

# FIRE LINK

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## 212 DEGREES

by Jerry Rhodes

As the new Missouri Valley Division President, I want to thank Chief Rob Dahlquist, our immediate Past President, for his leadership and contributions over the past three years. This year's conference banquet was an excellent tribute to Rob and our Division's successes over the past twelve months.

With Past President Dahlquist lending continuity, the energy of your current Board of Directors, and power of our Division members, this coming year is looking good.

The Missouri Valley Division of the IAFC is a hot bed of activity, and a producing machine. As hot as MVD is, I'm asking you to crank it up one more degree. Water at 211 degrees Fahrenheit is damn hot. One more degree turns it to steam. This reminds

- Push for a working national mutual aid system
- Reach out through the state organizations to inform local fire chiefs what is available to them from IAFC and MVD regardless of their membership status.
- Get the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation LAST program operational in our eight states
- Sell the "Ask 'em" program of the IAFC
- Attend all eight state major meetings, to listen to your issues and needs
- Do something about your issues and needs

I know this is a tall order, but turning up the heat just one degree makes a huge difference. It does not take much effort to make that difference.

*As hot as MVD is, I'm asking you to crank it up one more degree. Water at 211 degrees Fahrenheit is damn hot. One more degree turns it to steam. This reminds us that seemingly small things can make tremendous differences.*

us that seemingly small things can make tremendous differences. Steam can be dangerous or it can be harnessed for its energy and power. We can handle the danger and control the power. With the monumental challenges ahead of us in our changing world, a little focused energy will push our issues a long ways.

Some of the items on my agenda for this year:

- Get the remaining States in MVD into the Intrastate (Statewide) Mutual Aid System.

Firefighters and the people who support the fire service can do amazing things when fired up. Harness the energy and move your community forward. Local fire departments working together can make changes in our nation.

The difference between 211 and 212, is one degree. We're all here because we want to make a difference. Let's commit the extra effort and make not only a difference this year but also the years to come. Crank up the pressure, Full Steam Ahead. ☐



### Calendar of Events

**FRI - Atlanta, GA**  
August 23-25, 2007

**Iowa State Chiefs Meeting**  
Ames, IA  
October 16, 2007

**Kansas State Chiefs Meeting**  
Highland Hotel  
Great Bend, KS  
October 25-28, 2007

**Volunteer & Combination Officer Section**  
Clearwater Beach, FL  
November 1-4, 2007

**Colorado State Chiefs Meeting**  
Breckenridge Beaver Run Resort  
November 29, 2007

**Missouri State Chiefs Meeting**  
Big Cedar Lodge  
Ridgedale, MO  
February 22-24, 2008

**North Dakota State Chiefs Meeting**  
Bismark, ND  
February 28, 2007

**MVD Annual Conference**  
Joplin, MO  
July 9-11, 2008

## Taylor Elected 2nd Vice President of the MVD

Jack Taylor, Chief of Emporia, Kansas was elected as the 2nd Vice President of the Missouri Valley Division. Taylor said he is committed to the MVD and to strengthening the Division by implementing the MVD Strategic Plan. Taylor has held many offices in fire organizations in Kansas and has been the liaison to the Public Education Section of the Missouri Valley Division. Chief Taylor's leadership will continue the growth and service to the members of the MVD. □

## MVD Stipend Change

The Board of Directors voted to change the guidelines for Stipend usage. A major change is that the request will be approved by a committee of Past Presidents on a yearly basis. Requests must be turned in by December 31 of the prior year to the State Vice President for consideration by the committee. Stipend guidelines will be posted on the MVD web site in early September. □

## IAFC Hazardous Materials Committee

Incoming IAFC President Steve Westermann asked 2nd Vice President Jack Taylor to serve as a committee member of the HAZ MAT Committee. Congratulations, Jack! □

## Jeff Johnson endorsed by MVD

Jeff Johnson, Chief of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, was endorsed by the membership in his candidacy for 2nd Vice President of the IAFC in 2008.

Jeff is known to many as a proponent of applying excellence and innovation in the provision of services; topics he addresses as a featured guest lecturer and a co-author of two fire service books. Additionally, he advocates for cooperative initiatives such as resource sharing to achieve efficiencies that demonstrate smart government and value for the citizens' investment.

Jeff "walks his talk" in his approach to leadership, as evidenced by the IAFC/U.S. Safety - Fire Service Safety Award for Excellence presented to TVF&R at the 2006 Fire/Rescue International. Under his leadership as president, the IAFC's Western Division now benefits from a clear vision as guided by the tenets of its recently adopted doctrine

statement and a solid financial position achieved in a relatively short period through innovative partnerships with the NFPA, the Fire Rescue Group Purchasing organization (GPO), and the Daily Dispatch electronic periodical.

