

# FIRE LINK

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

## From the President

by Buck Hartley

Many things have happened since our last newsletter. My wife, Charlene, and I have announced our retirement on March 16, 2001, after 33 years in the fire service. I will finish my term as your president.

The executive board met in Kansas City on January 19, 20, and 21, 2001, for the annual strategic planning session. Chief Don Manno and Chief Dan Rhodus monitored the strategic planning session. I was very pleased how well the meeting was attended. The executive board has formalized the plan and has set deadlines for the completion of the plan. The strategic plan will set the future and direction of the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association.

The executive board has written several position statements concerning the fire service. You can view these statements on our Web site: [www.mvafc.org](http://www.mvafc.org).

## Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Plan update was facilitated by Chief Manno and Chief Rhodus.

### Findings

The MVAFC is a financially strong organization with a commitment to membership in sharing ideas, information, and developing plans for the future.

The organization sees an opportunity to grow through outreach to other organizations and to develop the MVAFC as a prototype Division for the future.

To meet the future, the MVAFC needs to develop a written plan of

The EMS Section is up and running under the charge of Chief Rick Beaty. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact Chief Beaty at [rickb@cigrandjct.co.us](mailto:rickb@cigrandjct.co.us).

The Public Education Section is also up and running under the direction of Chief Thacker of the Grandview Missouri Fire Department. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact Chief Thacker at [cthacker@cigrandview.mo.us](mailto:cthacker@cigrandview.mo.us).

We have just received word that Chief Dave Paulison of the Miami Dade Fire Department is a candidate for the position of United States Fire Administrator. Please contact your political representatives as Chief Paulison would make an excellent director of the United States Fire Administration.

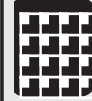
See you in Casper!! ☐

operation with expectations and timelines.

Find diversity in the membership and seek ideas and feedback. Strengthen the Annual Conference through Board participation.

Develop a plan for succession of Leadership. Strengthen and support Labor Management Relations and update our Constitution.

To reach these goals, each board member was assigned the task of developing action plans, by the Annual Conference in July, that can be implemented to update our Strategic Plan. ☐



### Calendar of Events

#### Juvenile Fire Starters Conference

March 23, 2001

Hastings, Nebraska

Info. phone 402-461-2441

#### ICHIEFS

Fire Rescue Med

April 9-11, 2001

Las Vegas, Nevada

#### Fire Life Safety Conference

April 20-22, 2001

Holiday Inn

Olathe, Kansas

#### Missouri Labor Management Service Part II

April 29-May 1, 2001

Big Cedar Lodge, Missouri

#### Missouri Valley Assn. of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference

Casper, Wyoming

July 11-13, 2001

Board Liaison:

1st VP Steve Westermann

Ph 816-229-2522

Chief of Casper-Mark Young

Ph 307-235-8222

#### International Association of Fire Chiefs - FRI

August 24-27, 2001

New Orleans, Louisiana

## MVAFC Web site

[www.mvafc.org](http://www.mvafc.org)



City at the Airport Hilton.

- Board asked the Casper Conference to hold a new member orientation program on the day before the conference to meet the Officers of the MVAFC and to be briefed on how the organization works.

- A new brochure to help recruit new members is being developed together with a new logo. Should be ready in late March.

- The role of the MVAFC in line-of-duty deaths was discussed and a plan is being developed by Board members to be presented at the Casper Conference.

- Life Membership information will be placed on the Web site for any retiring member to use.

- The Board endorsed the IAFC Labor Management seminar and will be discussing the item at the Annual Conference.

- Fire Codes is still a hot topic with no real resolve by the IAFC.

- Presentations will be given by the NFPA and ICC on how their Codes function and how the code would benefit the Fire Service. IAFC has an eight-member committee reviewing both processes and will report their findings to the IAFC Board.

- IAFC Strategic Plan was discussed and MVAFC Board members felt it was a positive document with a good blueprint for the future of the IAFC. Board reviewed a number of issues and took a position on all issues and directed the positions to be published in the next Newsletter. □

## DON'T MISS IT!

If you have not registered for the First Life Safety Conference in Olathe, Kansas, on April 19-22, 2001, DO IT NOW!

- Innovative Programs
- Hands on Activities
- Free Resources
- Network with other Fire & Life Safety Educators.

