Nineteenth Symposium on the Occupational Health and Hazards of the Fire Service

Chicago, Illinois
October 21 - 25, 2007

JOHN P. REDMOND FOUNDATION
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND MEDICINE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO, CLC
JOHN P. REDMOND FOUNDATION

Reducing deaths, injuries and illnesses among fire fighters are major concerns of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) which has been actively involved in improving the health and safety of fire fighters. During the course of a single year, a fire fighter has greater than a forty percent chance of being injured. In fact, fire fighters’ deaths, injuries and occupationally induced illnesses exceed the mining, construction and logging industries, each of which annually rank among the most hazardous occupations. Clearly, the profession of fire fighting, “the world’s most hazardous profession,” deserves concentrated attention and support in order to reduce the number of injuries, illnesses and deaths.

As a result, the John P. Redmond Foundation (earlier, referred to as the John P. Redmond Memorial Trust Fund) was established as a non-profit organization at the IAFF Convention in 1958, in memory of John P. Redmond, the fourth President of the IAFF who died in office from occupational heart disease. The purpose of the fund was to encourage and conduct research and education regarding the occupational hazards and diseases associated with fire fighting. These efforts have been supported over the years through IAFF membership dues, voluntary contributions from IAFF affiliates, IAFF Auxiliary chapters, and memorial gifts from families and friends of fire fighters, as well as support from federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Fire Administration, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the National Institute for Science 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 eighteen symposia since 1971 provided forums for detailed discussions on safety and health matters directly affecting fire fighting personnel. Participants in those discussions include fire fighters, medical researchers, medical practitioners, safety 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 caused programs to be implemented to reduce the hazards associated with fire fighting. In addition, these symposia have provided valuable opportunities for fire fighters from across the United States and Canada to learn about the occupational hazards of their profession as well as ways to minimize these dangers. In this way, the Redmond Foundation has maintained a forefront position on health and safety issues affecting fire fighters. This, the eighteenth symposium, promises a program addressing what we believe to be the most significant health and safety issues in the fire service. This program will address relevant and timely issues and promote new IAFF initiatives and challenges which we believe can and will make significant changes in the fire service and ultimately save the lives of our emergency response members.

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 vessel -- the IAFF FirePack.
ABSTRACTS

Plenary Speakers
Colonel Mike Mullane
Astronaut

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Background:

Colonel Mullane was born September 10, 1945 in Wichita Falls, Texas but spent much of his youth in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he currently resides. Upon his graduation from West Point in 1967, he was commissioned in the United States Air Force. As a Weapon Systems Operator aboard RF-4C Phantom aircraft, he completed 134 combat missions in Vietnam. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and is also a graduate of the Air Force Flight Test Engineer School at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

Mullane was selected as a Mission Specialist in 1978 in the first group of Space Shuttle Astronauts. He completed three space missions and logged 356 hours in space aboard the Shuttles Discovery (STS-41D) and Atlantis (STS-27 & 36) before retiring from NASA and the Air Force in 1990.

Mullane has been inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame and is the recipient of many awards, including the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit and the NASA Space Flight Medal.

Since his retirement from NASA, Colonel Mullane has written a number of books and has made numerous professional presentations with his inspirational, motivational and humorous descriptions of the astronaut experience.

For more information on the Colonel Mullane, go to www.mikemullane.com
Richard M. Duffy
Assistant to the General President

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Background:

Richard Duffy has been involved with worker occupational health and safety issues for over thirty years, twenty-nine years at the IAFF, where he is the Assistant to the General President. He directs the development and implementation of all occupational health, safety and medical activities for the IAFF membership, including the IAFF Department of Occupational Health and Safety; the IAFF’s Medical Residency Program in cooperation with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Hygiene; the John P. Redmond Foundation; the IAFF’s Standing Committees on Occupational Health and Safety and Employee Assistance Programs; the IAFF Representatives on various Standards Development Committees; the IAFF PSOB program; the IAFF Cancer Study Program; the IAFF/IAFC Wellness-Fitness Initiative; the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial; the IAFF Burn Foundation; the IAFF Chaplain Program; and grant programs for occupational health, safety and medicine. He provides technical assistance on fire fighters health and safety issues and is internationally recognized as a fire fighters health and safety expert. He has authored numerous books, manuals and articles on worker occupational health and safety issues.

Rich has been involved in numerous committees involving fire fighters’ safety and health, including those of the federal government, state governments, the NFPA and the International Standards Organization. He has been actively involved in addressing fire department deployment and staffing as well as the development of protective clothing and equipment for fire fighters. He serves as the Chairman of the NFPA Technical Correlating Committee for Fire Service Protective Clothing and Equipment and as the Secretary of the NFPA Technical Committee for Career Fire Service Deployment and Organization. He also served as a member of the NFPA Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health Committee. He directed the NASA/FEMA program Project FIRES (Firefighters Integrated Response Equipment System), which under the auspices of the IAFF continues to work towards the development of state-of-the-art protective clothing and equipment, including protection from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear events through the IAFF’s new initiative, Project HEROES (Homeland Emergency Response Operational and Equipment Systems).
The IAFF’s Role in Addressing Fire Fighters’ Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine

Rich and the IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine are responsible for the coordination and technical aspects of the IAFF/IAFC Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative, including the Wellness-Fitness Program, the Candidate Physical Ability Test Program and the new Peer Fitness Trainer Certification Program. He is currently the Facilitator for the Joint Wellness-Fitness Task Force.

Rich holds Bachelor of Science degrees in environmental health and in business management and a Master of Science degree in occupational and environmental health science.

Abstract:

Since its foundation in 1918, the International Association of Fire Fighters has worked to protect the working conditions of its members, including their health and safety on the job. To continue and further this effort, the mission of the IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine is coordinate, collaborate and manage internal and external activities relating to occupational health, safety and medicine. We are responsible to ensure IAFF Principal Officers, Executive Board and Affiliates have timely and up-to-date understanding of health, safety and medical issues; to coordinate internal health, safety and medicine activities with all IAFF departments; and to enhance the IAFF’s external visibility and leadership role in health and safety.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide our members with a detailed update of all the health, safety and medical activities that the IAFF has been involved in and worked on during the two years since the last Redmond Symposium. Mr. Duffy, Mr. Morrison and Dr. Melius will address:

- Day to day action and affiliate activities;
- Health and safety standards and legislation;
- Wellness and fitness;
- Protective Clothing and Equipment
- Staffing for health and safety; and
- New initiatives to protect our members health and safety

The presentation will conclude with an overview of this, the 19th IAFF John P. Redmond Symposium.
Patrick Morrison
Director of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Member Support

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Background:

Mr. Patrick Morrison is the Director of the IAFF’s Department of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Member Support. Prior to coming to the IAFF, Mr. Morrison was a member of the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in Fairfax, Virginia where he was responsible for the health and physical fitness activities of Department personnel including the coordination of the peer fitness counselors, the administration of the work performance evaluation, the purchase of fitness training equipment, and fitness assessment activities. In addition, he administered and coordinated the activities of the Critical Incident Stress Management team and served on the EAP Advisory Committee. Pat assisted the IAFF’s critical incident peer and counseling services to the IAFF’s affiliates in New York City immediately after September 11, 2001 and assisted in the IAFF’s 2005 response to Rita and Katrina.

