



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

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

- Department of Occupational Health and Safety
- Occupational Medicine Residency Programs
- Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Programs
- IAFF/IAFC Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative
- IAFF Behavioral Health Program
- IAFF Representatives on Standards Development Committees
- IAFF Standing Committee on Occupational Health and Safety
- Standing Committee on Labor and Employee Assistance Programs
- IAFF Standing Committee on Wellness-Fitness
- Health and Safety Grant Assistance, including the FEMA grant programs
- IAFF Counseling Support Foundation
- Project HEROES
- Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative
- Emergency Scene Rehabilitation Program
- Voice Radio Communications Program
- Department of Wildland Firefighting Safety and Response
- IAFF Charitable Foundation
 - Burn Fund
 - Disaster Relief Fund
 - Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Fund
 - John P. Redmond Foundation

Department of Occupational Health and Safety

The Department currently provides an array of services and programs to ensure that the health and safety of fire fighters and emergency medical providers are properly and adequately addressed. The Department also coordinates and manages internal and external activities relating to behavioral health, wellness and member support issues.

Services provided within the Division include the following:

- **Fire Fighter Fatality/Serious Injury Investigations** - Unfortunately, emergency responders are killed or seriously injured in the performance of their job. The Division will continue to assist NIOSH with the federal Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program and provide technical assistance or actual investigation assistance of fatalities or serious injuries of professional fire fighters. At the 2006 convention in Toronto, the passing of Resolution 19 required the IAFF request support from the International Association of Fire Chiefs to create a committee from both organizations to develop a national policy on LODD incidents between Labor and Management prior to any state or federal investigating team assuming the scene. The resolves also stipulated that this Joint Labor Management Committee provide a mechanism for affiliates without support groups to request, from larger affiliates, assistance during these early stages of questioning and that this Joint Labor-Management Committee address the question of whether our members should be interrogated without the guidance of a representative from the Local affiliate. We established a committee to complete this effort and the committee met at the IAFF at the end of May 2008 and from that meeting they submitted comments to be incorporated in the final document. The manual was completed and released at the IAFF ALTS/LMI conference in December 2008.
- **Worker Education Materials** - The Division develops manuals, fact sheets and audiovisual presentations, which specifically address fire fighter occupational health and safety. As an IAFF member, you will have access to most of our manuals in electronic format. You can get this by going to the IAFF's online library at <http://www.iaff.org/library/library.html> to download IAFF manuals as well as other NIOSH, US Fire Administration, NIST, NFPA, IAB and CDC documents.
- **Technical Assistance** - The Division will continue to provide extensive technical assistance to local affiliates, upon request through the District Vice Presidents. Such technical assistance may involve coordination with governmental agencies to conduct health hazard evaluations to objectively document health and safety hazards confronting fire fighters and/or an on-site assignment to investigate the situation. Technical assistance is also provided through expert witness testimony or presentations that address the implementation of the collective bargaining agreement, laws or regulations (e.g. 2-in / 2-out, staffing).
- **Needs and Hazards Identification** - The identification of fire fighter health and safety needs are an ongoing process of the Division through policies established by Convention and/or IAFF Executive Board and communications with state/provincial associations and local affiliates.

- **Information Dissemination** - The Division disseminates technical information to state and provincial associations and local affiliates, upon their request, for specific health and safety related material. The IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine maintains an up-to-date and extensive resource library, subscription services, computer on-line systems and video resources on occupational health and safety. The Division also provides day-to-day information dissemination, including information from files, occupational health and safety kits, and opinions and information based on staff expertise and knowledge. In order to keep the entire IAFF membership informed, the IAFF has developed extensive website materials for the Health, Safety and Medicine section of the IAFF Website and continuously produces articles for the IAFF website, the "International Fire Fighter" and the "IAFF Leader."
- **Organizational Liaison** - The IAFF continues its efforts in the development and implementation of comprehensive deployment and staffing standards for professional fire fighters, as well as continuing with standards development for protective clothing and equipment, qualification and certification, health and safety, training, and building and construction codes through the National Fire Protection Association, the Canadian Standards Board, the International Codes Council and the International Standards Organization. We also serve as a liaison with other organizations impacting upon the fire service in order to ensure that the health and safety of the fire fighter is properly and adequately addressed. We monitor government agencies and other organizations on a regular basis to review those rules and regulations, either promulgated or proposed, which might have an impact on the occupational health and safety of fire fighters.