Contact Safe Odyssey hotline 913.393.6706. □

## State Farm-ISO Issue

State Farm Insurance Company is discontinuing the use of ISO. They have developed their own rating system based on losses in ZIP code areas. This Subzone Rating Factor has already been instituted in several states and is expected to be instituted in other states as they gain approval. It is projected to be complete in two years. □

## Fire Act Grants \$\$\$\$

Get the latest information on the Fire Act grant process at [www.usaf.fema.gov](http://www.usaf.fema.gov). Go to the press releases for the information. □

## Notable Web Sites

- [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org) entertains young web-surfers while teaching them basic safety messages

- The USFS KidsPage can be accessed at [www.usfa.fema.gov/kids](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids)

The Board of Directors of the MVAFC met in Kansas City to conduct the business of the organization and to update our Strategic Plan.

- The Pub Ed Section has a new chair, Chief Chuck Thacker of Grandview, Missouri, who will be working with past members to continue the activities and seminars that have been sponsored the past few years.

- Chief Rick Beaty accepted the position of Chair of the EMS section and is planning to have the first meeting after the Fire Med conference in Las Vegas in April.

- A review of the Casper Conference was presented and the conference is coming together. Registration forms should be mailed to members by mid-March.

- The Board also gave approval to the Heart of America Fire Chiefs to hold the 2003 Conference in Kansas

## Second Vice President

Filing deadline for the office of Second Vice President of the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs at the Casper Conference in July 2001, is March 12, 2001.

If you have an interest in pursuing this office, send your letter of intent and resumé to the Secretary at Box

80003, Lincoln, NE 68501 by March 12, 2001.

Andy Rocca of Iowa City, Iowa, is the only announced candidate for this office. □

**MVAFC Web site**

[www.mvafc.org](http://www.mvafc.org)

# 2001 Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Conference

July 11, 12, 13, 2001 – Casper, Wyoming

**Theme: Pioneer New Trails in the Fire Service**

**Parkway Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre**

**123 West E Street, Casper, WY 82602**

**Telephone 800-270-7829 or 307-235-1777 for reservations**

## PROGRAM SPEAKERS

**Thursday:**

**Daniel “Boone” Gardiner – “Fire Protection in the 21st Century”**

**Dr. Denis Onieal – “National Fire Academy”**

**Friday:**

**Rodney Slaughter – “Grant Writing and Where to Look for Grant Money”**

**John Buckman – “Mayberry Management”**

## SCHEDULE

### **Tuesday, July 10, 2001**

3:00-6:00 p.m.

Registration

### **Wednesday, July 11, 2001**

Golf Tournament

7:00-9:00 a.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

MVAFC Executive Board

Meeting

4:00 p.m.

New Member Orientation

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Leave Parkway for American

LaFrance Casper Facility.

BBQ/Manufacturing Plant tour

(free)

### **Thursday, July 12**

Opening Ceremony, Exhibits,

Speakers, MVAFC Business

Meeting (Session #1)

Theme Night: BBQ at Fort

Casper, Rodeo. Transportation

will be provided from Parkway

to BBQ at Fort Casper Rodeo to

Parkway. We'll have box tickets

for the rodeo; this allows per-

sons to attend the fair as

well that day if they like.

### **Friday, July 13, 2001**

Exhibits, Speakers, MVAFC

Business Meeting (Sessions #2

and #3)

Banquet (at Parkway Plaza)

### Guest Schedule:

#### **Thursday, July 12**

Lake Day. Alcova Canyon Pontoon

Boat Ride. Lunch

#### **Friday, July 13, 2001**

Shopping Day/Children's

Activities (depends on number of

children attending). Includes

lunch.

## **REGISTRATION BROCHURE**

**will be mailed about March 23.**

**For more information, contact:**

**Donna Marie Loomis**

**307.235.8222, fax 307.235.8218, e-mail [dloomis@cityofcasperwy.com](mailto:dloomis@cityofcasperwy.com)**

**(She knows all, sees all, and can tell you all about  
the MVAFC Conference in Casper)**

# Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs POSITION STATEMENTS

**January 2001**

*The Board of Directors of the MVAFC at the January Board Meeting unanimously endorsed the following positions for MVAFC:*

## **USFA/NFA**

The Board of the MVAFC fully supports the efforts of the administration of FEMA, USFA and NFA to implement changes as outlined in the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations. The implementation of these recommendations will enhance the operation of these agencies and in turn greatly assist the emergency services on a National, State and Local Level.

