

# SPEAKING OF FIRE

FIRE PROTECTION PUBLICATIONS • OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

A quarterly newsletter of Fire Protection Publications (Headquarters for IFSTA)

Fall 2004 Vol. 4 Number 3

## IFSTA Update

### Fire Hose Practices

By Tom Ruane

It might be said that fire hose is as essential to fire fighting as water itself. Without fire hose, fire suppression would be limited to fire breaks, air-drops, or bucket brigades. Emergency operations requiring water would, by necessity, be limited to those locations immediately adjacent to a water source and limited to the reach of permanently mounted water stream devices. Considering that fire hose can most simply be described as a cylindrical tube, fashioned from impermeable materials, that channels water from one point (a source) to another (the incident scene), it is often taken for granted.

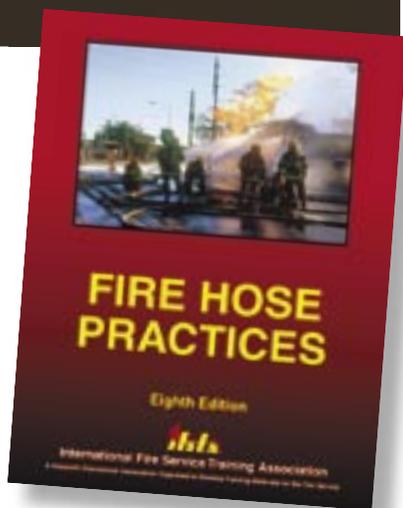
The evolution of fire hose has been dramatic. Beginning with the construction of a riveted leather version over two hundred years ago, fire hose has reflected the technology of the day. From its humble low-tech beginnings, each generation of fire hose has incorporated new methods of construction as well as the use of stronger, lighter, and more resilient materials. These improvements enhanced the versatility and durability of fire hose by allowing larger volumes of water to be delivered to the incident scene, often over great distances and under increased operating pressures. As a result, fire suppression tactics and community fire protection strategies have been developed to take advantage of these advanced fire hose performance qualities.

The **Fire Hose Practices** manual has been an integral part of the IFSTA library for more than 70 years. Continuing this tradition, while mindful of the continuous changes of fire hose standards, specifications, and applications, the eighth edition of this manual is being offered as an updated addition to your fire-training library. Consistent with IFSTA procedures, this manual has been validated by a committee of fire service personnel who are experts in the construction and use of fire service hose.

The following target audiences will find the new **Fire Hose Practices** to be of great value:

- Firefighters desiring to expand their knowledge of fire hose evolutions
- Training officers developing instructional training outlines for recruits and veterans

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## From the Director

### International Fire Service Training Association

If you are like me, when I considered the name “IFSTA” during my fire service career, the key words that came to mind were “Fire Service” and “Training.” After all, those terms represented both my profession and passion — and they still do today. Later over the years — after I had the opportunity to serve on IFSTA working committees and eventually on the Executive Board — I grew to truly appreciate and respect the “Association” part of IFSTA and the real strength that the thousands of delegates and participants have brought to our service for over 70 years. However, what I rarely contemplated, and never really fully appreciated, was the “International” piece of IFSTA. But over the past few years, this has dramatically changed. First of all, I have grown to appreciate the invaluable role that the Canadian fire service has played in IFSTA over the years. Delegates from Canada have and continue to serve on a myriad of working and executive-level committees. Their leadership, expertise, and work ethic are exceptional, and they are a tribute to their nation’s service. But still, the legitimacy of our “international” claim was questionable since our reach beyond North America was limited at best. But this is rapidly changing, and more recently, we have truly grown to appreciate and take advantage of what the fire service around the world has to offer us.

It was only a few years ago that I remember Ronnie Coleman touting the professional excellence of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE), an international and truly “professional” organization that incorporates qualifications and continuing professional development obligations for membership (quite honestly something that we in the U.S. should consider more often). Few in our country knew of the IFE, much less appreciated what it had to offer. Then in 1996, some forward thinking leaders in both the U.K. and U.S. established the U.S. Branch of the IFE. This year for the first time a member from the U.S., Chief Bill Peterson of Plano, will serve as the IFE International President. The U.S. Branch continues to grow and play a major role in the future of IFE International, a tribute to so many including Chief Peterson (please see his article on page 8). When you look at the mission and values, not to mention the “International” focus of both IFE and IFSTA, you can appreciate the opportunities and strength that both could bring to the fire service if we could pool our resources and expertise.

And so we did.

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From left: Tim Sendelbach, ISFSI President; Gary Macevoy of Total Fire; Mike Wieder, ISFSI Fire Instructor of the Year recipient; and Shane Ray, Vice-President of ISFSI.

## ISFSI Fire Instructor of the Year Award Presented to Mike Wieder

FPP Assistant Director and Managing Editor Mike Wieder was awarded the George D. Post National Fire Instructor of the Year Award by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) at the opening ceremonies of Firehouse Expo on July 15, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland. ISFSI President Tim Sendelbach and Vice President Shane Ray presented the award. The Post award is given annually to recognize excellence in the delivery or development of fire training programs.

Mike began his fire service career in his native Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, and also served three years with the Stillwater OK Fire Department. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in fire protection, occupational safety and health, and adult education. He began his employment at Fire Protection Publications as a student employee in December 1984. During his near 20-year career at FPP he has researched and written approximately 30 textbooks and more than 100 technical articles. He serves on or chairs numerous national fire service committees and has been named chairman of the national committee that will develop professional standards for first responders working within the National Incident Management System adopted by the Department of Homeland Security. He is also a widely known speaker at fire service conferences and seminars. He and his wife Lori are the proud parents of Luke, 3, and Emily, 1.