Medical Residency Program

Through IAFF convention action in 1986, the IAFF Occupational Medicine Residency Program was established. The Johns Hopkins University, in conjunction with the IAFF, supports full-time medical residents each for a multiple month rotation in the IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine. Throughout this rotation the IAFF provides the occupational physician with a thorough understanding of the breadth and depth of occupational issues for fire fighters; an understanding of the hazards associated with fire fighting; and an appreciation for labor unions in the support of organized workers, especially fire fighters. In addition, the resident leaves the IAFF with an understanding of the issues of federal, state and provincial legislation and the role of unions within the health care system. Specific projects and daily activities of the residency program include:

- **Technical Medical Assistance** - Medical residents address in a timely manner the daily issues of concern for fire fighters' health and safety. These issues are commonly related to toxic exposures and medical consequences, contagious diseases, occupational illness and disease, physical fitness, and job-related medical certification for duty. Medical evaluations and on-site visits of precedent setting worker's compensation issues may be necessary during the residents' tenure.

- **Development of Educational Materials** - Educational components of the medical residency are very important to the IAFF. The ability to successfully educate the membership on the health and safety concerns for fire fighters is a strong resource in the reduction of work-related injuries and the elevation of the fire fighters health status. Educational components and activities are varied and include primarily:
 - Update and develop manuals and kits on pertinent issues for fire fighters health.
 - Develop educational materials for the Division website: <http://www.iaff.org/hs/Resi/index.asp>.
 - Assist in the development of educational seminar curricula.
 - Recommend quality books and journals for the resource library available to Health and Safety staff and medical residents.
 - Develop articles on current occupational health issues of concern for the membership to be published in the IAFF Leader and the International Fire Fighter.
- **Educational Presentations** - Medical residents may be provided the opportunity to relay information to the membership by participating in and conducting workshops at: seminars, conferences, court testimony, and through journalistic reporting. Residents are called upon to make educational presentations to fire fighter conferences on topics such as infectious diseases, occupational cancer and cardiovascular disease.
- **Lobbying Activities for Federal, State, and Provincial Governments** – IAFF medical residents provide legislative testimony on such issues as occupational disease, cancer, and contagious disease presumption related to fire fighters and emergency medical responders.
- **Infectious Disease Issues** - We continue to update the infectious disease information on our website including a new web site (<http://infddisease.iaff.org/>) that offers basic information about common infectious diseases that can affect the health and safety of IAFF members and their family members. For each disease the symptoms, prevention and transmission methods and treatment options are discussed so that IAFF members can protect themselves in the workplace.

IAFF/IAFC Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative



The IAFF, IAFC and 10 local unions and their fire departments joined together to form the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Task Force. The Task Force has dedicated itself to developing a holistic, positive rehabilitating and educational approach to wellness and fitness programs in the fire service.

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

- **The IAFF/IAFC Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative (WFI).** This program is designed for incumbent fire service personnel. It requires a commitment by labor and management for a positive, individualized wellness-fitness program. The manual includes information on these topics:
 - Medical evaluation
 - Fitness assessment
 - Rehabilitation
 - Behavioral health
 - Cost Justification
 - Implementation
 - Data collection
- **Cancer and Occupational Disease Database.** Characterizing and quantifying the types of medical conditions which are occurring in IAFF members is an important step to achieving the goals of the WFI. To accomplish this, the IAFF has initiated the data collection phase of the WFI. The health information that members provide by completing the short questionnaire, accessible on the IAFF website, will be used by the IAFF and scientific collaborates to identify diseases that fire fighters are at risk for developing. The results of such efforts will be used to improve the health and safety of fire fighters. Cancer is a disease that is of particular concern for members of the fire service. A number of previous studies have identified several cancers for which fire fighters are at increased risk. To help further characterize this increased risk, the IAFF in response to an IAFF convention resolution has developed a Cancer Registry. IAFF members or a family member can use this website to report a cancer diagnosis. In addition to reporting the cancer, members are being asked first to complete the WFI questions which will provide necessary information for the Cancer Registry as well as for the WFI efforts. Further information and both databases can be found at; <http://www.iaff.org/hs/wfi/>.

