

TO: MSFCA Board of Directors
FROM: Chief Bill Mund - Great Lakes Division Representative
SUBJECT: Report to Board
DATE: March 20, 2009

1. GLD Board will attend CFSI April 1-3,2009

The Board of Directors will be attending the Congressional Fire Services Institute on April 1-3. We will be spending Thursday April 2nd on Capital Hill meeting with Minnesota's 8 members of congress and our one currently seated senator. Chief Zikmund and myself with lobby with other from Minnesota including: Ulie Seal and Tony Bronk representing the NVFC, George Esbensen representing the Metro Chiefs Association, and possibly one or two others. The main issues of focus for the GLD this year are:

- a. FIRE/SAFER Act Grant Funds
- b. Funding for the US Fire Administration
- c. Job Protection for Volunteer Firefighters and EMS personnel
- d. Tax Incentives for retrofitting of Sprinkler Systems

The draft legislative hot sheet is attached to this report. This hot sheet is presented to each member of congress or their staff in a folder with the Great Lakes Division emblem. This year we will also be presenting each member of congress with a challenge coin commemorating the CFSI event. Just another way to have our logo and presence with our representatives in congress after we leave.

Last year we had a record number of Minnesotan's in attendance. We will fall short of our goal to have at least one representative from all eight congressional districts in attendance but will keep working on that.

2. E-Trumpet

The GLD newsletter is now sent electronically. We have experienced some delays in staying on top of current issues and we hope to get this resolved soon. If you have not received your copy go to the website and e-mail Chief Roamer to get added to the list serve. I have attached a copy of the February E-Trumpet for your review.

3. Great Lakes Division Daily Dispatch

If you are not already receiving the daily dispatch you should get signed up. Go to www.dailydispatch.comandsignup. It's free and is unique to each state subscriber. MN related news show up at the top of the dispatch and then goes to national items of interest. One tip I would offer is to view the e-mail in html for the easiest read.

4. Fire Rescue GPO

- a. Divisional Challenge - I spoke about this at our last board meeting. This meeting I have included a flyer from the GPO about how to take part. Basically the GPO is looking for any department that is in the process of writing specification for items common to any fire department such as turnout gear, SCBA's, etc. They will offer help in writing the specifications in return for including national contract language. The benefit is that you might get more competitive bidding by having multiple national corporations bid for your item. GPO gets the advantage of adding another client to the service.
- b. We are hopeful that we will have a Fire Rescue-GPO booth at the conference this fall. This may allow us to reach a larger audience and hopefully increase purchases through the GPO. This in turn will put money into both the Great Lakes Division and the MFSCA.
- c. Fire Rescue Logo and Link on MFSCA Website. Would like the board to approve of this being added to the website.

5. There is no Board meeting scheduled but we have talked about getting together in Wisconsin in June at their state chiefs conference. I will keep everyone informed.

6. GLD Website - I am sorry to report that our website is still woefully inadequate in my opinion. I will be asking the other board members to make a commitment to get the website and the E-Trumpet back to a respectable level this year.
7. Fire Rescue International will be in Dallas this year and in Chicago in 2010. I know money is tight for everyone but this is really a conference you should make an effort to get to at least once. 2010 in Chicago would be a great place to start building a larger Minnesota contingent at FRI. I have had the opportunity to attend several of these conferences and can say without reservation that the contacts you will make and information exchanged is well worth the expense.
8. From the IAFC

- a. **Items of Interest in the Federal Stimulus Bill**

\$210 million for fire station construction. The stimulus bill provided the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program with \$210 million for fire station construction. According to the law, no grant can exceed \$15 million. We expect the AFG office to use a competitive application process that will be similar to the FIRE and SAFER grant application process so applications will be fairly and appropriately reviewed.

The application period is expected to take place this summer. The AFG office said they will have information on the fire station construction grants available as soon as possible at www.firegrantsupport.com.

An automatic waiver of the local 10-20-50-70% local match for new SAFER grants awarded in fiscal years 2009 and 2010

The stimulus bill automatically waives the 10-20-50-70% local match for *new* SAFER grants awarded during the FY 2009 and FY 2010 application periods. The FY 2009 application period is expected to take place during the summer of this year.

