

Conference Kick -Off - “Lessons Learned”

Facilitators: Scott Carriveau & Tim Farmer

Atwater Fire Destroys Major Portion of Their Business District

Presenter: Atwater Fire Chief Gerald Schwartz

An early morning fire in extremely cold temperatures challenged the Atwater Fire Department, destroying three buildings which housed four businesses. A loss of this magnitude in a small town can be hard to imagine and is even more devastating if the business choose to re-locate instead of rebuilding. There was an initial report of a possible trapped occupant and the fire was spreading quickly through the buildings which had no fire separations. Chief Schwartz will explain how they were able to contain the fire which destroyed a restaurant, hardware store, plumbing store and graphics design business.

Coon Rapids Fire Captain Experiences a “Stroke of Luck”

Presenter: Coon Rapids Fire Captain Ken Boelter

While commanding a working house fire, Coon Rapids Fire Captain Ken Boelter began experiencing problems with thinking and speaking clearly, and even physical problems with his leg and arm including the inability to key his radio microphone. Although firefighters and other officers on the scene noticed Captain Boelter was acting strangely, nobody mentioned this to Ken, nor did he seek medical aid. He drove home at the end of the shift and began to realize he was in deep trouble. Captain Boelter says that it was only “a stroke of luck” that he is alive today.

Inver Grove Heights Fire Department Challenged by a River Bridge Fire

Presenters: Inver Grove Heights Fire Chief Judy Thill & Deputy Fire Chief Eric Bergum

On November 4, 2010, the Rock Island Railroad Swing Bridge (swings open in the middle to let boat traffic pass through) over the Mississippi River, which was being renovated as a public pier, caught fire. The Inver Grove Heights Fire Department responded and were faced with a large a complicated fire situation. The \$2.4 million renovation project was only two weeks from completion when the fire occurred. Officers from the Inver Grove Heights Fire Department will discuss the challenges and safety issues they faced as they successfully extinguished the fire.

Eighteen Fire Departments Battle a Plymouth Apartment Building Fire

Presenter: Plymouth Deputy Fire Chief Kip Springer

Plymouth firefighters arrived to find heavy fire showing from the west side of the three-story apartment building. The seventy-two unit, wood-frame building was built prior to requirements for a fire sprinkler system which necessitated the quick establishment fire attack and search efforts. Crews were immediately deployed to the third floor after they received reports of residents being trapped. Five people, including three firefighters, were injured and damage estimates were put at \$1.5 million. Chief Springer will share the lesson they learned at this major event.

State Fire Marshal’s Workshop – Thursday Session

Facilitator: Kevin McGinty

The Fire Departments Role in the Investigation of Fires

Presenters: SFM Casey Stotts and G. Crawford Wiestling

This program will provide information on the statutory requirements of fire officers to conduct or initiate investigation of fires and explosions. They will also provide the requirements and support

services available involving fatal fires (including the death or critical injury of a firefighter) and initiation of the investigation process.

Stump the Deputy Fire Marshal

Presenter: Deputy State Fire Marshal Robert Dahm

Attendees will be briefed on the current activities of the State Fire Marshal Division, and offered considerable time to ask questions of Deputy State Fire Marshal Robert Dahm.

New Chief's Workshop

Facilitator: Nyle Zikmund

This workshop will include a panel of experienced Chief Officers who will share ideas with new Chief Officers that include direction, information and suggestions to make their abilities more effective. Some of the Fire Organizations that will be reviewed are the MSFCA, MSFDA, MARAC, IAAI, FMAM, OSHA, and SFMO, HSEM and other state and federal agencies.

Along with the overview will be a summary of legal, fiscal and liability issues that today's chief officers faces, as well as model standards and policies that cover such issues as training, human resources, budgets, leadership, fire cause determination and arson responsibilities.

EMS Program Management

Facilitator: Frank Langer

Firefighter Rehab Taking Care of our Own

Presenters: Mike Dobesh, St. Louis Park FD and Kevin Sipprell, MD and Mound FD

This session will explore the bases for the Rehab Standards, the resources available for your department to meet the standard and some best practices for deploying rehab. Attendees will learn about the science behind the standard and be able to apply it in the field. Chiefs will also be shown how to deliver the training materials within their jurisdictions.

NOTE: The EMS Program Management section of the MSFCA Conference is "New" for 2011. The Education Committee felt that since an increased percentage of calls that we respond to have an EMS connotation; it was time to experiment with the management side of EMS. Please let our committee know how you feel about this addition.

Professional Development Workshop

Facilitator: Jim Hansen

KB-9 Kinetic Breakthrough Coaching

Presenter: Ken Betterton, MPA

This workshop is designed specifically for those chiefs involved in leadership and supervision. Most individuals take a decade through trial and error to learn the valuable skills that will be presented in this workshop. Participants will learn the true meaning of leadership and understand the honor of the service for others.

"KB-9 Coaching" is an original coaching program, uniquely designed to address the individual coach first by examining what it is they bring to the relationship. The program looks at their psychological preference, personal strengths, weakness, communication style and values. All of which are the driving forces of the effective coaching of another.

Chiefs Issues Workshop – Thursday Session

Facilitators: Dale Specken & Mike Craig

Firehouse Law Update

Presenter: John Rukavina, Weaverville, NC.