- **The Candidate Physical Ability Test.** The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) was developed as a fair and valid evaluation tool to assist in the selection of fire fighters, and to ensure that all fire fighter candidates possess the physical ability to complete critical tasks effectively and safely. The CPAT Program covers every aspect of administering the CPAT, including recruiting and mentoring programs, providing recruits with fitness guidance to help prepare them for the CPAT, setting up and administering the test and providing data collection capability. The IAFF continues to license jurisdictions for the CPAT Program. For more information on the CPAT, visit the IAFF website at: <http://www.iaff.org/hs/Well/CPATLicensestory.htm>. There are currently 1,110 fire departments licensed to use CPAT. As a condition of continued licensure, all licensees must now fully comply with all requirements in the new edition of CPAT.
- **The Fire Service Peer Fitness Trainer Certification.** The IAFF/IAFC Task Force has determined that successful implementation of the Wellness-Fitness Initiative and the CPAT requires a fire fighter in each department who can take the lead. This individual must have the ability to design and implement fitness programs, to improve the wellness and fitness of his or her department and to assist with the physical training of recruits. The program was developed in conjunction with the American Council on Exercise. The Division manages this program, including maintaining the electronic registration, maintaining and scheduling a cadre of IAFF-certified trainers, scheduling and managing each training site and overseeing the certification process and list of certified members. To see current class schedules, go to the IAFF website at: http://www.iaff.org/HS/PFT/PFT_schedule.htm.
- **Fit-To-Survive Program.** We continue to update the IAFF Fit-to-Survive website with health, wellness and nutrition information. The Division has recently fully revamped the nutrition and menu planning sections of this popular program. The IAFF partnered with the pharmaceutical firm Pfizer for the Joint IAFF-Pfizer Smoking Cessation Initiative to make the IAFF the first tobacco-free union in America. This campaign focuses on educating fire fighters and their families about smoking cessation resources available to them and helping them stay tobacco free. The web-based materials are incorporated into the Fit to Survive site. The Division also collaborated with Novartis, a pharmaceutical company, to develop a program similar to the smoking cessation program that raises awareness within our membership and the public on the importance of diagnosing and controlling hypertension. STOP•DROP•CONTROL is a high blood pressure awareness and community health outreach campaign. To date, the program has provided hundreds of IAFF affiliates with materials and resources to conduct blood pressure screening and educational activities among our members and in our communities. This website averages approximately 75,000 visits every week. E-newsletters and other electronic communications are sent to more than 30,000 fire fighter email addresses from the IAFF email database every month to promote traffic to the “Fit to Survive” website, which can be found at: <http://www.iaff.org/hs/FTS/>.



- **Fire Ground Survival Training Program.** The purpose of the Fire Ground Survival program is to ensure that training for Mayday prevention and Mayday operations are consistent between all fire fighters, company officers and chief officers. Fire fighters must be trained to perform potentially life-saving actions if they become lost, disoriented, injured, low on air or trapped. The online Fire Ground Survival Awareness Program was launched September 1, 2010. In June 2011, we fully integrated the online awareness program into the IAFF Learning Management System (LMS) tens of thousands of IAFF members have completed the online component and are certified at the Awareness level. The Train-the-Trainer (TtT) program was launched in fall of 2011 and classes have now been completed in dozens of cities with attendees from nearly 250 different departments representing more than 75,000 IAFF members throughout the United States and Canada.