### Platform - Value & Vision

Of the many critical issues that require a unified vision, it is imperative that the IAFC work with the nation's fire service and policy makers to ensure preparedness for and access to reliable resources for national mobilizations. Specifically, the IAFC should further refine and advance national mutual aid initiatives, advocate for the deployment of a nationwide interoperable communications network, and take action to maintain critical federal grant programs and ensure the most effective use of those funds. □

## Local Assistance State Team Project

by Jerry Rhodes

Dealing with a firefighter line-of-duty death is one of the toughest and most challenging experiences a fire department can face. Supporting the firefighter's family through the ordeal should be of top priority, but sometimes this does not occur as it should. That is why the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), through a grant from the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, is working to develop a unified response on a state-by-state basis to provide assistance to fire departments and the firefighter's family immediately following a line-of-duty death. A major goal is to expedite filing for benefits with the Public Safety Officers Benefits program of the Department of Justice.

The intent of this program is to identify a group of individuals in each state who are willing to respond to support the department and the family when they experience a line-of-duty death. Under this program, each unit will be known as the Local Assistance State Team (LAST).

LAST will consist of a chief officer who has experienced a line-of-duty death (the Team Leader), an honor guard member, a fire service chaplain, a survivor, and a behavioral/mental health specialist. Team leaders are recruited throughout the major fire service organizations at the state and local level, and they volunteer their services. President Rhodes has assigned the coordination of this program to Wyoming State Vice President Mark Young and 2nd Vice President of the MVD Mark Wessel. Chief Robert Dahlquist will serve as an Alternate. Upon request from the department, these teams will be deployed to assist the department with all aspects of a line-of-duty death - from helping with arrangements for a fire department funeral with full honors to providing emotional support for the family and department members. To date, team members were trained for 32 states. The goal is to provide training for teams from the remaining states in 2007. □

# Blast Off! to the Future of Fire Safety

by Janet Cusick Jost

The Eighth Annual Missouri Valley Fire, Burn and Life Safety Conference was a huge success again this year. Seventy people from 12 states joined together in Hutchinson, Kansas June 19-22 to hear about new fire prevention and safety ideas from recognized experts, network and share ideas with colleagues and peers, and have a great time.

General session topics included working with high-risk populations – problems and solutions, international high-risk outreach and how community prevention initiatives save lives. Participants had their choice of eight breakout sessions with topics ranging from juvenile firesetter intervention, fire safety for older adults and people who are deaf or hard of hearing, service learning, Fire Corps and digital photography. On Wednesday evening the group gathered at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center for a buffet supper and an opportunity to tour the exhibits, ride the flight simulators and watch IMAX movies in the company of their friends.

For the third year, attendees were asked to voluntarily participate in a pre- and post-assessment of knowledge and self-rated perception of his or her own ability/competence, confidence and intent to use information learned at the conference. Attendance demographics

are also included: In summary:

- There was an improvement in every knowledge question except for one that remained the same.

- The percent of people who rated their own ability/confidence in eight areas based on session objectives improved significantly.

- 86 percent rated themselves confidence or highly confident as fire, burn or life safety educators at the completion of the conference compared to 55 percent at the beginning of the conference, an improvement of 31 percent.

- 92 percent intended to use information learned within three months.

During the pub ed section business meeting on Thursday afternoon, members voted unanimously to adopt a “conference organizational structure.” The goal of this instruction is to provide guidance for future planning teams and provide consistency from year to year. Some of the highlights are:

- Elena Nuss was elected chair of the MV pub ed section

- Janet Cusick Jost was elected vice chair of the pub ed section.

- The roles of the Conference Management Team and Local Planning Team were clarified to provide consistency between each year's conference.

2007 is the first year that a confer-

ence web site was established. We will continue to post updates at [www.mvpubed.com](http://www.mvpubed.com) as they become available.

We are busy planning for the future. Mark your calendars for the following dates and locations:

- 2008: Kansas City, MO June 18-20. Location TBD

- 2009: Wichita, KS, June 22-26. Tenth anniversary conference. We will be holding the conference at the Hotel at Old Town (the same location as the 2005 conference).

2010: The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be emailed who all Missouri Valley Public Education Section members in the very near future so that a host organization and city can be selected.

The conference planning team truly appreciates the continued support of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. We hope that each Missouri Valley Chief supports the conference by sending at least one member of his or her department to each year's conference. We are looking forward to many more years of successful fire, burn and life safety conferences. □

## Leadership Summit

by Mark Wessel, 2nd Vice President

In March, I attended the IAFC Leadership Summit. This experience proved to be very informative as to the development and direction of the IAFC.