Chief Rukavina believes that it has never been as challenging to be a chief officer as it is today- and recent changes in the law have only added to the challenges. This program will provide update information on how today's "firehouse law" changes the fire service.

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify the five changes in law at the federal and state level that affect fire service management;
- Identify three "risk management strategies" that can help chief officers avoid legal entanglements;
- Identify five "social media management strategies" that will help a chief lawfully manage firefighter use of social media.

Safety

Facilitators: Rob Pearson & Lee Gatlin

Fire Ground Strategies: Safety and Operational Awareness

Presenter: Chief Anthony Avillo, Freehold, NJ.

Participants will be made well aware of the ease with which complacency and inattention on the fireground can lead them to become injured or a fatality statistic and of the unintended consequences of unsafe actions. Accountability, adequate supervision, discipline, leadership, and safety on the fireground will be strongly emphasized.

Chiefs Issues Workshop – Friday Session

Facilitators: Dale Specken & Mike Craig

Rules for Engagement for the Volunteer Chief Officer

Presenter: Chief Tim Holman, North Hampton, Ohio

The challenges facing the volunteer chief officer today are many. This presentation is designed to explore those challenges while offering practical solutions. Topics to be covered include the role and responsibility of the chief officer, budget principles, long term and short term planning, departmental needs assessment, the 5 levels of leadership, dealing with performance issues, problem solving and decision making just to mention a few.

Hot Topics Workshop

Facilitators: Ulie Seal & Doug Thies

Prevention: "Expanding the Vision of the Fire Service Mission"

Find out what fire departments from across the state are doing beyond emergency response services to meet the needs of their communities. A panel of Minnesota Fire Chiefs from Volunteer, Paid-on-Call, Combination, and Full time departments will share their prevention success stories. Topics include:

- How to start and expand your prevention programs;
- How to work with community partners to make prevention programs thrive;
- England's Fire Department home safety program.

Critical Infrastructure Key Resource (CIKR) Protection

Presenters: Ulie Seal and Glen Sanders

CIKR Protection is Vital to America:

- Asset, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such assets, systems, or networks would have a debilitating impact on the security, national economic security, public health or safety or any combination of those matters;
- Essential to the Nation's security, public health and safety, economic vitality, and way of life.

State Fire Marshal's Workshop – Friday Session

Facilitator: Kevin McGinty

Basic Fire Code for Small to Medium Size Fire Departments

John W. Gergen, SFM Office

Volunteer and Paid-on-Call Fire Chiefs are constantly asked questions regarding fire code issues in their jurisdictions. The participant of this class will understand the "basic" principles and outline of the Fire Code. Participants will understand common code problems, and the code questions they may encounter. Participants will also be able to identify what Fire Code provisions can be applied simply and within limited time constraints to make the most impact on your community's safety. Participants will also be able to identify Fire Code provisions that can assist in department operations and firefighter safety. Finally, participants will understand the State Fire Marshal's Office resources available for their assistance.

Fire Safety on a Limited Budget

Presenter: Becki White, SFM Office

Budgets are decreasing, we are asked to do more with less day after day. There comes a point when you just want to give up. However, public image is a large part of who we are in the fire service. This class will assist you in "shining up your image" by knowing where to get the resources you need for fire safety and prevention education and how to create low cost programs that can be used throughout the year at community events.

Emergency Management

Facilitator: John Olson

Awareness of Improvised Explosive Devices and the Minnesota Bomb Squad Capabilities

Presenters: Kevin Reed and Sergeant John Adamek

Participants will receive information on how to identify active threats and hazards unique to our state, and focus will be given on the prevention and interdiction of the suicide bomber by providing knowledge for developing policies, procedures, to deter, prevent, interdict, respond to, and mitigate the effects of a suicide bomber.

The Fire Officers role in Emergency Management

Presenter: Chief Jerry Streich, Centennial Fire District

All incidents start at the local level! What will you do when your incident defeats your available resources? During this session, we will help you develop your skills and understanding of what it means to be the incident commander. This 90 minute discussion will lead you from the local level incident through the "statewide emergency plan" giving you an array of available resources to include the Fire Chiefs Assistance and Support Team (FAST), and the Incident Management Team (IMT). You will hear from those that work within those teams and from those that have used them.

Symposium

Facilitator: Rich Gasaway & David Brosnahan

On January 8, 2011 a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) shooting occurred in Tucson, Arizona resulting in 6 deaths and 13 injuries. Northwest Fire/Rescue District Fire Chief Jeff Piechura will share information on his department's preparation and their inter-agency response that resulted in the transport of 13 shooting victims to area hospitals within 39 minutes from the first 9-1-1 call. Lessons learned from their Post Incident Review will be shared including the follow-up support functions provided on-scene and throughout the following weeks in assisting the community in recovery from this horrific tragedy.

About the Presenter: Chief Jeff Piechura is Fire Chief of the Northwest Fire/Rescue District in Southern Arizona. His passion is for "doing the right thing" drives his ambitions to not only lead a successful internationally accredited fire department, but also to give back to the communities and organizations that demand excellence from their emergency service providers.

The Education Committee is hopeful that fire chiefs from around the state will see the incredible value of the shared lessons from an event that could, quite literally, happen in any city, town, or village.