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### From the Director

In July, in conjunction with the IFE Annual General Meeting and Conference in Dublin, Ireland, an IFSTA working committee met and began revalidating the current IFSTA **Technical Rescue for Structural Collapse** manual to meet an international need and perspective. Committee members included members from the U.K., Poland, Bulgaria, Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and the U.S. The committee is scheduled to complete its work this fall, and next year the manual will be made available for the fire service internationally. Concurrently, we are beginning a new manual (which we also have on a fast track for completion and delivery) focusing on the "new dimensions" of terrorism to include experts from Israel, the U.K. including Northern Ireland, South Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Pacific Rim. And, this is just an example of the benefits that IFE brings to the relationship. We will continue to rely on its worldwide expertise in the fire service to provide direction and leadership in various areas including needs analysis, effective training delivery methods and mechanisms, resource sharing, and leadership.

But our relationship and activities with IFE are only the beginning of our international directives, including:

- Translations of **Essentials** into French, Hebrew, Japanese, and Korean and **Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting and Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator Handbook** into Turkish, Spanish, Italian, and German. We continue to review requests for further translations of other products for various other languages.
- Development of a new journal, the *International Fire Service Journal of Leadership and Management* (also known as the "Red Journal"), in cooperation with The (U.K.) Fire Service College Journal, *Fire Safety, Technology, and Management*. Both journals will share articles of interest to the fire services on both continents and indeed worldwide.
- The first annual Research Symposium, in conjunction with the Red Journal, was held this summer prior to the annual IFSTA Validation Conference. The theme "Bridging the Research Gap" was the focus of the symposium. A series of panels looked at "What We Know and What We Need To Know About Fire Service Leadership and Management" from the perspectives of practitioners, academicians, and students. The findings of the event will set the direction for themes and topics in the new journal. In the future, this event will be held in close cooperation with the annual Research Event held at the Fire Service College. It is the goal of the event and the Research Initiative in general to develop, share, and further incorporate research findings into training materials and methods across the world.
- A joint project development (to include training materials) with the Israel National Fire School and Fire Commission. The Israeli fire service brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to unique challenges that we are only now beginning to recognize.

It indeed has become a small world, one in which we can instantly communicate with thousands at the touch of a button, immediately sharing information and knowledge in a time and way that we could only dream of a decade ago. This also allows us for the first time to similarly share technical expertise and cooperate in product development on a level and timeframe that gets the products you need, when you need them, and in the format you want. These initiatives that we are both planning and undertaking on an international level are all designed to take advantage of the varied expertise and experience of the various fire service organizations around the world and to share those with you in a timely and effective manner. What this means for you is that OSU and IFSTA continue to provide you with the latest, most comprehensive, technically accurate, and safe training materials. Our mission is to ensure that you are prepared to provide only the best for those you serve, and just as important, that you safely return home each day. These initiatives at the international level are but the beginning to further ensure you that support. Be safe!

Chris Neal, Director  
*Chris Neal*

## Fire Hose Practices

- Company officers desiring to improve their company's performance during the use/maintenance of fire hose, nozzles, and appliances
- Operations officers developing new community fire suppression strategies
- Supply officers who need to understand the numerous types of hoses, couplings, nozzles, and appliances that are available for purchase
- Maintenance officers who must implement proper cleaning and maintenance procedures for fire hose and appliances
- Those who are interested in staying abreast of current fire hose and hose appliance innovations and technologies

This new edition of **Fire Hose Practices** addresses the requirements of several National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards including:

NFPA 1961, *Standard on Fire Hose*, 2002 edition

NFPA 1962, *Standard for the Inspection, Care and Use of Fire Hose, Couplings and Nozzles; and the Service Testing of Fire Hose*, 2003 edition

NFPA 1963, *Standard for Fire Hose Connections*, 2003 edition

NFPA 1964, *Standard for Spray Nozzles*, 2003 edition

NFPA 1901, *Standard for Automatic Fire Apparatus*, 2003 edition

The manual also addresses the job performance requirement (JPR) for fire hose use and maintenance as required by NFPA 1001, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, 2002 edition.

Additionally, information contained in this manual explains the referenced hose standard requirements contained in other NFPA standards regarding fire hose construction and its applications. The manual can also be used as a reference to assist the fire protection engineer in determining the proper fire hose and appropriate appliances that should be selected for a particular fire protection plan.

