

# FIRE LINK

• COLORADO • IOWA • KANSAS • MISSOURI • NEBRASKA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA • WYOMING •

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by Robert C. Dahlquist

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the members of the Missouri Valley Division and their families! I hope your holiday season is filled with family, friends and joy.

This is the appropriate time of the year to reflect upon the many activities that occurred within our division this past year. Retired Chief Rick Lehman once again facilitated the Board by reviewing and evaluating our existing strategic plan. Many individuals have worked to accomplish the goals established by the Board; a great deal of thanks and gratitude to those meeting this challenge. All members should feel free to examine the strategic plan and be willing to provide any input to the Board or their State Vice Presidents.

Involvement leads to progress. To maintain the history of Missouri Valley Division's progressive accomplishments, we must always encourage and empower our membership's involvement.

Three of the Division states were able to take advantage of the Division's stipend of \$3,000 for educational opportunities within their respective states.

The Missouri Valley Division Public Education Conference was held in Lawrence, Kansas last June with outstanding presentations and remarkable attendance. I would encourage all of you to attend or send a representative from your organization to experience this valuable seminar next year.

Earlier this year, the Board voted for our division to host a Leadership-

Partnership Seminar this past summer. Cooperatively, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Firefighters developed this tool to encourage those jurisdictions with a paid workforce to work in harmony in an effort to collectively address the issues which we in the fire service see on a daily basis. In Session 1, Fire Chiefs were joined by their respective Union Presidents during a two-day seminar in Omaha last July. The facilitators were outstanding and everyone is looking forward to Session II this upcoming February in Omaha. I would encourage any and all, who are working to create better communications and understanding between

*(continued on page 2)*



 **Calendar of Events**

**North Dakota EMS Association**  
 NW Conference - January 27, 2007  
 SE Conference - February 10, 2007

**North Dakota EMS Association Annual Conference**  
 April 12, 2007

**MVD Annual Conference**  
 Rapid City, SD  
 July 18-20, 2007



# *Iowa's Success Stories begin with MVD*

by Rick Roe, State VP, Iowa, Chief, Clive Fire Department

I'd like to share a success story that started with networking during this summer's Missouri Valley Division Conference in Omaha. I had the privilege of golfing (in 107 degree heat!) with Brian Hittlet from Bellevue University. Brian and I conversed about family, golfing, vacations, and of course about work. He mentioned that he has worked with a number of different organizations on Strengths-Based Management and Leadership. This work included everything from keynote addresses to establishing four-year accredited degree programs. I followed-up this fall with Brian and convinced him to come to Clive and lead a one-day leadership retreat for all City staff on the concept of Strengths Bases Management and Leadership. This retreat was held on November 8th

for all leadership staff in Clive. Brian's passion for this topic was well received by City staff and the concept of focusing and developing on strengths (rather than spending the bulk of your time trying to improve a weakness) was inspiring. His presentation centered on the concept that each person's greatest room for growth is in the areas of his or her greatest strength. I believe the experience of being able to work with Brian is a testament to the value of networking through opportunities made available through the Missouri Valley Division.

The second success story I would like to share is an Iowa statewide protocol for Biological and Chemical threats. The statewide protocol takes a step beyond the general information that typically exists for public safety agencies. That

general information may include different decision making trees, different call-out lists, different sampling guidelines, etc. We in public safety seem to never have a shortage of this type of general information. The big question is whether those agencies responding are all playing from the same information? Does it integrate well? Do first responders, public health, hazmat, law enforcement, and emergency management all understand the expectations and a statewide game plan? In Iowa, the key players from local to state levels came together and developed the State of Iowa Biological /Chemical Threat Agent (BCTA) Protocol Model. Now, from white power scares to questions on how Sarin threats would be handled, we have a statewide playbook for all agencies to utilize. □

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## *President's Comments*

*(continued from page 1)*

Management and Union Leadership, to participate in a future Leadership-Partnership seminar.

The annual Missouri Valley Conference returned to Omaha, where the first conference was held 71 years earlier. All participants were treated to a group of outstanding speakers making for another successful annual conference. A special thanks to Battalion Chief Joe Fuxa and the conference committee for their tremendous effort and contributions to the success of the conference. Here's an important holiday reminder Rapid City South Dakota, July 2007. Chief Gary Sheppard and the RCFD are working diligently to provide our members with another annual conference to remember.

