



# Policy Statement

## **IAFC Supports the IAFC/IAFF Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative**

A physical fitness, health and wellness program should be an objective at every fire department as a means for reducing fire fighter injuries and deaths. The *IAFC/IAFF Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative* was designed to enable fire department members to develop and maintain appropriate levels of fitness. This program is a non-punitive wellness/fitness system with a holistic, positive, rehabilitating and educational focus.

The goal of the comprehensive *IAFC/IAFF Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative* is to improve the quality of life of all fire service personnel. The project seeks to demonstrate the value of investing wellness resources over time to maintain fit, healthy and capable fire fighters and EMS responders throughout their careers.

A comprehensive approach to wellness/fitness will result in significant cost savings in reducing lost work time, workers compensation and disability. In addition, through data collection and analysis, participating departments will create an invaluable database suitable for comparisons throughout the fire service.

### **Category: Health and Safety**

Policy Number: 00.01

Proposed By: IAFC Staff

Date of Adoption: May 2000

Date of Review:

Revised Date:



# Policy Statement

## **IAFC Supports the *IAFC/IAFF Candidate Physical Ability Test***

IAFC and the IAFF recognize the need of the fire service to hire physically capable people for the job of fire fighter. In addition, both organizations understand the need to increase the level of diversity in the fire service.

The *IAFC/IAFF Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT)* is a validated functional-based candidate physical ability test created for the fire service consisting of eight job task simulations and a time limit. The U.S. Department of Justice worked closely with IAFC and the IAFF during the comprehensive program development process.

This program covers all aspects of administering this test: developing recruiting and mentoring programs, preparing candidates to be successful, setting up and administering the test. The entire validation process is discussed in detail, as well as the legal issues that departments might face when implementing the actual testing. The CPAT is a comprehensive program that is to be implemented in its entirety; partial use of this document is prohibited.

The goal of the *IAFC/IAFF Candidate Physical Ability Test* is to improve the quality of life of all uniformed personnel, and to provide for future physically qualified candidates. Hiring physically capable people will promote better service for the community, improve firefighter performance, and will assist firefighters to experience healthy careers and retirement.

### **Category: Health and Safety**

Policy Number: 00.02

Proposed By: IAFC Staff

Date of Adoption: May 2000

Date of Review:

Revised Date:



# Policy Statement

## **IAFC Encourages All Members to Undertake the Process to Become a Chief Fire Officer Designate**

In 1993, the International Association of Fire Chiefs established a task force for the development and the establishment of a professional designation program for senior executive fire officers. This voluntary designation program is designed to enhance the professionalism of chief officers throughout the world; to promote excellence in the fire and emergency service profession; to serve as a career path for chief officers; to recognize minimum competencies which may be used in qualifying candidates for position appointments; to the acknowledgement of the achievements of those officers who have excelled in developing their personal knowledge, skills and ability; for the establishment and the stature of chief fire officers within the fire and emergency service profession and other disciplines; to encourage the need for continuing education and professional development; to provide an avenue to benchmark among other participants; to establish the Chief Fire Officer Designation (CFOD) as a mark of distinction; and to challenge fire officers to obtain the pinnacle mark of CFOD. The International Association of Fire Chiefs believes in the professional development of fire and emergency service personnel by providing guidance for career planning through participation in the Professional Designation Program.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs Board of Directors encourages all of its chief fire officer members to participate and undertake the process to become a Chief Fire Officer Designate as a means to enhance the level of professionalism for chief officers throughout the world.

### **Category: Professional Development**

Policy Number: 01.01

Proposed By: Chief Randy Bruegman

Date of Adoption: January 2001

Date of Review:

Revised Date:



# Policy Statement

## **IAFC Promotes the Use of the Fire Emergency Self-Assessment Process as a Means to Enhance Organizational Performance and Provides a Means for Continuous Agency Improvement**

In 1987, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recognized the need to develop a comprehensive model to evaluate and promote continuous improvement for local fire agencies. As such, the IAFC signed a memorandum of understanding with the International City Managers Association to develop what is now known today as the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The Commission on Fire Accreditation International is dedicated to assisting fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through Self Assessment and Accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The board of directors for the International Association of Fire Chiefs recognizes the changing degrees of complexity the local fire chief is faced with. The voluntary Fire and Emergency Self Assessment Process provides a model by which the local fire chief can evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of their organization and set a course for improvement and, if they so desire, can seek international recognition through a peer review process that validates the credibility of their organization. The International Association of Fire Chiefs Board of Directors recognizes the need to continually enhance the level of professionalism throughout the fire service. The Commission on Fire Accreditation International Fire and Emergency Self Assessment Process provides a methodology for the local fire chief to do just that.

The Board of Directors encourages all chief executives who are IAFC members to undertake the voluntary process of Fire and Emergency Self Assessment and would encourage every agency to set a goal to become an internationally accredited agency.

