the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs in 2002. I have just concluded a four-year term as President of the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs. This followed a four-year term as Vice President of that Association.

I am in my 19th year as Chief of the City of St. Marys, Kansas, Fire Department, a combination department serving the community, two rural fire districts and Jeffrey Energy Center. I supported the MVAFC through attendance at the annual conferences as well as communicating the IAFC and the Missouri Valley Association's endeavors and activities to our state Association membership while continually educating members of the benefits of membership to the IAFC. Those whom I have worked with are aware that I have made a total commitment towards the betterment of the fire service.

During my career in Kansas, I have served or am serving on numerous committees, including:

- Fire Service Representative and member of the State Board of EMS since 1995;
- Worked as an interim Division Administrator for the State Fire

Marshal's Office;

- Serving as the chairperson of the Kansas Fire Service Training Committee since 1994;
- Served as chairperson of the State Emergency Response commission;
- Serving as the administrator of the Kansas Fire Service Alliance since its creation, a cooperative legislative effort between fire service organizations;
- Serving as an executive board member and current chairperson of the Kansas Safe Kids coalition.

No matter if managing a fire department, agency or organization, if there is to be progress, strength and accomplishment, there must be a plan. I support, and will work to implement and update when necessary, the Association's Strategic Plan to assure the Association remains on the path of strength and success. □



## Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs Winter Seminar

The 2002 Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs Winter Seminar will again be held at Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale, Missouri on February 14-17, 2002. You can make your reservations by calling Big Cedar Lodge, 417.335.2777 at any time. The room cut-off date will be December 14, 2001, so please call as early as possible to make your room reservations.

Garry L. Briese, ICHIEFS Executive Director, will be the seminar presenter. His presentations will include "Six Essential Issues That Could Transform or Destroy Your Department," and "Keeping Yourself Motivated, Enthusiastic in Spite of Everything!" and Roni Briese will do a presentation on "Estate Planning, Wills, Probate & Living Trusts." □

**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.**

# International Director's Report...Bob Pottberg

As everyone can imagine, it has been a busy time at the IAFC. Our staff has done an excellent job of dealing with the issues of September 11 as well as playing a major part in the Fallen Firefighter Memorial. As we move ahead, the IAFC will continue to be a vital and important organization to America's emergency services.

Even with the tragic events of September 11, it is imperative that we continue to work on issues that face our organization. We must continue to move the organization forward and be an asset to our membership.

The issue of strategic planning has become very important and is being addressed by most of the Divisions. The MVAFC continues to be a leader in organizational development. The IAFC Strategic Plan has been sent to everyone that participated in the October planning session and to the 50 State Fire Chiefs organizations. The Biannual leadership summit has been scheduled for January 25 and 26, 2002. Like the strategic planning meeting, this summit has been expanded to allow input from more organizations. The January Board meeting will follow the leadership summit.

Position Statements have been requested from all Divisions. Again, MVAFC has shown that we are prepared to support the IAFC and the importance of making our positions known to all Divisions and Sections.

The annual conference rotation has been changed. The new rotation is 2002 Kansas City, 2003 Dallas, 2004 New Orleans, 2005 Denver, 2006 Dallas, 2007 New Orleans, 2008 Denver, and 2009 Dallas.

The IAFC/IAFF initiatives on physical fitness are 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 the IAFC and the IAFF each with \$50,000 to implement this program.

The committee for Fire Safety in the

Built Environment gave their final report at the annual conference addressing the single national fire code issue. We were not surprised at the report and the Board was left with few options. The report related the problem of getting the code organizations together in an effort to even discuss the issue. It is evident that there will not be a single national code in the near future. As a result of the report and from the recommendations of the committee, a new committee will be established and we will continue to work with both organizations to ensure the best interest of the fire service is taken under consideration.

