



FEMA

# USFA

News in Review

An Electronic Newsletter for First Responders and Allied Professionals

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### Volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief and community safety!

President Bush spoke on volunteerism at the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors on April 19. At his side was Hershey Volunteer Fire



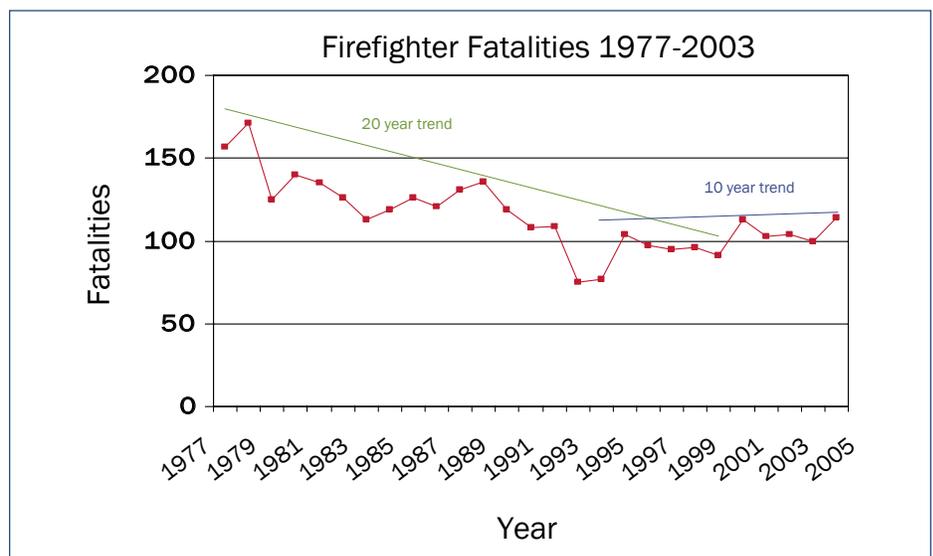
Department Chief Patrick Leonard. For more information on the President's volunteer initiatives, please visit the Citizen Corps and Freedom Corps Web sites.

## U.S. Fire Administrator Stresses New Campaign to Lower Firefighter Death Toll

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has joined with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) to spearhead a first-of-its-kind campaign to lower significantly the number of firefighters who die in the line of duty each year. Last month, more than 200 fire and emergency service representatives from some 100 organizations and departments gathered in Florida in support of USFA's stated goal to reduce firefighter fatalities by 25 percent within 5 years, and 50 percent within 10 years.

The summit attendees subsequently produced a preliminary report that detailed initiatives and recommendations for drastically reducing firefighter fatalities and injuries. This month, a follow-up meeting was held in Arizona to review the report and begin putting action behind the words.

According to a report released in late 2003, 105 firefighters lost their lives while on-duty in the U.S. in 2002 – nearly a quarter of those while fighting wildland fires. In 2003, another 110 firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty. The USFA has been tracking and analyzing firefighter fatalities for 26 years. Almost 2,500 firefighters have died on duty in the past 2 decades.



“FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security are firmly behind the USFA’s efforts to solve this continuing and heart-breaking problem,” said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. “We need to work together to reduce the death toll of these American heroes.”

Sixteen initiatives came out of the summit. USFA official acknowledge that many will take a huge commitment of energy and resources over several years, and some will cause controversy and some discomfort as they go against long-held traditions.

“We need not shy away due to either the size of the commitment or the fear of controversy,” said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. “We can no longer accept that dying on the job is a normal way of doing business. Yes, the work is inherently dangerous and no, the death toll for firefighters will never be zero. But firefighters are dying unnecessarily and that must stop.”

Briefly, the initiatives are:

1. Define and advocate the need for cultural change related to safety, leadership, management, and personal responsibility;
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety;
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels;
4. Empower all firefighters to stop unsafe practices;
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification;
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards;
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to initiatives;
8. Use available technology to produce higher levels of health and safety;
9. Investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries and near misses;
10. Ensure grant programs support the use of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement;

11. Develop and champion national standards for emergency response policies and procedures;
12. Develop and champion national protocols for response to violent incidents;
13. Provide firefighters and their families with access to counseling and psychological support;
14. Provide public education with more resources and champion it as a critical fire and life safety program;
15. Strengthen advocacy for the enforcement of codes and installation of home fire sprinklers;
16. Make safety a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

The summit’s entire report is posted at [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).

