# MINNESOTA

# FIRE CHIEF

2018 MSFCA Conference Program and Directory



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# INNESOTA HIRE CHIEF

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On October 10, 2017 the Saint Paul Fire Department responded to the report of a dwelling fire in a historic home in the city's Cathedral Hill neighborhood. Firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke and fire showing from the upper floors of the home built in 1865. Secondary to the heavy fire involvement in the structure, there was a partial collapse of the roof on the B/C side of the home. The fire was controlled, extinguished, and effectively overhauled through the efforts of 70 Saint Paul firefighters that were on-scene.

There were no reported injuries of tenants or firefighters during this significant dwelling fire.

Photo courtesy of Paul Barrett, Fire Captain for S.P.F.D. (Retired).

Our Mission: The mission of the Minnesota Fire Chief magazine is to create a stronger, more effective Minnesota fire service by engaging leaders with the best training, education and professional development opportunities available.

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# resident's message

T. John Cunningham



Cell: 763-203-1641 • email: president@msfca.org



# Dear colleagues and friends...

Welcome to the 2018 Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association annual conference! We are extremely excited to be in St. Paul. Planning for this year's conference in our capitol city has been underway for many years and we are very appreciative to Mayor Carter, the entire city, the St. Paul Fire Department, and the RiverCentre for being such gracious hosts to Minnesota's fire service leaders.

This year's conference offers many exciting learning opportunities. Our Conference and Education committees have worked tirelessly this past year to bring fresh content and new ideas to the conference, including the pilot of a singleday attendee pass to afford departments the opportunity to send additional firefighters and officers to the conference. Other program enhancements include a second symposium speaker, new roundtables, and greater exhibit space and networking opportunities. Please take full advantage of the conference and the amenities the city has provided this year!

As I reflect on this past year, I am very proud of the great successes we have achieved together. As a member and committee driven organization, our success is directly attributed to the hard work every one of you do to forward our Association's mission. Our Association's heartbeat is palpable; we are strong because of your commitment to making the fire service better than it was yesterday and to ensure that we, as a profession, continue providing the best service to our communities. Our members are champions at developing innovative solutions to emerging challenges and being proactive at creating a better, safer, and more efficient fire service.

Despite our profession's progress, I am concerned over what I feel is a mounting crisis facing the Minnesota fire service. Departments continue to struggle to recruit and retain firefighters (volunteer and career); financial resources are strained and in some cases almost non-existent for one of the most essential core governmental functions (we rank 44th in per-capita spending compared to the rest of the United States); the risks associated with the profession continue to mount (mental health, cancer, cardiac, and the threats of physical violence); increased service demands strain available resources and our people; we fail to market ourselves effectively and struggle to tell our story in a way that yields results; and many of the traditions and the brotherhood culture of the fire service is fading. While you may not entirely agree with me on all of these issues, or you possibly have your own concerns to add to this list, I am certain that we all acknowledge the existence of challenges that are not unique to any specific department.

Now that I have painted you a dark and gloomy picture, I am not going to conclude without providing a solution. Our Association is comprised of the best leaders from the Minnesota fire service. Every day, we are confronted with some of the most complex and dangerous of problems. The public knows that when they call 911 - no matter what the problem – we will respond to help fix the issue. Similarly, as an Association, we are an incredibly powerful and talented group of leaders that can work collaboratively to resolve some of the most complex challenges facing our profession. While we may have our individual differences, we need to come together and work harder than ever before to ensure that we leave future generations a fire service that was better than it is today.

The upcoming year of my Presidency will be committed to leading this initiative. I will need your help in this endeavor and hope that I can count on your involvement and support. Together, we can continue to accomplish great



# **KEEP YOUR MASK ON.**

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# Welcome to St. Paul



390 City Hall 15 West Kellogg Boulevard Saint Paul, MN 55102



Dear Members of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Delegation,

As the Mayor of the great city of Saint Paul, it is my pleasure to extend the warmest welcome to the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Conference. I am very thankful for all the outstanding and honorable work that our fire departments do across the state. There is great value in your service.