The IAFC Board of Directors took action on the legal opinion pertaining to qualifications to serve as a Board member. The Board reaffirmed that to serve on the Board, the member must be a five-bugle chief and serving in that capacity on a fire department. The Board has also passed a motion that a compliance period be instituted to allow all Divisions and Sections time to comply. The agreed on date is August 16, 2002. In addition, and in accordance with the Strategic Plan, a CBL convention will be convened to review and propose any revisions to the bylaws. This time frame will allow for one complete cycle where the bylaws could be changed.

As everyone knows by now, NFPA 1710 and 1720 were passed at the NFPA conference. In an effort to help our members deal with this new standard, a task force was appointed and a "Decision Guide" was produced. This guide is available on the IAFC Web site. Many articles have been written about these new standards, who was involved and the process utilized. The IAFC was successful in getting every one of their recommendations adopted into the final draft. This was not an easy task and it required a lot consensus building. The IAFC is committed to continue to work on the 1710 document to further clarify some of the areas of concern and to assist our

members in any way possible.

The EMS section has 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, and Medicare Education & Regulatory Fairness Act of 2001.

Another important project that is being worked on is the IAFC Position/Policy Process. This process will outline the steps to be followed when an individual, professional group, state fire chiefs, other state associations, IAFC Divisions, IAFC Sections, and/or committees want the IAFC to consider a position or policy.

With the events of September 11, there is a concerted effort to relay to the Federal government the needs of today's emergency services. The IAFC is in the process of developing a "white paper" that will address our needs in the future. Items included in the paper include:

- 1) Provide immediate Federal resources to protect fire fighters from the effects of chemical and biological agents.
- 2) Increase funding to the Firefighter Assistance Act.
- 3) Establish a federal program to fund the hiring of 75,000 additional fire fighters.
- 4) Increase the capability and responsiveness of specialized USAR and MMRS teams.
- 5) Define federal leadership for the fire service.
- 6) Improve communications and the Communications Infrastructure for Emergency Responders.
- 7) Enact legislation to make FEMA's Office of National Preparedness (ONP) the single point-of-contact for terrorism preparedness.

*(continued on page 4)*

# VectorCommand International Conference 2001

Issues of operational preparedness, terrorism and risk management dominated the agenda at the third VectorCommand International Conference. Over 150 delegates from the Australasia, Canada, France, Germany, North America and the UK joined to discuss the issues that their Services are facing.

Visit the Conference 2001 page where video format presentations and powerpoints can be viewed via the video web streaming service at [www.vectorcommand.com](http://www.vectorcommand.com).

### Conference Topics

- Operational Risk Management – Considerations for Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction (password protected)
- New York and Washington One Month On Managing Terrorist Incidents (password protected)
- Future Considerations for Operational Risk Assessment – the Information Gap (password protected)
- The Political Dimensions of Incident command

# U.S. Conference of Mayors Report

Access the final version of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Action Plan for Safety and Security in America's Cities. Simply go to the U.S. Conference of Mayors homepage at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org) and you will find information about the conference report (in the blue middle section you will find the Action Plan and final remarks). □



# Leasing and Bonding

With low interest rates, the time has never been better to explore leasing of aerials, engines, haz-mat vehicles or ambulances. Fire Apparatus companies all have lease programs that pay off a vehicle in seven to ten years and some will even buy the vehicle back at the end of the lease if you lease another new vehicle. The advantage, of course, is the department does not have to pay for the vehicle upfront and interest rates to finance have never lower.

General Obligation Bonds to build fire stations and training centers are another avenue to explore because of low interest rates. GO Bonds may require a vote of the taxpayer but because of the low interest rates, cities may be able to save thousands of dollars. Now is the time to develop replacement programs or construction projects with your City Manager. □

- Man Made Mineral Fibre Risks at Aircraft Incidents (password protected)
  - Modern Aids to Operational Risk Management
  - Large Storage Tank Fires – The Practical Implications for Risk Management
  - Command and Operational Risk Management – The Military Comparisons from Australasia
  - Operational Risk Management – considerations for Wildfire Firefighting
  - Standards – An IMS Benchmark
  - Training Challenges on the Fireground
  - Qualifying for Command
  - Dynamic Risk Assessment – Consolidating the Results
  - Vector Exposed
- If you want a password for the protected presentations please e-mail [info@vectorcommand.com](mailto:info@vectorcommand.com). □

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

*(continued from page 3)*

8) Increase funds for counter terrorism programs.