FRI in September proved once again what an outstanding organization the International Association of Fire Chiefs is. The conference in Dallas was second to none with quality workshops and excellent opportunities to network with other professionals from around the country. The product showcase was a must see. Remember Atlanta in 07'.

My apologies to the great states of Iowa and Kansas. I was unable to participate in their recent meetings due to family matters. I thank both Chief Rick Roe and Chief Jack Taylor for more than filling my shoes with short notice in my absence. I plan to attend the Colorado Leadership Challenge Conference in Breckenridge late in November barring excessive snow precipitation.

The Missouri Valley Division recently created a survey that has been electronically sent to its members. I encourage all members to take a moment to complete this short survey. Our efforts are to better serve the needs of the membership, increase participation and identify best practices of communication in regard to our membership and annual conferences.

Gary Briese, Executive Director for the IAFC, has recently chosen to step down from his current position. IAFC President Jim Harmes formed an IAFC search committee for this position. On behalf of the Missouri Valley Division, we thank Gary for his professional dedication to the fire service and wish him

future successes in his endeavors.

There are many challenges ahead in the fire service and many of us are fortunate to meet those challenges with opportunity. Together with "one voice" we will succeed. Our goal is always to increase our membership. Today, the IAFC is offering a free six-month trial membership. Share with your department the gift of IAFC membership. Everyone in your department is eligible for IAFC membership. During the trial membership, each individual will receive:

- Networking opportunities with fire service members worldwide
- [Fire-Rescue Magazine](#)
- Access to on-line discussion forums
- Representation on Capitol Hill
- Discounts to conferences

Sign them up today by visiting <http://www.iafc.org/givemembership>. Participation in the IAFC leads to involvement and opportunity!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Stay safe. □

Robert C. Dahlquist

# *Fraternity fire claims the life of 19-year-old student at Nebraska Wesleyan University*

**Three additional students are in critical condition**

**B**ELCHERTOWN, Mass., November 17, 2006—A 19-year-old male died in an early-morning fire in the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity and three others were critically injured, according to university spokesperson Sara Olson. All are students at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. There were 39 people in the building at the time of the fire, reported Olson.

Nationwide, 90 people have been killed in campus-related fires since January 2000, as identified by the Center for Campus Fire Safety, a non-profit organization that compiles information on these fires. Almost 80 percent of the fire fatalities have

occurred in off-campus occupancies such as rented houses and apartments. Common factors in a number of these fires include:

- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers
  - Disabled smoke alarms
  - Careless disposal of smoking materials
  - Alcohol consumption
- "It is vital that students learn the

steps they can take to protect themselves, their friends and roommates from fire," said Ed Comeau, director of the Center. Some of these include:

- Choose fire-safe housing, either on- or off-campus, that includes automatic fire sprinklers
- Make sure there are interconnected smoke alarms on every level and ensure that they are working at all times.

•Properly dispose of smoking material by using ashtrays.

•After parties, check the cushions on couches and chairs to make sure there aren't any lit cigarettes smoldering.

•Properly use extension cords and electrical appliances.

"Learning these fire safety behaviors will help people during their college years and throughout their lives," said Comeau.

"These are 'life skills' that might become 'life-saving skills' someday."

More information on campus fire safety can be found at the Center's Web site at [www.campus-fire.org](http://www.campus-fire.org), including a Campus Fire Safety Fact Sheet, compilation of all of the fatal fires in student

housing identified by the Center, a list of questions that parents and students can ask when looking at student housing and video clips of training programs the Center has been involved with.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety, a leader in fire safety, is a non-profit organization that is devoted to reducing fires at campuses across the nation through education and advocacy. □



Always evacuate whenever the alarm is activated.

•Know two ways out, no matter where you are - a residence hall, your house or apartment, a restaurant or a movie theater.