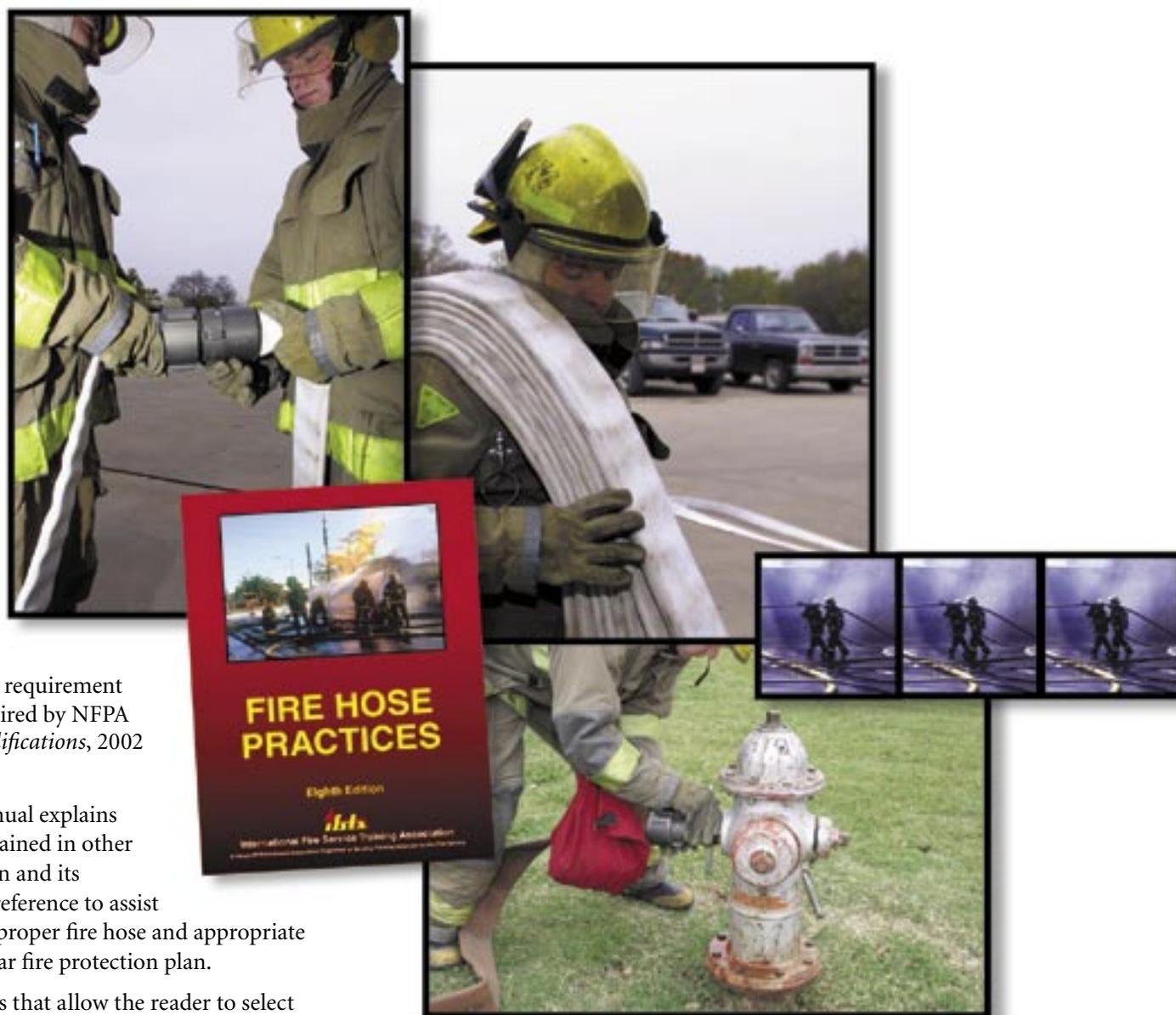
**Fire Hose Practices** is divided into chapters that allow the reader to select portions of the manual that are of particular interest without having to search the entire text. These areas are designed to lead the reader in an easy-to-follow progression from hose and coupling construction through hose loads and line advances. Major topic classifications include:

- Fire Hose and Couplings
- Fire Hose Care, Maintenance, and Service Testing
- Fire Hose Nozzles
- Fire Hose Appliances and Hose Tools
- Basic Methods of Handling Fire Hose
- Supply Hose Loads and Deployment Procedures
- Attack and Preconnected Hose Loads, Finishes, Hose Packs, and Deployment Procedures

In conclusion, **Fire Hose Practices**, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, is presented as a comprehensive resource guide for fire hose, nozzles, couplings, and hose appliances. The manual expands the basic hose, nozzle, and coupling information covered in **Essentials of Fire Fighting** by providing greater detail and additional procedures that will enhance a fire department's operational efficiency. Manufacturer hose/coupling performance and fabrication methods as well as the types of materials used during production processes are discussed. Additionally, the design and function of fire service nozzles are described in a manner that clearly portrays

how each nozzle functions, allowing the selection of the most appropriate type for a particular task. Hose loads, deployment, and handling techniques are also clearly illustrated in step-by-step skill sheets. The skill sheets cover all "hands-on" subject areas including hose evolutions, maintenance, hose loads, hose carries, supply hoseline deployments, and attack hoseline advances.

*Tom Ruane is a Senior Technical Editor at Fire Protection Publications.*



## 2005 Calendar Photo Contest Winners



FPP wishes to thank all who took the time to send in their photos. This year a record number of participants submitted photos for the photo contest—which made it all the more difficult to make the final selection. FPP congratulates the following winners of the 2005 Calendar Photo Contest:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dawn Beisner, Ames, IA         | Bonnie Hudlet, Hayden, ID          |
| Bill Tompkins, Bergenfield, NJ | Doug Ramsay, Snohomish, WA         |
| Rick Montemorra, Mesa, AZ      | Kenneth Krulish, St. Augustine, FL |
| Chris Mickal, New Orleans, LA  | Diana Lantz, Roseville, OH         |
| Jay Brown, Bloomington, IN     | Scott LaPrade, Leominster, MA      |
| Wayne Tomblinson, Keene, TX    | Trina Blanks, Lead, SD             |

# Reducing Firefighter Fatalities – We Know What Needs to Be Done

By Ron Siarnicki

Every day, firefighters put their lives on the line to make our communities safer. It is hazardous, difficult work that attracts a special breed of men and women willing to risk their lives to protect others. Each year more than 100 firefighters across the nation pay the ultimate price, and reducing that number is a major goal of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).