9) Fund Operation Respond in order to provide available information to hazardous materials responders.

10) Direct the information of Terrorism Early Warning groups (TEW) to enable resource and information sharing between the fire service and law enforcement agencies.

11) Augment local and federal fire and emergency service mutual aid capabilities to support federal fire and emergency service departments in the protection of critical installations when under heightened security.

I am sure everyone has heard by now that \$150 million has been appropriated for the Fire Act grant. Some of the changes for the next process are that salary and expenses are included to administrate the program and there is a push to get it done electronically. In addition, Congressman Curt Weldon is making every effort to get the funds

increased to \$1 billion per year and extend it through 2004.

Last week Deputy Chief John Sinclair represented the IAFC and testified at the committee on Government Affairs on Oversight of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). To summarize the testimony more oversight is needed to gain consistency in the operation and most important that the rates are too low. For additional information, check the IAFC Web site.

I would like to personally thank everyone in our division who serves on any of the committees and task forces for their 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 and the IAFC a leader in today's emergency services. □

## Who Packed Your Parachute?

by Charles Plumb, US Naval Academy graduate

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a communist Vietnamese prison.

He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform (a Dixie-cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell bottom trousers). I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not

even said good morning, how are you, or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks for each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?"

Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory. He needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year - recognize the people who pack your parachute. □

## MVAFC/IAFC Member Dick Hainje Appointed Director of FEMA's Region VII

Dick Hainje, a 23-year veteran of the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Department and a member of the South Dakota state legislature, has been appointed director of Region VII for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Director Joe M. Allbaugh announced today. Hainje is also a long-standing member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

FEMA's Region VII is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, and oversees agency operations in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

"Dick brings a combination of experience to Region VII that is unbeatable. His understanding of state and local government and emergency response will make him effective as my representative," said Allbaugh. "His leadership will be invaluable as FEMA works with its partners on preparedness for and response to disasters."

Hainje was elected to the state senate in 1996 and re-elected in 1998 and 2000, and spent four years on the state's Appropriations Committee. He joined the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Department in 1977 and rose through the ranks to division fire chief of prevention in 1999. Part of his responsibilities included injury prevention and fire safety programs for school children. Hainje worked closely with FEMA during the floods of 1997, when South Dakota and other states were threatened with spring flooding. □

### Ground Zero Tapes

The September 11, 2001 recordings of the WTC incident are passed along for informational and educational purposes. It was released by New York Newsday in an exclusive report.

New York Newsday - [www.newsday.com](http://www.newsday.com)

**Chaos and Courage - Emotion of desperate hours captured in radio exchanges** [www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-nytape03.story](http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-nytape03.story)

**54 Minutes of Chaos and Courage**

[www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-tapesgallery.html/story](http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/ny-tapesgallery.html/story)

These are tapes of radio transmissions between police officers and fire fighters and their dispatchers at the scene of the World Trade Center attacks on September 11. The tapes cover the period just before the first tower collapse at 10 am through the second collapse and the chaotic aftermath.





## Iowa News

The Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs held its Fall conference at Fire Service Training Bureau from October 30-November 1, 2001. Approximately 50 chiefs from throughout Iowa attended. Elections resulted in new officers: President Mark Wessel (Chief from Keokuk) and Vice President Rick Roe (Chief from Clive).

MVAFC President Steve Westermann addressed the conference regarding Missouri's statewide mutual aid program. The program provides a support network for major incidents that would exceed most department's resources. Chief Westermann also updated Iowa chiefs on the adoption process and implementation of NFPA 1710.

The conference received instruction on Iowa's open records laws. Two State of Iowa, Deputy Attorney General staff members presented their program on "Managing Public Records Requests." The presentation facilitated departments addressing their responsibility to adequately respond to citizen's requests.