Pat began his career as a professional fire fighter with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in 1980, and rose to the rank of lieutenant. He served at numerous positions on the Executive Board of IAFF Local 2068 representing over 1,200 IAFF members in Fairfax County.
James Melius, MD, DrPH
Chairman

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Background:

Dr. James Melius is an occupational physician and epidemiologist with over 30 years of experience working in occupational safety and health. From 1980 to 1987, he worked for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health directing a field investigations unit. From 1987 to 1994, he worked for the New York State Department of Health directing occupational and environmental health programs. He is currently the Director of the New York State Laborers’ Health and Safety Trust Fund and the Research Director for the Laborers’ Health and Safety Fund of North America. Since 1983, Dr. Melius has served as Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board for the IAFF’s John P. Redmond Foundation. He has conducted research on a number of fire safety and health issues and he continuously provides assistance and expert advice to the membership of the IAFF.
Background:

Mr. Jeff Kindler is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pfizer, the world’s largest research-based pharmaceutical company. Prior to his appointment as CEO and election to the Board of Directors in 2006, he was Vice Chairman and General Counsel, where he led Pfizer’s worldwide legal, compliance, communications, government relations, corporate citizenship, policy development and global security groups.

He joined Pfizer in 2002 as Executive Vice President and General Counsel, with responsibility for Pfizer’s Legal Division. He was named Vice Chairman in 2005, joining the company’s four-person Executive Committee and assuming responsibility for Pfizer’s Corporate Affairs Division.

Born in Florida and raised in New Jersey, Jeff Kindler earned his BA in 1977 from Tufts University summa cum laude, and his JD in 1980 from Harvard magna cum laude, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. He began his legal career as an attorney at the Federal Communications Commission. He then served as law clerk to Judge David L. Bazelon of the U.S. Court of Appeals of the D.C. Circuit and later served as law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr.

He joined the law firm of Williams & Connolly, became a Partner there, and then moved to General Electric as Vice President of Litigation and Legal Policy. He next joined McDonald’s Corporation as Executive Vice President and General Counsel, responsible for both legal and corporate affairs. At McDonald’s, he established a pro bono legal services program that has become a model for many corporations and law firms.

He moved into line management at McDonald’s as President of Partner Brands. This operating unit, with more than 50,000 employees worldwide, included several restaurant brands such as Boston Market, Chipotle Mexican Grill, and Pret a Manger.
During his corporate career, Jeff Kindler has been recognized for his leadership in the areas of pro bono legal services, diversity, and corporate social responsibility by groups ranging from Outward Bound to the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

He serves on the boards of trustees of Tufts University, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Business Roundtable, Manhattan Theatre Club, the Council on Competitiveness, the Partnership for New York City, The Business Council, and Ronald McDonald House Charities, as well as serving as the Chairman of the U.S. - Japan Business Council.

Abstract:

Fire fighters confront hazards regularly that pose serious threats to the bronchial, pulmonary, cardiovascular and neurological systems. It is the determination of the IAFF that smoking is incompatible with the duties of a fire fighter and that it imposes a substantial additional risk beyond those risks fire fighters already face as a result of their inherently hazardous occupation. Opinion poll after opinion poll shows that Americans revere fire fighters as much as any profession. Pfizer is one of the world’s leading health care companies, with special competencies in tobacco use risks and smoking cessation.

In announcing this new initiative today, the IAFF and Pfizer have agreed to form a joint smoking cessation program aimed at making the IAFF the first tobacco-free union in North America. We jointly recognize that smoking remains one of the greatest threats faced by fire fighters and emergency response personnel. Smoking is a leading cause of premature death and is a significant contributor to heart disease, lung disease and cancer. It is also the leading cause of fire, including a number this year alone that claimed the lives of IAFF members.

As part of our effort, the IAFF and Pfizer will work together to disseminate educational materials on the hazards of smoking and the many ways available to help smokers quit. The IAFF will use its bargaining powers to promote smoke-free fire departments, and work to assure that health plans provide group health coverage to its members and their dependents including smoking cessation as a covered benefit in accordance with the CDC National Clinical Guidelines.
Drifting into Failure!

Chief Bobby Halton (ret.)
Editor in Chief, Fire Engineering, Education Director, FDIC

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**Background:**

Chief Bobby Halton (ret.) is currently editor in chief of *Fire Engineering* magazine and education director of the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC). Chief Halton is a native New Yorker whose family has deep roots in the fire service. He began his career in structural fire fighting with the Albuquerque, New Mexico Fire Department and rose through the ranks to include chief of training. Bobby was chief of operations until his retirement from Albuquerque in 2004. He then became chief of the Coppell, Texas Fire Department, Bobby left Coppell to assume the duties as editor in chief of *Fire Engineering* Magazine.

Chief Halton is a graduate of the University of New Mexico, left a member in good standing with the International Association of Fire Fighters, is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and has served on several of the National Fire Protection Association technical committees. He is active with the National Fallen Firefighters Life Safety Initiatives. He has done extensive speaking and training for the fire service in the United States, Canada and internationally.

**Abstract:**

The single greatest threat to American fire service is the steady drifting away from the standards, processes, policies, and conditions that made our work safe. This slow steady movement has been marked by small seemingly insignificant changes, insignificant compromises, and concessions that when viewed in isolation appear to be inconsequential. However, when they combine they set the stage for disaster. This sliding toward disaster often goes unrecognized until disaster highlights the failures. Then, it is often too late.

Adding to our difficulties is the widespread mistaken belief that technology is making fire fighting safer, that it can replace critical elements of our safety envelope. This illusion places fire fighters in extremely compromised positions. Today, we have an incomplete understanding regarding our own technology, and we are redefining the boundaries we must face and conquer when involved in structural fire fighting.
Increasing our exposure to risk is the growing tendency to destroy the character of the operational fire fighters involved in the disaster instead of questioning the system. Isolated from most reviews are decisions of those in senior leadership, the actions and lack of actions that placed these fire fighters in the situation in first place. The goal this morning is to identify several aspects of this drifting, which we, as union members and union officers, can stop, turn it around, and start the fire service moving in a more positive direction.
Near-Miss Reporting: Helping Tomorrow’s Fire Fighters Today

John B. Tippett
Program Director

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Background:

Mr. John Tippett is a battalion chief with the Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Service. He is working on his 31st year with the department. John is a Level II Instructor who assisted in developing Montgomery County’s Officer Candidate School and Command Development Center. He spent seven years as a deputy safety officer for the department. He also serves as Task Force Leader for Maryland Task Force I, one of FEMA’s 28 urban search and rescue teams. He holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science from Montgomery College and is working on a Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Service Management from University College, University of Maryland. John is a proud member of IAFF Local 1664.