As you visit Saint Paul, I encourage you to also take advantage of the many unique attractions and diverse array of restaurants, locally owned business and hotels featured throughout the cultural corridors in the City of Saint Paul. We are honored to be hosting you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

14114Z

Melvin Carter, Mayor



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# St. Paul fire department **WELCOMES YOU!**

The City of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Fire Department are proud to welcome the 2018 Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Conference to Saint Paul. The City of Saint Paul is no stranger to hosting visitors and numerous large events annually, including the Minnesota State Fair, Red Bull Crashed Ice, the Twin Cities Marathon, and Minnesota Wild hockey games. Our Capitol City has a rich and diverse history. We invite you to explore our history, walk or ride along the Mississippi River, enjoy any of our beautiful parks, or eat at any of our many acclaimed restaurants. All of these contribute to making Saint Paul a City that works for all.

The Saint Paul Fire Department prides itself on finding innovative ways to improve the all hazards services we provide to the residents and visitors of the City of Saint Paul. Please join us after the conference on Saturday, October 13 at Fire Station 1 located at 1000 West 7th Street where we will have static displays, tours, and demonstrations of some of our many resources.

Sincerely,

Butch Inks Fire Chief, Saint Paul Fire Department

# **Greetings from the MSFCA Executive Director**

2018 is the first time the Annual Conference has come to St. Paul in over 40 years. The Conference Committee has spent hours of time over many months tackling many unique and unexpected planning elements. Their ability to think outside the box, focus on detail, consider what attendees and vendors would take-away and their relentless dedication to making this event a success has set the stage for a truly unforgettable event.

Expenses for holding an event in a big city are higher than some of the more common MSFCA venues, yet the Conference Committee worked creatively to keep the registration costs the same as they were in 2017 for booths, truck spaces and attendee registration. They also added two new cost-effective options for attendees to tailor their experience in a way that works best for them: single-day attendance and complimentary attendance for registered Chiefs to bring their Administrative Assistant for a day and others in their department into the Expo.

The RiverCentre is connected to the Xcel Energy Center (where the MN Wild will be playing the Blackhawks at 7pm on Thursday), located at the end of one of St. Paul's most walkable entertainment areas, West 7th District. In just this 3-block area you'll find more than two dozen restaurants, many unique shops and a variety of entertaining social spaces to relax and connect with other conference-goers.

The Education Committee has meticulously selected topics and speakers to provide top-notch training and information that attendees can take back to their departments and implement immediately. Along with the great, high-quality Educational Sessions attendees are familiar with, the networking and information shared at the Roundtable events and Vendor Educational Sessions provide incredible insight into many additional facets to the fire service.

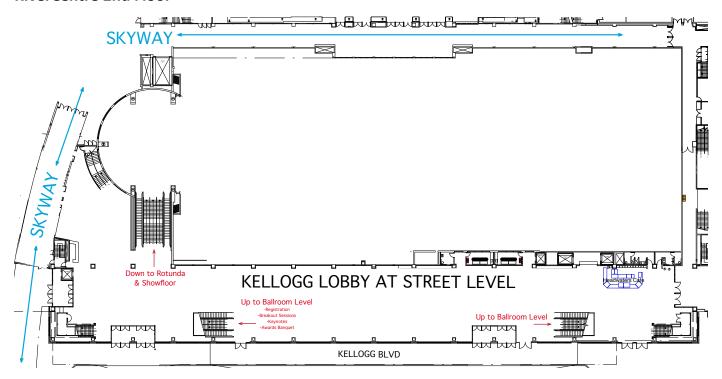
Our office, the Board of Directors and all the MSFCA Committees all hope that you have a memorable time these next few days networking with your peers, sharing best practices, hearing about lessons learned, gathering valuable information on the tradeshow floor, absorbing the knowledge shared by nationally renowned speakers and other industry experts and, of course, celebrating National Fire Prevention Week together with your fellow fire service professionals.

Enjoy the MSFCA 2018 Annual Conference!