### 16th Executive Fire Officer Program Graduate Symposium Held

The 16th Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) Graduate Symposium was held successfully on April 16-18, 2004. The largest attendance in the history of the symposium was recorded, with more than 190 alums participating. This year’s program included a keynote presentation entitled “Ethics Based Leadership,” delivered by Dr. Jim Reese of Williamsburg, Virginia; a presentation by Dr. Amy Donahue on the Columbia Shuttle recovery efforts, with lessons learned; a discussion of current USFA Incident Management Team (IMT) initiatives; and a presentation on professional development by Dr. Denis Onieal, National Fire Academy (NFA) Superintendent.

During the symposium, a field trip was used as a metaphor to examine the process of coaching and its relationship to feedback. Symposium participants actually traveled by bus and train, with a brief program being presented in Biglerville, Pennsylvania. On April 17th, the Broadway play “The Guys” was presented by a professional cast. Playwright Anne Nelson also was present, as the participants discussed the implications of the play and how writing can be used to reinforce and change culture. USFA Deputy Administrator Charlie Dickinson spoke at the symposium banquet and recognized both the 2003 EFOP graduates in attendance and the four Outstanding Applied Research Award winners. The National Society of Executive Fire Officers presented the first A. Don Manno Outstanding Research Awards to the same recipients.

The closing presentation was offered by Washington Post writer David Von Drehle, during which he told the story of his 2003 book, "Triangle: The Fire That Changed America." Von Drehle asserted that Triangle led to extensive reform throughout America and was actually a prelude to President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal." During the symposium program the four Outstanding Applied Research Award winners presented their papers as well.

### Fire Department Census Announces New Registration Numbers

The National Fire Department Census had 22,250 registered fire departments on April 1, 2004 – approximately 75 percent of U.S. fire departments. This is an increase from 2 years ago, when only about half of all of the nation's fire departments had submitted information for the census.

The fire departments registered with the census represent some 41,000 fire stations and more than 1 million personnel, including career, volunteer, and paid-per-call firefighters; civilian staff; and non-firefighting volunteers. The departments are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. The census is managed by the National Fire Data Center, part of USFA. The census database provides a directory of registered fire departments, and includes basic information including address, department type, Web site address, and number of stations.

"USFA staff members plan to use the census data to conduct special studies, guide program decisions and improve our communication with fire departments throughout the country," said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "The census is also a valuable resource for departments and we encourage fire departments to access the census information on the USFA Web site and to register if they have not already done so."

### Percentage of Fire Departments Providing Specialized Services

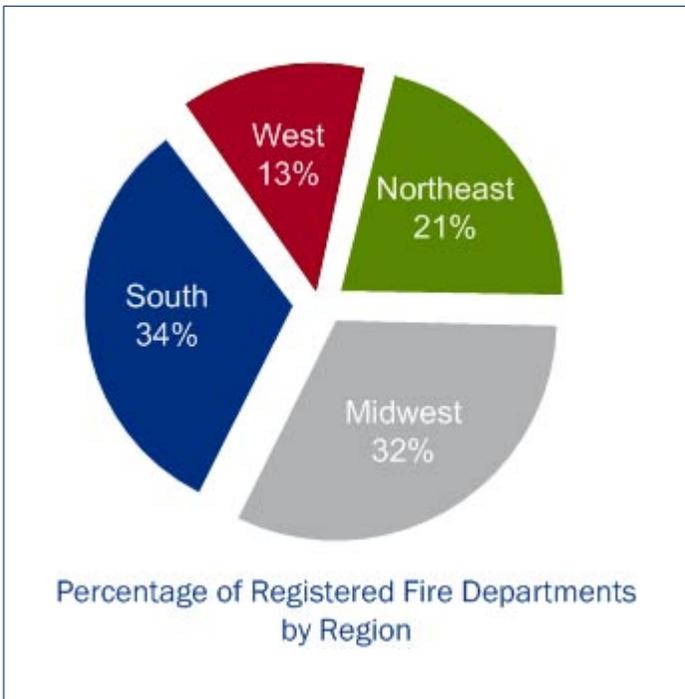
Specialized Services Provided	Percentage
Vehicle Extrication	71.1
Fire/Injury Prevention/Public Education	55.4
Basic Life Support	54.4
Wildfire/Urban-Wildland Interface	53.1
Fire Investigation/Fire Cause Determination	35.8
Fire Inspection/Code Enforcement	34.8
EMS Non-Transport Response	33.6
Technical/Specialized Rescue	32.7
Departmental (in-house) Training Academy	26.4
EMS Ambulance Transport	20.6
Advanced Life Support	20.6
HAZMAT Team	15.7
Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program	14.2
Airport/Aviation	7.3
Fireboat	3.4