The NFFF has launched a national initiative to examine every facet of their dangerous trade—from the culture that inspires firefighters to heroic action to the preparation they receive before putting themselves in harm’s way.

The NFFF was created by Congress in 1992 to lead a nationwide effort to honor America’s firefighters who die in the line of duty. Its mission is to remember these fallen heroes and to assist their survivors in rebuilding their lives.

“The best way to honor these brave men and women is to do everything we can to see that fewer firefighters die in the line of duty,” said Chief Ron Siarnicki, Executive Director of the Foundation. “Each time we hear of a firefighter’s death, we know that another family has suffered a loss that will change their lives forever.”

Siarnicki is the former Chief of the Prince George’s County, Maryland Fire Department. He received the American Burn Association’s Moncrief Award for his management of the 2002 national tribute to America’s fallen fire heroes in the wake of September 11 and the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

“The loss of every firefighter is a national tragedy,” said Hal Bruno, Chairman of the NFFF and Siarnicki’s close partner in seeking ways to reduce firefighter deaths. Bruno has led parallel lives for the past half century, as a journalist and a volunteer firefighter. He retired from ABC-TV News in 1999 but continues active in Washington, DC-area fire services.

Early this summer, he and Siarnicki were going through the painful process of studying profiles and circumstances of death of 107 firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2004. “We didn’t find many new lessons but we found plenty of old lessons that had been ignored,” said Bruno.

Siarnicki added: “You keep thinking that maybe some of these losses were preventable, perhaps had we done this, or done that, if this safety reminder had gone out, perhaps a life would have been saved. Not all firefighter deaths occur in burning buildings...”

He paused and gave another agonized look at the list of 2003 casualties. “Here’s one who died when an airbag exploded. Another who contracted hepatitis C from a needle puncture at a medical emergency. We had 17 firefighters who died in motor vehicle accidents en route to a fire scene.”

“We’ve learned over the years that better equipment and better training can reduce the risk and result in fewer fire casualties,” said Siarnicki. “But we were convinced there is more we could do if we brought together the best, most experienced people in the industry to work on it.”

Last March, the coordinated national effort Siarnicki envisioned became a reality as the NFFF assembled more than 200 fire and emergency service representatives from more than 100 organizations and departments for the first of its kind Firefighter Life Safety Summit. Meeting in Tampa, Florida, these fire experts produced a preliminary report with recommendations for drastically reducing firefighter fatalities and injuries.

The Summit was convened to support the United States Fire Administration’s goal to reduce firefighter fatalities by 25 percent within five years and by 50 percent within ten years.

“Take a moment to think about that goal,” said R. David Paulison, U.S. Fire Administrator. “It means dozens, ultimately hundreds of men and women will go home safe after their shift. It means they will see their children grow up and their families will have a parent, a sister, an uncle, a son sitting around the Thanksgiving dinner table each year rather than lying in a final resting place. Working with NFFF and the fire leadership of this nation, we can stop needless losses of firefighters. In almost every case, we know what needs to be done.”



LODD Prevention Summit attendees participate in one of six break-out sessions to develop specific initiatives that will reduce the number of firefighter deaths and injuries in the United States and Canada.

Sixteen initiatives came out of the Summit, based on information and fundamental truths. They include the need for *cultural change* related to safety, leadership, management, and personal responsibility; *national standards* for training, qualifications, certification, and emergency response policies and procedures; greater attention to *risk management*; national *medical and fitness standards*; maximum use of available technology to produce higher levels of health and safety; and an emphasis on *safety* in the design of *apparatus and equipment*.

In April, a follow-up meeting was held in Arizona to review the Summit report and to put words into action.

“The Summit was the first step in our mission to significantly reduce firefighter fatalities,” said Chief Siarnicki. “The American Fire Service is now united under a common goal, and with that determination, energy and focus we will make progress – one firefighter’s life at a time.”

U.S. Fire Administrator Paulison will be the featured speaker at the 2004 Memorial Weekend, Oct. 2-3, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, site of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, when the nation honors the 107 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2003. The service brings together the victim’s families; fire and emergency services leaders; and federal, state, and local government officials.

In addition to sponsoring the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, the Foundation fulfills its Congressional mandate with numerous programs, such as providing peer-support networks for survivors and senior fire officers, awarding scholarships to spouses and children for education and job training, and serving as a clearinghouse of resources to help families and fire departments after a line-of-duty death.

When Congress created the Foundation, it did not provide any direct funding or financial assistance. NFFF is dependent on grants and donations from corporations, small businesses, and concerned individuals to continue providing its valuable programs and services.

“Contributions of any size are always welcome and will enable the Foundation to continue honoring the brave firefighters who die in the line of duty and caring for the families they leave behind,” said Chief Siarnicki.