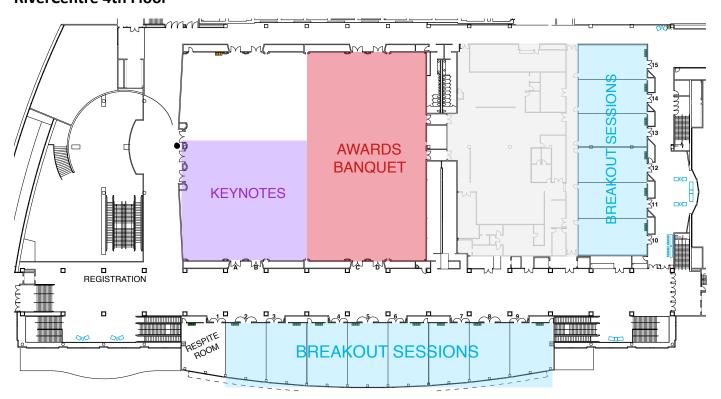
Jennifer Rzepka, CAE Executive Director

# RiverCentre Maps

### **RiverCentre 2nd Floor**



### **RiverCentre 4th Floor**





RiverCentre · St. Paul, MN

# Schedule of Events · October 10-13, 2018







◆ = ticket required

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 FRIDAY,		
11:00 am – 4:00 pm	Board Meeting Mtg Rm 3	7:00 am –
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Registration Open Ballroom Concourse	7:00 am –
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Welcome Reception Rotunda	7:00 am –
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11		
7:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration Open Ballroom Concourse	8:00 am –
8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Respite Room Mtg Rm 1	8:00 am –
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Conference Welcome Ballroom A&B	9:00 am
9:15 am – 11:15 am	Opening Symposium Ballroom A&B	
11:00 am	Partner Event Summit Brewery ◆ Meet at Registration	Starting 9:
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	MSFCA General Business Meeting Ballroom A&B	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm -
12:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open (includes lunch) • Exhibit Hall A&B	Starting 2
	FAST Team Lunch ◆  Mtg Rm 3	5:30 pm –
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Vendor Education Sessions (30 min each)	6:00 pm –
100 500	Mtg Rms 4 & 5	6:45 pm –
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Roundtables Mtg Rms 6-9	SATURD
2:15 pm	Afternoon Break	7:30 am –
'	Exhibit Hall A&B	
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Reception Exhibit Hall A&B	8:00 am –
I		0.00

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12		
7:00 am – 2:00 pm	Registration Open Ballroom Concourse	
7:00 am – 7:50 am	Vendor Appreciation Breakfast ◆ (by invite only) Mtg Rm 4	
7:00 am – 10:00 pm	Respite Room Mtg Rm 1	
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Educational Sessions Mtg Rms 7-15	
8:00 am – 1:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open Exhibit Hall A&B 1:00 pm Drawing: Vendor Stamp Card	
9:00 am	Partner/Family Events: Padelford Riverboat ◆ (or) Mall of America Trip ◆ Meet at Registration	
Starting 9:00 am	Morning Breaks Exhibit Hall A&B (staggered)	
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own	
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Educational Sessions  Mtg Rms 7-15	
Starting 2:30 pm	Afternoon Breaks Ballroom Concourse (staggered)	
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Memorial Service Ballroom A&B	
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Social Ballroom Concourse	
6:45 pm – 9:00 pm	Awards Banquet ◆ Ballroom CDGH	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13		
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration Open Ballroom Concourse	
8:00 am – 8:30 am	Light Breakfast  Ballroom Concourse	

Symposium Session

Ballroom Concourse

Ballroom A&B

10:00 am - 10:30 am Morning Refreshments

8:30 am - 11:30 am



### RiverCentre · St. Paul, MN

♦ = ticket required

### Wednesday, October 10, 2018

11:00 am - 4:00 pm Board Meeting - Mtg Rm 3

5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Registration Open - Ballroom Concourse

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Welcome Reception - Rotunda

### Thursday, October 11, 2018

7:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration Open - Ballroom Concourse

8:00 am - 6:00 pm Respite Room - Mtg Rm 1

9:00 am - 9:15 am Conference Welcome - Ballroom A&B

9:15 am - 11:15 am Opening Symposium - Ballroom A&B

### **Developing Resiliency: On the Job and Off**

Presenter: Ali Warren Rothrock, Founder, Hope Lives Publishing & Author, Where Hope Lives

Ali Warren Rothrock will share how gender discrimination and sexual trauma in the fire service negatively impacted her mental health and her outlook on the world. She will discuss her PTSD diagnosis and how that affected all aspects of her life. She will talk about finding her way back to the fire service and what positive coping skills she learned to integrate into her life to stay well. She will also discuss how to create more inclusive and respectful work environments. Ali focuses on how we can build more resilient firefighters to be able to withstand the mental health demands of the job, process incidents of mass violence, and create more supportive work environments. It provides mental health education around compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma, suicide, acute and Post Traumatic Stress, and how to process grief as a firefighter.