IAFF Behavioral Health Program

Traditionally, medical and physical fitness have been prioritized above emotional or behavioral fitness in the Fire Service. However, it is clear from the aftermath of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters that these priorities are now changing. With each passing year, research shows that fire personnel who balance physical, behavioral and emotional fitness have the best outcomes, whether one is looking at adjustment to becoming a fire fighter, ratings of career satisfaction, family well-being, or adjustment to retirement.

The IAFF has created an [Online Behavioral Health Awareness Course](#). The two-hour course is self-paced and tailored for the fire service. The overview course covers depression, substance abuse, trauma, PTSD, suicide risk and prevention, and strategies for maintaining balance and emotional wellness. Use IAFF login credentials to access the course.

Peer Support

The stresses faced by fire service members throughout the course of their careers – incidents involving children, violence, inherent dangers of firefighting and other potentially traumatic events – can have a cumulative impact on mental health and well-being. Peer support programs have been demonstrated to be an effective method for providing support to occupational groups, including fire fighters. The [IAFF Peer Support Training Program](#) is a two-day interactive course taught by experienced peers from the fire service and behavioral health clinicians.

Important: It may be possible to obtain a grant through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program to fund the IAFF Peer Support Training. For more information, sign-in to the IAFF website, visit the [Grants Administration](#) page and review the Grant Application Guidance for the IAFF Peer Support Training.

IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery

The [IAFF Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery](#) is an in-patient residential facility ***exclusively for IAFF members*** to treat addiction and other co-occurring disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). With Advanced Recovery Systems (ARS), a leader in behavioral healthcare management, the IAFF Center of Excellence is staffed by a highly experienced and specialized team familiar with the unique needs of our members and the fire service culture. Located outside Washington, DC, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, the Center opened March 5, 2017. [Learn more](#) about the Center and the resources available to IAFF members.

IAFF Standing Committee on Labor/Employee Assistance Programs

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

Standing Committee on Wellness-Fitness

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

Gene Faughnan Standing Committee on Occupational Safety and Health

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

Line-of-Duty Deaths and Public Safety Officers' Benefits Programs (PSOB)

The Division handles all assistance to local affiliates and families that suffer line-of-duty deaths, including: notification, correspondence and alerts; IAFF funeral representation; IAFF Martin E. Pierce Commemorative Line-of-Duty Death Medal; inclusion at the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial; as well as immediate and direct assistance after a multiple line-of-duty death incident. Additionally, the IAFF provides instant notification of deaths of IAFF members on the IAFF website and provides protocols to assist local affiliates that experience a line-of-duty death.

The IAFF has established a Task Force that will immediately respond to a jurisdiction after any multiple fire fighter fatalities to assist the local affiliate and fire department with experienced advice and personnel to address all the logistical needs. Further, the Division's PSOB Coordinator, at the request of the District Vice President and upon approval of the IAFF General President, assists locals and families with the federal PSOB claims (\$339,881.00 as of October 1, 2015).

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

Grant Activities



The Division is responsible for the development of grant and contract applications soliciting federal and private funds to carry-out specific health and safety projects. The Division has been successful in obtaining numerous grants and contracts from the federal government including those from the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Office of Domestic Preparedness.

Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative

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

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

Emergency Incident Rehabilitation Program

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

Rehabilitation remains an essential element on the incident scene to prevent more serious conditions -- such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke -- from occurring. Accordingly, the

IAFF, with the support of the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has initiated our Emergency Incident Rehabilitation Program that includes our Emergency Scene Rehabilitation Manual and curriculum materials to better educate all in the fire and emergency medical services. The entire program, including manuals, PowerPoint presentations, teaching materials and additional resources can be found at: <http://www.iaff.org/hs/EIRP/index.html>.

