

**FINAL RECOMMENDATION
as of March 15, 2001**

Recommendation of the Action Plan Team: CORE Mission

Statement of Issue #: 2.8 Emergency service providers are delivering services that PL 93-498 (as amended) does not authorize the USFA to address.

Recommendation R-6

Summary: Transmit the legislative authority concern to the recommissioned America Burning committee and FEMA.

Recommendation: FEMA released the final report of **America Burning Recommissioned**, *America at Risk: Findings and Recommendations on the Role of the Fire Service in the Prevention and Control of Risks in America*, in December, 2000. Rather than transmitting legislative authority concern, the Core Mission Team recommends that USFA continue to:

- a. work within existing partnerships, and
- b. develop new partnerships with agencies that are authorized and appropriated to deliver such services, i.e., EMS, Terrorism, HazMat, etc.

USFA should not continue to use its limited resources to meet the goals of other agencies. USFA should concentrate on improving the Federal focus on the fire problem.

Background: On May 6-8, 1947, President Harry S. Truman chaired a conference on Fire Prevention for the purpose of addressing the serious losses of life and property throughout the United States. It is now clear that despite commitments from the most powerful and influential leaders of the time 1947, that without a Federal government based focus on America's continuing fire problem issues of fire safety slip from view and can are not otherwise included in a national agenda of need. Confirmed again by all recent major reports, such is still very much the case. As was affirmed in 1947, and reconfirmed again some 25 years later 1973, a strong Federal fire safety advocacy is critical.

The concept of the Federal role was articulated when on May 4, 1973 the final report of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control was released, *American Burning*. This report presented the most significant fire safety problems, and the greatest opportunities for fire loss reduction, in the United States. The recommendations emphasized prevention of fire through implementation of local programs and emphasized built-in fire

safety-measures that can detect and extinguish fire before it grows large enough to cause a major disaster. From the 1973 report Congress and the Administration enacted the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974.

Late 1999 the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency recommissioned America Burning, finding the fire problem in America remains as severe as it was 30 years ago, America At Risk. Just as was the case in 1947 and again in 1973, challenges of preventing loss of life and property has hit a plateau.

1. Step(s) to Achieve:

- Continue to establish partnerships with agencies that are authorized and appropriated to deliver such services, i.e., The Department of Transportation for EMS, the Department of Justice for Terrorism, HazMat, etc.

2. Estimated Time Frame: On-going effort

3. Estimated Cost: Limited staff time.

4. Outcome: USFA should be recognized as the lead Federal agency to provide helpful tools for local, State, and national efforts to reduce the loss of life and property by destructive fires in the United States.

Conclusion:

The Core Mission Team supports this recommendation. USFA, with federal, public and private sector partnerships could significantly improve safety from fire while also helping to reduce other major risks in our country.

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