

FIRE LINK

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by Robert C. Dahlquist

I begin my last article for *Fire Link* with a tremendous appreciation and respect for the work each of you do during your daily lives as protectors of your communities. The commitment and sacrifice of each of you and your organizations make the Fire Service the greatest public safety organization in this country.

I'm deeply disturbed by the most recent trend of LODD. Being fully aware of daily responsibilities, we cannot rest

each of them for their efforts. International Director Richard Carrizzo provides essential information to the officers and our members. Chief Carrizzo is the conduit for "one voice" between the IAFC and our division; his commitment is essential to our success as a division.

Fire Chief's today struggle to meet their enormous responsibilities and often these challenges feel as if one is on an island. Isolationism tends to occur

name a few. I encourage all to attend and expect the professional development opportunities to be outstanding. Let's get those registrations in as early as possible. This effort will truly assist Rapid City with final planning, let alone remove Gary's stress.

IAFC's election opens at 12:01 a.m. on May 24, 2007. All members will be mailed instructions on how to vote by May 25, 2007. The ballot consists of two candidates for 2nd Vice-President and two constitutional changes. You have until July 9, 2007 to cast your ballot.

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The greatest return on your membership can easily be realized at the annual IAFC Missouri Valley Division Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota, July 18-20, 2007.

one second in our effort to reduce or eliminate LODD from our vocabulary. Being aware of those elements, we as leaders control and implement procedures and policies which save lives - from wellness programs to safety belts and emergency vehicle driving procedures. We have the ability to impact these issues as they affect the well being of our employees and the citizens that we serve. Enough of the soap box, for this article, responsibility and accountability lead us to "everyone goes home".

Communication is fundamental to our success as a division as we conference monthly. The current State Vice-President's continue to serve the division with dedication and professionalism. The division continues to excel because of these dedicated individuals and I thank

naturally, but this is not a mandate. The IAFC provides the tools and insight to positively affect the daily lives and duties of Fire Chiefs across this country. This assistance is often immeasurable to our members. The greatest return on your membership can easily be realized at the annual IAFC Missouri Valley Division Conference in Rapid City, South Dakota, July 18-20, 2007.

Rapid City Fire Chief Gary Shepherd and his excellent staff are prepared to provide our membership with professional development of its members through educational, leadership and networking opportunities of the Rapid City Conference. The featured speakers are exceptional, Dr. Dennis Onieal, Chief Richard Marinucci, Fire Marshal Brett Martinez and Ronny J. Coleman ESCI to

	Calendar of Events
IAFC Accreditation Workshop Highlands Ranch, CO June 13-14, 2007	
Public Education Conference Hutchison, KS June 20-22, 2007	
Firefighter Combat Challenge Westminster, CO July 28, 2007	
MVD Annual Conference Rapid City, SD July 18-20, 2007	
Colorado Fire Mechanics Academy Greeley, CO July 30-August 3, 2007	
FRI - Atlanta, GA August 23-25, 2007	

Chiefs Taylor and Mullin Run for MVD 2nd Vice President – 2007

Chief Jack Taylor

Emporia, KS

It is with a great deal of excitement that I announce my candidacy as second vice-president of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. It would be an honor to serve the membership of this highly respected organization as we look to the opportunities and challenges of the future affecting the fire service.

The Missouri Valley Division has a long history of being in the forefront of issues such as development of laws, standards, codes and regulations that govern us. We must continue that long history to stay ahead and support our membership in these times when our world and environment changes almost every day. If elected second vice president, I will fully support and assist with carrying out the Division's strategic plan as well as reviewing and updating the plan to support our mission in the future.

As Kansas Vice President of the Division, one of the most important tasks I have is to communicate with the Kansas contingent on a timely basis regarding the activities of the organization. This communication provides our

current and future membership with accurate information and an opportunity for them to express their desires and concerns to take back to the Board and to the IAFC. That two-way communication is vital to our continued success and I would continue that communication at all levels as your second vice-president.

With my thirty-one years of experience in the fire service, my belief in unifying to speak as one voice to accomplish our goals and my strong desire to serve the membership of an organization that I fully believe in. I pledge, with your support, to continue to make the Missouri Valley the most respected Division in the IAFC and to represent our membership to the fullest of my ability. □

Chief John Mullin

Littleton, CO

I wish to announce my candidacy for second vice president. I present myself as a member in good standing of both the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Missouri Valley Division.