Voice Radio Communications Guide

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

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

Department of Wildland Firefighting Safety and Response

Common across the country, more and more of our members are facing the challenge of Wildland fires and Wildland Urban Interface fire or WUI. As these complex events occur, our members are faced with a variety of challenges. The IAFF has established a new Department of Wildland Firefighting Safety and Response to:

- Provide guidance and subject matter expertise to the IAFF and its affiliates on Wildland/WUI fire issues.
- To advance and provide technical support for IAFF legislative and administrative actions on Wildland/WUI issues that advance fire fighter health & safety and working conditions.
- To provide assistance to and analysis for IAFF-sponsored fire research.
- To provide the IAFF with subject matter expertise on the training needs for our locals to ensure the health and safety of our members.

IAFF Charitable Foundation



Burn Fund

From tragedy to recovery, the IAFF Burn Fund upholds the long-standing tradition of supporting IAFF members, their families, and their communities affected by burn trauma. We dedicate resources to help organize, facilitate, and support the IAFF members' efforts and participation in burn prevention, awareness, fire safety, burn care, research, and survivor support activities while improving the quality of life for burn survivors across North America.

Disaster Relief Fund

This IAFF Trust Fund was established in 1993 following Hurricane Andrew, and provides assistance to IAFF members in the United States and Canada who suffer financial hardship as the result of natural or man-made disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, fires or federally declared disaster areas. This fund provides immediate source of support to IAFF members and their families after catastrophic loss of their home that makes the dwelling unlivable and where the member is displaced from his or her home. It only provides funds for immediate housing, food, medical supplies and services, clothing or other similar disaster relief and not to be used for property repairs, renovation or construction. It is also not for replacement of food after loss of power nor is it to be awarded to members that were required to evacuate their homes prior or during the disaster. The impact of this fund was never felt more than following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005; Joplin, Missouri Tornado in 2011; Hurricane Irene in 2011; and recently Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy in 2012. Nearly \$3,000,000 was provided to fire fighters and their families impacted by these storms by the IAFF Disaster Relief Fund. During the 2012 hurricane season, the IAFF distributed over \$690,000 to IAFF members from the Fund. During 2013, the IAFF distributed over \$12,000 to Calgary, Alberta for floods; \$10,500 to Oklahoma for tornadoes; and \$8,500 to the other members due to fires and floods. IAFF continues to receive requests for assistance for fires and floods and other natural disasters.

Disaster Relief Operations

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

Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Fund



The IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial, created in 1976, which is located in the shadow of Pike's Peak in Colorado Springs, Colorado, honors the sacrifice made by IAFF professional fire fighters and paramedics who have given their lives in the line of duty. At the 29th Annual Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial service held on September 19, 2015, the names of those members that died in the line of duty since the creation of the IAFF on February 28, 1918 were added. The Memorial serves as a public reminder of the risks fire fighters take every day.

The Division is responsible for the oversight of all Memorial operations and maintenance activities as well as the annual Memorial Service, held annually in September.

John P. Redmond Foundation



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

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

To promote education, the Redmond Foundation has sponsored a symposium on the occupational health and hazards of the fire service every two years. Since 1971, these symposiums have provided a forum for detailed discussion on safety and health matters directly affecting firefighting personnel by bringing together fire fighters, medical

researchers, medical practitioners, safety experts, wellness-fitness experts, fire chiefs, city management representatives, political leaders, universities, industry representatives and federal government representatives from various agencies. Often times, those in attendance have initiated new research efforts or cause programs to be implemented to reduce the hazards associated with fire fighting. In addition, these symposiums have provided a valuable forum for fire fighters from across the United States and Canada, as well as international representatives, to learn and understand the occupational hazards of their profession as well as ways to minimize these dangers. In this way, the Redmond Foundation has developed a record of achievement by keeping in the forefront of the health and safety issues affecting fire fighters. In 2011, the IAFF combined the John P. Redmond Symposium and Dominick F. Barbera EMS Conference into a single event. The Dominick F. Barbera EMS Conference explores all aspects of fire-based emergency medical services, including the health and safety hazards that impact our emergency medical responders.

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*.



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