IAFF DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND MEDICINE
Overview of Functions, Programs and Responsibilities

Nothing matters more to IAFF members and their families than the health and safety of fire fighters and paramedics. The IAFF dedicates significant resources to the never-ending struggle to make a dangerous profession as safe as possible. The purpose of the IAFF’s occupational health, safety and medical efforts is to identify hazards, develop and disseminate user-friendly technical materials and information, and provide assistance so IAFF members can recognize and control the health, safety and medical needs associated with their profession. To assist in the achievement of that goal, the IAFF offers a comprehensive array of services addressing occupational health, safety and medicine through the:

- Department of Occupational Health and Safety
- Department of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Member Support
- Occupational Medicine Residency Program
- IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial
- John P. Redmond Foundation
- PSOB Program
- IAFF/IAFC Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative
- IAFF Fire Ground Survival Training Program
- IAFF Representatives on Standards Development Committees
- IAFF Standing Committee on Occupational Health and Safety
- Standing Committee on Labor and Employee Assistance Programs
- IAFF Standing Committee on Wellness – Fitness
- Health and Safety Grant Assistance, including the FEMA grant programs
- IAFF Disaster Relief Fund
- IAFF Counseling Support Foundation
- Project HEROES
- Light Weight Pressure Vessel SCBA
- Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative
- Emergency Scene Rehabilitation Program
- Voice Radio Communications Program
- National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System
Department of Occupational Health and Safety

The Department currently provides an array of services and programs to ensure that the health and safety of fire fighters and emergency medical providers are properly and adequately addressed.

Department of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Member Support

The Department coordinates and manages internal and external activities relating to behavioral health, wellness and member support issues.

Services provided within the Division, through both Departments, include the following:

- **Fire Fighter Fatality/Serious Injury Investigations** - Unfortunately, emergency responders are killed or seriously injured in the performance of their job. The Division will continue to assist NIOSH with the federal Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program and provide technical assistance or actual investigation assistance of fatalities or serious injuries of professional fire fighters. At the 2006 convention in Toronto, the passing of Resolution 19 required the IAFF to request support from the International Association of Fire Chiefs to create a committee from both organizations to develop a national policy on LODD incidents between Labor and Management prior to any state or federal investigating team assuming the scene. The resolves also stipulated that this Joint Labor-Management Committee address the question of whether our members should be interrogated without the guidance of a representative from the Local affiliate. A committee was established to review the existing program and to submit suggested edits to be incorporated in the final document. The draft document was reviewed by the Gene Faughnan Standing Committee on Occupational Safety and Health at their meeting held in September 2009. The suggested edits were included and the final manual was released in the August 2010.

- **Worker Education Materials** - The Division develops manuals, fact sheets and audiovisual presentations, which specifically address fire fighter occupational health and safety. As an IAFF member, you will have access to most of our manuals in electronic format. You can go to the IAFF’s online library at http://www.iaff.org/library/library.html to download IAFF manuals as well as other NIOSH, US Fire Administration, NIST, NFPA, IAB and CDC documents.

- **Technical Assistance** - The Division will continue to provide extensive technical assistance to local affiliates, upon request through the District Vice Presidents. Such technical assistance may involve coordination with governmental agencies to conduct health hazard evaluations to objectively document health and safety hazards confronting fire fighters and/or an on-site assignment to investigate the situation. Technical assistance is also provided through expert witness testimony.
or presentations that address the implementation of the collective bargaining agreement, laws or regulations (e.g. 2-in / 2-out, staffing).

- **Needs and Hazards Identification** - The identification of fire fighter health and safety needs are an ongoing process of the Division through policies established by Convention and/or IAFF Executive Board and communications with state/provincial associations and local affiliates.