I began my fire service with Littleton Fire Rescue. This April, I will have completed 32 years in the Fire Service. I have held the ranks of firefighter, para-

medic, Lieutenant, Captain, Training Officer and Battalion Chief. I accepted the position of Fire Chief of The Woodlands Fire Department (Texas) in 1998. I kept that position for six years and then returned to Littleton Fire Rescue in 2004 to assume the Fire Chief's job in the department where I started my career. I have been most fortunate to be associated with fire departments that are filled with smart, dedicated firefighters.

I have been actively involved. I serve on the Colorado Fire Chiefs Executive Board and represent that organization on the State of Colorado Hazardous Materials Certification Board. During my tenure with the Missouri Valley Division, I have participated in the updating of the strategic plan and worked with Past President Mark Young in creating and conducting a survey designed to improve attendance at our annual conference.

I see the Missouri Valley Division as the vital link between the International Association of Fire Chiefs and our State organizations. Not only do we provide communication to our peers, we keep the International informed of the concerns raised at the local level. If elected, I pledge to ensure this communication continues. □

Kansas Tragedy



Jason Johnson

On the afternoon of Saturday, January 14, 2006, Jason Johnson, a 28-year-old firefighter with Butler County Fire District # 3, assisted in fighting a grass fire in the Southwest part of the Fire District. Later that afternoon, Jason and his wife were driving through Andover on their way to Wichita. Due to an unknown medical problem, he became unresponsive. Despite a quick medical 1st Response by the Andover Fire Department and transport to Wesley Medical Center in Wichita by Butler County EMS, he passed away at the hospital.

Jason joined Butler County Fire District # 3 in August 2000 as a volunteer firefighter. He enjoyed being a firefighter for the department, and was always eager to help with whatever needed to be done around the station or during the alarms in which he responded.

His fellow firefighters wish to express their deepest sympathies to Jason's family and their thoughts and prayers are with his family in their time of sorrow. Jason leaves behind a wife and 4-year-old son.

President's Comments

(continued from page 1)

Paper ballots will be mailed to those with inaccurate emails on file. Hopefully, we can increase voter participation this election year. As they say, please vote early and often. Ha!

On a local note, Omaha is one of the 11 host sites for the National Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament. I hope the eight-state region of the Missouri Valley Division will be well represented. The College World Series begins on the same weekend if you are interested.

For the past three years, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has sponsored a golf tournament designed to raise funds for the families of fallen firefighters. This event has historically been held near the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The tournament has been such a success that this year the event is being expanded to included 11 new regional sites. Our region was honored with the opportunity to host a tournament in Omaha on Friday, June 15, 2007. I wanted to extend an early invitation to you to join us for a day of fun and camaraderie!

What: Omaha Area Golf Tournament to raise funds for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, www.firehero.org

When: June 15, 2007, Tee time 12:00. Registration and chipping contest is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 5, 2007.**

Entry Fee: The entry fee for a single golfer will be \$125.

Where: Indian Creek Golf Course, 20100 West Maple Road, Omaha, Nebraska 68022 (402) 289-0900, <http://www.golfatindiancreek.com/>

Lodging: A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the newly remodeled **Comfort Inn and Suites at 7007 Grover**

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Street. The number is (402) 934-4900. Note: Rooms are hard to reserve due to the CWS. Mention NFFF Golf.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Friday is opening day of the College World Series (CWS) Baseball Championship in Omaha. If you are coming in from out of town and are interested in the possibility of tickets, please send an email ASAP to tlang@ci.omaha.ne.us.

There will be a Welcome Reception Thursday evening at McFlys Tavern located at 4503 Center Street (owned and operated by local firefighters) starting at 7:00 p.m.

Hope you can be here to golf in June!


I thank all of you for the opportunity to participate in such an outstanding division for the past year as President. Enjoy your summer – stay safe – see you in Rapid City in July. ☐

Fire 20/20 Donating Its Subscription to Diversity Inc. Magazine to American and Canadian Firefighters

Larry Sagen, director of FIRE 20/20, has announced that his organization is offering its donated subscription to *Diversity Inc. Magazine* online to firefighters across the U.S. and Canada.

FIRE 20/20 is an education and research nonprofit organization dedicated to uniting fire/EMS stakeholders to recruit and retain a qualified, inclusive, safe and competent fire/EMS workforce by the year 2020.

All you need to do to sign up is go to www.diversityinc.com/fire2020. Once you get there, complete the membership form. ☐



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IAFC – FRI – ATLANTA

The Atlanta FRI Conference, August 23-25, 2007, is special to members of the Missouri Valley Division as our own Steve Westermann will be sworn in as the new President of the IAFC. There will be receptions and hospitality rooms, so be there to support Steve.

