

# FIRE LINK

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

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by Mark Young

**G**reetings! As I start my term as your President, I want to thank you for your overwhelming support. Literally, since the annual conference in Casper in 2001, I have received an endless amount of encouragement, and now as I assume this new leadership role, I am energized and ready to serve each of you and the Missouri Valley Division in any way that I can.

My first order of business is to thank Past President Jim Keating for all of his hard work and dedication to our Division. Chief Keating's leadership has yielded success and growth in our Division while serving as our President. I also want to thank the Board of Directors who I have great respect for and who are committed to advancing the mission of the Division. Speaking of mission, I think that it is important to restate the Mission Statement of our Division and to explain how the MVD is meeting its intent.

"The Missouri Valley Division of the International 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 Chief organizations and the International Association of Fire Chiefs."

As you read this mission statement, you find that it is generally focused on the professional development of our members and serves as a communication conduit between our existing State Chief organizations and the IAFC. These two issues are both found in numerous stated goals within our existing Strategic Plan.

In addition to the strategic plan, this past year the Division has actively worked on professional development through educational sessions at our

annual conference, our stipend program which financially supported educational programs in Kansas, Missouri and North Dakota, our support and use of the IAFC's Officer's Development Handbook and our support and encouragement of members seeking Chief Fire Officer's Designation and the CFAI self-assessment process.

In regards to our communication efforts between the MVD, State Chief Organizations and the IAFC our division has whole-heartedly adopted Chief Westermann's call for "A Single Voice" in the fire service. To ensure a single voice, the MVD uses many different methodologies to communicate with, and seek feedback from, all of its members and the IAFC. This newsletter is one method and along with e-mail, the website at [www.mvdiafc.org](http://www.mvdiafc.org), networking at our annual conference, the direct participation of State Association Presidents in our strategic planning process, monthly teleconference calls between our board of directors to discuss current MVD and IAFC issues, and through the personal visits of the MVD President at State Association meetings, this division will continually seek opportunities to serve and communicate with its members. These are just a handful of programs and initiatives that the MVD is currently working on. I will speak about other programs in future newsletter articles and in person with members of our organization as I travel around our eight-state region.

As I write this article, I have just returned from FRI in Denver. I found FRI to be very educational and productive and many of us were fortunate to witness our own Chief Steve Westermann take the oath of office as 2nd Vice  
*(continued on page 2)*



### Calendar of Events

#### Missouri Fire Chiefs Homeland Security Conference

October 25-28, 2005  
Eureka, MO

#### Colorado Fire Chiefs Leadership Challenge

December 1-3, 2005  
Breckenridge, CO

#### Wyoming Fire Chief Meeting

January 6, 2006  
Riverton, WY

#### Missouri Fire Chiefs Winter Seminar

February 24-25, 2006  
Big Cedar Lodge  
Ridgedale, MO

#### MVD Annual Conference

July 19-21, 2006  
Omaha, NE



The Missouri Valley Division 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.

# LARAMIE, WYOMING, GRANT SUCCESS

by Randy J. Vickers, Laramie Fire Chief, Albany County Emergency Management Coordinator

Laramie Senior Housing is a three-story wood frame structure of 51,000 square ft. housing 54 units, six of which are designated, "handicapped." It was constructed in the late '70s and the fire prevention division lost the effort to have it sprinklered. It has an open parking garage under a large section. It was a HUD project and with the passage of the ADA it was no longer possible to keep handicapped people from living on the upper levels.

In the departments annual grant opportunity and application review process, the fire prevention division made a pitch to go after a Fire Act, fire prevention and education grant to get the building sprinklered. I authorized the

attempt, more in desperation than any hope such a grant could be successful.

The grant application was completed by Fire Marshal Rick Jansen, assisted by our Fire Act Grant specialist, company officer Ann Pond. Even though we knew we had a good project we were all surprised when we were awarded the grant. The main thrust of the grant application wasn't the sprinkler protection...it was using the sprinkler protected seniors structure as an example to educate HUD and the public about what can be done.

The retro-fitted sprinkler system was displayed August 3, 2005 in an open house. It is a very attractive solution and the residents raved about how success-

ful the contractor was in making it all fit into the structure. There are literally hundreds of these HUD project structures in our region. I believe this is the first such project ever funded by USFA to retrofit a high hazard occupancy.

## NEW WEB SITE OFFERS ACCESS TO STANDARDS

Fire and emergency personnel now have a comprehensive research tool for finding out the homeland security standards they are expected to meet.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), a nonprofit organization based in New York, recently launched a Web site that promises "one-stop shopping" for standards applicable to first responders, code officials and others under the banner of homeland security.