Census data, including a breakdown of participating departments, can be found at:

[www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/fdonline/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/fdonline/)

### IGA Announces Hometown Proud Marketing Event

IGA today announced the second annual Hometown Proud marketing event will be held in participating IGA stores April 25-May 8, 2004. The marketing event serves the dual purpose of promoting the necessity of fire safety education, while honoring the heroism of those who keep our IGA communities on the leading edge of fire prevention.



For Hometown Proud 2004, IGA has partnered with FEMA to help communicate the IGA event to firehouses across America. Red Oval Family partners Kraft Foods, the Coca-Cola Company, Campbell Soup Company, LEGO Systems, Inc., and Timex Corporation will be sponsoring the marketing event.

“Volunteer fire departments are a way of life in many of our IGA areas,” said IGA Area Director George Beaver. “In some cases, the same person who bags your groceries is the person who saves your house, or your life, when a fire breaks out. This marketing event is designed to help these heroes spread the word about fire safety.”

The event centers on the essay contest, which asks families, in 200 words or less, to answer the question: “How Does Your Hometown Proud Family Contribute to Community Fire Safety?” The Grand Prize winning family receives a trip to Walt Disney World. Seven first place-winning families will receive ticket packages (one per IGA Region) to the Grand Ole Opry and Opryland Hotel as well as \$1,000 donations to local firefighters in each winner’s area. In addition, 10 special LEGO “Firefighter” prizes will be awarded in each IGA’s region from randomly drawn essay contest entries.

“The number of people who lose their lives or are injured by fire each year paints a very tragic picture in this nation,” U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison said. “It is our sincere hope that projects like this will help to create an awareness to the dangers of fire, and what each of us can do to protect our lives, the lives of our neighbors, and the lives of our firefighters who respond to emergencies throughout the country.”

IGA is the world’s largest voluntary supermarket network with aggregate worldwide annual retail sales of more than \$21 billion. The alliance includes more than 4,000 Hometown Proud Supermarkets worldwide, supported by 36 distribution companies and more the 55 major manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers.

### **NFIRS Program Management Course at the National Fire Academy Still Available**

There are several vacancies available for the upcoming *National Fire Incident Reporting System Program Management* (NFIRS) course scheduled to be held at the NFA in Emmitsburg, Maryland, from August 8 to 20, 2004. Contact NFA’s Admissions

Office ([www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/nfa.shtml](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/nfa/nfa.shtml)) for more information on applying for this and other NFIRS training courses.

This 2-week course enhances the knowledge and skills of those individuals responsible for managing NFIRS in their organization, and/or the training of field-level data collection and reporting staffs. Students are expected to have completed either the new online NFIRS Self-Study course ([lstrng1.fema.gov/LearningSpace5/Program/UI/Main/Themes/Kendall/Main.asp](http://lstrng1.fema.gov/LearningSpace5/Program/UI/Main/Themes/Kendall/Main.asp)), the *Introduction to NFIRS 5.0* 2-day class, or equivalent, prior to attending this course.

The NFIRS management in R-499 receives information about the NFIRS capabilities, data collection and analysis, and the available reporting features. Focus is on the higher-level competencies required to train others in data entry, collection, and reporting, and to develop decision packages based on local, state, or national data and trends.