## **FIRE ACT**

The Board of the MVAFC strongly supports all efforts to ensure that funding is continued for the Fire Act. In addition the MVAFC will assist with the "grass roots" efforts to ensure our congressional representatives bring forth our wishes. The Division would also ask that our IAFC Governmental Staff continue a constant vigil over issues in Washington that affect fire safety and emergency services.

## **FIRE ACT**

The MVAFC Board has been and continues to believe that a single National Code would be very advantageous to the fire service. We also support the IAFC concept of working through the three-year code cycle to evaluate the development process and review the results. In addition, the MVAFC Board would encourage the IAFC, regardless of what happens with the codes, to ensure that we have building and fire codes that are compatible.

## **NFPA 1710 & 1720**

Although the MVAFC Board does not think there should be two separate standards, it is committed to support the IAFC as the process continues. As leaders in the fire service, we must work together with all fire service organizations to ensure we have standards that are "goal orientated" and

provide direction for the future. The board of the MVAFC respects the local jurisdictions' right to establish community standards for fire and EMS services.

## **IAFC GOVERNANCE**

The Board of the MVAFC is supportive of the objective on Governance and Organizational Structure as identified in the draft recommendations of the Strategic Plan. It is evident that recent changes in management style are effective and are providing the direction to move the organization forward and prepare it for the future. The current strategic planning process provides the continuity needed as our elected officials move through the chairs and for staff as they handle the day-to-day operation. The current mode of operation provides the flexibility to staff to maintain a very dynamic organization with the ability to act quickly to different situations. The MVAFC Board would encourage the IAFC to institutionalize the process.

## **IAFC STRATEGIC PLAN**

The MVAFC Board would encourage the IAFC to continue the Strategic Planning Process. This process is one of the key elements that will not only prepare our organization for the future but will ensure that everyone is working together. The success of our organization depends on every member and we must make every effort to narrow the gap between the International, Division and State organizations. The Board would also request that the IAFC Board and Staff make every effort to pursue completion of the objectives outlined in the October 2000 recommendations. The MVAFC Board realizes that any plan must remain dynamic and offer flexibility.

## **WELLNESS/FITNESS PROGRAMS**

The MVAFC Board is committed to support the IAFC/IAFF initiative in developing standards that will ensure the safety and health of all fire service

employees. The MVD believes that with proper training and conditioning, the CPAT should be used as an entry-level standard. The MVAFC Board also supports fitness standards for incumbent employees, again with the proper training and conditioning.

## **OSHA ERGONOMICS RULE**

The Board of the MVAFC is opposed to the implementation of any ergonomic rule that has not been fully studied. We encourage the IAFC to continue their stance that requires a study by the National Academy of Sciences.

## **FARM CHEMICAL PLACARDING**

The MVAFC is opposed to any measures that would remove or eliminate the current standards for placarding of hazardous chemicals used in agricultural applications. This would be an infringement on the safety of not only our personnel but also the general public.

## **DIVERSITY**

The Board of the MVAFC would encourage the IAFC and all members to take a proactive approach to addressing the issue of diversity. It is incumbent on our organization to be the leader in insuring diversity is a goal. This goal will make our organization strong and representative of all our members.

## **LINE OF DUTY DEATH (LODD)**

The Board of the MVAFC encourages the IAFC to develop and adopt a guideline in how the organization addresses and responds to LODD. A formal structure will ensure our organization is consistent in recognizing and honoring not only our members but also any Chief officer that has gone before us.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The MVAFC strongly supports the IAFC efforts to increase communications between the International, Division, and State organizations. The Board is committed to assisting the IAFC in any way possible to ensure our members get accurate and timely information. This is another key in

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Waterloo Fire Rescue's Senior Home Safety Program

by Lou Ball, Public Education Coordinator, Waterloo Fire Rescue, Iowa

Waterloo Fire Rescue and the Black Hawk County Health Department have collaborated to design and implement a unique and highly successful program for our senior citizens in the city of Waterloo and Black Hawk County. The program entitled: Fire, Falls, and Pharmacy, offers to our seniors over the age of 65, the opportunity to have their home audited by a trained, uniformed firefighter from Waterloo Fire Rescue and a registered nurse from the County Health Department for three of the leading life-safety hazards within their home.

