

**Revised Resolution No. 26**

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety**

**Re: Wildland/WUI**

1           WHEREAS, the delegates of the 2016 convention  
2 voted unanimously to adopt the Wildland/WUI  
3 resolution (NO. 50) presented by the Austin Fire  
4 Fighters Association, IAFF Local 975; and

5           WHEREAS, adopted 2016 resolution No. 50  
6 directed \$.015 per cap to provide funding to allow for  
7 the Executive staff to work on issues listed within the  
8 resolves; and

9           WHEREAS, while the 2016 resolution has made a  
10 positive impact for IAFF fire fighters, the need for  
11 the IAFF to be even more involved in WUI and  
12 wildfire issues has continued to increase; and

13           WHEREAS, the 2016 resolution was a great start  
14 toward addressing Wildfire/WUI issues, but to have a  
15 true impact on the training, equipment, and life-  
16 safety issues across North America, additional  
17 funding, participation, and IAFF presence is  
18 essential.; and

19           WHEREAS, since the 2016 convention, federal  
20 funding of billions of dollars has been allocated for  
21 protecting structures during Wildland Urban  
22 Interface (WUI) fires. Almost all of this funding has  
23 been directed to federal wildland, non-structural fire  
24 fighters. We know that the vast majority of fire  
25 fighters tasked with actually protecting structures  
26 during WUI fires are frontline IAFF fire fighters. We

27 need to ensure this funding is channeled  
28 appropriately; and

29 WHEREAS, the IAFF needs funding to make a  
30 true presence at as many national, state/provincial,  
31 and local government level Wildland Urban Interface  
32 meetings and conferences as possible. We need to  
33 ensure that we have a voice in every aspect of  
34 operational safety affecting IAFF fire fighters during  
35 Wildland Urban Interface fires; and

36 WHEREAS, the number of homes being built in  
37 the wildland and WUI environments continue to  
38 increase at a staggering rate across North America. In  
39 some areas, up to 40% of new homes are being built  
40 in areas in which a wildfire will expose both homes  
41 and IAFF fire fighters to wildland and WUI fires;  
42 and

43 WHEREAS, IAFF fire fighters are ever  
44 increasingly being tasked to respond to wildfires,  
45 Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fires, and wildfire  
46 initiated conflagrations across the United States and  
47 Canada. Research continues on the effectiveness of  
48 current response policies and training of structural  
49 fire fighters operating in this environment. The IAFF  
50 needs to continue efforts in the standardization of  
51 training and response best practices and  
52 implementation to ensure safe and competent  
53 operating practices; and

54 WHEREAS, some IAFF led research has been  
55 done on the exposure of wildfire, WUI, and  
56 wildfire-initiated conflagrations on fire fighters.  
57 Exposures from smoke, heat stress, psychological

58 impacts as well as carcinogens from multiple  
59 exposure routes need continued research. Wildland  
60 fire fighters are not equipped with SCBAs to prevent  
61 smoke exposures in the WUI environment; and

62 WHEREAS, since 1985, the number of large  
63 wildfires in North America have increased by much  
64 more than fourfold relative to the previous 15 years.  
65 Multiple environmental factors have created a  
66 situation in which fires are becoming more intense  
67 and frequent, with records set almost annually over  
68 the past 10 years. Traditional wildfire “seasons” are  
69 no longer the norm, we now see wildfires throughout  
70 the year in many parts of North America; and

71 WHEREAS, wildfires in North America today are  
72 more likely to involve structures with the continued  
73 development into the wildland environment. IAFF  
74 fire fighters traditionally operating as strictly  
75 structural fire fighters are now being tasked with  
76 protecting these homes and their occupants during  
77 wildfires; and

78 WHEREAS, in many parts of North America,  
79 80% of wildfires are within 2 miles of communities  
80 that IAFF fire fighters protect; and

81 WHEREAS, the National Wildfire Coordination  
82 Group (NWCG) wildland firefighting training  
83 programs, including the crosswalk or gap classes, do  
84 not adequately relate to the structural firefighting  
85 rank system, nor do these programs address the  
86 inherent capabilities of IAFF structural fire fighters  
87 already possessed for WUI fires. The NWCG  
88 programs do not address urban conflagration fires

89 which are becoming more and more prevalent with  
90 climate change; and

91 WHEREAS, the IAFF is fully committed to  
92 ensuring the safety and proper training of its  
93 members as a priority; therefore, be it

94 RESOLVED, That the IAFF will continue to  
95 include the mission of Wildfire/ Urban Interface Fire  
96 (WUI) as integral to the IAFF collective firefighting  
97 mission and consistent with the IAFF direction  
98 of the all-hazard structural concept; and be it further

99 RESOLVED, That to better assist with the  
100 growing wildfire/urban interface fire problem across  
101 the United States and Canada, the IAFF will lobby  
102 appropriate agencies to implement reimbursement  
103 processes which would allow properly trained  
104 all-hazard structural fire fighters to respond, upon  
105 request, to major Wildfire/ Urban Interface Fire WUI  
106 events and have their respective jurisdiction  
107 reimbursed for the cost; and be it further

108 RESOLVED, That the IAFF will continue to  
109 develop and implement the IAFF internationally  
110 recognized “Responding to the Interface” firefighting  
111 training program which will identify critical wildland  
112 firefighting skills that structural fire fighters need to  
113 be safe and effective in two situations: when making  
114 an initial attack on a WUI/wildland fire in their  
115 jurisdiction, and when working with state/provincial  
116 and federal wildland fire fighter agencies; and be it  
117 further

118 RESOLVED, That the IAFF continue to lobby the  
119 National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) and

120 any other authority needed to ensure that the IAFF  
121 “Responding to the Interface” firefighting training  
122 program is recognized as equaling the NWCG s215  
123 standards; and be it further

124 RESOLVED, That the IAFF continue to use grant  
125 funding, when possible, for the development and  
126 implementation for the “Responding to the  
127 Interface”; and be it further

128 RESOLVED, That upon approval of the General  
129 President the IAFF have a presence at national,  
130 state/provincial, and local government level  
131 Wildland Urban Interface meetings and  
132 Conferences to ensure that we have a voice in  
133 every aspect of operational safety affecting IAFF  
134 fire fighters during Wildland Urban Interface  
135 fires; and be it further

136 RESOLVED, That the per capita be increased  
137 from one and a half cents to five and a half cents,  
138 (four cents increase) and will be allocated for the  
139 administration, lobbying efforts, and WUI issues  
140 listed in the Resolves above. Funding to begin  
141 allocation on October 1, 2024.

Submitted by: Local 975, Austin, TX  
Local 913, Kamloops, BC  
Local 440, Ft Worth, TX  
Local 3082, Round Rock, TX  
Local 341, Houston, TX  
Local 1762, King County, WA  
Local 5050, Scottsdale, AZ  
Local 5, Colorado Springs, CO

Local 660, Charlotte, NC  
Local 2881, CAL FIRE, CA

A0005, California Professional Firefighters

Endorsed by the IAFF Wildfire/Urban-Interface Fire Taskforce

Cost Estimate: **4 cents (\$0.04)**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **Annual**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Revised**

**CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted as Revised and**

**Amended**