A few days after writing this column, I will have had the opportunity to attend an event that is likely to greatly improve the safety of all firefighters and emergency response personnel in other disciplines. This event is the inaugural meeting of the NFPA® 1091, Standard on Traffic Control Management Professional Qualifications, technical committee. This committee's mission is to develop job performance requirements for responders of all disciplines who respond to incidents that occur on any type of roadway. The committee membership includes representatives from fire service, law enforcement, EMS, emergency management, and state and federal transportation agencies.

It is a well-established fact that incidents involving vehicle collisions or being struck by a vehicle are the second-leading causes (25%) of firefighter fatalities in the U.S. on an annual basis. In particular, the number of firefighter struck-by incidents and fatalities have gradually risen in recent years. Law enforcement agencies are facing a similar situation. The year 2010 marked the twelfth consecutive year that vehicle collisions and struck-by incidents were the leading cause of law enforcement fatalities in the U.S. More than 30 officers were killed after being struck by vehicles in 2010. Struck-by incidents are also leading causes of fatalities to towing operators and highway workers.

Clearly, the hazards associated with working on roadway incidents have grown significantly in recent years. Perhaps the most significant reason for this is the growing number of distracted drivers on our roadways. The exponential increase of drivers using handheld communication devices, onboard video services, and other hindrances to their attention has made operating at roadway emergency scenes more dangerous than ever before.

This increase in hazard level must be counteracted with a greater emphasis on awareness and training of those emergency responders who handle these incidents. Numerous training documents and programs on this topic have been developed in recent years by organizations such as the United States Fire Administration, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), and similar organizations in the other response disciplines. Most of this information is available for free download from the Internet.

The development of NFPA® 1091 will serve to establish a new, consistent benchmark for the training of all responders to roadway emergencies. Cross-disciplinary training will help reduce the level of hazard for all people who respond to these incidents. Common training practices among the disciplines should also help alleviate the frequent disputes that occur over responsibilities at these incidents.

IFSTA and Fire Protection Publications are committed to using the information that will be developed in the new NFPA® 1091 standard to ensure that all our training materials reflect these requirements. Many of our materials are used in the other response disciplines, and we will do our part to ensure that everyone gets the same message. We hope that you will join the NFPA® 1091 committee and IFSTA in making the roadway a safer place to work.

Keep the faith!

Mike Wieder
Associate Director, FPP
Executive Director, IFSTA
High-rise buildings, once the signature of a large city skyline, are now common sights in smaller cities and towns across North America. IFSTA’s new *Structural Fire Fighting: High-Rise Fire Fighting, Second Edition* provides detailed insight into the evolution of the modern high-rise as well as the tactical challenges associated with fire and smoke behavior in these structures.

High-rise construction projects require a lengthy planning and design phase before ground is ever broken on the site. The fire department needs to be involved from the outset to provide input and be aware of how the physical structure combined with its occupancy may affect the department’s ability to mitigate an emergency. Firefighters with older high-rise buildings in their response area must understand the key differences in modern construction methods as well as the advantages provided by intelligent building systems.

As discussed in *Structural Fire Fighting: High-Rise Fire Fighting*, the proliferation of high-rises in smaller cities without the resources of a major metropolitan fire department often places a large burden on local emergency responders. Because less personnel and equipment are immediately available, these communities may need to rely heavily on automatic or mutual aid. These conditions coupled with complex building systems and potentially large numbers of occupants make meticulous preplanning all the more important.

Fire departments must coordinate their response activities to complement the building emergency action plan used by the staff and occupants of a high-rise building. Discussed in this new manual is the interaction between firefighters and building personnel to monitor or control vital building systems such as HVAC, elevators, and automatic sprinklers. During a fire or other emergency, responders must have the critical knowledge to use elevators when appropriate and avoid them when their safety is in question. Knowing the types of hoistways and the details of Phase I and Phase II operation will prevent firefighters from using cars that may not respond to their floor request or may open on a fire floor.

The water supply challenges facing companies operating at high-rise fires can be daunting. The manual describes the steps for determining the pumping demands for the fire floor when using a standpipe system, as well as information on flow control devices that may be installed in the system.

The text also provides a working knowledge of the types of pumps and their capabilities. Backup power supply is important to determine if a system is functioning properly and if it will continue to function if outside power is lost or terminated.