Access the site at [www.hssd.us](http://www.hssd.us).

ANSI's Homeland Security Standards Panel (HSSP) developed the site on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The site distributes standards into five searchable categories: Threats, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Borders and Transportation, Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, and U.S. DHS standards.

### President's Comments (continued from page 1)

President of the IAFC! We in the division have experienced his quality leadership, commitment and dedication as a past member of our board of directors and as International Director and know that he will lead the IAFC and the nations fire service with great spirit and dedication. Congratulations Chief Westermann!

There were many other exciting moments for our division during the IAFC conference. During the general opening session, Chief Richard "Smokey" Dyer was announced as the Career Fire Chief of the Year. We are very proud of you Chief Dyer and congratulations!

On Friday, members of MVD attended a successful division luncheon meeting. We heard from all IAFC 2nd VP candidates, Chief Westermann and current executive board members including President Bob DiPoli. The luncheon also provided the opportunity for IAFC President DiPoli to swear in Chief Richard Carrizzo as our new International Director. I have a lot of confidence in Richard and know that he will continue to effectively represent our division on the IAFC board of directors.

With the appointment of Chief Carrizzo to Director this created a void at 1st Vice President. To fill this void Chief Robert Dahlquist has been appointed as 1st Vice President and I have

appointed Chief Jerry Rhodes as 2nd Vice President.

Another significant moment occurred during the luncheon when I and Past President Jim Keating were presented a substantial check from Chief Bill Markgraf of the Columbia Fire Department. The Check represented the net proceeds of this past July's annual membership conference held in Columbia, Missouri. These proceeds far exceed any previous amount returned to the division by any host department. Thanks again to Chief Markgraf, the Columbia Fire Department and his staff for all of their hard work!

While I am speaking of conferences start planning for our next annual membership conference to be held in Omaha, Nebraska, July 19-21, 2006. Chief Robert Dahlquist and the Omaha Fire Department are busy planning a wonderful conference and they are looking forward to your participation.

In closing, this division has become very well respected within the IAFC and we have proved to be successful on many different fronts but we couldn't have done it without you our members. Thanks again for your support. The Board of Directors and I look forward to serving you this coming year.

## Westermann Sworn in as 2nd VP of IAFC

Chief Steve Westermann, International Director for the MVD, was sworn in as the 2nd VP of the IAFC at the Denver Conference. Chief Westermann has been a longtime leader and Officer in the MVD and we are proud he is in the rotation of IAFC Offices to become President of the IAFC in 2008.

## CHIEF JIM McSWAIN RETIRES

The top official of the Lawrence Douglas County Fire and Medical Department will retire in September, after 27 years with the city. Fire Chief Jim McSwain took the post in 1978. During his tenure, Chief McSwain has emphasized the need for training and education to prepare people for fire service.

Jim's service has been a tremendous benefit to both the Lawrence community and the men and women of his department," said Mike Wildgen, city manager. "His commitment and dedication is greatly appreciated and his impact on emergency services has been extremely valuable."

The Kansas City Fire Chief Association awarded Chief McSwain the honor of 2003 Fire Chief of the year.

Chief McSwain was also awarded the Buford M. Watson, Jr. Public Service Award by the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce in April 2005. He was recognized as an individual whose work in the public sector serves as a role model for others.

Not just a firefighter, Chief McSwain has been in fire service since 1962 with a career that includes teaching as an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University Technical Institute and Monroe Community College and service to the Fire Department of Montgomery, Alabama as a captain, inspector, firefighter, planning officer and company officer. He has also been involved with professional associations at the local, state, national and international level.

## FIRE CHIEFS LOSE A FRIEND

Michelle Renee Brenner, 42, of Prairie Village, KS, after a courageous nine-year battle with breast cancer, went home to be with the Lord on July 31, 2005.

Her love and dedication as a daughter, sister, wife and mother were immeasurable. She had a passion to live purposefully, touching the lives of children and adults through ministry, especially those similarly afflicted with cancer, often accompanying them to doctors and chemo appointments.

In her professional life, she has been an 18-year member of the fire service, first as a firefighter and Public Education Specialist at the Lyndon Fire Protection District in Louisville, KY, and recently as the Public Education Officer for the Overland Park (KS) Fire Department,

where she developed the city's fire and life safety education program. Michelle served as the chair of the Johnson County Fire Chief's Fire and Burn Committee and as Chair of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chief's Public Education Section.