### **Category: Professional Development**

Policy Number: 01.02

Proposed By: Chief Randy Bruegman

Date of Adoption: January 2001

Date of Review:

Revised Date:



# Policy Statement

## **IAFC Supports the Need for Constant Scrutiny and Upgrade of Policies/Practices Related to Firefighter Safety and Prevention of Firefighter Injuries and Deaths**

Prevention of injury and death of firefighters should be the highest priority of the fire service. Firefighters must be fit and well equipped, adequately trained to address the emergency challenges they face without becoming a victim of the circumstances they are attempting to control. It is a policy of the IAFC to place firefighter safety and wellness as the lead priority when developing standards of operation and incident action plans.

It is an IAFC goal to reduce the annual death and injury rate by encouraging the United States Fire Administration, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other organizations associated with the fire service to improve fire safety measures and encourage improvements in personal protective equipment, emergency response equipment, training systems and research.

The IAFC will continue to collect and distribute information about safety measures for fire service personnel, and will encourage the United States Fire Administration (and other related agencies) to investigate and report on any fire service line-of-duty deaths that occur in the United States. Upon investigating fire fighter line-of-duty deaths, the IAFC will promote the methods of preventing and mitigating the actions that led to these deaths.

The IAFC also encourages the development of consistent and formalized standards for recognizing and honoring those firefighters who die in the line of duty.

### **Category: Health and Safety**

Policy Number: 02.01

Proposed By: IAFC Policy Task Force

Date of Adoption: January 2002

Date of Review:

Revised Date:



# Policy Statement

## **IAFC Supports Active Involvement with Emergency Management; Promoting Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, and Effective Response for a Reduced Community Impact and to Minimize Recovery Costs**

Natural events such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and landslides, as well as technological and human-caused disasters have claimed thousands of lives and caused billions of dollars in losses over the last twenty years. The acts of terrorism have clearly shown the need for an integrated approach between the fire service emergency managers and federal agencies. The IAFC recommends that local governmental agencies follow the federal government lead by using the Integrated Emergency Management System (IEMS) to plan for disaster circumstances that may occur within a jurisdiction. IEMS highlights the importance of Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery as the primary operational components of a managed disaster. The IAFC believes that the federal government should apply more support to local fire service agencies to improve local efforts to increase the strength of the Integrated Emergency Management System in their communities.

**PREVENTION AND MITIGATION:** The IAFC believes the federal government should provide the necessary support to strengthen the prevention and mitigation efforts to reduce the effects of a disaster in local communities. The fire service mission has expanded to manage and apply more risk reduction in local communities. Aggressive planning and implementation of prevention and mitigation measures would reduce the life safety impacts of disasters. Mitigations such as seismic bracing, storm warning systems, emergency control systems, and other planned methods would reduce the damage and effect of a disaster for each local community. The federal government should fund local fire service concerns for fire, rescue, hazardous materials and emergency medical readiness and implement mitigation actions that would reduce the effects of the disaster threat.

**PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE:** The IAFC recognizes that local fire departments are the first responders to the national or human-caused catastrophic events. The immediate effects of any natural disaster or human-caused catastrophe will challenge the local public safety forces beyond their

capacity to address the many life-saving challenges that exist. It is obvious that the results of terrorism and the deadly effects of terrorist actions can devastate a community and injure and kill many innocent people. The IAFC believes it is the responsibility of the federal government to fund local fire service preparedness and response capabilities so that they can manage the first hours of a response, prior to arrival of state and federal support. Federal funding considerations should include response equipment, training and support for a standardized fire service staffing plan. This provision of federal resources would enable the local fire service agencies, as first responders, to act in a safe and timely manner to minimize injuries, loss of life and damage to property.

RECOVERY: The recovery actions that follow a disaster require a tremendous amount of resources and personnel to restore the community to a normal condition. The logistics and management systems necessary to effectively restore a community after a disaster are often underestimated in the pre-disaster planning phase. The fire service is a key component to the community restoration. The national fire service response to a major local disaster should be coordinated for a more effective recovery management effort. The IAFC supports more federal funding for the development of more effective and efficient methods of managing recovery actions that follow a major local disaster.

**Category: Governance/Leadership**

Policy Number: 02.02

Proposed by: IAFC Policy Task Force

Date of Adoption: January 2002

Date of Review:

Revised Date:



# Policy Statement

## **The IAFC Supports the Advancement of Technology that Prevents Fires, Increases Life Safety and/or Improves Response to Fire and Emergency Medical Situations**

The IAFC has endorsed a comprehensive approach to fire prevention, including aggressive public education; promotion of smoke detectors, fire sprinklers and other forms of built in fire protection; exit drills and evacuation planning and effective code enforcement. This approach to fire safety was initiated in 1972 with the development of the federally funded report entitled "America Burning." Fire professionals embarked upon a mission of fire safety and professional management technique to reduce the staggering fire losses that were occurring in our country at that time. The success of the America Burning logic has resulted in significant reductions in fires and fire deaths. The number of fire deaths has dropped from approximately 12,000 per year to less than 6,000 in the recent years.