For the last five years, John has worked as a project manager for the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). His work with the IAFC has included developing materials for transporting Crew Resource Management to the fire service, improving fire safety in the Native American community, and assisting in the development of the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System. He has lectured and written on a variety of topics ranging from fire service tactics, fire prevention in Native American lands and fire fighter safety initiatives.

Abstract:

Stagnated fire fighter fatality and injury statistics in the face of technological advances in apparatus and equipment call for the fire service to explore innovative methods to affect change. The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System (www.firefighternearmiss.com) is one such method. Early analysis of reports submitted and users surveyed indicates that fire fighters realize the value of reporting near misses and the benefit gained from reviewing reports submitted by other fire fighters.

This presentation will highlight how this program can be used to help foster an increase in the safety culture in your department. It will introduce attendees to the concept and value of near-miss reporting and demonstrate the features of the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System so attendees will be comfortable to make the system part of their department’s fire fighter safety training program(s).
Colonel Mark L. Malatesta
Joint Project Manager, Guardian

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Background:
Colonel Mark Malatesta is a U.S. Army Acquisition officer currently serving as the Joint Project Manager Guardian. Previously, he has served in many acquisition and chemical unit assignments specializing in Weapons of Mass Destruction defense and Consequence Management. His recent assignments include Deputy Director for Research Development Engineering Command’s (RDECOM) System Engineering, Experimentation and Enterprise Directorate, Joint Product Manager for Biological Detection Systems, Program Analyst for the Joint Biological Defense Office, Team Leader for Missile Defense’s WMD Modeling and Simulation Team, and Assistant Product Manager Biological Systems for Testing, Fielding and Logistics.

Commissioned in 1984 as a chemical officer he served in Battalion, Brigade and Corps level operation positions. He has served as platoon leader and company level commander of US Army Chemical Units. COL Malatesta has been deployed to Operation Desert Fox and Operation Enduring Freedom. COL Malatesta is a graduate of the Army’s Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds Master’s degrees in Microbiology from the University of Alabama, Business Administration from Central Michigan University, and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Abstract:
Colonel Malatesta will address the US military’s role in developing and acquiring the proper protection for the war fighter - fielded personal protective equipment and operational equipment - equipment fielded with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. He will also address Consequence Management - National Guard Civil Support Teams (CST) - equipment (COTS) and interaction/support to local fire and emergency services; USAR - Reconnaissance and Decontamination Teams & Capabilities; Military Installation protection; and the technical challenges our military also faces with CBR Personal Protective Equipment.
Jeffrey Stull  
President  

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Background:  

Mr. Jeffrey O. Stull is President of International Personnel Protection, Inc., which provides worldwide research and expertise on the development, testing, selection, and use of personnel protective equipment for both end users and manufacturers. Mr. Stull was previously President of TRI/Environmental, Inc., a leading U.S. Laboratory for the evaluation and certification of protective clothing and equipment. He is extensively involved in standards development for the American Society for Testing and Materials, the National Fire Protection Association, and American Industrial Hygiene Association. He serves on the NFPA Technical Correlating Committee on Fire and Emergency Medical Services Protective Clothing and Equipment as well as four other Technical Committees on protective clothing and equipment for structural fire fighting, emergency medical operations, hazardous materials response, and technical rescue. He is a member of the Interagency Board (IAB) for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability for first responders. Mr. Stull holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and Master of Science Degrees in Chemical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and in Engineering Management from the Catholic University of America.  

Abstract:  

The IAFF is in the process of bringing its Project HEROES™ (Homeland Emergency Response Operational and Equipment Systems) initiative to the field for improving fire fighter safety and health. This work has been supported by the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) with funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). As a result of this work, a new, innovative structural fire fighting PPE ensemble has been developed that provides front line fire fighters protection from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) agents with a minimum impact on their comfort and functionality. While these protective qualities account for today’s new threats from potential terrorism incidents, the new Project HEROES™ protective ensemble also provides enhanced protection for structural fire fighting through features that keep fire fighters safer from thermal exposures, hazardous liquids, and skin toxic chemicals found in most fires.
IAFF’s Project HEROES® Initiative: Protecting Our First Responders

This new protective ensemble is virtually indistinguishable from current structural fire fighting gear and represents the first new technology that passively provides CBRN protection that will meet the new optional CBRN requirements of the NFPA 1971 standard on structural fire fighting protective clothing. The presentation will provide a detailed description of the Project HEROES™ ensemble, the materials used in its construction, and the process by which it was developed and evaluated. This will include information that highlights the involvement of several different organizations in evolving Project HEROES™ including Total Fire Group, which provided the principal design of the ensemble, the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory for evaluating ensemble physiological and ergonomic impacts, W.L. Gore & Associates as principal supplier of the key CBRN barrier materials, and International Personnel Protection, Inc. for assisting the IAFF in evaluating key parameters of the ensemble.

The presentation will further cover several different evaluations of prototype ensembles in both laboratory settings and at different field sites. Prototype ensembles will be demonstrated during the presentation.
The Truth About Smoke Detectors

Joseph M. Fleming
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Background:

Chief Fleming has been a member of the Boston Fire Dept. and IAFF Local 718 since September of 1978. After working his way up the ranks, he was appointed Fire Marshal for the City of Boston in 1994, a position he held for 7 years. He is currently assigned as the Deputy Chief for Division 2. He oversees 6 district chiefs and 127 fire fighters, who protect approximately 300,000 people. Chief Fleming received two college degrees in Engineering from Northeastern University. He has written and spoken extensively on this topic for over 10 years.

Abstract:

Perhaps one of the most dangerous activities a fire fighter can undertake is to search for possible victims in a residence were the fire has been burning for some time. The chances of this occurring increase when there is no working smoke detector or the smoke detector operates too late and the victim is trapped. Research by the Boston Fire Dept., based on testing by the Federal Government and others indicates that the use of photoelectric technology, whether alone or in a combination detector, can greatly reduce the probability of this occurring for 2 reasons: 1) photoelectric smoke alarms are much less susceptible to nuisance alarms, thus reducing the probability it will be disabled, and 2) in smoldering fires, which typically occur while victims are sleeping, the photoelectric alarm may respond 30 minutes earlier and the ionization may not respond until the smoke is too thick to prevent egress. According to the USFA almost 40% of all fire fatalities occur with working smoke alarms and another 20% occur with disabled smoke alarms. As a consequence, any solution to these 2 problems can have a huge impact on fire fighter safety as well as the safety of fire fighters’ families.
The Responder Knowledge Base

Donald O. Hewitt, CISSP
Program Manager

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Background:

Mr. Donald Hewitt is a Principal Consultant for Proconsul, Incorporated, and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional. Through the Terrorism Research Center (TRC), he is also the Program Manager for the DHS-funded Responder Knowledge Base (RKB), which provides a trusted source of equipment-related information to the emergency responder and homeland defense community. He has more than thirty-five years’ experience in a variety of technical and management disciplines. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Master of Science Degree from the Sloan School of Management, also at MIT. As a Distinguished Military Graduate, he received a commission in the U.S. Army, where he served for five years. He subsequently held both operations and program development positions at Computer Sciences Corporation, Storage Technology Corporation, and Network Solutions, Inc. He also co-founded Security Design International, a network security consulting firm. He served as SDI’s president until its acquisition, after which he returned to private consulting with Proconsul. His security consulting clients have included both corporations and Government organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mr. Hewitt serves on the NFPA’s Technical Correlating Committee on Fire And Emergency Services Protective Clothing And Equipment. He also chairs the board of Patch Advisor, Inc., a network security firm specializing in patch management products and supporting consulting services. He holds a private pilot license with multiengine and instrument ratings.