The firefighter performs a visual inspection of the home for trip, fall, and fire safety hazards. The registered nurse and the senior citizen together audit the current medications they are presently prescribed.

The audit includes screening for possible hazards, such as:

#### Fire Rescue:

- Throw rugs
- Extension cords
- Loose handrails
- Proper lighting
- Clutter in the walkways
- Storage of combustibles
- Overloaded electrical outlets
- Over-filled ashtray burn marks
- Non-working smoke detectors
- Carbon monoxide detectors

The program, which began in June 2000, has audited 85 homes and installed 106 ten-year smoke detectors, 82 carbon monoxide detectors, along with night-lights, pillboxes, and informational refrigerator magnets. Of the many statistics from our audits, the lack of smoke detectors in these homes was the most frightening. Fifty-seven percent of the homes audited had **no** working smoke detectors: 35 percent with no working smoke detectors, and 22 percent with no smoke detectors at all.

Waterloo Fire Rescue Chief Frank Magsamen says he is glad to see the Senior Home Safety Program reaching

older residents that are at risk for injury. "It is very important that we work together to ensure elderly residents in our communities are provided with the education and resources to ensure their place of residency is safe and free of hazards. The home safety assessments have shown that there is a real need to review basic safety rules that help the elderly live a safe and injury-free life."

#### County Health Department

- Medication audit
- Out-dated medications
- Medications not in their name
- Possible adverse reactions
- Emergency notification magnets
- Pharmacy education

Unintentional poisonings account for 88 percent of all poisoning deaths to people over age 65. Tom O'Rourke, Executive Director of the Black Hawk

County Health Department is pleased to be part of a program that works collaboratively with other agencies in order to preserve the health of community residents. "The Health Department is pleased to provide the 'pharmacy' component to this program of prevention," O'Rourke says. "Our nurses can assess medication, offer education and answer questions on patient medications."

This easily duplicated program has demonstrated a tremendous impact on the safety and well being of our senior citizens in the city of Waterloo and Black Hawk County, and has reflected positively on Waterloo Fire Rescue and the Health Department. The outcome evaluations used to measure the effectiveness of our program have shown us the program has been extremely well received by the seniors who invite us into their homes and is helping us to reach our stated goal of "Building a Safety-Conscious Community" for the citizens of Waterloo and Black Hawk County. □

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## MVAFC POSITION STATEMENTS *(continued from page 4)*

"narrowing the gap" between International, Division and State organizations.

#### HCFA NEGOTIATED RULE MAKING

The Board of the MVAFC recognizes the difficult task faced by the HCFA Task Force in coming to consensus on a new Medicare reimbursement schedule. If the schedule is instituted, many of our members will be faced with a significant financial loss. The MVD would encourage the IAFC to initiate measures at the Federal level to assist in recovering these lost revenues that will, in many cases, affect service at the local level.

#### IAFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEATS

The Board of the MVAFC feels that it is incumbent on the IAFC to maintain a Board of Directors comprised of chiefs currently serving as "Chief of Department." To move away from this position would infringe on the vision of the organization as a professional

organization ran by professionals. We must do everything possible to live up to LEADERSHIP, EXPERTISE, and INTEGRITY.

#### LABOR/MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Board of the MVAFC would encourage the IAFC to continue to support this program in any way possible. The Board feels this program is important not only to the future of emergency services, but to the ability of managers to function in a positive manner at the local level.

#### FEDERAL MANDATES

The Board of the MVAFC would support development of an IAFC position to encourage the Federal Government to fund any staffing, equipment or programs mandated on local fire departments by the Federal Government. □

## How to Survive a Heart Attack When Alone

Let's say it's 6:15 p.m., and you're driving home after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home.

Unfortunately, you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far. What can you do? You've been trained in CPR but the guy that taught the course neglected to tell you how to perform it on yourself.

Without help, the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel faint, has only about ten seconds before losing consciousness. These victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough. The cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart begins beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs while coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm.

