

FIRE LINK

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THE NEXT STEP!

by Mark Wessel

The first order of business is congratulations to IAFC President Steve Westermann for a very successful year. His leadership has proven itself time and time again over the past year. The past year has presented a number of delicate and very important issues. Under Chief Westermann's leadership, they were resolved. While fulfilling his duties as the

the Conference? There were many excellent programs presented. If you attended any of them, are you still talking about them? Have you implemented any of the new found knowledge within your department? If you recognized an area of change that needs to be considered, have you begun the process? If the answer to these questions is yes, than good for you. You've taken the next step. How about those who did not or could not attend. Do you know any other chief in your area that was not there? If you do, than have you relayed any of the information to them? In other words, share the knowledge. That's why we were

Have you implemented any of the new found knowledge within your department? If you recognized an area of change that needs to be considered, have you begun the process?

President, Chief Westermann's department also received their Accreditation. His department, Central Jackson County, was one of nine departments in the Missouri Valley Division to receive the accreditation. Congratulations to all. I'm sure President Westermann will enjoy a little more time at home with his wife and family. Although this is on paper, I present in words, a standing ovation to President Steve Westermann and his family for a great year and a job well done. Thank you, Steve!

As many of you did, I just returned from Denver and the 2008 FRI Conference. Although I was blessed with the opportunity to travel from Denver to Wyoming to meet my son for a little R & R and a fine Wyoming Antelope hunt. For once I was successful.

How do we measure the success of



Calendar of Events

Iowa Fall Conference
Ames, IA - October 15-16, 2008

Kansas Fire Chiefs
Hayes, KS
October 16-19, 2008

VCOS Symposium in the Sun
Clearwater, FL
October 30 - November 2, 2008
www.iafc.org/VCOS

there, so that someone could share the knowledge with us. Remember, it's not what we know that really matters. It's what we do with it that matters. So take the next step. To close, I would like to wish our new IAFC President Larry Grorude, all the best in the next year and look forward to working with him and the IAFC Board and Staff. Stay Safe and may God Bless. ☐

Global Traffic Technologies

Every day the world's roadways become busier and more dangerous. Global Traffic Technologies (GTT) was created to deliver solutions. Formed from 3M's pioneering Intelligent Transportation Systems, GTT is on a mission to improve traffic management, emergency vehicle preemption and transit signal priority teverywhere in the world. We do much more than just manufacture products. Our proven, integrted solutions, combined with our dedicated and experienced people, can help you

reduce emergency response times, improve intersection safety, keep your transit buses running on time and streamline traffic management

Paul Powell, Vice President of Global Traffic Technologies, welcomed Missouri Valley Chiefs to the FRI luncheon in Denver and said that GTT is going to become more visible in our Division cities. GTT appreciated the opportunity to continue sponsoring the Missouri Valley Division luncheon at FRI. ☐

Joplin Conference

The Joplin Conference on scenic Route "66" was aptly titled "Living the Dream."

"Everything a Chief Officer Could Dream Of" was presented by the Joplin



Chief Gary Trulson

Fire Department and Chief Gary Trulson. Speakers like William Pessemier, Charlie Dickinson, Howard Cross and Johnathan Mullin shared information



IAFC President Steve Westermann

and ideas on how we could be better leaders and improve our Departments. Dr. Jeffery Boone kept everyone's attention in discussing Heart Disease and Strokes and what we could do to prevent this from happening.

IAFC Steve Westermann addressed the body and thanked MVD for the help and support he received from our Division during his current term as IAFC President. Missouri Valley Division is

proud of Steve and his term as IAFC President in providing leadership and vision for the IAFC. Thanks for sharing your life with the MVD and IAFC.

Chief Al Gillispie from North Las Vegas, NV sought and received endorsement for 2nd VP of the IAFC in 2009 from the Missouri Valley Division.

New MVD Officers were sworn in at the Friday banquet by International Director Rich Carrizzo. President is Chief Mark Wessel, 1st VP is Jack Taylor and 2nd VP is John Mullin.

New President Mark Wessel said his theme for the year will be Firefighter safety and what we as Chiefs can do to make it happen.

Thanks again Joplin for your leadership and hospitality. It was GREAT!!

☐
[See more Joplin Conference photos on pages 4 and 5.]



Chief Al Gillispie



Chief Mark Wessel



Missouri Valley Division New Officers: Chief Mark Wessel, President; 1st VP Jack Taylor; and 2nd VP John Mullin

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

- 1 Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
- 2 Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
- 3 Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
- 4 All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
- 5 Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on

- the duties they are expected to perform.
- 6 Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
- 7 Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
- 8 Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
- 9 Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
- 10 Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.

- 11 National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
- 12 National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
- 13 Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
- 14 Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
- 15 Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
- 16 Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment. □

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Collegiate USA is a Veteran Owned Small Business and a Minority Owned Business. □

IAFC has partnered with ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR to offer members discounted pricing for all rentals nationwide

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2008 MVD Joplin Conference





What is the FireRescue GPO?