We started off the day with an introduction and hearing the schedule for the next two days. Attending from the Missouri Valley Division was myself, Secretary Mike Merwick and 1st Vice President Jerry Rhodes.

The first program of the day was about an hour of Diversity training and discussion along with a couple of group exercises. Much of the remaining time was hearing different reports regarding

issues and directions from staff. Much time was afforded in the explanation of the services the IAFC can and does provide.

The second day found us divided into two groups to give reports on “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly” from our experiences within our own divisions. This may sound a little negative, but what it truly translates into is, “What went well and what didn't in the previous year.”

Further discussion was led as to the overall operation and a significant amount of time was afforded to membership recruitment and retention. My

take on this subject was that this horse has been kicked around for years, but without much result. All in all, I felt as though the Leadership Summit was a very good and worthwhile program.

I would like to thank the Missouri Valley Division for asking me to attend and would recommend the continuance of supporting the Summit. □

*The greatest return on your membership can easily be realized at the annual Missouri Valley Conference...*

## Rapid City Conference

...**A**t the Rapid City Conference this was true. If you wanted to know first hand what was going on at the IAFC, the IAFC leadership was there. IAFC President Jim Harmes, IAFC Executive Director Mark Light, 2nd VP of the IAFC Kelvin Cochran, Membership Director Gioia Albi – the information on IAFC programs future vision, finances, and membership was presented as each IAFC leader took time to discuss the IAFC and where the organization was going. The best part if you wanted to socialize with the IAFC leadership they were there to meet you after the speeches. What an opportunity for networking with IAFC leaders.

The speakers, Dennis Onieal, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy; long-time fire service icon and visionary Ron Coleman; Brett Davis from Suffolk County, NY; Richard Marinucci fire service leader and IAFC Leadership Partnership Coordinator; and Malcom Chapman, a motivational speaker who kept you on the edge of your seat, all provided a wealth of

knowledge and experiences for everyone to learn from.

The hospitality of the Rapid City Fire Department never stopped. From the opening memorial ceremonies by the Ellsworth Air Force Base Honor Guard to the chuckwagon dinner and the Rushmore tour and the speech by Park Superintendent Gerald Baker on the Black Hills relationship with the Indian culture, the hospitality was out of sight. Rapid City kept you moving all the time. It was great.

Friday evening the new officers of the MVD were sworn in by IAFC President James Harmes. President Jerry Rhodes, 1st VP Mark Wessel, 2nd VP Jack Taylor, Missouri State VP Greg Pottberg, and Wyoming State VP Mark Young.

No conference is successful without a lot of hard work by the host city. Missouri Valley Division attendees THANKS all the men and women of the Rapid City Fire Department for a superb Conference. You were a SUPER host. ☐





# Code Action Committee

The below listed Missouri Valley Division members have been appointed to the ICC - International Code Council - by International Association of Fire Chiefs President James Harmes:

Gerald Ambrosecchia  
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West Overland Fire Prot. District  
10789 Midland Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63114-1839

Daryl Giles  
Asst. Fire Marshal  
Omaha Fire Department  
1516 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-3110

Jeff Hudson  
Chief  
Shawnee Fire Department  
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Marc S. Sampson  
Fire Protection Engineer  
Longmont Fire Department  
225 Kimbark St.  
Longmont, CO 80501-5912

Congratulations to the committee members and thanks from the Missouri Valley Division for your commitment of time and talent to improve the International Fire Code of the ICC. □

# The Fire Service, Building a Better Community

by Jerry Rhodes

The Fire Service works every day to carry out our traditional role for the citizens we serve. Firefighters fight fire and save lives, safety educators prevent fire and trauma and save lives, fire prevention bureau personnel upholds the fire code and save lives, dispatchers give pre-arrival instructions and save lives, and we do this 24 x 7 x 365. It is what we do because we've always done it.

We are solid in our traditional roles and we enjoy an excellent image with the public. So let's see our image and stretch our traditional role with the youth in our community. By teaming up with the major institutions (schools, local government, places of worship) in the community, together we can improve the outlook of the youth in the community.

Building the 40 Developmental Assets is one of the answers. The Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets® are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people. These assets have the power during critical adolescent years to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.