*Fire Chief Ronald Jon Siarnicki began his career as a firefighter with the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department in 1978 and with 24 years of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services operational experience, he has progressed through the ranks to Chief of the Department. In this position he served as the Chief Executive Officer responsible for the fire, rescue and emergency medical services of Prince George’s County, Maryland. In July of 2001, Chief Siarnicki retired from the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department to take the position of Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in July of 2001. He is a graduate of the master’s program, School of Management and Technology, at the University of Maryland, University College, College Park, Maryland, and has a bachelor of science degree in fire science management from UMUC. He is a certified Fire Officer IV, Fire Fighter Level III, and State Emergency Medical Technician. He has served as a UMUC faculty member for the Fire Science Curriculum since 1997.*

# A Good Partner... And an Important Piece of the Puzzle

By Dennis Compton

The fire service has embraced automatic fire sprinklers as a key element in protecting the built environment from the ravages of fire. Installations have significantly increased in industrial occupancies, high-rise buildings, multiunit housing, medical facilities, nursing homes, places of assembly, and other commercial and high-hazard occupancies. Some communities are adopting ordinances requiring automatic fire sprinklers in all new construction...except single-family dwellings. This is interesting



Photo by Rick Montemorra.

because 80 percent of the people who die from fire each year in the United States die in homes...unsprinklered homes. I doubt that many would argue the importance of installing automatic fire sprinklers in the many types of occupancies I mentioned previously, but we also need to advocate for fire sprinklers in new homes. From this challenge emerges the mission of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC).

The HFSC is not a stranger to many of you. It was formed in 1996 to inform consumers about the value of installing home fire sprinkler systems. It focuses on raising awareness and bringing together the builder community, the fire sprinkler community, and the fire service to increase the number of fire sprinkler installations in homes.

The HFSC's founding partners were the American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA), the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The Coalition has expanded to include other steering committee members, associate members, and affiliate members. Together, the total HFSC membership includes more than 25 organizations. The Coalition has developed a comprehensive public education kit with materials targeted to consumers, fire and life safety educators, and homebuilders. More information on how to become a member of the Coalition, as well as descriptions of the materials and information available from the HFSC, can be obtained by visiting its website at [www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)

The mission of the HFSC is to provide accurate information to the public about the lifesaving value of residential fire sprinkler protection, particularly in new construction of one- and two-family dwellings. It provides details about residential home fire sprinkler systems, how they work, why they provide affordable protection, and specific answers to common myths and misconceptions about sprinkler operations.

A significant factor in the success of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition is its commitment to strategic planning. Past generations of its plan have achieved important benchmarks, and the current 2003-2005 plan identifies the following five additional goals:

1. Broaden the base of support, both in terms of stable funding and key participation, to enhance the influence of HFSC.
2. Develop and implement a campaign to build alliances with individual builders and their membership associates.
3. Increase the level of consumer awareness of the availability and effectiveness of home fire sprinklers through the use of national media and other sources.
4. Enhance the advocacy of the fire service and strengthen consistent fire service support for home fire sprinklers.
5. Participate in (or support) initiatives to overcome obstacles to home fire sprinkler installations.

The HFSC is committed to significantly increasing home fire sprinkler system installations. The question is, "Are we committed as a fire service?" I think we have a ways to go regarding that. There are several things that we could do:

1. Learn more about the HFSC.
2. Tell others in the fire service about it.
3. If you are a publisher or write articles for fire service periodicals, reference the HFSC in your work or periodicals.
4. If you are a speaker at fire service seminars and conferences, mention the HFSC in your presentations and direct attendees to its web site.
5. Join the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition as a member of the steering committee or as an associate or affiliate member.
6. Be an advocate for home fire sprinklers in every way that you can.

7. Install an automatic fire sprinkler system in your own home so that you can lead this effort "by example."

It's time to get on the home fire sprinkler bandwagon if you haven't done so. The United States Fire Administration has identified this issue as a priority for future years. At the recent National Firefighter Fatality Summit held in Tampa, Florida, the participants



identified increased installations of automatic fire sprinklers as one of the key initiatives to reduce firefighter line-of-duty deaths. By increasing our emphasis on combining working smoke alarms with home fire sprinkler systems, we can significantly improve fire and life safety in the nation over the long haul. We can someday protect people and property more effectively, and we can do so with fewer injuries and fatalities to firefighters. Let's all do our part...thank you for your commitment to this issue.

*Chief Dennis Compton is a well-known speaker and the author of several books including the When In Doubt, Lead! series, Mental Aspects of Performance For Firefighters and Fire Officers, as well as many articles and publications. He is also the co-editor of the current edition of the ICMA's textbook titled, Managing Fire and Rescue Services. He serves as a national advocate and executive advisor for fire service and emergency management issues and organizations.*

*Dennis served as the Fire Chief in Mesa, Arizona for five years and as Assistant Fire Chief in the Phoenix, Arizona Fire Department, where he served for twenty-seven years. Chief Compton is the Past Chair of the Executive Board of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), Past Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Institute's National Advisory Committee, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Home Safety Council (HSC).*

## USFA, USDOT, and IFSTA Ink a Cooperative Agreement on Traffic Incident Management Research



Firefighters from Snohomish and Lake Stevens work together to extricate a victim of a head-on collision on US Highway 2 near Snohomish, WA. Photo by Doug Ramsay, Snohomish, WA.

Each year, approximately 25 percent of firefighters who are killed in the line of duty lose their lives in traffic-related incidents. These deaths result from both being involved in fire apparatus collisions or being struck by another vehicle while working at an incident scene. These incidents account for the second leading cause of firefighter fatalities in the United States.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) have both recently committed to developing a series of initiatives that aim to reduce firefighter deaths by 25 percent within 5 years and 50 percent within 10 years. The reduction of vehicle-related deaths is seen as one of the major target areas within these initiatives.