Michelle has received numerous awards in her career, most recently the Vern McNatt Award presented by the Johnson County Fire Chiefs for her contributions to the safety, health and welfare of the Johnson County citizens.

Michelle will be greatly missed by all who knew her. The Missouri Valley Division has lost a leader and friend. The Division sympathies are extended to her family and the Overland Park Fire Department.

## NEW MEMBERS

### A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- Chief Michael Morgan-Rifle, CO
- Lt. Michael Costanzo-Riverside, MO
- Chief Dick Goodrum-Mayfield, KS
- Chief Loyal Peeuhouse-Yoder, KS
- Brett Dorland-Wheatridge, CO
- Mgr. Jim Webber-Boulder, CO
- Capt. Patrick Ahrens-Golden, CO
- Capt. Brad Danek-Golden, CO
- AC Bruce Ferrell-Dillon, CO
- FF Bob Schwartz-Golden, CO
- DC Ace Eriksen-Morrisson, CO
- AC Dennis Soles-Winter Park, CO
- BC Gary Nuckols-Fort Collins Trng. Off. Marcia Lutters-Evans, CO
- Chief Daniel Sicard-Grinell, IA
- Chief Jim Moe-Devils Lake, ND
- Chief Curt Lefor-Dickinson, ND
- AC Sean Douglas-Warrensburg, MO
- AC Bart Howard-Davenport, IA
- Chief Bill Winter-Aberdeen, SD
- Chief Rex Weltikol-Minot, ND
- DC Douglas Short-Peculiar, MO
- Chief Greg Hickman-Neosho, MO
- BC Tim Gibbs-Overland Park, KS
- Fire Marshal Shirley Hunter-Centennial, CO
- Chief Larry Beherens-Ignacio, CO
- Chief Robin Rhodes-Bear River, WY

## MVD OFFICERS CHANGE

Chief Mark Young was elected as President of the Missouri Valley Division for the upcoming year. Chief Richard Carrizzo, 1st VP of MVD, was appointed as International Director to fill the last year of Chief Westermann's term.

Chief Robert Dahlquist, 2nd VP of MVD, was appointed as the 1st VP of MVD for the upcoming year to fill the position vacated by Chief Carrizzo.

Chief Jerry Rhodes was appointed as 2nd VP of the MVD to fill the vacancy by Chief Dahlquist.

## AFC MEMBERSHIP SERVICES TOLL-FREE NUMBER

Good news! A new IAFC member benefit is the IAFC membership services TOLL-FREE number **866-385-9110**. This number will be staffed by the membership services department to provide instant information on the services provided by IAFC. Questions call this number.

# Moments from the Columbia



# Conference



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## FRI Denver

The IAFC Conference held in Denver for the first time was a huge success. The new Denver Convention facility was perfect for holding the conference. Vendors were easily accessible, classes and meetings were easy to find and the Center was within walking distance of most hotels. Congratulations to Denver Fire and to all the other Colorado Fire Departments who worked to make this Conference a success. Attendees definitely got a Rocky Mountain High on Colorado hospitality.

MVD luncheon hosted by 3M Corporation was an overflow success with attendance at over 128 people. Presentations were made at the luncheon by prospective IAFC candidates and current President Robert DiPoli thanked the MVD for friendship and support during his tenure. Chief Kelvin Cochran from Shreveport, LA came to the luncheon to thank MVD for endorsing him for the 2006 position of 2nd VP of the IAFC.

## COLORADO REPORT

by State VP Jerry Rhodes

### NIMS Implementation Plan

Colorado's NIMS Implementation Plan is well underway. This plan is the product of a coalition of multiple disciplines, the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative, and the State of Colorado working together to meet NIMS compliancy and create an effective management system for emergencies. For a copy of this plan, contact Director Paul Cooke, Colorado Division of Fire Safety.

Paul.Cooke@cdps.state.co.us

### Type 3 Incident Management Team

A multi-discipline group has completed the Type 3 IMT guidelines. This includes structure, creation, minimum member education, and task books. The guide also includes the use of the full team and the recommended use of the short team. The Colorado Type 3 IMT guide has been sent to the NIC for their review. From more information contact Matt Coldwell, Colorado Department of Public Safety Matt.Coldwell@cdps.state.co.us or Director Paul Cooke, Division of Fire Safety. Paul.Cooke@cdps.state.co.us

## ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THESE COST SAVINGS?

by Crosby Grindle

The FireRescue Group Purchasing Organization is an exclusive member benefit of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) that has been serving the fire industry for the past three years. During this time, the FireRescue GPO has grown from a regional program to a national program available to over 10,000 chief officers and their departments. All eight of the IAFC Divisions in the U.S. are now participating in the FireRescue GPO which means greater negotiating strength and more savings to you, the member!