The FireRescue-GPO program works to facilitate group purchasing contracts. Members throughout the country have access to pre-negotiated supplier contracts that offer major cost savings on capital projects and everyday purchases.

The fundamental purpose of a Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) is to allow its members to join together to leverage purchasing strength in order to acquire goods and services and lower prices. Once you are registered with the FireRescue GPO, you are given contact information to use when purchasing from our selected

vendors. It is simple and fast. The FireRescue GPO is here to answer any questions you have, negotiate contracts on your behalf, and act as a general advocate for purchasing within the fire service.

Some of the Agreements include:

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- Goodyear
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- Hon
- Insight

- John Deere Company
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- MMS – A Medical Supply Company
- Staples Business Advantage
- Wesco Distribution

Please visit and register at www.fire-rescue-gpo.com today to instantly access a portfolio of contracts. The program is completely free and voluntary. If you have any questions, contact FireRescue GPO at (800) 810-3909 or email customerservice@firerescue-gpo.com. □

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*These publicly awarded contracts are awarded to comply with public bidding requirements. In most jurisdictions, however, the contracts may not meet the procurement laws of every jurisdiction. Participating Agencies are urged to seek independent review by legal counsel to ensure compliance with all local and state bid/procurement requirements.

NEW MEMBERS
A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

DC John Bailout—Kirkwood, MO
 Chief Sean McCauley—Milliken, CO
 FI Justin Hurt—Colorado Springs, CO
 AC John Reinbolt—Cripple Creek, CO
 Chief Ryan Robinson—Holcomb, KS
 Chief Clint Robinson—Waukee, IA
 AC Michael Liberty—Green River, WY
 Chief Rich Donbraska—Torrington, WY
 Chief of Dept.—Gunnison, CO
 DC Randy Larson—Bayfield, CO
 BC Ryan Holland—Golden, CO
 DC Kevin Sweeney—Northglenn, CO
 DC Jay Ruoff—Littleton, CO
 Anthony Palmier Jr.—Aurora, CO
 DC David Matthew—Wichita, KS
 BC Brad Eden—Springfield, MO
 Chief Mark Finocchio—Plesant Hill, MO
 AC James Toone—Grandview, MO
 Chief Rich Mahaney—Cedar Rapids, IA
 Chief Chris O'Brien—Boulder, CO
 BC Robert Poncelow—Fort Collins, CO
 Chief Brady Patrick—Riverton, WY

ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule Changes

by Debbie Sobotka

ISO is considering many long-awaited changes to the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule to be published in 2009. They are offering individuals/agencies an opportunity to provide feedback to them on potential changes found on their web site. The link for this unique opportunity. <http://www.isomigation.com/fdrs.html>

The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) strongly supports the proposed changes and will be providing specific feedback to ISO with comments and recommendations. Areas under consideration that are especially of interest to our CPSE community are:

- A possible revision to include training and credentialing for fire officers in accordance with NIMS and NFPA 1021. We will strongly recommend that recognition be provided for Chief Fire Officer credentialing awarded by the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) and CPSE.

- A possible revision for implementation of master and/or strategic planning that provides recognition in the schedule to a CFAI accredited agency or to an agency which can demonstrate equivalent achievement of all core competencies outlined in the Self Assessment Model, and which are related to operations and fire fighting procedures. We will also strongly recommend that the assessment and documentation of risk be included for consideration either in strategic planning or in pre-planning.

- A possible revision to provide recognition for credentialing of telecommunicators.

- General revisions in all areas to strengthen requirements for documentation, safety and health issues, interoperability, industry standard and/or best practice compliance, and increased recognition for technology based systems.

CPSE, CFAI, and CPC applaud ISO for the revision being considered to

the rating schedule, and especially for seeking review and input in such a positive and public manner. In turn, CPSE recommends that all members of our CFAI and CPC community and all members of the fire service take advantage

of the opportunity being provided to us to help shape the systems upon which so many decisions about community fire protection service levels are based or evaluated. □

Health, Wellness, and Safety Survey

by Chief Bill Bowes

Through April and May of this year, the Missouri Valley Division Board invited departments to participate in a survey designed to determine how departments in our region are dealing with several issues related to health, safety, and wellness. In this article, we'll highlight some of the responses to the survey. We'd like to thank all the participants of the study for their input.

We are all concerned about the health of our Firefighters. That's a given. From a work perspective, they are our most valuable asset. From a human perspective, they are valuable people. Because of the physical, psychological, and emotional demands of the work we do, we should want to bring only the most fit onto the department. That is, those we believe will be able to handle the stressors previously mentioned. One of the surprising results of the survey is that almost 16% of respondents indicated that they do not use any physical agility test for new recruits. How do these Chiefs know that their candidates can meet the physical burdens of the job?

Once a Firefighter is on the department, about 98% of the departments devote resources to keeping the employee or volunteer physically fit. That's great! There are some creative methods identified in the survey on how to encourage your people to stay in shape.