The IAFC supports the federal direction being promoted by the U.S. Fire Administration that places emphasis on the fire service to promote higher levels of risk management, especially for the very young, the very old and for the emergency responders. The risk management techniques should take advantage of all technological opportunities, public education measures and the powers of code enforcement to reduce injuries and deaths from fires and from accidents that cause an EMS response.

All fire deaths and serious injuries should be evaluated for their cause and a determination made on how the death or serious injury could have been prevented or mitigated by better safety measures, built in safety devices or a higher level of knowledge and ability of those involved with the accident. The IAFC historically has promoted and endorsed technology and governmental response for such things as: flashing signal devices as a warning beacon for emergency responders; autopsies for all fire death victims to assess cause and to determine the potential for drugs and alcohol to affect decision making when caught in a fire; promotion of civilian respiratory protection as an escape measure during a fire or other emergency circumstance that has dangerous levels of contamination; adequate radio frequencies for fire service



communications to improve emergency responder safety; fire retarding treatment of furnishings and clothing; fire safe cigarettes and many more prevention and mitigation measures that can reduce injury and prevent death from fire.

With the beginning of a new era of accountability on injury prevention, the IAFC endorses the ideals of risk management on a broader basis for the fire service mission, to include better prevention, mitigation and preparedness for emergency medical response and treatment. The number of injuries and deaths from incidents that cause the emergency response of the fire agency should be reduced in measurable ways by adding "risk management" as a part of the mission of the fire service. These measures would include promotion of technology that prevents and mitigates accidents as well as promotional and educational programs such as the Department of Transportation "First There, First Care" program for first on scene emergency care and treatment of victims of a vehicle accident and the fire service promotion of CPR and first aid classes as a mandatory part of the high school curriculums.

**Category: Governance/Leadership**

Policy Number: 02.03

Proposed By: IAFC Policy Task Force

Date of Adoption: January 2002

Date of Review

Revised Date:



# Policy Statement

## Policy on IAFC Partnerships with Royalty Agreements

This policy establishes guidelines governing the implementation of partnerships that have royalty or cause-related marketing agreements. Such partnerships will be between the International Association of Fire Chiefs and companies/corporations/businesses that desire to incorporate the IAFC name, logo, mission and/or programs into their sales promotions that will assist them in their marketing, while providing defined support to the IAFC mission. Products, services, and/or advertising messages must not conflict with the policies, standards, positions, principles or the mission of IAFC. Such partnerships shall not imply IAFC endorsement of associated products and services.

The IAFC will work only with reputable corporations/companies/businesses that wish to incorporate the use of the IAFC name, logo, mission and/or programs into their sales promotion efforts, while at the same time providing support to the association's mission. This support may be financial, reputation enhancement, program support or other form of support mutually agreed upon by both parties.

Corporations/companies/businesses entering into such royalty marketing agreements with IAFC must:

- Be financially sound and remain financially sound.
- Have a good record with the Better Business Bureau and Dunn and Bradstreet.
- Be free of current and pending legal actions that could bring harm or disfavor to the mission and general direction of the IAFC and/or its member agencies.

A background check of the corporation/company/business should include but will not be limited to:

- A copy of the company's most recent financial audit.
- A background check with the respective IAFC division president, state fire chiefs association and/or local fire agencies in which the corporation/company/business is headquartered in to ensure credibility
- If and when appropriate, the products being endorsed must meet a recognized third party laboratory testing approval

Specific requirements regarding partnerships are:

- When the IAFC name or logo is mentioned, shown or implied, all label design, related materials, advertising and copy will be provided to and approved by the IAFC prior to production.
- Specific language to accompany the IAFC name or logo will be approved by the IAFC.

**Category: Governance/Leadership**

Policy Number: 02.04

Proposed By: IAFC Policy Task Force

Date of Adoption: January 2002

Date of Review:

Revised Date:



# Policy Statement

## **Policy on Consistency of Message to Federal Government**

To ensure the consistency of the IAFC message to both the administration and Congress, and to further the IAFC policies at the federal level, it is essential that IAFC members clear their IAFC representations and comments with the IAFC.

IAFC members cannot represent the views or positions of IAFC without prior IAFC approval. Dissimilar positions or statements from IAFC members concerning policies and positions, if espoused in the name of IAFC, will damage this organization's ability to successfully conduct its business on Capitol Hill, with local departments and with agencies of the federal government.

### **Category: Governance/Leadership**

Policy Number: 02.05

Proposed By: IAFC Policy Task Force

Date of Adoption: January 2002

Date of Review:

Revised Date: