



IAFF POSITION STATEMENT

WILDFIRE/URBAN-INTERFACE FIRE PROGRAMS

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) established this position paper to outline IAFF efforts in all matters related to wildfire and wildland urban interface (WUI) operations. This paper reflects the growing scale, complexity, and toxicity of wildfire and WUI incidents and the critical role IAFF members play during an all-risk/all-hazard WUI fire response.

2. OBJECTIVES

The IAFF is pursuing a unified national strategy to modernize wildfire and WUI governance, strengthen operational training and safety, and secure formal IAFF representation in all national decision-making bodies.

2.1 NATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION

The IAFF is working to:

- Secure formal representation and voting membership on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group Executive Board and appropriate committees.
- Secure voting membership of the Wildland Fire Leadership Council Executive Board, as it is currently named, and all relevant policy and guidance committees.
- Engage/collaborate directly with the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) to shape staffing models, mission-driven culture doctrine, training, research, and workforce modernization.
- Expand IAFF collaboration with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure municipal fire fighters receive appropriate training, competencies, and operational support.

2.2 FEDERAL POLICY MODERNIZATION

The IAFF is advocating for:

- Modernization of Emergency Support Function #4, including evaluation of its placement within the U.S. Forest Service and potential transition to USWFS or USFA.
- The creation of a National Fire Resource Mobilization Agreement covering the first 72 hours of incident response, including:
 - Reciprocity for licensure, workers' compensation, and tort liability
 - Pre-authorized reimbursement to mutual and automatic aid responders
 - Tribal inclusion
 - Strategic prepositioning
 - The development of an open-architecture National Fire Resource Deployment Management System for real-time tracking and interoperability

2.3 REIMBURSEMENT REFORM

The IAFF is advocating for a 30-day maximum reimbursement timeline, as emphasized in the executive summary: "Reimbursement reform – specifically a 30-day maximum reimbursement timeline – is essential."

3. OPERATIONAL SAFETY AND WORKFORCE PROTECTION

The IAFF prioritizes the health, safety, and well-being of all fire fighters engaged in wildfire and WUI operations by advancing:

- Modern wildfire/WUI personal protection equipment (PPE) and respiratory protection solutions
- A national wildfire/WUI training and certification framework
- Adequate staffing models for wildfire/WUI engines, structure protection groups,



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and prolonged strike team/taskforce, and overhead deployments

- Work/rest standards and mental health support
- Contamination control practices in the field, incident base, and home or cover facilities.

These priorities reflect the IAFF's findings that "PPE, respiratory protection, staffing, training, and contamination control for wildfire/WUI operations lag far behind the hazards fire fighters now face."

4. IMPACT

These efforts position the IAFF as the national leader in wildfire and WUI operations, governance, and fire fighter safety. It ensures that IAFF members are protected, represented, and equipped to meet the evolving challenges of the modern fire environment.