Now, let's get into healthy living. This

is an area that has received much more attention in the fire service in recent years. Take a look at the survey results to see how many departments are working with the Firefighters to correct poor lifestyle choices and encourage wise choices. In contrast to the high percentage of departments that encourage physical fitness, only about 75% have

programs that deal in healthy lifestyles. We're getting there, but more work needs to be done.

The final question in the survey asked about departmental policy on many safety related issues. One of the biggest issues today is in seat belt

use. In our survey, a full 97.5% of departments mandate seat belt use. At first glance, 97.5% looks like a great number. Now think about it. What Chief would not mandate the use of seat belts? Why isn't the number 100%? It's a policy. It's the law in your department. Look at the causes of death for Firefighters. Apparatus accidents shouldn't happen, but they do. A death caused by an unrestrained Firefighter shouldn't happen, but it does. These are preventable.

As Chief Officers, we accept a tremendous amount of responsibility for the health, well-being, and safety of our Firefighters. Let's do everything we can to provide them with the tools, equipment, knowledge, policies and procedures to do the job safely so that at the end of the call or the end of the day, they can all go home. □

See Health, Wellness and Safety Survey results printed on insert page in this Fire Link

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.

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Missouri Valley Division Fire Chiefs Health & Wellness Survey

April-May 2008

Q1: In what state is your Fire Department?

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
CO	27.3%	54
IA	15.7%	31
KS	11.6%	23
MO	21.2%	42
NE	15.2%	30
ND	2.0%	4
SD	3.5%	7
WY	3.5%	7
Other	0.0%	0
answered question		198
skipped question		0

Q2: Are you a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)?

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Yes	92.8%	181
No	7.2%	14
answered question		195
skipped question		3

Q3: Please check your type of department:

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Volunteer (no pay involved)	8.6%	17
Paid-on-call	5.1%	10
Part-time employees only	0.5%	1
Combination (career and volunteer)	31.3%	62
Combination (career and paid-on-call, part-time or reserve)	11.6%	23
Career	42.9%	85
answered question		198
skipped question		0

Q4: In bringing candidates or new recruits on to your department (whether as volunteer, career, or part-time), does your department use:

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
CPAT	26.5%	52
IPAT	0.0%	0
A locally developed physical agility test	50.0%	98
No physical agility test	15.8%	31
Other	7.7%	15
answered question		196
skipped question		2

Q5: If a physical agility test is used, is it:

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Pass/Fail with no time limit	14.5%	22
Pass/Fail with a time limit	80.9%	123
Score based on time (faster time = better score)	4.6%	7
answered question		152
skipped question		46

Q6: Does your department MANDATE a physical fitness program?

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Yes	43.3%	84
No	56.7%	110
answered question		194
skipped question		4

Q7: In what ways does your department encourage Firefighters to stay fit? (Check all that apply)

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Provide a health club membership	19.6%	38
Provide exercise equipment at fire station	90.2%	175
Allow for exercise time during day	76.8%	149
Provide an opportunity for Firefighters to use a gym or other facility	26.3%	51
Other	22.7%	44
answered question		194
skipped question		4

Q8: In what ways does your department encourage Firefighters to lead a healthy lifestyle: (Check all that apply)

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Offer smoking/tobacco cessation classes	41.7%	63
Mandate no tobacco use while at work	35.8%	54
Mandate no tobacco use at any time	13.9%	21
Offer healthy cooking classes	17.9%	27
Provide healthy foods to Firefighters	6.6%	10
Pay or other incentives tied to health lifestyles	16.6%	25
Setting fitness standards that MUST be met as a condition of being on the department	29.8%	45
Bonus pay for meeting voluntary or mandatory fitness standards	7.3%	11
Other	21.9%	33
answered question		151
skipped question		47

Q9: This question deals with medical exams. Does your department offer medical exams for your Firefighters? (Check all that apply)

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Done prior to the candidate joining the department	76.8%	152
Free to the Firefighters	62.6%	124
Offered as discount rates	2.0%	4
Performed annually to all members	38.9%	77
Performed at intervals of greater than one year	25.3%	50
No medical exams are offered or performed	9.6%	19
Only provided to new candidates	8.6%	17
Other	17.7%	35
answered question		198
skipped question		0

Q10: If medical exams are offered, do they meet NFPA 1582 standards?

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Yes	77.6%	132
No	22.4%	38
answered question		170
skipped question		28

Q11: In regards to Firefighter safety while in or operating Fire Department apparatus, please check all that are addressed in SOP/SOG policy:

<u>Answer Options</u>	<u>Response %</u>	<u>Response Count</u>
Mandatory use of seat belts	97.5%	193
Apparatus WILL stop at red lights/stop signs when responding to calls	52.0%	103
Formal driver training (state or national certification)	51.5%	102
Local non-certificate driver training	60.1%	119
CDL training	8.6%	17
CDL certification	12.1%	24
Spotter WILL be used when backing apparatus	90.4%	179
Other	7.6%	15
answered question		198
skipped question		0