

IFSTA and OSU Fire Protection Publications Debut World Trade Center Artifact

(July 14, 2011; Stillwater, Oklahoma; Contact: Jason Hanson (405) 744-4389 or jhanson@osufpp.org)

The International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Fire Protection Publications (FPP) at Oklahoma State University debuted an artifact from the World Trade Center at the annual IFSTA Validation Conference on July 10, 2011 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The artifact is a five-foot piece of steel that was salvaged from the debris following the collapse of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers on September 11, 2001. A representative of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, owners of the WTC, contacted IFSTA Executive Director Mike Wieder in late 2010 to offer a piece of the building to IFSTA and FPP. This offer was made in recognition of IFSTA and FPP's 78 years history of providing training manuals and instructional materials to the firefighters who responded to the WTC disaster, as well as other fire and rescue service agencies and personnel all over the world.

The artifact has been mounted in a custom display case that was designed and constructed by Rod Brakhage, owner of WHEELDOCK, Inc., of Stillwater, OK. The materials for the display were donated by Greg Neison, President of Precision Tool and Die of Ponca City, Oklahoma. Electrical lighting was installed by John Myers, a worldwide training specialist for Kicker Audio Systems that is also located in Stillwater. All of their time and materials were donated for this project.

“Being entrusted with this sacred piece of history is a humbling honor to be bestowed upon IFSTA, FPP, and OSU,” noted IFSTA Executive Director Mike Wieder. “The

members of IFSTA and the staff at FPP are extremely dedicated to the training and safety of firefighters and other emergency responders. Horrible tragedies, such as those that occurred on 9/11 only strengthen our resolve to continue our mission.”

The WTC display will be located in OSU President Burns Hargis’ office at Whitehurst Hall for three weeks in August. Following this, it will be moved to its permanent location inside the FPP office building on the north side of the OSU Campus.

Formed by a group of state fire training directors in 1934, IFSTA’s mission is to develop and validate high-quality training materials for the fire service. Since their inception, IFSTA has worked with Fire Protection Publications (FPP) at Oklahoma State University (OSU) to produce and distribute these materials. IFSTA/FPP is the largest publisher of fire training materials in North America and its products are used worldwide. FPP is an outreach program of the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology at OSU in Stillwater, Oklahoma.