In support of these initiatives, the USFA, in conjunction with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), has entered into a cooperative agreement with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Fire Protection Publications (FPP) to perform research and develop effective technical guidance for fire and emergency responders in Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS). This project is a follow-on project to two previously released reports by the USFA: Safe Operation of Fire Tankers and the Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative.

The purpose of this new project will be to enhance the responder's ability to operate roadway emergency scenes in compliance with the USDOT's *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD). The MUTCD provides details on setting up temporary work zones at incidents such as fires and collisions on the roadway. This includes items such as the use and placement of proper signage and traffic control devices and training for flaggers.

Another goal for this project is to familiarize responders with the IMS Model *Procedures Guide for Highway Incidents* produced by the National Fire Service Incident Management Consortium. The Consortium developed this model procedures guide at the request of, and with funding provided by, the USDOT. This model procedures guide provides detailed instruction on setting up an effective incident management system for roadway incidents. It includes information on involving all of the agencies, such as police, EMS, highway department, and towing services, that will need to function at these scenes.

The information gathered during the research conducted for this project will be compiled into a report that will be released by the USFA sometime in 2005. Prior to the final publishing of this report, other national fire service and manufacturer's trade organizations will have the opportunity to review the information to ensure it meets the needs of their members. It is hoped that the information in this report will be embraced and implemented by fire departments and other emergency response organizations across the U.S. It is also anticipated that information developed by this research and report could be forwarded to national consensus standards organizations, such as the National Fire Protection Association, for consideration and adoption into pertinent standards.

IFSTA/FPP is extremely pleased to be partnering with the USFA and USDOT on this important project. It is hoped that the collaboration of these three organizations, with input from other national fire service and manufacturer's trade organizations, will lead to a noticeable improvement in the safety of our personnel when working on roadway incidents.

## Home Safety Council Awarded Fire Act Grant to Launch National Fire Safety Literacy Program

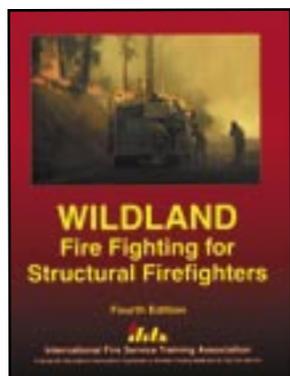
Campaign will help low-literate adults overcome a barrier to learning basic fire safety skills.

WASHINGTON, July 1 — The Home Safety Council, a national nonprofit organization, has received a federal grant of \$629,902 to carry out an unprecedented home fire safety campaign designed to reach adults with low literacy skills. The campaign will utilize easy-to-read fire safety materials and will include the guided installation of free smoke alarms in the homes of participants.

Some 90 million adults in the U.S. have low reading ability, a serious barrier to learning necessary home fire safety skills and to understanding and applying key fire protection measures in the home, such as installing and maintaining adequate smoke alarm protection.

The Home Safety Council Fire Safety Literacy Program is funded through a 2003 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA). The program partnership includes HSC, ProLiteracy Worldwide, and Oklahoma State University's Fire Protection Publications (FPP) and will be carried out locally with the cooperation and participation of the nation's fire departments.

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## International Award Presented for IFSTA Manual

Fire Protection Publications is proud to announce that the Society for Technical Communication in its annual International Technical Publications Competition has awarded its 2004 Award of Excellence (2nd place) to the recently released IFSTA **Wildland Fire Fighting for Structural Firefighters** (4th edition) manual. This manual made it into the international competition after winning the Distinguished Award (1st place) and Best of Show in the regional competition. This award validates FPP's reputation for producing high-quality publications that are comparable to those in any field.

We congratulate FPP Senior Editors Carl Goodson (Project Manager/Writer) and Cindy Brakhage (Project Editor), the IFSTA committee of fire service professionals who validated the text, and all of the editorial and graphics staff who worked hard to produce this outstanding publication. Also thanks to Senior Editor Barbara Adams for coordinating the entries into the publications competition.

The Society for Technical Communication is dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication. It is the largest organization of its type in the world. Its 25,000 members include technical writers and editors, content developers, documentation specialists, technical illustrators, and instructional designers, among others.

## FEMA Funds OSU Public Fire Safety Initiatives

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has funded Oklahoma State University's development of two new public fire safety programs for the most at-risk segments of the population. The \$699,600 grant will support two initiatives created by OSU Fire Protection Publications: Fire Safety Solutions for People with Disabilities and Fire Safety Curriculums for Young Children three- to five-years old.

"One program targets people who are blind or have low vision, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, people with mobility impairments, and people with mental retardation or other cognitive disabilities," said Nancy J. Trench, Assistant Director of Fire Protection Publications who developed the grant proposal. "For the other, we will develop the most appropriate and specific curriculums for children ages three-, four- and five-years old based on lengthy evaluations of early childhood education methods and practices."

According to Trench, one or more disabilities can significantly limit an individual's ability to take lifesaving action in the event of a fire, and the elderly account for much of the population deemed high risk. In the 2000 U.S. census, 60 percent of people over the age of 65 reported having at least one disability. In addition to home exit knowledge and skills education, Fire Safety Solutions will include the dissemination of specially designed smoke alarms.