Please note that this waiver doesn't affect previously awarded SAFER grants. For example, if a fire department received a SAFER grant last year, it still would have to pay for 20% of the cost of the SAFER firefighter this year. In addition, other existing conditions still remain. A five-year Commitment to keep the SAFER firefighter remains, as well as the approximately \$111,000 cap (in FY 2009) on the total federal share of salaries and associated benefits for the firefighter.

In addition, the fire department still can't use a SAFER grant to supplant state or local funds. The recruitment and retention section of the SAFER grant program is not affected by the stimulus bill and continues to not require a local match.

Approximately \$9 billion of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund is designated for state governors to fund public safety, education and other government services.

The stimulus bill allocated 18.2% of the \$53.6 billion State Fiscal Stabilization Fund for state governors to fund public safety and other government services, including elementary and secondary education and public institutions of higher education.

There will be a lot of competition for this funding, which will be distributed at the state level by the governors. IAFC members are encouraged to contact their state fire chiefs' associations and work with their local governments to find out how this funding will be allocated.

- b. **2009 Safety/Health and Survival Week**

Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility

Fairfax, Va., Feb. 3, 2009... The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) are pleased to announce the theme *Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility* for the 2009 Safety, Health and Survival Week, scheduled for June 14-20.

We encourage all fire/EMS departments to devote this week to reviewing safety policies, evaluating the progress of existing initiatives and discussing health and fitness. Fire/EMS departments should make a concerted effort during the week to correct safety deficiencies and to provide training as needed. An entire week is provided to ensure that each shift and volunteer duty crew can spend one day focusing on fire fighter safety, health and survival.

Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility encourages chiefs and fire/EMS personnel to focus on what they personally can do to manage risk and enhance their health and safety. This year's theme reflects the need for personal responsibility and accountability within a strong safety culture.

"Fire fighter safety is a full-time job for all of us, all of the time. We can't rely on someone else to do it for us. It takes personal commitment," said IAFC President Chief Larry Grorud, CFO, MIFireE.

"The Safety, Health and Survival Week is an opportunity for IAFF members and their fire chiefs to take defensive action against dangers that can be controlled or prevented and make a long-term commitment to staying safe and healthy," said IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger.

Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder, chair of the IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival (SHS) Section said, "While some fire fighter injury and death cannot be avoided, so much of it can be, and it so often falls to each of us taking responsibility for ourselves and each other. A very critical factor in success is the role of fire officers and chiefs developing policy, providing training and enforcing the policy based on training to each and every member. The IAFC SHS Section proactively leads and supports any department, anywhere, in accomplishing these goals."

Recommended activities and materials will incorporate four key areas where standard operating procedures, policies and initiatives-along with the training and enforcement that support them-can limit fire/EMS personnel's risk of injury or death:

Safety - Emergency Driving (*Enough is Enough-End Senseless Death*)

1. Lower speeds-stop racing to the scene. Drive safely and arrive alive to help others.
2. Utilize seat belts-never drive or ride without them.
3. Stop at every intersection-look in all directions and then proceed in a safe manner.

Health - Fire Fighter Heart Disease and Cancer Education and Prevention.

1. Don't smoke or use tobacco products.
2. Get active.
3. Eat a heart-healthy diet.
4. Maintain a healthy weight.
5. Get regular health screenings.

Survival - Structural Size-Up and Situational Awareness

1. Keep apprised of different types of building materials and construction used in your community.
2. Develop a comprehensive size-up checklist.
3. Always complete a 3600 walk of the structure to collect valuable, operational decision-making information.
4. Learn the practice of reading smoke.
5. Be familiar with the accepted rules of engagement.
6. Learn your accountability system and use it.
7. Master your tools and equipment.

8. Remain calm and concentrate.

Chiefs - Be the Leader in Safety

1. Become personally engaged in safety and make it part of your strategic vision for the department.
2. Be willing to make the tough decisions regarding safety policies and practices and their implementation.
3. Hold members of the organization accountable for their safety and the safety of those with whom they work.
4. Ensure that resources are available to accomplish activities safely and effectively.

Keep watching www.iafc.org/safetyweek for more information on this year's program and planning resources developed by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section.

9. As always if anyone has questions about the Great Lakes Division or the IAFC please contact me:

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10. One final reminder, our current division president, Hank Clemmensen, is a candidate for 2nd VP in this year's elections. Also our own Nyle Zikmund will take over as the GLD President in August of 2009. I am looking forward to working with Chief Zikmund over the next two years to make the GLD even better.