Firefighters and teachers will tell you that they have too much on their plate already. It is not more on the plate, it is the plate. Research shows that if a kid

possesses 20 or more of these assets, they are not troublemakers, they're more behaved in the classroom, and you see them on a social basis. With less than 20 assets they "eat up" educational time at school and you see them professionally, you may know them on a first-name basis. Take a look at these three web sites:

- [www.search-institute.org/assets/](http://www.search-institute.org/assets/)
- [www.ccsd.k12.co.us/admin/sas/prev\\_resources/40 Assets, pdf;](http://www.ccsd.k12.co.us/admin/sas/prev_resources/40%20Assets.pdf)
- [www.assetsconnect.org/index.html](http://www.assetsconnect.org/index.html)

On the second web site look at assets 7-10, 14, 28, and 29. These are a good fit for the fire service.

A lot of high school students feel invisible to adults. Imagine the power you have as a firefighter when you say "hi" to a kid in the store, wave at a kid on the street, or spend a couple of minutes talking to a group of kids about being safe. Ask a kid what it means to them, when you say it, and mean it.

Work with your schools, community organizations, and places of worship to equip your youth with assets for now and the future. A little time on the front end, beats a lot of time on the back end. build partnerships, make your life easier.

Earn your image every day. □



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## MVD Web Site

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

**Missouri News**

# State Vice President Change

I want to say Thank You to Chief John VanGorkom for representing our state over the past three years. John has been a long time member and director of the state chiefs and provided valuable communications between the state chiefs and Missouri Valley Division while our State Vice President.

I also want to say thank you to those chiefs that attended the annual conference this year in Rapid City, SD and voted for me to represent our state. It will be my pleasure to fill the seat of State Vice President for Missouri and I hope that I can fulfill everyone's expectations. Contact information:

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**MO-IMAS**

The Missouri Association of Fire Chief's working group has been working on the MO-IMAS project since March of this year with a Stakeholders meeting of some 30 organizations to kick start the project.

The stakeholders meeting was narrowed down to a working group of 12 representatives from the fire service with assistance from a technical assistant from Illinois.

We have now conducted monthly meetings to revise the current Missouri Mutual Aid Plan into a new draft document that will be known as "MoSCOPE" Missouri Systems Concept of Operational Planning for Emergencies. With the final draft near completion, the work group expects to take the draft to the Missouri Chiefs Board for approval and the approved plan released to the

stakeholders later this fall.

The intent of the new plan is to provide a working document for fire service mutual aid across the state of Missouri and an outline for all of the other state departments and local organizations to move forward and develop their version of mutual aid assistance to each other.

**Winter Conference**

Although it is still summer, Chief VanGorkom is working hard on providing an exceptional winter conference for us in February at Big Cedar Lodge in Ridgedale, Missouri. This year's speaker Chief Rick Lasky of the Lewisville, Texas Fire Department will lead the 2008 Winter Seminar. Chief Lasky is an author and veteran public speaker. He will present "Real Leadership with Real People" on February 22 and "Pride and Ownership" on the 23rd. □

## 2007-08 Officers of the 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.

# Steve Westermann, IAFC President

On Saturday, August 25, at the IAFC Convention in Atlanta, Steve Westermann, Chief of Central Jackson Fire Protection District, will be sworn in as the President of the IAFC for 2008.

Steve is a longtime leader of the Missouri Valley Division and has served in all the Offices of our Division. He helped develop our Strategic Plan and served as our voice at the IAFC as International Director. The personal growth, networking, friendship and service to our members is what Steve is all about. He brings a wealth of ideas, skills, vision and commitment to the IAFC in his new leadership role. The Missouri Valley Division is proud of your accomplishment in being elected President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

**YOU'RE THE BEST. ☐**

## NEW MEMBERS

### A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Chief Christine Neal - Pacific, MO	AC Branden Beck - Emporia, KS
Chief Michael Cherry - Troy, MO	AC Anthony Lang - Omaha, NE
Chief Kevin Edwards - Omaha, NE	AC Danny Rigdon - St. Peters, MO
Chief Randy Templeton - Longmont, CO	Chief Bill Large - Lee's Summit, MO
BC Glenn Wiggins - Fort Collins, CO	BC Roger Wagoner - No. Ka. City, MO
BC Gary Martens - Fort Collins, CO	Chief Charles Fraley - St. Roberts, MO
Chief Robert Corey - Florissant, MO	Chief Chris Berndt - Branson, MO
RRO Scott Enery - O'Fallon, MO	BC John Jones - Kansas City, KS
DC Bill Madore - Hannibal, MO	FM Tim Millsbaugh - Wichita, KS
BC Tom Wiley - Lee's Summit, MO	Capt. Brad Schreem - Alliance, NE
BC Scott Hoch - Lenexa, KS	Capt. Michael Cerovski - Loveland, CO