State Fire Marshal George Howe and Bureau Chief Randy Novak updated attendees regarding the Fire Service Training Bureau's plan for the next fiscal year. Attendees decided to request stipend funds to help the Training Bureau purchase "Train the Trainer" materials for incident command system training.

Results of two Iowa surveys were presented. The first, "The State Training Survey," conducted by Chief Havlik of Cedar Rapids and the second, "The 2001 Fire Chiefs' Survey" conducted by Chief Cox of West Des Moines. □

## Wyoming News

The Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association will be holding their mid-winter meeting January 4, 2002, at the Wyoming Fire Academy in Riverton, Wyoming. Various issues will be discussed including a report from the legislative committee which is actively pursuing the creation of a special Wyoming Firefighters License Plate. The committee plans to present this language for introduction and adoption during the upcoming State of Wyoming Legislative session. The Wyoming Fire Chiefs and the State of Wyoming are also continuing discussions concerning the creation and implementation of a regional hazardous materials response plan for the

State of Wyoming.

In other news around the state, Don Huber has been appointed the new Fire Chief in Worland, Wyoming. Chief Huber comes from the Campbell county Fire Department where he held the position of Assistant Administrator/Battalion Chief.

Jeff Fox has been named the interim Fire Chief in Cheyenne and Fire Chief Duane Stolins has been named the interim City Manager in the town of Rawlins, Wyoming. □



## Missouri News

### MOCHIEFS New Officers

The two-day conference resulted in a lot of ideas exchanged with emphasis placed on the Strategic Plan and the future of the organization. The election of officers resulted in:

- President: Chief Wally Dawson
- Vice President: Chief Ron Stewart
- Treasurer: Assistant Chief John Van Gorkom
- Director West: Chief Andy Nimmo
- Director Central: Chief Kenneth Hoover
- Director Central: Chief Kevin Rucker
- Director East: Chief Bob Metcalf
- Director East: Chief Bradley Golden

The Missouri Fire Chiefs conference was held on October 4, 5, and 6 at the Lodge of the Ozarks in Branson. Sixty-eight Fire Chiefs attended the session. Retired Chief Jack Snook did a great job with his presentation at the banquet on Friday night and his two sessions on Saturday.

NFPA 1710 was presented by Chief Robert Pottberg and each participant received a decision guide for the implementation of the standard.

**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.**





## **Kansas News**

### **RFSI Recognizes 27 Kansas Fire Departments with Life Safety Achievement Awards for 2000**

The Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI) has announced that 27 fire departments in Kansas have been presented with a Life Safety Achievement Award for the year 2000. Last year, 19 Kansas fire departments received the award. The awards were announced by Roy L. Marshal, Director of the RFSI.

The Life, Safety Achievement Award recognizes local fire prevention activities that contributed to reducing the number of lives lost in residential fires. Fire departments qualify for the award because they have an active fire prevention program and recorded zero residential fire deaths during the year.

Although residential fires nationwide account for only 20 percent of all fires, they result in 80 percent of fire deaths. The RFSI is committed to reducing that number. A total of 1,124 fire departments in the U.S., Canada, and Iceland received the award for 2000.

The RFSI is a public interest group whose mission is to reduce residential fire deaths and injuries. The group advocates the use of residential fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, and teaching fire-safe behavior. The RFSI's principal program is Operation Life Safety, which assists fire departments with implementing residential sprinkler/smoke alarm programs. Its membership includes the United States Fire Administration, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and private industry and associations with an interest and commitment to residential fire safety.