Abstract:

The selection, care, and maintenance of equipment are critical factors in fire fighter safety and health. The Responder Knowledge Base is a trusted, integrated, Internet-based source of equipment-related information, funded by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. This short presentation will provide highlights on the features and use of this free resource, which the IAFF has supported as a partner since its creation in 2003.
Scott Goudeseune
President and Chief Executive Officer

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Background:

Scott has more than 20 years experience in extensive operations, sales and marketing for fitness and consumer based companies. He oversees all aspects of operations and provides extensive leadership and direction for all business activities. He is continuously updating and streamlining all methods and procedures within the organization to leverage the latest technologies and health and fitness training and educational offerings.

Scott has spearheaded the development of our effort to establish and enhance an influential, powerful and unified political voice for the fitness industry. Focused on increasing the number of ACE-certified fitness professionals who actively participate in grassroots advocacy, he is committed to work to pass laws that will help affect societal changes toward a more fit America.

He previously served ACE as Vice President of Sales & Business Development. In 2003, he was assigned the Vice President of Operations position, and most recently served as Chief Operating officer. During his tenure with the company, ACE has earned accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), and expanded key business relationships with leaders inside and outside the fitness industry.

Prior to joining ACE, Scott was the vice president of U.S. sales for Reebok CCS Fitness in Aurora, Colorado, where he was responsible for commercial and specialty retail sales of Reebok’s fitness equipment line totaling $18 million annually. Before joining Reebok, he worked as the manager of learning and development of U.S. sales for Coors Brewing Company in Golden, Colorado.
Melissa McDiarmid, MD  
Professor of Medicine/Director of Occupational Health Project  

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Background:  

Dr. McDiarmid received her B.A. degree in 1975 from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, in Biological Sciences; her M.D. from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1979; and her M.P.H. from The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health 1986 where she also completed fellowship training in Occupational Medicine. She is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Occupational Medicine and Toxicology. She maintains professional society affiliations as a Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini, American College of Physicians, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and American College of Preventive Medicine and as Member of the American Public Health Association and the Society of Occupational and Environmental Health. Dr. McDiarmid was Director of the Office of Occupational Medicine for the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) in Washington, D.C., a position she held from 1991 until 1996. From 1987 until moving to OSHA, she was Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health where she directed the Occupational Medicine residency.  

Currently, Dr. McDiarmid is Professor of Medicine and Director of the University of Maryland School of Medicine’s Occupational Health Program where she teaches, sees patients, and directs a surveillance program for Gulf War Veterans exposed to depleted uranium.  

A principal career focus for Dr. McDiarmid has been that of environmental reproductive and developmental hazards. While at OSHA she guided the reproductive health effects aspects of several standards including those for cadmium, butadiene and methylene chloride. She also wrote much of OSHA’s Safe Handling Guidelines for Antineoplastic Drugs which incudes a Reproductive Hazards Policy. She is a consultant to the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) on related topics and served on the U.S. Navy’s Reproductive Hazards Advisory Panel and presently is co-chair of the NIOSH/NORA work group on Reproductive Health.  

Dr. McDiarmid has authored numerous journal articles and book chapters on occupational and environmental medicine topics related to: healthcare workers, medical surveillance and management, reproductive hazards and occupational cancers.
Franklin Pratt, MD
Medical Director

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Background:

Dr. Franklin Pratt is a board-certified Emergency Physician and Internist. Dr. Pratt received his Doctor of Medicine in 1981 from the Chicago Medical School. He completed residency training in Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine at Harbor UCLA Medical Center in 1985. Dr. Pratt served as a member of the Emergency Medicine faculty at Harbor UCLA Medical Center from 1985 to 1989.

Dr. Pratt has been the Medical Director for the Los Angeles County Fire Department since 1988. In that capacity, he has been involved with all facets of the Fire Medicine interface.

He is a member of many fire service and national medical committees, including the technical committee of the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness/Fitness Initiative.

Dr. Pratt was the Medical Director during the Los Angeles Riots, the Firestorms of 1993 and 1996 and the Northridge Earthquake of 1994. He also served as a medical officer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Support Team after the April 1995 bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City and the FEMA USAR Team (CA TF-2) in support of the hurricane Katrina response.

Dr. Pratt’s clinical practice is in the Emergency Department of the Torrance Memorial Medical Center in Torrance, California, where he serves as a Medical Director. He also serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine in Emergency Medicine at the UCLA School of Medicine.
Abstract:

Heart disease causes 45% of the deaths that occur among U.S. fire fighters while they are on duty. The recent Harvard study reviewed duty-specific risks of death from coronary heart disease among on-duty U.S. fire fighters from 1994 to 2004. They found that certain emergency fire fighting duties were associated with a risk of death from coronary heart disease that was markedly higher than the risk associated with non-emergency duties. Fire suppression was associated with the highest risk, which was approximately 10 to 100 times as high as that for non-emergency duties.
Current Fire Fighter Operational Issues
Preventing Fire Fighter Fatalities Due to Sudden Cardiovascular Events

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Background:
Dr. Hales is a senior medical epidemiologist with the CDC – NIOSH. He received his BA from Stanford University, his MD from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and his MPH from University of California – Berkeley. He is board-certified in internal and occupational medicine. For the past 8 years he has been the Team Leader of the NIOSH Fire Fighter Program - Cardiovascular Component and a member of the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Service Occupational Safety & Vice-Chair of Public Safety Medicine Section of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Abstract:
Sudden cardiac death is the most common cause of an on-duty fire fighter fatality. Since 1998, NIOSH has been investigating theses deaths. This presentation: 1) reviews workplace exposures that put fire fighters at risk for heart disease, 2) highlights important findings from the fatality investigation program, 3) summarizes the evidence that these deaths are triggered by workplace exposures, and 4) provides recommendations to minimize the risk of injury and death to fire fighters from cardiovascular events.
Current Fire Fighter Operational Issues
Health Consequences from the World Trade Center

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Background:

Dr. David Prezant is the Chief Medical Officer at the Office of Medical Affairs for the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY). Dr. Prezant directs all medical protocol development for both day to day operations and homeland security issues. He is also Co-Director of the FDNY World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program and the Senior Pulmonary Consultant for FDNY. He is a Professor of Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Director of Albert Einstein Medical School’s Pulmonary Course for medical students and the Research Director for their Unified Pulmonary Division.