The project will involve faculty from OSU's School of Fire Protection and Safety Technology and ABLE Tech, an OSU Seretean Wellness Center program that provides statewide assistive technologies information and services to disabled Oklahomans throughout their lifetimes.

"Traditional smoke alarms are of little use to individuals with severely impaired hearing, and alarms that use strobe lights that can awaken them from sleep tend to be expensive," Trench said. "That's just one example of why we're developing a smoke alarm distribution and installation program."

"With assistance from ABLE Tech and OSU fire protection faculty, we hope to provide Oklahoma's disabled with alarms that functionally meet their specific needs as well as the skills education to escape a fire," she said.

Fire Safety Curriculums for Young Children will identify the instructional roles of early childhood educators, parents, and firefighters in teaching fire safety to young children. The Center for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning, a part of the Human Development and Family Science Department in OSU's College of Human Environmental Sciences, will partner in the endeavor.

"Teaching fire safety skills to preschool children is especially challenging due to their very nature and capabilities, but they are especially at risk for fire deaths and burn injuries," Trench said. "The rate of deaths from home fires for preschool children is more than double the rate for all other age groups combined."

OSU was awarded the funding as part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. Administered by the U.S. Fire Administration within FEMA, the grants are given to fire departments and other organizations at the national, state, local, and community level recognized specifically for their fire prevention and safety outreach experience and expertise. OSU Fire Protection Publications, headquarters for the International Fire Service Training Association, is the largest provider of firefighter training materials and curriculums to all 50 states, U.S. territories, and the Department of Defense.

"OSU is uniquely positioned to assist FEMA in addressing U.S. Fire Administration program priorities and activities with national impact," said Chris Neal, Director of Fire Protection Publications. "Since the 1930s, this university has been the home of fire protection, fire prevention and safety, and public sector emergency response training programs that enjoy national and worldwide acclaim."

Housed within the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, the fire-related programs at OSU include IFSTA and its publisher Fire Protection Publications; a bachelor's degree program in the School of Fire Protection and Safety Technology; Oklahoma Fire Service Training; and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.



FEMA grant will support initiatives including fire safety curriculums for young children three to five years old. Photo by Bonnie Hudlet.

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## Fire Safety Literacy



"The fire service challenge of communicating safety messages to people with varying reading levels cannot be overstated," says Home Safety Council President Meri-K Appy. "We know that simply translating safety advice into other languages leaves a gap that almost certainly neglects a large segment of the public. The Fire Safety Literacy Program bridges that gap by connecting the fire service with local literacy providers through a systematic community outreach and education program."

The program's uncommon approach pairs these two parties in a powerful community team. The fire department partner will deliver greatly needed home fire safety messages and oversee the installation of free home smoke alarms. The literacy partner will provide the learning opportunity to present fire safety messages and ensure they reach the people who need the information most — in an appropriate format they can read, understand, and put to use.

ProLiteracy staff tested a sampling of current public fire safety materials against the Gunning-Fox Index readability measure and determined that messages commonly used by U.S. fire departments are written at a 6th-11th grade reading level. "That's well beyond what 90 million adults in the U.S. can read," said Linda Church, ProLiteracy associate director of special projects. "Not only do we need instructional materials that can be easily understood by low-level readers, we also need a structured and targeted program to make sure they receive this lifesaving information."

Among the program deliverables will be smoke alarms and a Fire Safety Literacy Kit provided at no charge through the Home Safety Council's Expert Network, an online resource serving fire and life safety professionals in the U.S. ([www.homesafetycouncil.org/expertnetwork](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/expertnetwork)). The Kit will include program guidance for training literacy tutors and fire service educators, as well as illustrated instructional materials developed specifically to teach basic fire safety measures to adult students.

"The United States has an unacceptable death and injury rate due to fire," says USFA Administrator R. David Paulison. "President Bush and DHS Secretary Ridge have made it clear, homeland security starts at home. Our nation needs effective public private partnerships like this to identify and reach American homes lacking smoke alarms and basic fire safety education."

The Fire Safety Literacy Program will begin with a pilot test conducted in urban and rural areas in the United States. For more information, visit the Home Safety Council's Web site [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org).

ProLiteracy Worldwide is the oldest and largest nonprofit literacy organization in the world. Its U.S. programs division, ProLiteracy America, provides support and materials to 1200 affiliates in all 50 states and Washington, DC, serving more than 225,000 adult learners.

*The Home Safety Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping prevent the more than 21 million medical visits that occur on average each year from unintentional injuries in the home. Through national programs and partners across America, the Home Safety Council works to educate and empower families to take actions that help keep them safer in and around their homes. To learn more about the Council's programs, partnerships, and resources visit the Home Safety Council at [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org).*

## The Institution of Fire Engineers United States of America Branch

Elections for the International Institution of Fire Engineers United States Branch were held on Saturday, August 14 at the Fire Rescue International Conference in New Orleans. The newly elected officials of the United States Branch are:

**President** – Dr. William A. Jetter, MIFireE

**Vice President** – Gene Carlson, MIFireE

**Secretary** – Dr. Harry Carter, MIFireE

**Treasurer** – William Kehoe, MIFireE

**Immediate Past President** – Robert Rielage, MIFireE

The International President is William Peterson, FIFireE

The Institution is composed of over 60 branches worldwide and has 10,000 worldwide members. The U.S. branch has more than 50 members from all parts of the country. The Institution is involved internationally in fire and life



safety issues, fire branch management, and fire service technology. Its membership is composed of fire professionals from small to large organizations, private industry, universities and colleges, and government officials.

