

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4847

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 4, 2008

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs

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## AN ACT

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and  
for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States Fire  
3 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The loss of life due to fire has dropped sig-  
7 nificantly over the last 25 years in the United  
8 States. However, the United States still has one of  
9 the highest fire death rates in the industrialized  
10 world. For 2006, the National Fire Protection Asso-  
11 ciation reported 3,245 civilian fire deaths, 17,925 ci-  
12 vilian fire injuries, and \$11,307,000,000 in direct  
13 losses due to fire.

14 (2) Every year, over 100 firefighters die in the  
15 line of duty. The United States Fire Administration  
16 should continue its leadership to help local fire agen-  
17 cies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

18 (3) Members of the fire service community  
19 should continue to work together to further the pro-  
20 motion of national voluntary consensus standards  
21 that increase firefighter safety.

22 (4) The United States Fire Administration pro-  
23 vides crucial support to the Nation’s 30,300 fire de-  
24 partments through training, data collection, fire  
25 awareness and education, and other activities for im-

1 proving fire prevention, control, and suppression  
2 technologies.

3 (5) The collection of data on fire and other  
4 emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy  
5 makers and emergency responders to identify and  
6 develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving  
7 the United States Fire Administration’s data collec-  
8 tion capabilities is essential for accurately tracking  
9 and responding to the magnitude and nature of the  
10 Nation’s fire problem.

11 (6) The research and development performed by  
12 the Federal Government and non-government orga-  
13 nizations on fire technologies, techniques, and tools  
14 advance the capabilities of the Nation’s fire service  
15 to prevent and suppress fires.

16 (7) The United States Fire Administration is  
17 one of the strongest voices representing the Nation’s  
18 fire service within the Federal Government, and, as  
19 such, it should have a prominent place within the  
20 Federal Government.

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED**  
22 **STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.**

23 Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and  
24 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and”  
2 after the semicolon;

3 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
4 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the fol-  
6 lowing new subparagraphs:

7 “(E) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

8 “(F) \$72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010;

9 “(G) \$74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

10 “(H) \$76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012.”.

11 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM**  
12 **MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.**

13 (a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—  
14 Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-  
15 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

16 (1) by amending subparagraph (H) to read as  
17 follows:

18 “(H) response, tactics, and strategies for  
19 dealing with national catastrophes, including  
20 terrorist-caused national catastrophes and inci-  
21 dents that involve weapons of mass destruc-  
22 tion;”;

23 (2) in subparagraph (K), by striking “forest”  
24 and inserting “wildland”;

1           (3) in subparagraph (M), by striking “response  
2           tactics and” and inserting “response, tactics, and”;

3           (4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through  
4           (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively;  
5           and

6           (5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-  
7           lowing new subparagraphs:

8                   “(I) response, tactics, and strategies for  
9                   fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a  
10                  general area that cross jurisdictional bound-  
11                  aries;

12                  “(J) response, tactics, and strategies for  
13                  fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban  
14                  interface;

15                  “(K) response, tactics, and strategies for  
16                  fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

17                  “(L) advanced emergency medical services  
18                  training;”.

19           (b) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 7 of such Act (15  
20           U.S.C. 2206) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
21           lowing new subsection:

22                   “(m) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual re-  
23                  port filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline  
24                  for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period  
25                  that begins on the date of the enactment of the United

1 States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008,  
2 and in every third annual report thereafter, the Adminis-  
3 trator shall include information about changes made to the  
4 Academy curriculum, including—

5 “(1) the basis for such changes, including a re-  
6 view of the incorporation of lessons learned by emer-  
7 gency response personnel after significant emergency  
8 events and emergency preparedness exercises per-  
9 formed under the National Exercise Program; and

10 “(2) the desired training outcome of all such  
11 changes.”.

12 (c) AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER  
13 INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING  
14 THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—Sec-  
15 tion 7(f) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206(f)) is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 “(f) ASSISTANCE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is au-  
19 thorized to provide assistance to State and local fire  
20 service training programs through grants, contracts,  
21 or otherwise.

22 “(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CON-  
23 TRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH  
24 CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is  
2 authorized to enter into a contract with one or  
3 more nationally recognized organizations that  
4 have established on-site training programs that  
5 prepare fire service personnel to meet national  
6 voluntary consensus standards for fire service  
7 personnel and that facilitate the delivery of the  
8 education and training programs outlined in  
9 subsection (d)(1) directly to fire service per-  
10 sonnel.

11           “(B) RESTRICTIONS.—The Administrator  
12 shall not enter into a contract with such organi-  
13 zation unless such organization—

14                   “(i) provides training that leads to  
15 certification by a program accredited by a  
16 nationally recognized accreditation organi-  
17 zation; or

18                   “(ii) at the time the Administrator en-  
19 ters into the contract, provides training  
20 under such a program under a cooperative  
21 agreement with a Federal agency.

22           “(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The  
23 amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out  
24 this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 4  
25 percent of the amount authorized to be appropriated

1 in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of this  
2 Act.”.