Other NFIRS-related training materials, such as the CD-ROM-based NFIRS Program Managers Toolkit and the new Geographic Information System Tutorial also on CD-ROM are available from USFA’s Publication Center ([www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/)).

NFIRS 5.0 is a modified and improved system that has been designed as a tool for fire departments to report and maintain computerized records of fires and other fire department incidents in a uniform manner. Intro to NFIRS 5.0 was developed by USFA in partnership with the National Fire Information Council.

The new NFIRS 5.0 system, in addition to many code improvements, provides additional modules to meet the increasing demands of fire departments today. It has been designed to expand the collection of data beyond fires to include a full range of fire department activity on a national scale. Included is an expanded utility for users of the system at both the state and fire department levels. The recent addition of an Emergency Medical Services module, along with the inclusion of Department Apparatus, Wildland, and Personnel modules, ensures greater usefulness of the system.

Intro to NFIRS 5.0 will enable the fire service to examine trends, which will help reduce the loss of life and property by fire throughout the United States.

## New Online Course Helps Schools Develop Effective Emergency Operations Plans

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has unveiled an online, independent study course that will help educators and first responders develop effective emergency operations plans for the wide array of potential emergencies that schools face.

The online course, IS 362: *Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools*, is based on a traditional classroom course that FEMA has been offering for 9 years. The online course describes emergency management operations, roles and responsibilities, explains how to assess potential hazards schools face, and explains how to develop and test an emergency operations plan. While the course takes an all-hazards approach to emergency planning, it does include a lesson on planning for terrorism.

The course takes between 6 and 8 hours to complete; those successfully finishing it receive a certification of completion. The course is located at:

[www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is362.asp](http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is362.asp)

## Society of Fire Protection Engineering (SFPE) Principles of Fire Protection Engineering: A Distance Learning Pilot Program

Register now -- Enrollment is free! Be among the first to participate in SFPE's first Web-based distance learning program on Principles of Fire Protection Engineering. The pilot is funded as part of a USFA grant to the SFPE. Participants are required to complete a course evaluation survey designed to help improve the program for future users.

The course is open to individuals interested in gaining or refreshing basic to intermediate knowledge of principles of fire protection engineering. It is intended for those who have design, enforcement, or advisory responsibilities; fire protection engineers; architects; fire prevention personnel; and others concerned with fire protection. It consists of 10 self-paced modules:

1. **Combustion and Ignition Phenomenon** – Theories of diffusion, flame combustion, fire dynamics, suppression theory, and suppression agents.

2. **Fire Endurance Evaluation** – Review of the development and application of standard and innovative fire endurance test procedures for building assemblies including doors, windows, walls, floors, and ceilings.

3. **Construction and Structural Features** – Performance of basic construction materials in the fire environment. The fire compartment involvement process and the concept of designing building compartmentalization.

4. **Materials Applications** – Evaluation procedures for flame spread, smoke production, and toxicity of interior finish, floor coverings, and furnishings.

5. **Fire Protection Design Evaluation** – Procedures for the evaluation of fire safety. Smoke management systems design principles and evaluation techniques.

6. **Life Risk Analysis** – Human tenability limits. Human behavior variables in fire incidents including convergence clusters, social inhibition-facilitation, altruistic, and nonadaptive actions.

7. **Detection and Alarm Systems** – Review of the types of detectors and laboratory evaluation test procedures. Reliability and installation design characteristics.

8. **Sprinkler System Developments** – Characteristics of design and approval of the various types of sprinklers and water mist nozzles with application implications.

9. **Design of Water Suppression Systems** – Design of sprinkler and water mist systems with review of standard procedures and innovative research applications.

10. **Egress and Exits** – Basic theoretical code concepts with examination of egress components and design variables.

Those participating in the pilot save \$600 on classroom registration, travel costs, and Continuing Education Units.

The SFPE Distance Learning Program on Principles of Fire Protection Engineering pilot program filled completely in the first 2 days of open registration. If you would like to be placed on the wait list for the course, or for notices of future offerings of the course, please contact [igordon@sfpe.org](mailto:igordon@sfpe.org) with your contact information.