Dr. Prezant received his Bachelor of Science from Columbia College in 1977 and his Doctor of Medicine from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1981. He completed a Medical Residency at Harlem Hospital, Columbia University in 1984 and a Fellowship in Pulmonary Diseases at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1987. Dr. Prezant is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. Prezant is a member of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Personal Protective Equipment in the Workplace, the National Fire Protection Association’s Health and Safety Committee and the International Association of Fire Fighters Redmond Medical Advisory Board.

Abstract:

Dr. Prezant responded on 9/11/01 to the World Trade Center and was present during the collapse and its aftermath. Since that day he along with Dr. Kelly (FDNY’s Chief Medical Officer at the Bureau of Health Services) has initiated a multi-million dollar medical monitoring and treatment program for FDNY fire fighters funded by FDNY, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

He is the Principal Investigator for the FDNY Data Coordinating Center for the WTC Medical Monitoring Program and is on the Steering Committee for the WTC Medical Monitoring Program.
He served as a member of the EPA WTC Technical Advisory Committee, the NYC Department of Health WTC Registry Scientific Advisory Board, the NYS Governor’s WTC panel and the NYC Mayor’s medical advisory board. Dr. Prezant has written extensively on pulmonary physiology, fire fighter health and safety and since 9/11 on the health impact of World Trade Center Collapse on NYC fire fighters and EMS rescue workers. Dr. Prezant’s group was the first to describe WTC Cough Syndrome (New England Journal of Medicine 2002) and has published extensively on this subject in the CDC–MMWR, American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, Chest and Environmental Health Perspectives.

His major research interest is in determining the mechanisms responsible for accelerated decline in longitudinal pulmonary function and/or airway hyperreactivity in fire fighters after WTC exposure. Other interests are in determining the mechanisms responsible for the increased incidence of sarcoidosis in fire fighters after WTC exposure.
Current Fire Fighter Operational Issues
Diesel Exhaust Induced Rhinitis In Fire Fighters

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**Background:**

Dr. Gregory Bussell received his undergraduate degree from Tufts University. He then returned to Chicago for his medical training at the University of Illinois-Chicago where he graduated with honors and was also named to Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society. He also was awarded the prestigious Grove Award for excellence in academic achievement and leadership at the conclusion of his training.

Dr. Bussell completed his Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residency at the University of Illinois-Chicago and in his final year was named Chief Resident. During his residency, he had his research published and presented at numerous national meetings. He also trained in extended rotations at Children’s Memorial Hospital and Cook County Hospital.

Dr. Bussell is board-certified in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and is a fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. He practices the full range of both adult and pediatric Otolaryngology with a special interest in the treatment of voice disorders, snoring and sleep apnea, and the treatment of nasal and sinus disorders.

**Abstract:**

Recently increasing attention has been focused on the ill effects of diesel exposure on the human body. Diesel exhaust exposure is known to be an exacerbating factor of nasal, sinus, and throat disorders as well as a potential cause of lung and bladder cancer. Fire fighters are a group of people that are at highest risk of diesel related illness because of prolonged exposure to diesel fumes. Fire fighters serve in repeating 24 hour shifts in diesel exposed environments, thus it is not surprising that we are seeing a large number of fire fighters with problems related to this exposure. In this report we describe the effects of diesel exposure on the sino-nasal passages (diesel induced rhinitis) in 27 fire fighters that have presented to our office since 2001. We also make recommendations on how to treat this unique group of patients.
First Response: Burn Injury Assessment and Treatment

Michael Peck, MD
Chair, Medical Advisory Board

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Background:

Dr. Peck is a burn surgeon at The Arizona Burn Center in Phoenix, where he also directs international outreach programs. His experience in burns dates back to his fellowship at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA from 1986 – 87. He gained research experience in the study of surgical nutrition during the years of 1987 – 1990 at the Cincinnati Shriners Burn Center. Following that, he took his first faculty position at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital Burn Center in 1990, where he worked until 1996. At that time, he assumed the position of Medical Director of the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill. He was there until 2007, when he made the transition to Phoenix.

Abstract:

Burn injuries are a direct occupational hazard for IAFF members. The likelihood of a fire fighter incurring a burn injury during the course of their career is almost 100%. However, the specialized care that a burn injury requires in order to prevent further injury, disability or death is becoming more difficult to access. Burn units throughout North America are closing at a drastic rate due to a lack of funding, and our members are suffering further harm as a result.

The IAFF Burn Foundation represents first responders to the burn care community and is working with burn care professionals, national legislators and IAFF members across the US and Canada to ensure the best treatments and facilities are available to our members and those we serve.
Background:

Dr. Bogucki is an associate professor in the Section of Emergency Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine. After undergraduate preparation in Biology, she received a Master of Science from the Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine and a PhD in Microbiology from Texas A&M University. She graduated from the Yale University School of Medicine, and has been board-certified in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Bogucki holds several positions of leadership in the Fire Service and EMS communities. She chairs the NFPA 1582 Task Group, is a member of the executive board of the NFPA Fire Service Section, serves on the Board of Visitors for the National Fire Academy, and conducts on-site investigations of fire fighter line-of-duty deaths for NIOSH. She serves on the editorial board of Pre-hospital Emergency Care, served two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of EMS Physicians, and currently chairs the National Registry of EMTs’ Board of Directors.

Dr. Bogucki has been on leave-of-absence from Yale since 2004, serving as Senior Medical Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the US Department of Health & Human Services. She was the HHS Headquarters Operations Officer for Mississippi during the response to Hurricane Katrina. She subsequently led a multi-disciplinary team to New Orleans to assess the status and needs of hospitals 6 months after Katrina, and has been part of the continuing planning effort for joint State/Federal response to future hurricanes.

Abstract:

Fire fighting and tasks associated with fire fighting are among the most physiologically taxing activities that can be performed by humans. During the course of their work, fire fighters are exposed to physiological stresses in the form of strenuous physical work. This work is most often performed within the confines of heavy structural fire fighting personal protective clothing which further stresses the fire fighter. The work is time-sensitive and is often performed under the psychological stressors of danger to the fire fighter and others, the desire to do a good job, and the desire on the part of the fire fighter to make an individual contribution to the work effort.
Understanding and implementing emergency scene rehabilitation ensures that members who may be suffering the effects of metabolic heat buildup, dehydration, physical exertion, and/or extreme weather (hot or cold) receive evaluation and rehabilitation during emergency and non-emergency operations. Most heat and cold emergencies and injuries are entirely preventable. Rehab assists the incident commander with monitoring the health of fire fighters and controlling the work/rest cycle to prevent environmental injuries.

In recognition of the importance of organized rehab during fire fighting and training activities, the NFPA 1500 Committee on Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health has taken a stronger position on it. NFPA 1584 was previously a ‘Recommended Practice’ on rehab, but the committee has rewritten much of it. One of the most important changes is that if it is passed by the membership and the Standards Council next month, it will become the ‘Standard on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises.