11:15 am - 12:00 pm MSFCA General Business Meeting

Ballroom A&B

12:00 pm - 7:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open (includes lunch) ◆

Exhibit Hall A&B

FAST Team Lunch • Mtg Rm 3

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Vendor Education Sessions

Mtg Rms 4 & 5 (30-min each)

These 30-minute sessions are concurrent with the Roundtables and alternate in meeting rooms 4 & 5. Times, topics and presenters in next column.

1:00 pm – 2:45 pm First Roundtable Sessions

Mtg Rms 6-9

Due to the popularity of the three sessions offered last year, the Education Committee is pleased to offer eight roundtables in 2018, two sets of four, 90-minute sessions. See next page for Roundtable Session descriptions.

2:15 pm Afternoon Break – Exhibit Hall A&B

3:00 pm - 4:45 pm Second Roundtable Sessions

Mtg Rms 6-9

**11:00 am** Partner Event: Summit Brewery ◆

Meet at Registration

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Reception - Exhibit Hall A&B

### **Vendor Education Sessions**

1:00 pm: Understanding Public Safety DAS Solution for Providing Critical Communications for First Responders

Mark Kerschner, Westell, Inc.

1:30 pm: Reducing Toxin Exposure in Fire Station Buildings
Quinn Hutson, CNH Architects

2:00 pm: Fire Damage Restoration 101

Cian Chase & Eric Lundeen, Paul Davis Restoration

2:30 pm: 5 Policy "Hot Spots" for Fire Departments: Essential

Policies for Limiting Your Risk as Fire Chief

Paul Clark, Business Development Executive, Lexipol

3:00 pm: Medicaid Cost Recovery Opportunity: Are Minnesota

**EMS Providers Leaving Money on the Table?** 

Megan Morris & Alissa Narode, Public Consulting Group

3:30 pm: Coordinated Response Exercise Steve Roberts, MN Pipeline CAER

4:00 pm: How Incidents are Managed on the Roadway Matter Thomas Nixon, Regional Coordinator, Central MN Towards Zero Deaths

4:30 pm: The ISO Grading Schedule; A Guide to Improving Your Community's Fire Protection Class

Doug Robinson, ISO

### **Roundtable Sessions**

1:00 pm First Roundtable Sessions

Fire Ground Rehab at Fire Scenes: What it is and Why it's Done – Mtg Rm 6 – Assistant Chief Mike Dobesh, Richfield, Assistant Chief Steve Baker, Golden Valley and Safety Committee Members

Facility Issues Related to Cancer Prevention in the Fire Service – Mtg Rm 7 – Michael Clark, Five Bugles

Legislative: Fire Service Legislative Initiatives; Not Just Committee Work, We Need Everyone's Help – Mtg Rm 8 – Chief BJ Jungmann, Burnsville

Certification vs. Licensing – Mtg Rm 9 – Steve Flaherty, Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training & Education, Theresa Zikmund, Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board

### 3:00 pm Second Roundtable Sessions

Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM)

**Update – Mtg Rm 6** – Bob Berg, Hazardous Materials Response Planner, John Kreuser, Hazardous Materials Response Planner, Rick Luth, State Emergency Response Teams Coordinator, Joe Neuberger, Operations Branch Director & Kevin Reed, Deputy Director

FirstNet: Evaluating Cellular Service for Your County or Agency – Mtg Rm 7 – Melinda Miller, State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Click, Submit & Done! Documentation Made Simple – Mtg Rm 8 – John Hamilton, Jots Computer Services, Chief Jeff Leuer, Loretto FD & Chief Justin McCoy, Maple Plain

The Discussion Continues on PTSD & Mental Health – Mtg Rm 9 – Ali Warren Rothrock, Founder, Hope Lives Publishing & Author, Where Hope Lives

See next page for Roundtable Session descriptions.