Tell as many other people as possible about this. It could save their lives! □

## Novak Selected to Lead the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau

Mr. Randy Novak was recently named as the Bureau Chief for the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau, Office of the Iowa State Fire Marshal. He began his duties on February 12, 2001. He will be responsible for providing the leadership and administration of the state fire training program for the State of Iowa. Mr. Novak returns to Iowa after serving as the Director of Fire Service Training at Oklahoma State University.

Mr. Novak has previously worked for state fire training institutions in Maryland and Illinois. He also served as a staff member of the Fire Service Institute at Iowa State University from 1996-1998. His fire service career start-

ed in upstate New York in 1975. He has both volunteer and career fire service experience.

Mr. Novak is currently completing his dissertation toward a Doctorate of Education degree in Vocational Education from the University of Kentucky. He holds a Master of Education degree in Vocation-Technical Education from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Studies-Fire Science from the University of Maryland.

The Iowa Fire Service is pleased to welcome Bureau Chief Randy Novak to the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau. □

## New Fire Safety House

Tuesday, December 5, saw the arrival of the BRSG Fire Safety House. This project spent a year in preparation by a committee of Chief Bill Fox, Gary Hansen, Linda Hansen, and Asst. Chief Eric Kiehl before it became a reality.

The Fire Safety House will be kept at the Cottleville Fire Protection District - Station House #4. The Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs Association will pay for insurance and maintenance and there will be a crew of drivers who will be responsible for getting the Fire Safety House to the locations where the fire departments have scheduled use of the house.

This unique mobile classroom will be used at local schools, community functions, business promotions, and

churches to demonstrate fire prevention and home escape techniques. Included in the house is a living room, kitchen, bedroom and control room. Because it looks like a real house, instructors can teach about numerous fire hazards in a familiar setting.

BRSG is excited by the ability to provide our community with this educational tool. Yes, there are other Safety Houses in the area, but this is the only one that is a ranch model and fully wheelchair accessible. Also, the BRSG house will be available for use by fire departments that do not have access to a safety house currently. The Fire Safety House will be available to all fire departments in St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin and Jefferson counties. □

## FEMA Adds Learning Resource Center Catalog to Web Site

Washington-The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Learning Resource Center, has added its Online Card Catalog to the FEMA Web site. This catalog/index will

provide bibliographic access to the NETC's collection of more than 50,000 books, reports, periodicals, and audio-visual materials on fire service and emergency management topics.

Visit its section on the FEMA Web

site at [www.usfa.fema.gov/lrc/lrc.htm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/lrc/lrc.htm) or send e-mail questions to [netclrc@fema.gov](mailto:netclrc@fema.gov). □



The Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs held their mid-winter conference February 6-8, 2001. The conference was held at the Fire Service Training Bureau in Ames, Iowa.

The executive board members of the IAPFC for 2000-2001 are:

- President . . . . . Andy Rocca  
(Iowa City)
- Vice President . . . . Frank Magsamen  
(Waterloo)
- Director . . . . . Mark Regenwether  
(Clinton)
- Secretary-Treasurer . . . . Tom Strait  
(Ankeny)
- Past President . . . Ron Wilson, Retired  
(Storm Lake)

The conference opened with a welcome to the Iowa fire chiefs by Acting Bureau Chief Sandy Deacon. President Andy Rocca provided the attendees with an overview of the conference and introduced two new fire chiefs: Chief Mark Frese of Davenport and Chief C. Lyman Monroe of Marshalltown.

Mr. Frank Magsamen, Iowa Vice President of the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs, provided the chiefs with a presentation on the position statements of the MVAFC.

Mr. Michael B. Heller and Paula J. Feltner, attorneys from the greater Des Moines area presented information related to effective lobbying initiatives. This topic was identified as a priority issue by the chiefs during the IAPFC conference held last October. Topics covered by the presentation included: how to contact your legislators, grass roots lobbying, services provided by a lobbyist, lobbyist fees, where and how to get legislative information, and a multitude of answers to questions

posed by the chiefs in attendance during the Q and A forum. The IAPFC applied what they learned on February 14, 2001, by hosting a Legislative Ice Cream Social at the Capitol House in Des Moines, Iowa. The event was well attended by fire chiefs and legislators, providing an excellent opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Mr. Tom Baumgartner of the Iowa Emergency Management Division provided the chiefs with an update on domestic preparedness initiatives in Iowa. Funding in the amount of \$1.9 million is expected to be available to the state of Iowa and can be used for the purchase of equipment in four areas: communication, detection, decontamination, and personal protective equipment. The Iowa Emergency Management Division required counties to form a team with representation from local emergency management, fire, law enforcement, and health agencies to complete the assessment. Counties are required to complete the assessment in order to qualify for program funds. The following assessment components are to be submitted to the Iowa Emergency Management Division this spring: vulnerability analysis/threat assessment; public health assessment; capabilities and needs assessment; and three-year projections for equipment, training, exercises, and technical assistance.