Steve has been a long-time leader in the MVD and has served as President of the MVD, International Director of the MVD, and is currently 1st VP of the IAFC. Steve's involvement in the MVD has helped to guide and formulate our policies and growth that have made our Division strong. The MVD is proud of Steve's accomplishments and his commitment to the fire service. Have a GREAT year as President of the IAFC. MVD is proud of you!!!

The Division Hotel is the Atlanta Hyatt Regency and you need to register as soon as possible to ensure your room reservation. ☐

Seven Tests for “Just Cause” in Disciplinary Cases

- 1) Did the company warn the worker in advance to taking action?
- 2) Is there a clearly communicated work rule which covers the conduct and which is reasonable and related to the orderly, efficient, and safe operation of the employer's business?
- 3) Did the employer investigate before taking action?
- 4) Was the investigation fair and objective? Does the supervisor serve as prosecutor, judge, and witness all rolled into one?
- 5) Is there substantial evidence that the worker is guilty?
- 6) Has the employer been fair and even-handed in its enforcement of the rule(s) in question? Is there “disparate treatment”?
- 7) Was the degree of discipline related to the seriousness of the worker's offense and the worker's prior work record? ☐

Know Concerns of Employees

Remember that communicating with employees involves more than conveying your needs, wants, and concerns. It also includes seeking out, listening to, and responding to theirs. Listen for and address these five critical concerns of employees:

- Why are we here?
- Where are we going?
- How are we doing?
- What happens when we need help?
- What's in it for us? ☐

EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK...

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Built your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float a while.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, there's always a rainbow waiting.

You're invited to compete in the

Paul Davis Firefighter Combat Challenge

at the Westminster Promenade

Saturday, July 28, 2007 Westminster, Colorado



The Firefighter Combat Challenge® attracts hundreds of U.S. and Canadian municipal fire departments each year at more than 25 locations and is seen by millions of people worldwide.

The Challenge seeks to encourage firefighter fitness and demonstrate the profession's rigors to the public. Wearing "full bunker gear" and the SCOTT Air-Pak breathing apparatus, pairs of competitors simulate the physical demands of real-life firefighting by performing a linked series of five tasks including climbing the 5-story tower, hoisting, chopping, dragging hoses and rescuing a life-sized, 175 lb. "victim" as they race against themselves, their opponent, and the clock.

Paul Davis Restoration and the Westminster Fire Department are hosting a regional Firefighter Combat Challenge in Westminster, Colorado on Saturday, July 28, 2007 at the Westminster Promenade, located northwest of Denver off Hwy. 36.

Participants compete to qualify for the World Firefighter Combat Challenge in a variety of categories. Active and retired firefighters who are members of an organized first responder (Fire-Rescue or EMS) unit any where in the world are eligible to enter. Categories include relay, team, tandem, individual under 40, individual over 40, women, and more.

In addition to the Combat Challenge, the Westminster event offers a Kiddie Combat Challenge activity, booths, and a great location with entertainment, restaurants, and easy access to hotels.

This is your chance to participate in a world-class event!

For event information/registration: www.firefighterchallenge.com

For information on the location: www.ci.westminster.co.us or
www.thewestminsterpromenade.com

Questions? Contact Eric Anderson at eanderson@ci.westminster.co.us

2007 Sponsors



**St. Anthony's
Hospitals**

**Westminster
Promenade**

**For more information or to register go to
www.firefighterchallenge.com**

Colorado News

Governor Ritter Signs Presumptive Cancer Bill into Law

by Paul Cooke, Director, Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association

Governor Ritter signed HB 07-1008, Concerning Workers' Compensation Coverage for Firefighters Who Contract Certain Types of Cancer, into law recently. HB07-1008 amends the Workers' Compensation statutes to create a presumption that the death, disability, or impairment of health of a firefighter caused by cancer of the brain, skin, digestive system, hematological system, or genitourinary system, and resulting from his or her employment as a firefighter; be considered an occupational disease; if:

a) at the time of becoming a firefighter or thereafter; the firefighter underwent a physical examination that failed to reveal substantial evidence of such condition or impairment of health that pre-existed his or her employment as a firefighter; and

b) the individual has completed five or more years of employment as a firefighter.

The condition or impairment of health shall not be deemed to result from the firefighter's employment if the firefighter's employer or insurer shows by a preponderance of the medical evidence that

such condition or impairment did not occur on the job.

The legislation also requires the Division of Labor and Employment to prepare a report for the legislature by March 1, 2009, on the number of claims allowed pursuant to this law, and the costs associated with those claims.

The legislation took effect upon the Governor's signature yesterday. It is important to note that the provisions of the new law apply equally to career and volunteer firefighters.