Congratulations to the following Kansas fire departments on receiving this prestigious award for 2000:

Atchison Fire Department

Augusta Department of Safety  
 Concordia Fire Department  
 Enterprise Fire Department  
 Fredonia Fire Department  
 Frontenac Fire and Rescue  
 Garden City Fire Department  
 Girard Fire Department  
 Grandview Plaza Volunteer Fire Department  
 Haven Fire Department  
 Hays Fire and Inspection Services  
 Hesston Fire Department  
 City of Leawood Fire Department  
 Lenexa Fire Department  
 Logan Fire Department  
 McPherson Fire Department  
 Reno County Fire District #3  
 Saline County Rural Fire District #5

Scott City Fire Department  
 Scott County Fire Department  
 Shawnee Fire Department  
 Sherman Township Fire and Rescue  
 Soldier Township Fire Department  
 South Hutchinson Fire Department  
 Sylvia Fire Department  
 Tonganoxie Township Fire Department  
 Winfield Fire Department

"It always makes me extremely proud when Kansas fire departments win national awards," said State Fire Marshal Gale Haag. "I would encourage all fire departments in the state that meet the criteria to apply for the award in 2001." □

## **Kansas News**

### **Regulations Approved for HazMat Program Temporary regulations set for 120 days – permanent regulations to follow after public hearing in December**

The KSFMO Hazardous Materials Division has worked diligently toward getting the regulations needed to operate the HazMat program approved.

The Department of Administration has approved each regulation. The Attorney General's office has also approved each regulation. On October 25, 2001, the rules and regulations subcommittee met to consider our emergency regulations. These regulations were approved as temporary regulations and will be in effect at once, for a period of 120 days.

We are simultaneously working on the permanent regulations. These are the same as the temporary regulations, but to become permanent, there has to be a public hearing and a notice published 60 days before that hearing. That has been done and the public hearing is set for December 18, 2001, in the Florentine room of the Jayhawk Tower at 10 a.m. After that is accomplished, the joint rules and regulations committee has to meet to consider and approve or modify the permanent regulations.

The contract that each host entity will be asked to sign is completed and ready for distribution to those entities

desiring to participate in the Regional Hazardous Materials Program.

The changes suggested by the fire service community have been incorporated into the contract in order to make this a usable and flexible document.

The application packet is complete. This document is a questionnaire designed to provide information for the selection process. The applicant must answer all questions as completely as possible and additional narrative should be provided if more detail is needed. Initial considerations in team placement will be based on this information.

In prioritizing current capabilities and needs, teams will be established in the western regions first, with the southeast region being next, the central regions following and finally the eastern regions.

The full application packet was sent by certified mail to fire departments in first class cities and selected second class cities throughout the state.

All fire departments in Kansas should have received a letter providing them the opportunity to participate in the program by requesting an application packet, and one will be sent to them. Any fire department in Kansas may apply. □

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.

## Free Access to NFPA Haz-Mat Standards

Protecting first responders from the hazards they encounter – or may encounter – is challenging work. In addition to contending with actual and suspected cases of anthrax exposure, our nation's first responders face daily encounters with common chemicals that can be far deadlier. In an effort to best prepare the emergency response community to deal with today's haz-mat issues, NFPA is providing free online access to three critical National Fire Codes® documents:

- NFPA 471: Recommended Practice for Responding to Hazardous Materials Incidents
- NFPA 472: Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents
- NFPA 473: Professional Competence of Emergency Medical Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents

In addition, NFPA is providing free downloads of four supplements from

our Hazardous Materials Response Handbook.

You can access all of these documents and related links at: [www.nfpa.org/Codes/CodesandStandards/Offer/Offer.asp](http://www.nfpa.org/Codes/CodesandStandards/Offer/Offer.asp)

This important contribution to first responder safety is available only as a result of the work of many people throughout the organization, including representatives from public fire protection, production services/composition, public affairs, marketing, and web content. □

## Line of Duty Death Response

The ICHIEFS Line-of-Duty Death Response Plan is now available electronically at [www.ichiefs.org](http://www.ichiefs.org). The document is available by clicking on the letter "L" under the site index. Or you may follow this link: [www.ichiefs.org/departments/LODD.htm](http://www.ichiefs.org/departments/LODD.htm). □

## "BEST PRACTICE, GREAT LEADERS" DISTANCE LEARNING

*Monthly Series of teleconference seminars supported by the Alcoa Foundation. Visit [www.ichiefs.org](http://www.ichiefs.org), Conferences and click on the logo for more details and registration information.*