The new standard describes the responsibilities of incident commanders, company officers, and EMS relating to rehab. The equipment and supplies needed for rehab are listed, and sample SOP’s are included. Some of the strengths and weaknesses of this standard will be discussed.
Michael McEvoy, PhD
EMS Coordinator, Clinical Associate Professor

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Background:

Mike McEvoy, PhD, REMT-P, RN, CCRN is the EMS Coordinator for Saratoga County and EMS Director on the Board of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. He is a clinical specialist in Cardiac Surgery and professor of Critical Care Medicine at Albany Medical College. Mike is a paramedic for Clifton Park-Halfmoon Ambulance, chief medical officer and firefighter/paramedic for West Crescent Fire Department, and chaired the New York State EMS Council in 2005. He is the Fire EMS editor for Fire Engineering magazine and in his free time, an avid hiker and winter mountain climber.

Abstract:

Carbon Monoxide leads poisoning deaths worldwide and recent evidence of harm from low level CO exposure makes CO suspect in firefighter deaths. This talk will review effects of CO exposures, medical devices that detect CO exposed patients and firefighters, and how to confidently clear CO alarms when atmospheric monitors fail to detect the presence of CO. Hydrogen cyanide (HCN) is now believed the leading cause of fire fatalities, which in North America are presently double those in Western Europe and Japan. Prompt recognition and treatment with a new, safer antidote can be expected to reduce deaths from fire and smoke inhalation.
James Lockey, MD, MS
Professor

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Abstract:

This presentation will address the University of Cincinnati study on Cancer Risk Among Firefighters: A Review and Meta-analysis of 32 Studies. The study on fire fighters was undertaken to quantitatively and qualitatively determine the cancer risk using a meta-analysis. Articles were identified through a comprehensive search of computerized databases and bibliographies. The pattern of meta-relative risks, study type, and heterogeneity testing were the three criteria used to assess the probable, possible or unlikely risk for 21 cancers. Results of this study indicated that fire fighters had a probable cancer risk for multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and prostate cancer. Testicular cancer had the highest summary risk estimate. Eight additional cancers were listed as having a ‘possible’ association with the fire fighting profession. These results confirm previous findings of an elevated meta-relative risk for multiple myeloma among fire fighters. Results of our study also indicate a probable association with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, prostate and testicular cancer.
Les Boord  
Laboratory Director

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**Background:**

Les Boord is currently Acting Director of the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) at NIOSH. His background includes nearly 30 years experience in the field of personal protection equipment. He has considerable experience with respiratory protection equipment with a major emphasis on open and closed circuit self contained breathing apparatus, supplied air respirators and open and closed circuit escape breathing devices. He has been involved with the design, testing and evaluation of breathing protection products in capacities ranging from design engineer to Senior Vice President of an international manufacturer of breathing protection and gas detection equipment. He holds several respirator patents and has worked in the standards development and review process with ANSI, ISO and the NFPA. At NPPTL, Les has worked as the Program Manager for developing CBRN respirator standards. He currently serves as the NIOSH representative on the InterAgency Board, the NFPA Technical Correlating Committee (TCC), and the NFPA 1981 Committee for Open-Circuit Self Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire and Emergency Service. Other standards work includes participation in the International Standards Organization (ISO) Respirator Committee as a Project Group Chairman.

**Abstract:**

NPPTL was established by direction of the U.S. Congress to advance state of the art technology for personal protective equipment (PPE), including fire fighter PPE. The strategic direction of the laboratory to conduct research, perform technology development and implement test programs to support the development of national and international PPE standards is making significant contributions to improve the performance, quality and availability of personal protective equipment for workers. NPPTL is now engaged in several projects to specifically support improvement in fire fighter PPE standards. For example, NPPTL is part of the IAFF Project HEROES team to conduct physiological testing and assist in developing appropriate protection criteria for next generation fire fighter ensembles with chemical/biological protection. NPPTL has also launched several efforts to assist in facilitating the introduction of new protection technologies. It is through the application of new technologies that NPPTL is delivering on the NIOSH role to prevent work related injuries, illnesses and deaths.
The NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation Program

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Background:
As the Director of NIOSH, Dr. Howard has a wide array of experience in the occupational health and safety field. He spent the last 16 years administering occupational and public safety programs. He has also served as an assistant professor of environmental and occupational medicine at the University of California at Irvine; served as medical director and chief clinician of the Philip Mandelker AIDS Prevention Clinic; and served as an assistant counselor to the Under Secretary of Health and Human Services. Dr. Howard is a board-certified occupational physician and has written numerous papers on occupational health law and policy.

In 2006, Dr. Howard was appointed as the 9/11 Health Coordinator. His position was newly created in the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate and monitor the health impacts caused by the 9/11 World Trade Center attack and to coordinate the federal government’s health surveillance efforts.

Abstract:
This presentation will include an overview of the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program and provide insight to significant program chances to advance fire fighter safety.

Further, in 2006 NIOSH undertook two complementary efforts to seek data and feedback to guide future directions of this important fire fighter program. NIOSH sought stakeholder input at a public meeting and through a public docket, and conducted a national survey of U.S. fire departments focusing on the use of NIOSH recommendations and information products. NIOSH is making several modifications to the FFFIPP based on stakeholder input and survey results. The intent of these modifications is to ensure that the FFFIPP meets stakeholders’ needs and to increase the impact of the FFFIPP on fire fighter safety and health.
Based on the stakeholder input and survey results, NIOSH determined future directions for the FFFIPP. Some of the program goals include:

- Continue to make the main focus of the program performing fatality investigations and maintain investigative activity at or near the current level;
- Make the prioritization of investigations transparent by posting the program’s decision flow chart on the FFFIPP Web site (this chart has been posted and may be found at http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/FFFIP DecisionChart.pdf);
- Address the issue of safety “culture” by looking more thoroughly at the incident department’s occupational safety and health program; strive to make recommendations more straightforward and practical;
- Increase references to “best practices” and standards in reports and recommendations;
- Explore modifications to the FFFIPP fatality reports to make them more user friendly and to enhance messages, including formatting changes and the development of training aides for reports; and
- Increase coordination with other NIOSH Divisions conducing research on fire fighter safety and health, including the NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory.
Contributing Factors to Fire Fighter Line of Duty Deaths:
A Six-Year Analysis

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Background:

Lori Moore-Merrell is an Assistant to the General President of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) in charge of Technical Assistance for Labor Issues and Collective Bargaining, Fire and EMS Operations, and IAFF Field Services. Lori’s expertise is in emergency response system design, staffing and deployment of mobile resources, system performance measurement and evaluation. She has managed emergency response system evaluation teams, including GIS analysis, in more than 300 fire departments throughout the United States and Canada. She led the effort to develop the IAFF/IAFC fire-based EMS system performance measures and is now staffing the committee working to develop fire and rescue operational indicators and performance measures. Lori is an avid proponent of fire department data collection and understands its criticality to the future of the fire service.