Prior to enactment of HB07-1008, and

in response to comments by Pinnacol Assurance that Workers' Comp. premiums could increase for volunteer firefighters as much as 425 percent, the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association wrote the Commissioner of Insurance, and has corresponded and met with Pinnacol Assurance regarding the basis for these assertions. The CSFCA believes the analysis that was performed on HB07-1008, on which rate increases will be based, was flawed and any premium increases should have a demonstrated underwriting basis. □

Omaha Firefighter Memorial



Firefighters' Memorial – 12-Ft. High – Bronze Sculpture



MVD Web Site

The Missouri Valley Division
web site is

www.mvdiafc.org

Chief Ken Hobbs Retires

by Gary Curmode, Fire Chief, Sedgwick County Fire District #1

(Wichita, KS)

On March 15, the Kansas Professional Fire Chiefs Association proudly honored Kenneth L. Hobbs, Lenexa, KS Fire Chief at his retirement celebration conducted at the Lenexa Fire Department. For over 27 years, Chief Hobbs dedicated his tremendous efforts in the fire service and provided a safe environment for the community.

Gary E. Curmode, Fire Chief – Sedgwick County Fire District #1 and President of the Kansas Professional Fire Chiefs Association, traveled to Lenexa and delivered remarks on behalf of the Kansas Professional Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Curmode expressed his gratitude for the selfless

dedication that Chief Hobbs demonstrated throughout his long career in the fire service. Additionally, numerous officials, dignitaries and fire chiefs con-

...gratitude for the selfless dedication that Chief Hobbs demonstrated throughout his long career in the fire service. Additionally, numerous officials, dignitaries and fire chiefs conveyed their well wishes and congratulations to Chief Hobbs and his family.

veyed their well wishes and congratulations to Chief Hobbs and his family. Similar in size, the Sedgwick County

Fire District and the Lenexa Fire Department are the only two fire departments in the state of Kansas who have achieved the prestigious commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) recognition as a fully accredited department. With the continued leadership of the chiefs that comprise the Kansas Professional Fire Chiefs Association, the membership will maintain its commitment to support and foster public education of fire and injury prevention, promote fire education and cooperating with other fire service organizations to promote programs that further the goals and objectives of the fire services within the State of Kansas. □

The Colorado Fire Mechanics' Association
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES OUR
18th Annual
Emergency Vehicle Maintenance Academy
JULY 30-AUGUST 3, 2007

Once again the Academy will be co-hosted by Aims Community College in Greeley, CO, Union Colony Fire Department and the Colorado Fire Mechanics' Association. Greeley is located on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains just east of Rocky Mountain National Park. Denver is one hour to the South and Cheyenne, WY about an hour to the north by car.

For additional information, contact us at:
 President & Financial Info: Jay Powell, 720-865-3850
 Academy Coordinator: Larry Thompson, 303-500-2788
 Asst. Academy Coordinator: Brett Dorland, 970-213-3495
 E-mail k.roland@ssss.com Secretary
 visit our web page WWW.CO-FMA.COM

Registration deadline is June 30, 2007

Missouri Valley Division

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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.

NEW MEMBERS

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Chief Gordon Dippel – Ozark, MO
Fire Marshal Richard Hoelscher – Lawrence, KS
Chief Jim Giles – Omaha, NE
AC David Gelperlous – Boulder, CO
Chief Marshall Cook – Lamar, CO
Chief Steve Bargas – Como, CO
Chief Terry Loehrer – Bridgeton, MO
DC Joseph Schmidt – St. Louis, MO
Gregory Ballentine – Liberty, MO
Chief Eddy Amsinger – Lake Ozark, MO
AC Mark Dudley – Lake Ozark, MO
Denver Schmadeke – Omaha, NE
AC David Friedel – Lafayette, CO
Chief Bary Schaefer – Jersey, CO
Chief Roger Mathews – Colorado Springs, CO
DC Craig Wack – St. Louis, MO
DC David Waser – St. Louis, MO
Chief Tim Carter – Hannibal, MO

AC Keith Vollraeh – Buckner, MO
BC Jeff Genger – Loveland, CO
Capt. Steve Pitcher – Loveland, CO
Capt. Tim Smith – Loveland, CO
BC Ned Sparks – Loveland, CO
DC Dale Lyman – Greeley, CO
Capt. Craig Willard – Loveland, CO
DC Jeff O'Dell – Greeley, CO
Chief Tom Milewski – Windsor Heights, IL
Chief Mike Juengemann – Watertown, SD
AC Steve Long – Pleasant Hill, MO
BC David Reerson – Kansas City, MO
Chief Kenneth Brandow – Bolivar, MO