*Structural Fire Fighting: High-Rise Fire Fighting* describes the characteristics of building construction and design, including the capacity of stairways and the nature of human behavior, and the role the location and extent of the fire plays in any evacuation plan. Using rapid ascent teams to control stairwells and report conditions is a concept gaining popularity in numerous fire departments and also is addressed as a tactical option for Incident Commanders.

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*Continued on page 13*
A Great Few Days in Washington, D.C.

By Chief Dennis Compton

Each year, a diverse group of fire service leaders gather in Washington, D.C., to pay special attention to the political aspects of moving the fire service forward and supporting the nation’s firefighters. This year, the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) held its annual national fire and emergency services dinner, seminars, and related events on April 6-8, 2011. The theme of this year’s program was Remembering Honor, Courage, and Sacrifice. The program included a remembrance to Bob Barraclough, who was a member of the CFSI Board of Directors and a beloved fire service icon. He passed away just a few months ago.

The events began Wednesday, April 6, 2011, with the “9-11 Memorial Stair Climb” in honor of the 343 firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The CFSI and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) hosted the event. Many of the attendees took advantage of the day to visit their congressional members on Capitol Hill, while others chose to attend CFSI educational seminars: Federal Support for Local Responders: Insight into Establishing Budget Proposals for Homeland Security Grant Programs; Strength in Numbers: Working Together on Capitol Hill; and Protecting Our Own: Comforting the Survivors.

Thursday, April 7, brought more opportunities for attendees to visit the Hill and choose from the following excellent seminars:

- Controlling Wildland Urban Interface Fires with Water, Shovels, and Policies
- Hearing the Call for Enhanced Emergency Communications
- Grassroots Advocacy for the Fire and Emergency Services
- Fire-Service-Based EMS: Educating Policy Leaders about the Critical Role of Fire Departments in Delivering Emergency Medical Services
- Protecting Our Homeland: The Role of FEMA and USFA in Homeland Security
- Protecting Our Own: Firefighter Roadside Safety
- Saving Lives Through Prevention, Education, and Code Development
- The Federal Role in the Advancement of Professional Fire and Arson Investigations
- Automatic Fire Sprinklers: Activating Solutions at the Local, State, and National Levels to Protect Our Communities
- Economic Challenges Facing America’s Fire and Emergency Services

These seminars were directed at policy level information and geared toward national level efforts. The speakers also emphasized the application of their concepts and information at the state and local levels of government. Each seminar was 50 minutes in duration, which gave the participants the opportunity to attend several.

The dinner event took place during the evening of April 7. This special event provides participants with incredible networking opportunities, as well as a very enjoyable program and dinner. FEMA Director Craig Fugate delivered the Keynote. Other speakers on the program included the Congressional Fire Services Caucus Honorary Co-Chairmen: Congressman Steny Hoyer (Maryland) and Congressman Peter King (New York). The audience was also treated to remarks from the Congressional Fire Services Caucus Honorary Chairman, Congressman Robert Andrews (New Jersey).

The dinner program included the presentation of several prestigious awards: the CFSI/Motorola Mason Lankford National Fire Service Leadership Award was presented to Ronny Coleman; the CFSI/National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award was presented to The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition; the CFSI/Safe Kids USA Dr. Anne W. Phillips Award for Leadership in Fire Safety Education was presented to Peg Carson. The CFSI/Medic Alert Foundation Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Award was presented to the following fire departments: Odessa Volunteer Fire Company in Delaware (Volunteer Category); Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department in Texas (Combination Category); and Northwest Fire/Rescue District in Arizona (Career Category).

The CFSI National Advisory Committee (NAC) conducted its spring business meeting on the morning of Friday, April 8. This meeting brought together the leaders of more than 45 NAC member organizations to discuss current issues and participate in several important presentations and discussions.

To be informed (and perhaps involved) in major national fire service issues, leaders must go where opportunities present themselves. One of the best places to do this is the annual CFSI Seminars and Dinner Event. Where do you plan to be May 2-4, 2012? I suggest you strongly consider Washington, D.C. This will give you the chance to take advantage of next year’s CFSI sponsored opportunity to learn, network, and be involved in a process that is critical to the success of the American fire service, politically and otherwise. To be involved you must be present — so I hope to see you there.

About the author:
Chief Dennis Compton is a well-known speaker and the author of several books including his most recent offering titled Progressive Leadership Principles, Concepts, and Tools. He has also authored the three-part series of books titled When in Doubt, Lead, the book Mental Aspects of Performance for Firefighters and Fire Officers, as well as many articles, chapters, and other publications.