- **Information Dissemination** - The Division disseminates technical information to state and provincial associations and local affiliates, upon their request, for specific health and safety related material. The IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine maintains an up-to-date and extensive resource library, subscription services, computer on-line systems and video resources on occupational health and safety. The Division also provides day-to-day information dissemination, including information from files, occupational health and safety kits, and opinions and information based on staff expertise and knowledge. In order to keep the entire IAFF membership informed, the IAFF has developed extensive website materials for the Health, Safety and Medicine section of the IAFF Website and continuously produces articles for the IAFF website, the "International Fire Fighter" and the "IAFF Leader."

- **Organizational Liaison** - The IAFF continues its efforts in the development and implementation of comprehensive deployment and staffing standards for professional fire fighters, as well as continuing with standards development for protective clothing and equipment, qualification and certification, health and safety, training, and building and construction codes through the National Fire Protection Association, the Canadian Standards Board, the International Codes Council and the International Standards Organization. We also serve as a liaison with other organizations impacting upon the fire service in order to ensure that the health and safety of the fire fighter is properly and adequately addressed. We monitor government agencies and other organizations on a regular basis to review those rules and regulations, either promulgated or proposed, which might have an impact on the occupational health and safety of fire fighters.

**Medical Residency Program**

Through IAFF convention action in 1986, the IAFF Occupational Medicine Residency Program was established. The Johns Hopkins University, in conjunction with the IAFF, supports full-time medical residents each for a multiple month rotation in the IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine. Throughout this rotation the IAFF provides the occupational physician with a thorough understanding of the breadth and depth of occupational issues for fire fighters; an understanding of the hazards associated with fire fighting; and an appreciation for labor unions in the support of organized workers, especially fire fighters. In addition, the resident leaves the IAFF with an understanding of the issues of federal, state and provincial legislation and the role of unions within the health care system. Specific projects and daily activities of the residency program include:
• **Technical Medical Assistance** - Medical residents address in a timely manner the daily issues of concern for firefighters' health and safety. These issues are commonly related to toxic exposures and medical consequences, contagious diseases, occupational illness and disease, physical fitness, and job-related medical certification for duty. Medical evaluations and on-site visits of precedent setting worker's compensation issues may be necessary during the residents' tenure.

• **Development of Educational Materials** - Educational components of the medical residency are very important to the IAFF. The ability to successfully educate the membership on the health and safety concerns for firefighters is a strong resource in the reduction of work-related injuries and the elevation of the firefighters health status. Educational components and activities are varied and include primarily:
  
  o Update and develop manuals and kits on pertinent issues for firefighters health.
  
  
  o Assist in the development of educational seminar curricula.
  
  o Recommend quality books and journals for the resource library available to Health and Safety staff and medical residents.
  
  o Develop articles on current occupational health issues of concern for the membership to be published in the IAFF Leader and the International Fire Fighter.

• **Educational Presentations** - Medical residents may be provided the opportunity to relay information to the membership by participating in and conducting workshops at: seminars, conferences, court testimony, and through journalistic reporting. Residents are called upon to make educational presentations to firefighter conferences on topics such as infectious diseases, occupational cancer and cardiovascular disease.

• **Lobbying Activities for Federal, State, and Provincial Governments** – IAFF medical residents provide legislative testimony on such issues as occupational disease, cancer, and contagious disease presumption related to firefighters and emergency medical responders.

• **Infectious Disease Issues** - We continue to update the infectious disease information on our website and have produced a new video with the latest infectious disease information and real case scenarios. We have further developed an information kit that will assist locals with grass root efforts to move forward with obtaining infectious disease presumptive legislation. One of the most important efforts was the IAFF’s response to the Avian Flu. We created an
Informational Bulletin to assist fire fighters and emergency medical personnel to prepare for a potential Influenza Pandemic and to advise all first responders with potential Influenza exposure to use proper infection control precautions to protect their own health and that of the public. Our Avian Flu efforts include the web-based manual, as well as on-line learning modules. For further information, go to the IAFF website at: [http://www.iaff.org/HS/Resi/Pan%20Flu%20Final.asp](http://www.iaff.org/HS/Resi/Pan%20Flu%20Final.asp).