•If a smoke alarm is being activated needlessly, such as by cooking or steam from a shower, relocate the smoke alarm instead of disabling it.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

### **A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

- BC William Meyer -Wentzville, MO
- BC Michael Scott -Wentzville, MO
- BC Joseph Houston -Wentzville,MO
- AC Mark Briscoe -Blue Springs, MO
- BC eric Ramsey -Lenexa, KS
- DC Charles Thomas -Wichita, KS
- Chief John Poole -Victor, CO
- BC Joe Luther -Sioux Falls, SD
- AC Steve Sagehorn -Grover, MO
- AC John Greene -Independence, MO
- DC Doug Green Lawrence, KS
- DC John Greer -Arvada, CO
- Safety Off. Robin Coon -Centennial, CO
- BC William Potts -Parker, CO

- BC Michael Lee -Denver, CO
- Chief Kent Lindsay -Cortez, CO
- Chief Jerry Wetstone -Altoona, IA
- Chief Mike McKinnon -Denison, IA
- Chief Michael Marlo -Saint Louis, MO
- Chief Tim Martin -Independence, MO
- Chief Ken Francis -Gardner, KS
- AC Nathan Jamison -Lawrence, KS
- BC Dan Mullin -Arvada, CO
- Chief Carl Bauer -Leadville, CO
- BC Kelvin Reilly -Loveland, CO
- Chief Mike Carlson -Cheyenne, WY



**MVD Web Site**

The Missouri Valley Division  
web site is  
[www.mvdiafc.org](http://www.mvdiafc.org)

# MO Valley Chief wins National Leadership Award

by Chief Richard R. Carrizzo, MO Valley International Director

Each year the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (formally the Commission of Fire Accreditation International, Inc.) holds its annual banquet to honor agencies that achieved Accreditation throughout the past year and to honor those chief officers who achieved the designation of Chief Fire Officer. The banquet coincides with Fire Rescue International and this year in Dallas, TX, marked the Center's seventh annual event.

This year's excitement was no different than the past. The room overflowed with masses of energy, high achievers and an aura of excellence from all individuals and departments throughout. The audience listened with "ah" as seven departments and chiefs were introduced, along with a description of their innovative program that is delivered within their community. Finally the "Fire Service Award for Excellence" was bequeathed to Fire Chief Jeff Johnson and The Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Oregon.

Then the Commission on Fire Accreditation (CFAI) bestowed upon twenty-eight agencies the honor of becoming an Accredited Agency. This brings the total of Accredited Agencies to 114. The Commission on Professional Credentialing honored 228 individuals with the designation of Chief Fire Officer (CFO), bringing the total Designees to 505.

One of the highlights each year is the Ray Picard Award. This year's recipient was Sedgwick County Fire District #1's Fire Chief, Gary E. Curmode. Chief Curmode is the eighth individual to receive this prestigious award recognizing superior leadership and outstanding contribution to the Center for Public Safety Excellence's program and accreditation process.


The Ray Picard award was fittingly named after its first recipient and one of the founding fathers of fire and emergency service accreditation, Chief Ray Picard. Recipients are selected annually

from a pool of nominations, and announced each year at the annual awards reception. Chief Curmode received the Ray Picard award for his tireless contributions and commitment to Fire Service Accreditation.

Chief Curmode has served on over nine accreditation visits, including visits outside the United States and conducted over 100 Chief Fire Officer peer reviews of CFO candidates.



Additionally, Chief Curmode serves as a Commissioner to the Commission on Professional Credentialing, representing career departments, both

nationally and internationally. Since 2001, Chief Curmode has been a Chief Fire Officer and has assisted various departments attain the elite recognition of becoming a CFAI accredited department. The CFAI grants accreditation to fire and emergency service agencies upon the successful completion of an in-depth self assessment and on-site evaluation. Sedgwick County Fire District (SCFD) #1 is one of two accredited department in 2003; the other CFAI accredited department is the Lenexa Fire Department. □



## 5 MINUTE SAFETY DRILLS

Presented in partnership with

The greatest asset of the fire service is our people. It is critical to protect them!

A new proactive safety service is being made available – "Take 5 for Safety". "This interactive series of safety and risk management issues are based on safety research and accident data.