Lori served as a fire/paramedic with the City of Memphis Fire Department and a member of IAFF Local 1784. She received her EMT-Paramedic license in 1984 and became an Instructor-Coordinator for the State of Tennessee in 1991. She joined IAFF Headquarters Operations in 1993 as an EMS specialist and now serves as Assistant to the IAFF General President. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education and EMS from the University of Memphis and a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from The George Washington University School of Public Health. Lori has also completed a Doctor of Public Health degree in Health Policy and Quality Performance Measurement at The George Washington University.

She has authored and addressed numerous topics related to fire and emergency medical response operations as well as quality assessment and performance measurement. She has performed as an expert witness on fire and EMS staffing and deployment issues in court and arbitration hearings throughout the United States. Dr. Moore-Merrell has served on various federal EMS task forces. At present, Dr. Moore-Merrell serves as the principle investigator on two USFA cooperative agreements to assess fire fighter line-of-duty death and injury and to develop fire service risk management models. She also serves as a co-principle investigator on a multi-phase research project funded by a grant from the Fire Act to develop tools to be used by local fire department officials to assess community risks/hazards and plan resource deployment based on those risks.
Contributing Factors to Fire Fighter Line of Duty Deaths: 
A Six-Year Analysis

Abstract:

The objective of this study was to analyze retrospective data from the years 2000-2005 (six years) to identify and quantify the major factors that contribute to fire fighter line-of-duty death (LODD) in the United States. The identified contributing factors were to be examined for frequency of occurrence and clustering with other factors. Results are to be used to develop risk management programs for fire departments.

Ninety-seven and one half percent of all fire fighter LODD occurring between the years of 2000-2005 are attributable to an identifiable cluster of contributing factors. Approximately half of all fire fighter LODD that occurred between these years are attributable to a cluster of three factors that are under the direct control of the individual fire fighter and chief officers. The information revealed in this study imposes a considerable burden on decision makers and fire service leaders as well as fire fighters themselves. It offers substantial guidance for shaping local fire department policy decisions and operational priorities.
Multiple Line-of-Duty Death Investigations
Roof/Floor Collapse - New York City, New York

Philip Gaetani
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Safety Operating Battalion
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Background:
Chief Gaetani was appointed to the FDNY on September 5, 1970. During his time as a fire fighter, he was assigned to units, Engine 32 in Lower Manhattan, and Engine 239 in Park Slope, Brooklyn. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1983 assigned to Ladder 1 in Lower Manhattan. As a Captain he worked in Ladder 161, Coney Island, Brooklyn and Ladder 123 in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, for 10 years. In November 2001 he was promoted to Battalion Chief and covered various assignments in the five boroughs of New York City.

Brian Lanci
Battalion Chief
Fire Department, City of New York
Battalion 42

Background:
Battalion Chief Brian J. Lanci was appointed to the FDNY on October 13, 1979. Assigned to Engine 7 in Manhattan, he was promoted to Lieutenant from Ladder 1 in August of 1987 and assigned to the 33rd Battalion in Brooklyn. He was assigned to Engine 309 until he was promoted to Captain in November of 1993; then promoted to Battalion Chief in September 2002, assigned to Battalion 42 in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. Chief Lanci is a NYS certified Safety Office. He is also a registered instructor for the Department of Homeland Security, Center for Domestic Preparedness.

Abstract:
A rookie fire fighter who served with the U.S. Marines in Iraq and a veteran lieutenant were killed when the floor in the one-story building gave way beneath them, trapping the two and three others in the basement. The three-alarm fire broke out in a building that housed a 99-cent store and left 21 fire fighters, from a battalion chief to rank-and-file fire fighters, with smoke inhalation and other injuries.
Roger L. Yow  
President  

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**Background:**

Roger became a member of the Charleston Fire Department on August 18, 1978 and moved through the ranks to Captain in 1986. His career ended in 2003, after an on the job back injury forced him off the line. At the time of his retirement, Roger held the rank of Captain. During his entire career he was assigned to engine companies. In 1992, Roger helped form the CFD’s first HazMat team and remained a team member for 8 years.

In 1996, Local 61 was reinstated by the IAFF. Roger has been on the Local 61 executive board from 1996 to the present. He has been president of IAFF Local 61 for 6 years. Roger also holds a seat on the executive board of the South Carolina Professional Fire Fighters Association. He has been in that position for 6 years.

Roger intends to speak on situations in the Charleston Fire Department that led up to the tragic night that claimed the lives of our nine brothers, what happened that fateful night and how they are dealing with the loss.

**Abstract:**

On June 18, 2007, nine Charleston, South Carolina fire fighters were killed in a fire at a warehouse furniture store with a lightweight truss roof. It was the largest loss of fire personnel in a single incident since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The Charleston Nine were killed doing their jobs with selfless dedication and, sadly, were following orders and department policies that are truly arcane in this modern day – and which egregiously failed to protect their safety.

Since the night of the fire, Roger Yow, president of Charleston Local 61, has sought to make changes to protect his membership and ensure that such a tragedy never happens again. Media and bloggers have followed the investigation into the fire and are exposing what IAFF members and Local 61 have known — and been working to change – for years: changes must be made to department leadership to bring this department up to modern and safe fire department and fire fighter standards.
Paul VanGerwen
Captain
California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention
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Background:

Paul VanGerwen, is a two-year veteran Fire Captain and POST certified fire investigator for CalFIRE. As an experienced accident investigator he has been appointed to many accident investigations as the union liaison and investigator. Paul is currently working with the department in developing the new accident review department policy, designated team concept and is on the Accident Review training cadre. Paul is a seasoned Union leader and Officer for CDF Firefighters Local 2881. Currently he serves on the Legislative Committee, Political Action Committee, Union Training Cadre and the Negotiation team.

Abstract:

On October 26, 2006, five United State Forest Service fire fighters were entrapped while engaged in structure protection operations on the Esperanza Fire in Riverside County, California. Three fire fighters were killed at the scene, one died en-route to the hospital and the fifth died on October 31. All deaths were the result of burns received at the incident.

The fire was located in the San Jacinto Mountains in Riverside County. The burn over site was located on a prominent knob in a bowl, near the top of an “un-named” drainage. This drainage is located west of the Twin Pines Drainage and runs from the desert floor in a north east alignment with a rapid elevation increase to 3,240 feet above sea level.

Initial attack fire apparatus were dispatched from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE). Captain VanGerwen will address the deployment and operations at this fire and address investigation findings including lookouts, communication, escape routes, safety zones and standard wildland fire fighting orders.
Multiple Line-of-Duty Death Investigations
Burns - Winnipeg, Manitoba

Russ Morrow
Captain

Winnipeg Fire Department
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Background:
Russ Morrow is a 30-year career fire fighter with the Winnipeg Fire Department. He has the rank of Captain and is stationed at the City’s Hazardous Materials Fire Station. Russ is an 11-year member of the Executive Board of Local 867, the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg. He is also the Immediate Past Provincial President of the Manitoba Professional Fire Fighters Association. Brother Morrow has spent the past 16 years as a dedicated member of the City/Union Joint Health and Safety Committee. He has served the members of Local 867 on many other committees including selection of Personal Protective Clothing and various advisory positions to the Provincial Government on Safety Legislation and Regulation.