Compton served as the Fire Chief in Mesa, Arizona, for five years and as Assistant Fire Chief in Phoenix, Arizona, where he served for 27 years. Chief Compton is a Past Chairman of the Executive Board of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Past Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Institute’s National Advisory Committee. He is currently the Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors and a member of the Board of Directors of Safe Kids Worldwide.
Online Fire Service Training: Are We There Yet?
By Rick Dunn, Curriculum Developer
South Carolina Fire Academy

The Early Years
The South Carolina Fire Academy’s mission is to develop and implement a standardized, statewide firefighter training curriculum to train a maximum number of career, volunteer, and industrial firefighters to command and control emergency operations. Fire, rescue, and hazardous materials incidents require not only managerial and leadership skills, but also skills in support functions such as public fire education, fire prevention, fire inspection, and fire investigation. South Carolina Fire Academy students must also develop a keen external focus and a commitment to training using the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives so that, “Everyone Goes Home.”

In the early years, the Fire Academy strived to complete this mission by using traditional face-to-face training delivered through a central campus and seven regional campuses. Hundreds of instructors carted slide trays and lesson plans from station to station and conducted training for thousands of firefighters throughout the state. As the years went by, the Fire Academy began basing its programs on national standards. Handouts showing hand-rendered drawings were replaced with published texts and professionally developed curriculum. As technology evolved, Academy instructors entered the classroom armed with computer-generated presentations, digital projectors, and interactive student activities.

Transition to eLearning
As the fire service in South Carolina faced increasing budget challenges, firefighters and their chiefs began taking a long, hard look at the travel expenses associated with attending training classes. At the same time, the trend in national standards and certification testing seemed to suggest a need for increased levels of competency training. Thus, the Fire Academy felt it was time to try something new and began looking at other ways to accomplish its mission. Several ideas and methods were discussed, but the topic of online training surfaced time and time again. The looming question became, “Is the silver bullet online training?” The Fire Academy decided to evaluate its worth and, more importantly, determine whether there is a true market in the state.

The Process
From the Fire Academy’s perspective, the overall challenge is building competency-based courses that will not only prepare the student for a certification examination, but also prepare the firefighter to be a productive member of his or her emergency services organization and community. With this mind-set, the Fire Academy began creating courses that mixed web-based instruction with traditional educational elements.

In the spring of 2010, the Fire Academy offered a new blended Fire Officer I course. This course includes an online phase, which consists of traditional student written assignments and courseware housed on a learning management system (LMS), followed by an application phase taught in a face-to-face classroom session. The LMS provides a “home base” where students can interact in a discussion forum, submit their assignments, and complete practice quizzes and tests. A positive aspect of the online phase is that students network with each other in their virtual classroom in a similar way to what they would do in a traditional classroom.

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Reexamining the NFPA® Professional Qualifications Standards Project

By Mike Wieder

Anyone who has entered the fire service in the past 35 years might easily assume that the NFPA® Professional Qualifications standards upon which their training was based have been part of the fire service forever. This assumption is certainly not accurate. Requirements for individual job roles in the fire service were largely within the domain of local fire departments and state fire training organizations for the first 250-plus years of the fire service.

Fire service training requirements changed when the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations was formed in 1970. The original Joint Council included representatives from several national fire service organizations including the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI), and International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), among others. One of the Joint Council’s primary missions was to establish a national system of professional qualifications standards and accreditation for the fire service. In 1972, the Joint Council formed the National Professional Qualifications Board (commonly referred to as the “Pro Board”) to meet this goal. Initially, the Pro Board developed and released the following four standards in 1974:

- Fire Fighter
- Fire Officer
- Fire Inspector
- Fire Instructor

The Joint Council ultimately dissolved in the mid-1980s. The Pro Board continued to develop the professional qualifications standards until September 18, 1989, when control of these documents was turned over to the NFPA® and its standards-making system. The Pro Board remains an important part of the fire service today in its role as one of the two primary accreditation systems used by the fire service.

Today, there are 17 NFPA® professional qualifications (Pro Qual) standards, each with its own technical committee. These committees fall under the jurisdiction of the NFPA® Professional Qualifications Technical Correlating Committee (PQ-TCC). Its responsibility is to monitor the Pro Qual standards-making process and resolve any issues that may arise. As these standards become more detailed and complex, the need to coordinate their development becomes more important than ever.