3 (d) INCIDENT COMMAND TRAINING COURSE FOR  
4 FIRES AT PORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-  
6 trator of the United States Fire Administration, in con-  
7 sultation with the Superintendent of the National Acad-  
8 emy for Fire Prevention and Control, shall consolidate and  
9 integrate into the current Academy curriculum a course  
10 on incident command training for fire service personnel  
11 for fighting fires at United States ports and in marine  
12 environments, including fires on the water and aboard ves-  
13 sels. Such course shall not relate to border and port secu-  
14 rity.

15 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UP-**  
16 **GRADES.**

17 (a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Sec-  
18 tion 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of  
19 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end  
20 the following new subsection:

21 “(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM  
22 UPDATE.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to  
23 subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the  
24 Administrator shall use no more than an aggregate  
25 amount of \$5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting

1 of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out activities  
2 necessary to update the National Fire Incident Reporting  
3 system to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting  
4 database, including capital investment, contractor engage-  
5 ment, and user education.”.

6 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of  
7 such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking  
8 “assist State,” and inserting “assist Federal, State,”.

9 **SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND DISSEMINA-**  
10 **TION.**

11 (a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PRE-  
12 VENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTER-  
13 FACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and  
14 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “RURAL ASSISTANCE” in the  
16 heading and inserting “RURAL AND WILDLAND-  
17 URBAN INTERFACE ASSISTANCE”;

18 (2) by striking “The Administrator” and insert-  
19 ing “(1) The Administrator”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
21 paragraph:

22 “(2) The Administrator is authorized to assist the  
23 Nation’s fire services, directly or through contracts,  
24 grants, or other forms of assistance, for activities and

1 equipment to improve fire prevention and control in the  
2 wildland-urban interface.”.

3 (b) DISSEMINATION.—Section 8 of such Act (15  
4 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing new subsection:

6 “(h) DISSEMINATION.—Beginning 1 year after the  
7 date of the enactment of the United States Fire Adminis-  
8 tration Reauthorization Act of 2008, the Administrator,  
9 in collaboration with the relevant departments and agen-  
10 cies of the Federal Government, shall make available to  
11 the public information regarding United States Fire Ad-  
12 ministration funded activities to advance new knowledge  
13 and best practices in firefighting, through a regularly up-  
14 dated Internet database.”.

15 **SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**  
16 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

17 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
18 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
19 the following new sections:

20 **“SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**  
21 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

22 “The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire  
23 services of national voluntary consensus standards for fire-  
24 fighter health and safety, including such standards for  
25 firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by

1 educating fire services about such standards, encouraging  
2 the adoption at all levels of government of such standards,  
3 and making recommendations on other ways in which the  
4 Federal Government can promote the adoption of such  
5 standards by fire services.

6 **“SEC. 38. TRAINING AGENCIES ON IMPORTANCE OF CLEAR-**  
7 **ING BIOMASS IN WILDLAND AREAS TO PRO-**  
8 **MOTE FIREFIGHTER SAFETY.**

9 “In collaboration with the relevant departments and  
10 agencies of the Federal Government, the Administrator  
11 shall develop and provide information and training to rel-  
12 evant departments and agencies of the Federal Govern-  
13 ment on the importance of clearing biomass in wildland  
14 areas of Federal lands to promote the safety of fire-  
15 fighters.”.

16 **SEC. 8. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE SERVICE-BASED**  
17 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire  
19 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e))  
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 “(e) COORDINATION.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable,  
23 the Administrator shall utilize existing programs,  
24 data, information, and facilities already available in  
25 other Federal Government departments and agencies

1 and, where appropriate, existing research organiza-  
2 tions, centers, and universities.

3 “(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND  
4 CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall pro-  
5 vide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to  
6 assure coordination of the Administrator’s activities  
7 with State and local government agencies, depart-  
8 ments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any matter  
9 related to programs of fire prevention and control  
10 with private and other Federal organizations and of-  
11 fices so concerned.

12 “(3) COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED  
13 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The  
14 Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate  
15 organizational level to assure coordination of the Ad-  
16 ministrator’s activities with State and local govern-  
17 ment agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices con-  
18 cerned with programs related to emergency medical  
19 services provided by fire service-based systems with  
20 private and other Federal organizations and offices  
21 so concerned.”.

22 (b) FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
23 SERVICES BEST PRACTICES.—Section 8(c) of such Act  
24 (15 U.S.C. 2207(c)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through  
2 (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
4 lowing new paragraph:

5 “(2) The Administrator is authorized to conduct, di-  
6 rectly or through contracts or grants, studies of the oper-  
7 ations and management aspects of fire service-based emer-  
8 gency medical services and coordination between emer-  
9 gency medical services and fire services. Such studies may  
10 include the optimum protocols for on-scene care, the allo-  
11 cation of resources, and the training requirements for fire  
12 service-based emergency medical services.”.

13 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

14 Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control  
15 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Administra-  
17 tion” and inserting “Administration, who is the As-  
18 sistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency  
19 Management Agency”;

20 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” after  
21 the semicolon;

22 (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at  
23 the end and inserting “; and”;

24 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and  
25 (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively;