Abstract:
Most of us remember February 4, 2007 as Super Bowl Sunday. The citizens of Winnipeg, Manitoba and the members of IAFF Local 867 will forever remember the deaths of Captain Harold Lessard and Captain Tom Nichols of the Winnipeg Fire Department.

These Captains died after responding to a fire which had started in an attached garage. While searching the second floor of the private residence for any potential trapped civilians, a firestorm engulfed them and their crews. Only the brave actions of the Captains and the rapid intervention of rescue crews prevented further deaths.

Captain Russ Morrow of the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg will detail the progress of the fire and the unfortunate events that resulted in this tragedy.
Ramoth Iverson
Fire Inspector

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Background:

Ramoth Iverson is a Fire Inspector with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District having over 16 years of sworn Fire Service experience, and in 2001 received an Associates of Science Degree in Fire Technology from Solano Community College, in Suisun, California.

During his 16-year fire service career, he has held the position of Firefighter, Acting Engineer, Acting Captain, and Fire Inspector; he served over half his career as a fire investigator conducting origin and cause fire investigations.

Ramoth is an active member of NAFI (National Association of Fire Investigators), and CCAI (California Conference of Arson Investigators). He is a certified explosive and fire investigator as well as a certified uniform fire code inspector. Currently, Fire Inspector Iverson is assigned to the Contra Costa County Fire Investigation Unit, and is responsible for origin and cause fire investigations.

Abstract:

On July 21, 2007, two fire fighters became the first line-of-duty deaths in the 43-year history of the Contra Costa Fire Protection District. Fire Captain Matt Burton and Fire Engineer Scott Desmond were killed as they attempted a rescue of two elderly residents who also perished in the blaze. The men had responded as members of a truck crew to a report of a single-story, single-alarm house fire. When they arrived the home was fully engulfed.

Fire Inspector Iverson will be providing details on the fire operations at this incident.
Edward Kelly
President
Boston Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 718
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Background:
Fire Fighter Edward Kelly is a 10-year member of the Boston Fire Department. He was elected President of IAFF Local 718 in 2005.

He is currently assigned to Tower Ladder 17 in the South End of Boston. Ed served in the U.S Air Force, where for 3 years he served on a crash-response team based in Panama City, Florida.

Abstract:
On August 29, 2007, two veteran Boston fire fighters were killed at a four alarm fire in a commercial restaurant. Within minutes after arriving on the scene, the restaurant exploded into flames, trapping the two fire fighters. Early indications are the fire may have smoldered in a drop ceiling where kitchen grease had accumulated. Then to further fuel the fire, a roof-top air conditioner partially fell through, sending a burst of air and causing the building to flash.

All of us in the fire service have heard the phrases," This was or is a routine fire ", or "a two-cent fire", which is repeated used on the fireground and in firehouses across the country. Yet, this so called " routine fire " which occurred in the West Roxbury section of Boston on the night of August 29th, was anything but routine and very quickly turned deadly injuring nine fire fighters and taking the lives of two fire fighters.
Multiple Line-of-Duty Death Investigations
Smoke Inhalation - New York City, New York

James Slevin
Vice President / Legislative Chairman
Uniformed Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 94
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Background:
Jim entered the Fire Department, City of New York in January 1996. He is currently assigned to Ladder 7 in Manhattan. He was elected as the Vice President of the UFA, IAFF Local 94 in 2002. He is currently serving his second term of office and he is also the UFA’s Legislative Chairman.

Abstract:
On August 18, 2007, two veteran New York City fire fighters were killed in a fire at the abandoned Deutsche Bank building on Liberty Street in the Ground Zero area of Southern Manhattan. The building was in the process of being dismantled after it was damaged beyond repair during the destruction of the World Trade Center in 2001. The fire started on the 17th floor, allowing the fire to burn out of control as it consumed construction materials, equipment and scaffolding, which fell to the street below. The two fire fighters became trapped in the building and died of cardiac arrest resulting from exposure to carbon monoxide, which occurred after they ran out of air.
Multiple Line-of-Duty Death Investigations
Live Fire Training - Baltimore, Maryland

Stephan G. Fugate
President, IAFF Local 964

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Background:
Stephan entered the Baltimore City Fire Department in July of 1974, was promoted to Lieutenant in February of 1979 and to Captain in April of 1983. As President of the Baltimore Fire Officers’ Local 964, he is currently assigned to Fire Department Headquarters while functioning as a full-time Union official. Having previously served as a Union Local Trustee, then Secretary-Treasurer, he was elected President in November of 1996 and has held that position continuously since. Stephan is grateful to have served as co-chair of the Elections Committee of IAFF Conventions since the Chicago Convention of 2000.

Stephan is also the elected Active Member Trustee for Fire Department personnel of the Baltimore Fire & Police Employees’ Retirement System, a 2.4 billion dollar defined benefit pension fund. Stephan also serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Investment Committee and is an Executive Board Member of the National Conference on Public Employees Retirement Systems (NCPERS).

Rick Schluderberg
President, IAFF Local 734

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Background:
Rick has 33-years of service with the Baltimore City Fire Department where he holds the rank of Emergency Vehicle Driver. He has served the membership of Local 734 in many capacities, beginning at the bottom as a house steward for five years, to a battalion representative for nine years, appointed as an assistant to the president, and subsequently elected as First Vice President in 1992.
In February of 2001, he assumed the President’s position and has run unopposed in two elections that have followed. Rick was an original member of Local 734’s Joint Labor Management Safety and Health Committee, which was started in 1984 and chaired the committee for several before becoming President. Rick is a member of IAFF Standing Committee on Occupational Safety and Health. He was also Local 734’s representative in the Line-of-Duty death investigation of Baltimore City Fire Fighter Eric Schafer in 1995.

Abstract:

On Friday, February 9, 2007, recruits in Baltimore, Maryland participated in a “live burn” training session that escalated out of control and ended tragically. Baltimore fire cadet, Racheal Wilson, 29, collapsed as she tried to extinguish a fire set by instructors in a group of townhouses as part of a live fire training exercise. Firefighter Wilson was transported to the Maryland Shock and Trauma Center but succumbed to her injuries suffered during the training event.

This incident raises questions and major concerns about the practice of using vacant structures as training grounds for live fire evolutions. An investigation revealed that the training session did not conform to NFPA and other industry standards and the incident led to many investigations at the local and State levels.

The catastrophic events that led to Racheal Wilson’s death cannot be undone, however, due to this tragedy, the Baltimore Fire Department is instituting changes and improvements in the way it conducts recruits training and live fire exercises. Violations of safety standards and protocols that occurred during this training exercise will be reviewed and discussed. The goal of this presentation is to educate fire department personnel as to the current regulations for live fire evolutions to ensure that this deadly tragedy is not repeated.

“As a Union we cannot and will not allow Safety Violations that injury our members to go unreported; and those that allow these practices shall be held accountable.”