"Take 5 for Safety" drills are being introduced to focus on firefighter and EMS personnel safety in their activities. The idea is to encourage short discussions at the beginning of drill or shift sessions with a leadership guide and participant handout. A system to document who has participated in the training is a part of the framework and provides an additional tool in complying with OSHA concerns.

Currently 27 separate categories of safety issues have been developed. Each category will have several safety drills that will emphasize the topic. Frequent causes of loss – such as vehicle accidents – will have several topics of discussion. This will allow flexibility during training.

For a listing of the topics go to the Western Fire Chief Association's web site: <http://www.wfca.com>.

There is no charge for the instructor's guide sheet or participant handout. The handouts are provided in color and many will have on target photos. Each district or department will need to make their own copies of the handouts as necessary.

Early responses to the "Take 5 For Safety" program have been very positive. Any comments about improving the content are appreciated. It is important the information be useful and timely for your personnel. We also welcome new topics or ideas you may have to enhance safety concerns in your area. Comments may be addressed to Paulette Oliver at 800-852-6140 or you may email: [pauletteoliver@wfhainsurance.com](mailto:pauletteoliver@wfhainsurance.com).

## *2nd Vice President-2007 Chief Jack Taylor, Emporia Fire Dept.*

It is with a great deal of excitement that I announce my candidacy as second vice-president of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. It would be an honor to serve the membership of this highly respected organization as we look to the opportunities and challenges of the future affecting the fire service.

The Missouri Valley Division has a long history of being in the forefront of issues such as development of laws, standards, codes and regulations that govern us. We must continue that long history to stay ahead and support our membership in these times when our world and environment changes almost every day. If elected second vice-president, I will fully support and assist with carrying out the Division's strategic plan as well as reviewing and updating the

plan to support our mission in the future.

As Kansas Vice President of the Division, one of the most important tasks I have is to communicate with the Kansas contingent on a timely basis regarding the activities of the organization. This communication provides our current and future membership with accurate information and an opportunity for them to express their desires and concerns to take back to the Board and to the IAFC. That two-way communication is vital to our continued success and I would continue that communication at all levels as your second vice-president.

With my thirty-one years of experience in the fire service, my belief in unifying to speak as one voice to accomplish our goals and my strong desire to serve the membership of an organization that I fully believe in. I pledge, with

your support, to continue to make the Missouri Valley the most respected Division in the IAFC and to represent our membership to the fullest of my ability. □

## Leadership Partnership

The second half of the two day Leadership Partnership IAFF & IAFC Program will be held in Omaha, NE on February 13 & 14, 2007.

Location is the Doubletree Hotel, 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68102, Room Reservation- (800) 766-1164.

Each attendee is responsible for making their own room reservation by January 5, 2007 to get the special room rate of \$84 per night plus tax.

The same two individuals from each city who attended the first half of the workshop in July, are expected to attend the second half of the workshop. The original registration form registered the participants and paid for both sessions.

Workshop starts at 8 a.m. sharp on February 13, 2007. Any questions contact Phyllis Portland at the Omaha Fire Chiefs Office at (402) 444-5702. Phyllis' email is pportland@ci.omaha.ne.us. □

## Palmer Named Jackson Fire/EMS Chief

Jackson, WY. In a joint Town/Council Commissioner meeting Monday the group voted unanimously to appoint Rusty Palmer the new Fire/EMS Chief.

Back in March of this year, Palmer received recommendations from both the ESC (Emergency Services Council) and TERA (Teton Emergency Response Association) to serve as the interim Chief, a position the joint town/county board appointed him to. Today's decision came largely from the endorsement of the ESC. According to the joint powers agreement between the organization and the local governments, "The (Emergency Services) Council shall be consulted by the Town and County in the hiring, annual evaluation, and termination of the Chief."

"We could not be happier with Rusty's proven leadership and work in this role," said Chairman Leland

Christensen. "He has more than twenty years experience here in Jackson, and has a reputation as a fair and level-headed manager."

Palmer's appointment is effective immediately. "Our volunteer fire fighters and EMS personnel are some of the most dedicated, well-trained, active service people anywhere. What they do for this community cannot be overstated. These folks give up holidays, birthdays, and many other personal days to save the homes and lives Teton County citizens," Christensen said. "Our joint board is thrilled to have the group of folks we have serving Jackson, and to have Rusty as their chief."