**John P. Redmond Foundation**

The John P. Redmond Foundation is the IAFF’s nonprofit foundation established to conduct research and education on fire fighter's occupational injuries and illnesses. In 1958, the IAFF established the John P. Redmond Memorial Trust Fund (title later changed to John P. Redmond Foundation) as a non-profit organization to encourage and carry forth research and education regarding the occupational hazards and diseases associated with fire fighting. It was named after President John P. Redmond, the fourth President of the IAFF who died while in office from occupationally related heart disease.

These efforts have been supported over the years through membership dues, voluntary contributions from IAFF affiliates, IAFF Women's Auxiliary chapters, and memorial gifts from widows and friends of fire fighters as well as support from federal agencies such as the U.S. Fire Administration, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

To promote education, the Redmond Foundation has sponsored a symposium on the occupational health and hazards of the fire service every two years. The nineteen symposiums since 1971 have provided a forum for detailed discussion on safety and health matters directly affecting firefighting personnel by bringing together fire fighters, medical researchers, medical practitioners, safety experts, wellness-fitness experts, fire chiefs, city management representatives, political leaders, universities, industry representatives and federal government representatives from various agencies. Often times, those in attendance have initiated new research efforts or cause programs to be implemented to reduce the hazards associated with fire fighting. In addition, these symposiums have provided a valuable forum for fire fighters from across the United States and Canada, as well as international representatives, to learn and understand the occupational hazards of their profession as well as ways to minimize these dangers. In this way, the Redmond Foundation has developed a record of achievement by keeping in the forefront of the health and safety issues affecting fire fighters.

While much deserved attention has been focused on the biennial symposiums, they are only a piece of the Foundation's efforts. The studies funded through the Foundation have led to medical evidence that correlates heart and lung diseases as well as occupational cancers with the profession of fire fighting. This research has been used
successfully to lobby numerous state legislatures for the adoption of statutes that automatically provide compensation benefits to fire fighters with heart and lung diseases and occupational cancers.

The Foundation has also supported research which examined the effects of the number one fire killer, carbon monoxide, as well as studies involving product liability, diesel exhaust in fire stations and lower-back injuries. Additionally, the foundation provided the resources for the IAFF’s efforts to successfully enact the NFPA 1710, *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments*.

Finally, the Foundation continues to support field testing advances in protective clothing via Project FIRES, the IAFF’s latest initiative Project HEROES and the new IAFF project on light-weight SCBA pressure vessels.

**IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial**

The IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial, which is located in the shadow of Pike’s Peak in Colorado Springs, Colorado honors the sacrifice made by IAFF professional fire fighters and paramedics who have given their lives in the line of duty. Since its creation in 1976 to June 2011, the names of 2,497 fallen IAFF members have been engraved into the wall of honor located behind the memorial. The organization serves as a public reminder of the risks fire fighters take every day.

The Division is responsible for the oversight of all Memorial operations and maintenance activities as well as the annual Memorial Service, held annually in September.
The IAFF, IAFC and 10 local unions and their fire departments joined together to form the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Task Force. The Task Force has dedicated itself to developing a holistic, positive rehabilitating and educational approach to wellness and fitness programs in the fire service.

Through the Task Force the Division has developed the following programs.

- **The Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative.** This program is designed for incumbent fire service personnel. It requires a commitment by labor and management for a positive, individualized wellness-fitness program. The manual includes information on these topics:
  - Medical evaluation
  - Fitness assessment
  - Rehabilitation
  - Behavioral health
  - Cost Justification
  - Implementation
  - Data collection