The FireRescue GPO works with manufacturers, distributors and dealers to offer best in nation pricing on products and services you purchase every year.



-For purchases under the RFP threshold, FireRescue GPO staff will provide you with vendor quotes.

-For purchases requiring RFP's, FireRescue GPO staff will assist you in writing your RFP and will include language allowing other jurisdictions to access or "piggyback on" your winning bid.

To get started just contact the FireRescue GPO office at 1-800-752-5446 and ask for a FireRescue GPO service representative who will walk you through sign up and how to begin purchasing for less! You can also go directly to the FireRescue GPO website at [www.firerescue-gpo.com](http://www.firerescue-gpo.com) and register for a user name and password.

### Resource Mobilization Plan

As the NIC continues to increase the typing and categorization of resources, keep an eye on the mobilization information found at the following web site. More kinds of resources are addressed (Fire, Law Enforcement, Public Works) than in the national system. [www.co-mobilization.org/](http://www.co-mobilization.org/)

### Union Colony Fire/Rescue Receives AFSA Award

The American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA) has chose the Union Colony Fire/Rescue Authority's Fire Prevention Bureau (Greeley, CO) as a recipient of the "Fire Sprinklers Save Lives" Award. This award, created in 1998, is presented to individuals or organizations outside the fire sprinkler industry who demonstrate understanding and appreciation of the life-saving capabilities of automatic fire sprinklers by generating positive exposure to the public.

"By taking positive steps to promote the installation of automatic fire sprinklers, the Union Colony Fire/Rescue

Authority has demonstrated its commitment to stopping fires before they become major occurrences, possibly saving lives. The Union Colony Fire/Rescue Authority provides a great example for other fire departments to follow."

### Fire Rescue International

The Colorado FRI Conference Committee, Metropolitan Denver Fire Chiefs, and the Colorado State Fire Chiefs would like to thank all the members of the Missouri Valley Division that joined us for this year's Fire Rescue International. Please join us in Denver in 2008 and bring your friends and family.

### Fire Leadership Challenge

If you thought FRI was good, go to our website and checkout this year's line-up for Fire Leadership Challenge 2005. Two days of education in beautiful Breckinridge, Colorado. Ski County USA for your family and great leadership training for you. [www.coloradofirechiefs.org/](http://www.coloradofirechiefs.org/)

# THERMAL IMAGING WILL ENHANCE FIRE RESCUE EFFORTS IN OMAHA

by Kevin Cole, World-Herald Staff Writer

Deep in a dark, cavernous building, firefighters search for a trapped comrade while their buddies outside battle flames erupting from the building.

A two-person rescue team moves rapidly through the blinding smoke. The rescuers are guided by a thermal imaging camera that allows them to avoid hot spots and pitfalls while quickly locating the downed party.

Once the trapped firefighter is spotted, a second two-person team enters the building, guided by a 300-foot rope line stretched out by the first team. The second team has been notified of the tools needed to extricate the trapped person, and soon all five are winding their way to safety. That scenario is one that the entire Omaha Fire Department is training for this summer at the old Union Pacific building downtown.

"Before, we had four guys going in together," Capt. Mark Jarosz said. "This works better because Team A can communicate with Team B and let them know what is needed. It saves time."

It's a specialized search-and-rescue procedure for large areas pioneered by the Kansas City, Mo., Fire Department.

Jarosz, a member of the Omaha department's heavy rescue team, was among the first to be trained here.

"When we first saw recruits going through this training down in Kansas City, we like it a lot," he said. "I knew that this was something we could bring back to the experienced firefighters and immediately put into practice. I just love it."

The thermal imaging cameras, primarily financed by a donation from the William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation, are a key component. The cameras enable firefighters to see heat rather than light and can help firefighters find unconscious victims in smoke-filled rooms, pinpoint the sources of fires and detect structural dangers before they cause injury and death. The Scott Foundation bought nine of the high-tech cameras, and the department paid for a tenth. All of the city's aerial firetrucks will be equipped with a camera.

"We are extremely fortunate to have had the Scott family step forward to purchase these thermal cameras," Battalion Chief Steve Meschede said. "This is something that our budget probably wouldn't have been able to include." Meschede, who is in charge of the Fire Department's training program, said the cameras cost about \$7,000 each.