## New Online Course for Federal Disaster Workers

A new course is now available online to introduce the FEMA disaster response workforce and others involved in disaster response to the Incident Command System (ICS). The course, IS-100, does not replace the IS-195 Basic ICS course, but serves as a companion especially developed for federal disaster workers.

The length of the course will vary by individual, but takes an average of 2-½ to 3 hours to complete. This course is designed to give an introduction to the principles, common terminology, and position responsibilities when responding to an event using the (ICS). The course specifically discusses major ICS functions and their primary responsibilities, ICS organizational units, span of control, major incident facilities and the function of each, what an Incident Action Plan (IAP) is and how it is used, and the common responsibilities associated with incident assignments from a federal disaster response workforce perspective.

Access this course through the NETC Virtual Campus, located at: [www.training.fema.gov/emiweb](http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb). From this site, click on "NETC Virtual Campus" and follow instructions for new students. Once you have entered the virtual campus, go to "Course Catalog," select the "IS-100" course and click on "enroll." You must begin with Lesson 1, and work through the course in the designated sequence. At the bottom of "Learning Home" you will find phone numbers and an e-mail address for assistance.

To receive course credit, you must complete all four lessons plus the summary and post-test. EMI's Independent Study Office will notify you via e-mail of your successful completion of the course, and will send you a course certificate.

Questions can be directed to the course manager, Linda Choha, at (301) 447-7686 or [linda.choha@dhs.gov](mailto:linda.choha@dhs.gov)

## National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and USFA to Honor 109 Firefighters during 23rd Annual Memorial Weekend, October 2-3, 2004

The NFFF and the USFA have announced that they will honor 106 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2003, along with three firefighters who died in earlier years. These brave men and women will be honored at the 23rd Annual

Memorial Weekend to be held October 2-3, 2004. Most events will be held on the NFA campus, site of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, in Emmitsburg.

"Every time a firefighter loses his or her life in the line of duty, all of us should stop and acknowledge the sacrifice, the loss of one more true American hero," said NFFF Executive Director Chief Ron Siarnicki. "The Memorial Weekend is when our country pauses to remember what the brave men and women of our firefighting community do for all of us."

The number of firefighters killed in the line of duty last year is slightly higher than the annual average of 100 firefighter fatalities per year. There were seven multiple fatality incidents which accounted for 20 deaths, or 19 percent of all 2003 fatalities. The state of Oregon suffered the nation's greatest number of line-of-duty firefighter deaths (13) followed by the states of Pennsylvania and Texas (8 fatalities each).

"All firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2003 will be remembered for both their contribution and their loss," said NFFF Chairman Hal Bruno. "We need to honor their memories by never forgetting them or those they left behind, and we do that by providing support to their families and friends."

U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison agreed. "One of the saddest responsibilities as USFA Administrator is to participate in the remembrance of those firefighters who have given their lives in service to their communities," he said. "It is my sincere hope that the day will come when, regardless of the emergency, all firefighters go home safely."

For more information on the 23rd Annual Memorial Weekend, visit [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org)

## National Capital Region's Incident Management Team Receives Training from USFA

USFA delivered vital training in mid-April for the National Capital Region's newly formed regional Incident Management Team (IMT). The training, focused on both natural and man-made hazards, is being held in Loudoun County, Virginia, with instructors from USFA.

"The goal of the IMT training program is to develop state and regional teams to function under the National Incident Management System during a large incident or a major event," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. "This

training is important for those emergency response leaders who will function in an incident management role in and around the nation's capital.”

The National Capital Region's IMT is comprised of 40 senior fire, emergency medical system, and law enforcement officials from 11 jurisdictions in the Washington metropolitan area. The team's role is to support a local jurisdiction and/or agency in managing large or complex emergency incidents or events. The team would provide support in such areas as operations, planning, resources, and administration. The team also may be involved in the preparedness planning for mass gathering events in the Washington area.

Following the 7-day course, the IMT members will receive position-specific training for the individual functions they will perform at an incident, and will work with seasoned incident management personnel at major national incidents (such as wildland fires or other disasters) to gain hands-on experience.