To this effect, the NFPA® sponsored a summit April 13-14, 2011, in Irving, Texas. The topics of the meeting included the current status/issues and future of NFPA® Pro Qual standards. Approximately 40 people attended the summit, including NFPA® Public Fire Protection and Research Foundation staff members, the chairs of all Pro Qual standard technical committees, the chairs of other fire service-related NFPA® committees (472, 921, 1400, 1500, etc.), and representatives of other national fire service organizations.

The agenda for the summit included a historical overview and current status report of the Pro Qual standard project, panel discussions on various aspects related to the Pro Qual system, and group discussion time. The purpose of the meeting was to provide strong, unified recommendations to the NFPA® Standards Council for any actions that may be required to improve or update the Pro Qual project.

The meeting was successful in identifying a number of areas that need to be addressed to ensure the continued success of the professional qualifications standards-making process. These areas can be summarized as follows:

- Ongoing issues involving different committees whose roles or scopes have some level of commonality. Examples of these include NFPA® 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications and NFPA® 472, Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents; NFPA® 1006, Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications and NFPA® 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents; and several other standards that have similar topical content. Several recommendations will be made to the NFPA® Standards Council in hopes of mitigating these types of issues in the future. This includes having NFPA® staff and committee chairs refine the titles and scope language in each of their documents to minimize conflicts and provide clearer committee direction. This will be an ongoing process.

- Each Pro Qual committee will be required to perform a needs assessment on its document(s) no less than once every 10 years. This includes determining whether the document is still needed by the fire service.

- Discussion on the need to require recertification requirements in the Pro Qual standards. It was determined that it was not within the role of any committee to require recertification. It may add language that strongly suggests recertification, but cannot require it at this time. Recertification is largely at the discretion of local agencies and the accreditation agencies. However, the summit participants did propose that the Standards Council initiate a project to study this issue.

The NFPA® must be commended for calling this summit. The Pro Qual standards have a major impact on fire service personnel, fire departments, fire training organizations, and fire service labor organizations. It is hoped that the outcomes of this meeting will strengthen the effort to continue to effectively develop these standards for the next fire-service generation.

About the author:
Mike Wieder serves as Associate Director of OSU Fire Protection Publications and as Executive Director of the International Fire Service Training Association.
IFSTA/FPP Courses that Support FESHE

**NOTE:** Text with an asterisk (*) following its citation does not cite FEHSE objectives but contains information that meets most, if not all, the FESHE course outcomes for this class.

### Associate Degree Core Courses

**FESHE Building Construction for Fire Protection**
  - Instructor materials, student self-study guide, and student course workbook are available to support this course.
  - Item 37022.........$58.00

**FESHE Fire Behavior and Combustion**
- IFSTA/FPP currently has no text for this course, but one is under development.

**FESHE Fire Protection Systems**
  - Instructor materials, student self-study guide, and student course workbook are available to support this course.
  - Item 36558.........$75.00

**FESHE Fire Protection Systems**
  - Instructor materials are available to support this course.
  - Item 36644.........$65.00

**FESHE Fire Protection Systems**
- IFSTA Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival
  - Item 36870.........$70.00

### Associate Degree Non-Core Courses

**FESHE Fire Protection Hydraulics and Water Supply**
  - Instructor materials are available to support this course.
  - Item 36724.........$70.00

**FESHE Occupational Safety and Health**
  - Item 37212.........$75.00

### Bachelor Degree Courses

**FESHE Fire Investigator I and II**
- IFSTA Fire Investigator (Second Edition, 2010)*
  - Item 36751.........$65.00

**FESHE Strategy and Tactics**
- IFSTA Structural Fire Fighting: Initial Response Strategy and Tactics (First Edition; 2010)*
  - Item 36140.........$75.00

**FESHE Advanced Principles in Firefighter Safety and Survival**
- FPP/NFFF Understanding and Implementing the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (First Edition; 2010)
  - Item 36870.........$70.00

**FESHE Model Fire Prevention Courses**
- IFSTA Fire and Life Safety Education
  - Item 36620.........$70.00

**FESHE Principles of Code Enforcement**
  - Instructor materials, student self-study guide, and student course workbook are available to support this course.
  - Item 36741.........$85.50

**FESHE Fire Plans Review**
- IFSTA Plans Examiner for Fire and Emergency Services (First Edition, 2005)*
  - New edition available in late 2012
  - Item 36643.........$57.00

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Putting the 16 Initiatives Into Department Training (Part 4)

By Ed Kirtley

This is the fourth and final article in the series on how you can incorporate the 16 Initiatives into your local training. As a training officer or instructor, you have the ability to implement the Initiatives in your training classes and training philosophy. Initiatives 13-16 will be addressed in this article.