Kansas City officials began devising a plan for large area search teams after a battalion chief died in a 1999 fire. They called their Omaha counterparts in April 2004 and offered to share their findings. "They spent a lot of time and put a lot of thought into their procedures," Meschede said. "After they called, a group of us went down, and we knew right away that they had a great game plan."

In Omaha, half the Fire Department has already undergone the training. Before the summer is over, every active firefighter will have gone through the drills in the old U.P. building. They will continue training with the new equipment at their engine houses.

"The more time we put into it, the smoother it goes," Capt. Jim Palensky

said. "Just like all of the training we do."

While the rapid intervention teams work in the U.P. basement, firefighters on the upper floors are learning how the thermal imaging cameras operate. They also practice traditional techniques for rescuing victims.

If a firefighter becomes trapped, he or she is trained to radio his or her position and activate a high-pitched emergency alarm to help fellow firefighters.

"These step-by-step procedures that we've relied on work well, but we're finding that the new cameras and the Kansas City way is a lot more effective," Palensky said.

Palensky said firefighters also routinely train to work with hazardous materials, high angle rescues, confined space rescues and trench rescues. The rapid intervention team rescue training will ratchet up a notch when the new fire training tower opens this fall, Meschede said.

"When the new facility opens, we will be able to fill it with smoke," he said. "It will just make it that much more real."

## COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

Chief Bill Markgraf and his staff hosted a great conference. Great speakers and plenty of vendors gave attendees an opportunity to educate themselves and see the latest technology and fire equipment. Hospitality by the Columbia Fire Department never stopped.

Chief Bill Markgraf also celebrated a milestone of 50 years in the Fire Service. Congratulations, Bill - MVD is glad you have been a member of the MVD and your leadership as a Board member and President has helped to make the MVD an asset to Chief Officers.

The Columbia Honor Guard honored members of the Missouri Valley Departments who passed away this

past year. A special moment was the honoring of a great friend to the Missouri Valley Division who recently passed away, Leo M. Ellebracht, fondly known as "Mr. Seagrave." MVD will miss our friend.

The Conference was a great success with a substantial sum returned to the Division by Chief Markgraf at the FRI luncheon in Denver. Over 120 Chief Officers attended the Conference. Chief Markgraf made this a Conference that will be remembered as one of the best in the history of the Missouri Valley Division. MVD extends our "thanks" to Chief Markgraf and his department for an exceptional Conference.

# “SMOKEY” NAMED CAREER FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR

Chief Richard “Smokey” Dyer of the Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department was named as the Career Fire Chief of the Year at the IAFC Convention in Denver. Chief Dyer is past International Director of our Division and served as President of the IAFC. Chief Dyer has long been recognized for his commitment to the Fire Service and his outstanding leadership skills. Missouri Valley Division is proud to have you in our Division and we congratulate you on this award.

## GPO UPDATES

### Henry Schein to distribute EMS Catalog for FireRescue GPO

Henry Schein is in the process of producing a 144 page catalog listing FireRescue GPO contract pricing. The catalog will contain EMS specific supplies and gear. There are no minimum order requirements and Henry Schein will cover all regular shipping charges to Fire Rescue GPO members. They ship nation-wide and have distribution facilities in Reno NV, Grapevine TX, Indianapolis IN, Denver PA, Honolulu HI and Jacksonville FL.

### Fire Hose RFP

The FireRescue GPO is in the mist of creating a national RFR for all fire hose. The RFP will be utilizing NFPA standard specs and will be available to the membership in early 2006.

### “Fire Station in a Box”

Building a new facility? FireRescue GPO can help with part or all of your con-

struction project. From the foundation to furniture, FireRescue GPO has the products and services you need! FireRescue GPO has put together a comprehensive construction portfolio to provide you with construction supplies and tools and the know-how of architects, contractors and consultants. The program is “Fire Station in a Box” and it is just that; everything you need to get your project from paper to reality!

### New Vendors Spotlight Vendor Wholesale Distribution of Industrial Tools, Supplies and Consumable Supplies

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**DHL:** Express Mail Services

**All A Board Furniture:** Solid-Wood Furniture, Seating, Lockers and Beds with Custom Capabilities  
**Priority Healthcare:** Pharmaceuticals  
Miscellaneous

**MVD WEBSITE:**  
[www.mvdiafc.org](http://www.mvdiafc.org)

## 2006 MVD CANDIDATE

Chief Mark Wessel of Keokuck, IA announced his candidacy for 2nd VP of the Missouri Valley Division for the 2006 election in Omaha. Anyone interested in running for this position can notify the Secretary of their intent in writing 120 days before the Omaha conference.