George Howe, Iowa State Fire Marshal, provided an update on the activities in his division of the Department of Public Safety. He advised that he is working to fill the vacant inspector and fire investigator positions. In fact, he has three people that will begin their recruit training in March at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

Frank Magsamen, Chairperson of the State Fire Service and Emergency

Response Council updated the chiefs on the activities of the SFSERC, including: FY02 budget recommendation to add three full-time coordinators, training delivery system, and the appointment of a sub-committee to develop minimum training standards for Iowa firefighters.

Many important issues were discussed during the IAPFC business meeting. Most noteworthy was a discussion of the many legislative issues facing Iowa legislators during this session. Bills recently introduced in the House and Senate include: property tax limitation, liability of rural water districts providing water for fire protection, severe weather evacuation plans and storm shelters, age ceiling for firefighters and police officers, and residency requirements for civil service employees.

The conference closed on February 8 after the multi-topic discussion forum. Items submitted for discussion were: overtime pay for training, residency requirements, shift schedules (other than 24 hours), salary surveys/contract settlements, part-time employees, personal appearance policy, assessment centers—Civil Service Commission involvement, highway related injuries to firefighters, EMS electronic reporting—State requirements, compressed medical gas guidelines, utilization of a rescue pumper/multi-purpose equipment, the Fire Act: \$100 million grant access, US Product Consumer Safety Commission: "Recall Round-Up," current legislative requirements, and ladder testing (ground and aerial).

The IAPFC will hold their mid-winter conference at the Fire Service Training Bureau in Ames October 30-November 1, 2001. □

**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.**

## Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs

P.O. Box 80003  
Lincoln, NE 68501

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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LINCOLN, NE  
PERMIT NO. 1147

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.

## MVAFC Public Education Section

*by Chuck Thacker*

I have been asked to chair the Public Education Section for the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association. Public education has been part of the fire service for many years. It is emerging as a major component of fire protection.

In the 1970s, fire prevention activities were typically limited to fire fighters visiting their local schools once a year. Today, we have "Learn Not to Burn," "Risk Watch," department trading cards, speakers' bureaus and so on.

In April of this year, the Fire and Life Safety Conference will be held in Olathe, Kansas. There will be topics for fire departments, burn nurses, EMS personnel, and injury prevention groups. As a part of the conference, the MVAFC Public Education Section is holding a meeting to discuss the future of the group.

I look forward to meeting everyone to discuss goals and strategies for the longevity of the Section. We need to review the existing status of officers

and determine whether or not new appointments need to be made. I know the board of the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs is committed to keep our Section going and growing. We just need to set out and go forward.

If you have any comments, suggestions, gripes, or want to help as an officer of the Section, I can be reached at 816.316.4962. My e-mail address is [cthacker@ci.grandview.mo.us](mailto:cthacker@ci.grandview.mo.us). The mailing address is Grandview Fire Department, 7005 Highgrove Road, Grandview, Missouri 64030.

See you in April. □

**MVAFC Web site**  
[www.mvafc.org](http://www.mvafc.org)

## EMS Section

*by Rick Beaty*

The Board discussed the continuing formation of an EMS Section at the January retreat in Kansas City. Several fine-tuning points such as membership and consistency in the bylaws with those of the Division were resolved. The Board is excited about the future of the EMS Section and have pledged their support.

Chief Beaty, EMS Section Chair, stated that there are approximately 30 persons who have contacted him regarding membership in the Section. In addition, he stated that plans for the first meeting of those interested in the EMS Section is underway. The first formation meeting of the Section will be held in Las Vegas during the Fire-Rescue International Conference. The meeting is planned for April 9, 2001. A notice indicating the time and location of the Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs EMS Section will be posted at the registration desk. We hope to have a good attendance and look forward to continued progress. □