The US/UK symposium that was held in April of this year brought together several international and U.S. members who discussed fire service issues such as staffing, safety, addressing terrorism, building standards, and life safety issues on a global basis.

President Jetter's agenda with the Institute for the upcoming year is to move forward with strategic planning to develop a global response plan as first responders to terrorist events. The U.S. Branch is committed to partner with the U.S. Fire Administration, the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), the International Association of Fire Chiefs and other fire service organizations to stay in the forefront of academia in the development of technical, health, and safety matters, and to work with the National Fallen Firefighters Association to reduce firefighter deaths.

## IFSTA and the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE)



Bill Peterson

As a former IFSTA Board member and the current International President of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE), I am very pleased that both organizations have joined together to develop two fire service training manuals for sale and distribution all around the world. The initial validation meeting for an international version of the IFSTA **Technical Rescue for Structural Collapse** manual was held this July in Dublin, Ireland. Captain Wes Kitchel of the Santa Rosa (CA) Fire Department, who was Chair of the IFSTA Technical Rescue for Structural Collapse committee that validated this manual, is also serving as chair of this joint validation committee. Fire service representatives from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Poland, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States have been gathered

to identify necessary technical and cultural changes that are required for this historic project to have international validity and application. The committee will meet again this October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to finalize the text and illustrations for publishing in early 2005. A second project dealing with WMD Decontamination practices is scheduled to begin in early 2005 and will result in a training manual for fire service organizations worldwide as we work to deal with new fire service challenges in the twenty-first century caused by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

During the past several years the Institution has established a number of strategic partnerships and relationships that have had a significant national and international benefit, and this new venture will continue that legacy. Through this joint venture, both organizations have the unique and mutually supportive opportunity to facilitate a common agenda and speak with a common voice on the issues that are critical not only to our individual organizations, but to society in general.

For those who may not be familiar with the IFE, a brief history is probably in order. The IFE was organized in 1918 by eight British chief fire officers in the United Kingdom for the purpose of establishing an organized approach for professional development of members in the fire brigades of the United Kingdom. In 2004 the organization has more than 11,000 members in 43 different branches in more than 20 countries worldwide, including Canada and the United States. While currently 60 percent of the membership is concentrated in the United Kingdom, the IFE has seen significant growth in recent years in North America, Europe, South East Asia, and other countries in the Pacific Rim. Headquarters for the IFE has recently relocated to the grounds of the Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, in the United Kingdom.

As international leaders in fire activities, the time was right for both the IFE and IFSTA to engage in this strategic partnership. In today's world environment we must be willing to work together collaboratively, in a timely fashion, on the issues that impact our individual constituencies. This joint venture is an excellent example of how progressive organizations can utilize shared resources and outreach activities as a means of strengthening the strategic partnership with our individual members, "customers," and other fire service stakeholders. In the future it will be critical for both of our organizations to take positions on issues that will affect fire service professionals not only in the United States, but also across the globe. This will mean, in

some cases, that we must put aside our differences and be more accepting of diverse opinions for the betterment of the body of knowledge that we use to protect our societies. This new venture will accomplish this goal, and more.

As both organizations continue to move forward in the twenty-first century, the vitality, national, and international influence of both IFSTA and the Institution of Fire Engineers will depend on each organization's ability to:

- Build consensus on critical organizational issues with our stakeholders,
- Effectively communicate our vision and agenda on the national and international level,
- Build effective strategic partnerships among branches, members worldwide, and with other allied organizations, and,
- Enhance our ability to quickly respond to issues critical to improved fire service training practices and activities.

The world as we know it changed significantly on 9-11-2001. Our individual organization's working environment and stakeholders' expectations have also changed as a result. If we are to meet these changing demands and take advantage of the opportunities to improve fire service training and operational practices on a variety of issues facing our individual organizations, we must focus our limited resources on the most critical issues facing the Institution of Fire Engineers, IFSTA, and our respective customers and contingencies worldwide.

The inauguration of these jointly developed training manuals will go a long way to encourage ongoing dialogue on critical issues facing the fire service — and fire engineers nationally and internationally. Hopefully this joint venture between IFSTA and the IFE and the resulting collaboration with current issues will stimulate additional work and discussion in the future.

Sincerely,  
William Peterson, FIFireE  
International President, 2004-2005  
Institution of Fire Engineers

*With a background in aviation and engineering, William Peterson, Chief Fire Officer for the City of Plano, Texas, holds associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees and has completed training at the National Fire Academy and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.*

*Peterson is involved in the National Fire Protection Association, including Past-Chair of the Fire Inspector Professional Qualifications Committee, Chair of the Fire Service Training Committee, and a six-year term on the Standards Council. He served as Chair of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Health and Safety Committee and is a member of the Professional Development Committee. In 1997, Peterson received the Benjamin Franklin Leadership Award from the IAFC. In 1999 he was appointed to the America Burning 2000 Commission. Peterson was named Career Fire Chief of the Year by Fire Chief Magazine in August 2000. He is a member and Past-President of the Dallas Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. He is active in numerous community organizations.*

*Peterson is a Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) and a founding member and Past-President of the USA Branch of the IFE. He was elected to the IFEs International Council in 1999 and inducted as International President in July 2004.*