- **Cancer and Occupational Disease Database.** Characterizing and quantifying the types of medical conditions which are occurring in IAFF members is an important step to achieving the goals of the WFI. To accomplish this, the IAFF has initiated the data collection phase of the WFI. The health information that members provide by completing the short questionnaire, accessible on the IAFF website, will be used by the IAFF and scientific collaborators to identify diseases that fire fighters are at risk for developing. The results of such efforts will be used to improve the health and safety of fire fighters. Cancer is a disease that is of particular concern for members of the fire service. A number of previous studies have identified several cancers for which fire fighters are at increased risk. To help further characterize this increased risk, the IAFF in response to an IAFF convention resolution has developed a Cancer Registry. IAFF members or a family member can use this website to report a cancer diagnosis. In addition to reporting the cancer, members are being asked first to complete the WFI questions which will provide necessary information for the Cancer Registry as well as for the WFI efforts. Further information and both databases can be found at; [http://www.iaff.org/hs/wfi/](http://www.iaff.org/hs/wfi/).
• **The Candidate Physical Ability Test.** The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) was developed as a fair and valid evaluation tool to assist in the selection of fire fighters, and to ensure that all fire fighter candidates possess the physical ability to complete critical tasks effectively and safely. The CPAT Program covers every aspect of administering the CPAT, including recruiting and mentoring programs, providing recruits with fitness guidance to help prepare them for the CPAT, setting up and administering the test and providing data collection capability. The IAFF continues to license jurisdictions for the CPAT Program. Jurisdictions that wish to use the CPAT must apply for licensure by visiting the IAFF website at: [www.iaff.org/HS/CPAT/CPATApplication/form.htm](http://www.iaff.org/HS/CPAT/CPATApplication/form.htm) or by requesting an application from the IAFF Health and Safety Department. There are 1,002 fire departments licensed to use CPAT. As a condition of continued licensure, all licensees must now fully comply with all requirements in the new edition of CPAT.

• **The Fire Service Peer Fitness Trainer Certification.** The IAFF/IAFC Task Force has determined that successful implementation of the Wellness-Fitness Initiative and the CPAT requires a fire fighter in each department who can take the lead. This individual must have the ability to design and implement fitness programs, to improve the wellness and fitness of his or her department and to assist with the physical training of recruits. The program was developed in conjunction with the American Council on Exercise. The Division manages this program, including maintaining the electronic registration, maintaining and scheduling a cadre of IAFF-certified trainers, scheduling and managing each training site and overseeing the certification process and list of certified members. To see current class schedules or register, go to the IAFF website at: [http://www.iaff.org/hs/PFT/peer_%20index.htm](http://www.iaff.org/hs/PFT/peer_%20index.htm).

• **Fit-To-Survive Program.** We continue to update the IAFF Fit-to-Survive website with health, wellness and nutrition information. The Division has recently fully revamped the nutrition and menu planning sections of this popular program. The IAFF has also established a partnership with the pharmaceutical firm Pfizer for the Joint IAFF-Pfizer Smoking Cessation Initiative to make the IAFF the first tobacco-free union in America. This campaign focuses on educating fire fighters and their families about smoking cessation resources available to them and helping them stay tobacco free. The web-based materials are incorporated into the Fit to Survive site. The Division also collaborated with Novartis, a pharmaceutical company, to develop a program that raises awareness within our membership and the public on the importance of diagnosing and controlling hypertension. This program includes resources to conduct blood pressure screenings and educational activities for our members and their communities. This website averages approximately 75,000 visits every week. E-newsletters and other electronic communications are sent to more than 80,000 fire fighter email addresses from the IAFF email database every month to promote traffic to the “Fit to Survive” website, which can be found at: [http://www.iaff.org/hs/FTS/](http://www.iaff.org/hs/FTS/).
• **Fire Ground Survival Training.** The IAFF has developed a program that provides materials and resources to train fire fighters to perform a set of standard; potentially life-saving actions if they become lost, disoriented, injured, low on air, or trapped. The online Fire Ground Survival (FGS) Awareness program was released in September 2010. The Train-the-Trainer skills portion of the class is now available. The FGS program is the most comprehensive survival skills and MAYDAY prevention program currently available within the fire service. Incorporating federal regulations, proven incident management best practices and survival techniques from leaders in the field, and real case studies from experienced fire fighters, the FGS program aims to educate all fire fighters to be prepared if the unfortunate happens. IAFF Fire Ground Survival master instructors will provide participating fire departments with the skills they need to improve situational awareness and prevent a MAYDAY.