**Initiative 13:** Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.

*Tip:* Schedule a session on stress and related issues during recruit training. Ask a professional counselor to address recognition of stress, how to handle stress, how to gain family support, and how to get help, etc. In addition, encourage spouses and other family members to attend the training.

*Tip:* Schedule an in-service for department personnel on stress. The same topics addressed in recruit training should be addressed with current employees. Many times your local employee assistance program (EAP) will have speakers available who are qualified to offer such training.

**Initiative 14:** Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.

*Tip:* Expand the time dedicated to public education during recruit training. If time permits, conduct a Fire and Life Safety Educator I course which meets the requirements of NFPA® 1035, Level I.

*Tip:* Build discussions about public education into post-incident debriefings. For example, after a structure fire lead a discussion on what public education activities could have prevented the fire. This will help keep public education on the minds of operational personnel.

*Tip:* Make time in the training schedule available to the department’s fire safety educators. This is especially important in the months leading up to Fire Prevention Week in October.

**Initiative 15:** Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.

*Tip:* Emphasize the importance of prevention during recruit training. This will be the new firefighter’s first exposure to prevention. If possible, expand the time spent on prevention and fire protection systems. Ask inspectors, the fire marshal, and other prevention personnel to assist with the training. Emphasizing the importance of fire prevention topics in recruit training sends a clear message: Prevention is an important part of the fire department’s mission and services.

**Initiative 16:** Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

*Tip:* As a training officer, you may not have a direct role in the safe design of apparatus. However, you can influence these decisions by informing senior officers of any design issues you notice during training. For example, you may have had several firefighters sprain their ankles during training while trying to step off a high tailboard. This information can be helpful in fixing a design problem.

Training is an excellent opportunity to integrate the 16 Initiatives into the everyday behaviors of firefighters. For more information on the Initiatives, visit the Everyone Goes Home® web site at http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/.

Several blended Fire Officer I courses were offered during this past year with great results. Not only did the students’ certification testing success rate mirror the success of the traditional delivery classes (almost 90 percent), but the students also raved about the format and course. Several fire chiefs applauded the new approach from the Fire Academy and said their “online students” were just as prepared as their “traditional students” to perform the day-to-day tasks of a fire officer. Course evaluations overwhelmingly supported the new course format, which encouraged the Fire Academy to offer more courses using this method of instruction.

**In the Future**

The Fire Academy will continue to use the Internet and traditional methods to deliver training. Staff is currently researching several delivery options to meet specific needs of the fire service. In addition to the blended learning courses, which include Instructor I, the Fire Academy is developing self-study courses, such as Hazardous Materials Awareness and Instructor Recertification. Other courses will pull elements from both types of online programs. Courses that involve a great deal of technical skill development—such as Firefighter I and II, technical hazmat, and rescue—would be likely candidates for this hybrid category. Under this model, students would be required to successfully complete a self-study cognitive phase to be eligible to participate in a traditional skill session.

These new approaches not only save students considerable travel and classroom time, but also enable firefighters in the far corners of the state to receive needed training.

**About the author:**

Rick Dunn is a curriculum developer for the South Carolina Fire Academy and has been involved in the development of online training during the past two years. He also teaches officer development classes throughout the state. He previously served as the Assistant Chief of Professional Services for Columbia, S.C. before retiring in 2009.

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The factors of building size, construction, and occupancy, as well as the installation of various building control and protection systems will guide the tactical response to high-rise incidents. **Structural Fire Fighting: High-Rise Fire Fighting** provides the basic components of initial operations for safe and efficient response to high-rise incidents. Incident management and organization are discussed, including the establishment of ALS (attack, lobby, staging) base and providing informative condition reports and needs assessments.

The **Structural Fire Fighting: High-Rise Fire Fighting** manual provides detailed information on the construction, occupancy, and operational systems of modern high-rise construction. In addition, the text offers a guide to strategy and tactics for firefighters tasked with operating in the high-rise environment. It is a valuable resource of information for all agencies that have multistory occupancies within their jurisdiction.

**About the author:**

David DeStefano is a lieutenant with the North Providence (RI) Fire Department and an Instructor for the Rhode Island Fire Academy. He is a regular contributor to fire service print and online journals.

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**About the author:**

Ed Kirtley is the Director of Oklahoma State University Fire Service Training.
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