"This is just so exciting for me," Palmer said. "I've been working for a long time to achieve personal and professional goals and this is my dream job." □



*Happy Holidays!*

**Missouri Valley Division**

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The Missouri Valley Division of Fire Chiefs is dedicated to supporting professional development of its members through educational, leadership, and networking opportunities, while serving as a liaison between State Chiefs' organizations and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.



**FIRE RESCUE**  
**GPO** || *Purchasing Engine  
for the Fire Service*

The FireRescue GPO is a group purchasing program that functions as a facilitator of national contract pricing. Contract pricing is either negotiated or publicly awarded through a competitively bid process and is made available to our members on our website ([www.firerescue-gpo.com](http://www.firerescue-gpo.com)) or through our customer service line (800-810-3909).

As well as helping fire departments save money, the program provides revenue back to the fire chief professional associations where the purchase was made. Check out the FireRescue GPO today at [www.firerescue-gpo.com](http://www.firerescue-gpo.com). It is free, easy, helps the fire service, and who knows – you might just save some time and money on your next purchase!



# Multi-Lingual Fire Safety

## “Fire Safety in Your Home” Video/DVD

These professionally made videos/DVDs, produced in a variety of languages, clearly explain and demonstrate how to prevent potential fire hazards in the home. The video/DVD is easily understood by those as young as 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Run time is 24 minutes.

1 - \$250		Any 6 - \$1500		Any/All 16 - \$4000
	Conference Special	\$1200		\$3200
Desired Format	Video _____	DVD _____		
LANGUAGES:	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Quantity</u>
Afan-Oromo	_____	English	_____	Russian
American Sign	_____	French	_____	Somali
Amharic	_____	Hmong	_____	Spanish
Arabic	_____	Lao	_____	Ukrainian
Bosnian	_____	Nuer	_____	Vietnamese
Dinka	_____			

## “Fire Safety in Your Home” Brochures

These colorful, easy to read Fire Safety Guides give thorough and accurate information to keep your family safe. To meet the needs of the community, these guides are available in several different languages.

Conference Price Bundles of:

50 - \$32.50      100 - \$65.00      250 - \$162.50      500 - \$325      1000 - \$650

LANGUAGES:	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Quantity</u>
Afan-Oromo	_____	English	_____	Russian
Amharic	_____	French	_____	Somali
Arabic	_____	Hmong	_____	Spanish
Bosnian	_____	Lao	_____	Ukrainian
Dinka	_____	Nuer	_____	Vietnamese

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

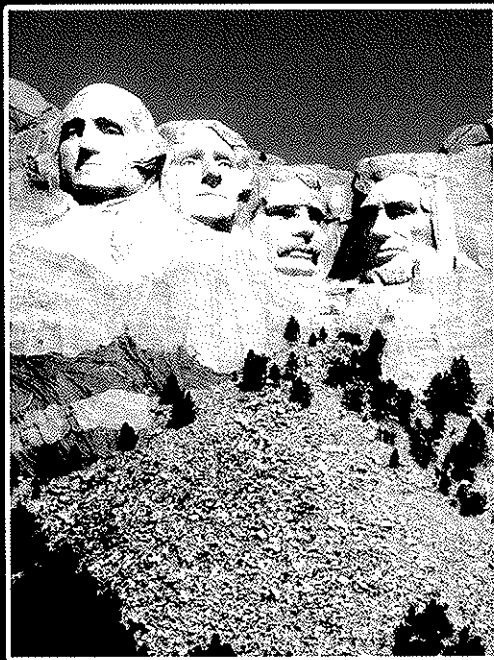
# MISSOURI VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

**"Conquering Monumental Challenges"**

## 2007 CONFERENCE

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

JULY 18-20, 2007



COME "FACE TO FACE" WITH US IN 2007

Make Rapid City and the majestic Black Hills of South Dakota your vacation and conference destination!

Be sure to bring your family and enjoy all of the wonderful attractions the beautiful Black Hills has to offer... Mount Rushmore National Monument, Crazy Horse Memorial, breathtaking scenery, and recreational activities to suit everyone.

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