**Standing Committee on Wellness – Fitness**

The IAFF Standing Committee on Wellness – Fitness, as established by Convention action in 2004, has the responsibility of providing advice and guidance on all aspects of the International's work in wellness and fitness. The Committee includes the Local Union Presidents from the IAFF/IAFC Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Task Force.

**IAFF Disaster Relief Fund**

This IAFF Trust Fund was established in 1993 following Hurricane Andrew, and provides assistance to IAFF members in the United States and Canada who suffer financial hardship as the result of natural or man-made disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires or federally declared disaster areas. This fund provides immediate source of support to IAFF members and their families after catastrophic loss of their home that makes the dwelling unlivable and where the member is displaced from his or her home. It only provides funds for immediate housing, food, medical supplies and services, clothing or other similar disaster relief. It is not to be used for property repairs, renovation or construction. It is also not for replacement of food after loss of power nor is it to be awarded to members that were required to evacuate their homes prior or during the disaster. The impact of this fund was never felt more than following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005. Nearly $2,000,000 was provided to fire fighters and their families impacted by these storms by the IAFF Disaster Relief Fund. The IAFF has distributed over $42,500 to IAFF members from the Fund so far in FY 2011.
IAFF Disaster Relief Operations

The IAFF, as a result of convention action in 2006, has dedicated and budgeted funds for disaster relief operations for command centers and field operations after major catastrophic events affecting our members. This would include direct field operations relief during such disasters, including command and housing centers, communication support, counseling and medical assistance, housing repair, food and transportation.

IAFF Counseling Support Foundation

This IAFF Trust Fund was created to provide immediate and long-term counseling services to career fire fighters, career emergency medical services personnel and their families after line of duty fatalities of IAFF members. Since its inception, the IAFF Counseling Support Foundation has provided more than $3,000,000 in direct support for its efforts in providing counseling services for IAFF members.

Gene Faughnan Standing Committee on Occupational Safety and Health

The IAFF Standing Committee on Occupational Safety and Health has the responsibility of providing advice and guidance on all aspects of the International’s work in safety and health. Through a review of the expertise and commitment in the area of fire fighter safety and health and nomination by the respective District Vice President, the IAFF President appoints sixteen (16) Committee members, each of whom represents an IAFF District. The IAFF policy states that the Committee is to meet and conduct its business once a year. The Committee is also kept informed of the activities of the IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine on any issues pertinent to the health and safety of the membership. The Committee was named in honor of IAFF First District Vice President Gene Faughnan, who died from occupational cancer.

IAFF Standing Committee on Labor/Employee Assistance Programs

The IAFF Standing Committee on Labor/Employee Assistance Programs has the responsibility of providing advice and guidance on L/EAP and to assist in the development of membership information on such programs. Through a review of the expertise and commitment in established L/EAPs, the IAFF General President has appointed eight (8) Committee members. The IAFF policy states that the Committee is to meet and conduct its business once a year.

Line of Duty Deaths and Public Safety Officer Benefits Program

The Division handles all assistance to local affiliates and families that suffer line-of-duty deaths, including: notification, correspondence and alerts; IAFF funeral representation; IAFF Martin E. Pierce Commemorative Line-of-Duty Death Medal; inclusion at the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial; as well as immediate and direct assistance after a multiple line-of-duty death incident. Additionally, the IAFF provides instant notification of deaths of IAFF members on the IAFF website and provides protocols to assist local affiliates that experience a line-of-duty death.
The IAFF has established a Task Force that will immediately respond to a jurisdiction after any multiple fire fighter fatalities to assist the local affiliate and fire department with experienced advice and personnel to address all the logistical needs. Further, the Division’s PSOB Coordinator, at the request of the District Vice President and upon approval of the IAFF General President, assists locals and families with the federal $323,035.75 (as of 10/11) PSOB claims.

We have now established the IAFF Line-of-Duty Death website, which lists all IAFF members that have been killed in the line-of-duty since 1918. All locals are encouraged to access this site and determine if fallen member information is correct.

**Grant Activities**

The Division is responsible for the development of grant and contract applications soliciting federal and private funds to carry-out specific health and safety projects. The Division has been successful in obtaining numerous grants and contracts from the federal government including those from the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Office of Domestic Preparedness. We also assist local affiliates with DHS Assistance to Firefighter (AFG) as well as SAFER Grants and coordinate the review of federal grants by IAFF members serving as grant peer reviewers.

**Project HEROES**

A project team, headed by the IAFF, has assembled a team of leading fire service organizations and academia that will rapidly develop, prototype and field test structural fire fighting PPE with enhanced chemical and biological protective qualities. The project team includes the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Personnel Protection, Inc., Total Fire Group, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Arkansas, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The effort will be part of the IAFF’s Project HEROES – Homeland Emergency Response Operational and Equipment Systems – whose mission is to develop a new generation of structural fire fighting personal protective equipment (PPE) with enhanced chemical and biological protection. Additional federal funding for this effort is being provided by
The IAFF Project Team has pursued a two-track development which involved the selection of ensemble materials for the garments, gloves, footwear, and hood combined with the design of ensemble element interfaces to afford protection consistent with current protective clothing standards including NFPA 1971 (structural fire fighting protection) and NFPA 1994 (chemical/biological protection). The short-term track involved identifying and selecting available materials to optimize a composite with barrier material that provides thermal, physical, and chemical performance.

Ensemble elements were designed at key interface areas to minimize the inward leakage of harmful contaminants. Prototype ensemble designs have undergone extensive laboratory testing to validate the overall product performance and the impact of the ensemble of wearer human factors. An iterative process of design changes was used, resulting in a specification and the construction of several prototypes. Once the garment of certified to the NFPA standard, production prototypes will be evaluated in major metropolitan fire departments for functional evaluations and user acceptance. At the end of this contract term, complete specifications for a fire fighting protective ensemble will be developed.

Throughout the project, the IAFF Project Team will promote user acceptability of the new ensemble through demonstrations and the involvement of end users.

The goal is to create certified protective clothing that is as indistinguishable as possible from current structural fire fighting gear, but still offers improved chemical and biological protections, without sacrificing thermal protection, comfort and functionality.

Among the areas are being investigated by the IAFF in order to meet our project goals:

- Integration of PPE system designs so that the interface areas also function for effective protection;
- FR polymer material options;
- Nano-material technologies (i.e. molecular level self alignment for specific performance properties);
- Moisture management technologies;
- Stress dissipation technologies;
- Weight minimization technologies;
- Simulant and active biological and warfare chemical agent testing; and
- Expanded field maintenance and conditional evaluation programs.
In parallel with the above efforts, a long-term development track is being followed that investigates more significant changes in the material system and ensemble design for future implementation.

**Revolutionary New Pressure Vessel for Emergency Responder Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Program**

The IAFF has initiated and received government funding from the US Department of Homeland Security for a unique research and development project to dramatically affect the technology used to affect respiratory protection for first responder personnel. Specifically, this program is designed to result in self-contained breathing apparatus pressure vessel that is nearly 50% lighter and over 60% thinner in its overall depth than conventional pressure vessels (cylinders) used in current fire service SCBA.

This pressure vessel technology has already been demonstrated by the IAFF in working prototypes and offers the potential of significantly reducing the stress impact from one of the heaviest ensemble equipment items worn by first responders, thus creating lower potential for heat illness. In addition, the lower profile will afford first responders better maneuverability and lessen the likelihood of being trapped in confined spaces. Additional benefits of the technology are expected to be realized through better integration with other protective clothing and equipment and prospects for providing supplemental cooling air.

One of the principal challenges in implementing technology stem from gaining an exemption for the new pressure vessel from the Department of Transportation (DOT) which affects all first responder use of SCBA. The new pressure vessel technology currently does not fall under an approval category established in the DOT regulations. A second challenge is to define an effective interface with the other components of the SCBA. With significant differences in the new pressure vessel geometry and shape, the SCBA configuration must change to accommodate the new technology to take advantage of the size and weight savings.

Since the intended pressure vessel is intended to work as a replacement for conventional pressurized cylinder, work with selected current SCBA suppliers was undertaken to accomplish this goal. To support the implementation of this new technology, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of SCBA end users was formed and extensive testing in both the laboratory and under field conditions was performed.

**Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative**

Approximately 25 percent of the annual fire fighter line-of-duty deaths occur as a result of vehicle collision or being struck by a vehicle while operating on the emergency scene. The truth of the matter is that most fire fighters are much more likely to be injured or killed in a traffic collision or on a roadway than they are in a structure fire. Of all the possible causes of fire fighter injuries and deaths, those that result from vehicle collisions are perhaps the most preventable. Simple measures, such as driving at posted speeds
during the response, coming to complete stops at negative right-of-way intersections, wearing seatbelts, and properly positioning apparatus at roadway incident scenes, can eliminate virtually all of these losses.

The IAFF, in conjunction with the United States Fire Administration has initiated this new program so as to reduce vehicle-related injuries and deaths in the career fire service and make a marked improvement in the safety of our members. The prevention of injuries and deaths from vehicle-related incidents is completely within our control, and we must aggressively seek to mitigate these hazards immediately. This Initiative, which includes facilitator and student manuals, PowerPoints, case studies and additional resources, is available on the IAFF website at: http://www.iaff.org/hs/EVSP/index.html. In 2008, the IAFF was awarded a grant from the USFA to develop additional resources for this program, which are now available.

**Emergency Incident Rehabilitation Program**

The physical and mental demands associated with fire fighting and other emergency operations, coupled with the environmental dangers of extreme heat and humidity or extreme cold, create conditions that can have an adverse impact on the safety and health of emergency responders. Fire fighters who are not provided adequate rest and rehydration during emergency operations or training exercises are at increased risk for illness or injury, and may jeopardize the safety of others on the incident scene. When emergency responders become fatigued, their ability to make critical decisions diminishes.

Rehabilitation remains an essential element on the incident scene to prevent more serious conditions -- such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke -- from occurring. Accordingly, the IAFF, with the support of the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has initiated our Emergency Incident Rehabilitation Program that includes our Emergency Scene Rehabilitation Manual and curriculum materials to better educate all in the fire and emergency medical services. The entire program, including manuals, PowerPoint presentations, teaching materials and additional resources can be found on the IAFF’s website at: http://www.iaff.org/hs/EIRP/index.html.

**Voice Radio Communications Guide**

One of our most important pieces of life safety equipment is reliable, effective radio communications. We have now completed a new decision guide in cooperation with the United States Fire Administration that addresses new communications and radio system information issues. The IAFF’s *Voice Radio Communications Guide for the Fire Service* provides updated information on communications technology and discusses critical Homeland Security issues and concepts.

It was developed for an audience with a minimum level of familiarity with basic communications issues such as hardware, policy and procedures, and human interface. The guide covers topics of basic radio communications technology including spectrum, bandwidth, and interference. It provides information on analog, digital, direct and
repeated, as well as trunked radio systems. The Guide further discusses portable radio selection and use, system design and implementation, and interoperability. The manual is available on the IAFF website.

**National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System**

This program is a voluntary, confidential, non-punitive and secure reporting system with the goal of improving fire fighter safety. By collecting and analyzing information on near-miss events, improvements can be made in command, education, operations and training. Submitted reports will be reviewed by fire service professionals. Identifying descriptions are removed to protect your identity. The report is then posted on this website for other fire fighters to use as a learning tool. The program is run in affiliation with the IAFC and the IAFF and is funded by grant funds from the US Department of Homeland Security. The entire program is web-based and can be found at: [http://www.firefighternearmiss.com/](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com/).
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