RiverCentre · St. Paul, MN

### **Roundtable Session Descriptions**

### 1:00 pm First Roundtable Sessions

### Fire Ground Rehab at Fire Scenes: What it is and Why it's Done – *Mta Rm* 6

# Presenters: Assistant Chief Mike Dobesh, Richfield, Assistant Chief Steve Baker, Golden Valley & Safety Committee Members

The focus of this discussion will be to review the Rehab Program that was created with a number of organizations, including the MSFCA. This program has medical guidance and easy steps for implementation (it is also currently available on the MSFCA website).

The discussion is designed to highlight how a department can apply the NFPA 1584 standard and use the program within their department. If participating departments have already implemented the program, the discussion will get into the current best practices in Rehab.

Topics will include staffing; record keeping; medical training; regional models; basic equipment and recognized "best practices".

# Facility Issues Related to Cancer Prevention in the Fire Service – *Mtg Rm 7*

### **Presenter: Michael Clark & Jim Schmidt, Five Bugles**

Join this interactive discussion that will present back ground information on cancers in the Fire Service and then lead the group in a discussion of best practices, practical applications and most importantly, what is currently being done to prevent cancer exposures in new and existing fire stations. Come prepared to learn what your contemporaries are doing across the state as well as to share what measures your department is implementing or considering

# Legislative: Fire Service Legislative Initiatives; Not Just Committee Work, We Need Everyone's Help – *Mtg Rm* 8 Presenter: Chief BJ Jungmann, Burnsville

Legislative Chair BJ Jungmann will facilitate an interactive session covering highlights from the last legislative session, as well as a discussion about ideas for next year's session. One initiative that is being pursued and will need statewide support is Fire Taxing District legislative that will improve the ability of agencies to combine services under a singular governance model. The session will explain what a Fire Taxing District is and what benefits it can bring to both rural and urban communities. Lastly, the session will give ideas of how you can engage legislators and assist in supporting the statewide legislative effort.

### Certification vs. Licensing – Mtg Rm 9

Presenter: Steve Flaherty, Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training & Education, Theresa Zikmund, Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board

Have you ever wondered: what's the difference between being a certified firefighter or a licensed firefighter in Minnesota? Who is eligible for Firefighter Licensing in Minnesota?

What impact does firefighter licensing have on MBFTE training reimbursements?

Experts will be on hand to explain the process and differences of Firefighter Certification and Firefighter Licensing in Minnesota. Discussion will include the impact of certification and licensing on MBFTE training reimbursements. Staff from the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training & Education will be on hand with staff from the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board.

### 3:00 pm Second Roundtable Sessions

Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) – Mtg Rm 6
Presenters: Bob Berg, Hazardous Materials Response Planner,
John Kreuser, Hazardous Materials Response Planner, Rick
Luth, State Emergency Response Teams Coordinator, Joe
Neuberger, Operations Branch Director & Kevin Reed, Deputy
Director

Regardless of your position or department, this round table discussion will offer insight into the decision making process to request a Minnesota State Special teams(s). HSEM staff will discuss CAT/ERT's, 55th CST, TF 1 and Bomb squads and in broad term what each team brings to your scene. The focus will include scene size up, MNDO notification, team conference calls, response times, and how costs of the response are recovered. At the conclusion of the round table, you should have the knowledge to quickly make informed decisions as to a state team request and their response.

After attending the round table, attendees will be able to identify what state team is needed, procedures to receive a state team response, what equipment and skills the team brings to your scene.

Reduce any concerns or anxiety regarding the process of requesting a state team, what financial responsibilities the requestor has, how reimbursement is recovered.

Provide an open forum for discussing what information state teams will need to best assist your agency with a response.

What training and outreach state teams and MN HSEM offers before the event occurs, to better prepare you and your agency to successfully respond to the incident.

### Firstnet: Evaluating Cellular Service for Your County or Agency – Mtg Rm 7

# Presenter: Melinda Miller, State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety

We will review putting together a project for evaluating cellular service. Coverage, Capacity and Cost are the top three issues to address, although "Subscriber paid plans" should be reviewed for volunteers in particular. We will also talk about new tools and technologies that could be seen on the job in the next ten years.

# Click, Submit & Done! Documentation Made Simple – *Mtg Rm 8*Presenters: John Hamilton, Jots Computer Services, Chief Jeff Leuer, Loretto FD & Chief Justin McCoy, Maple Plain

This round table discussion highlights how two fire agencies moved from paper forms to digital apps on their mobile devices. We know documentation is important and even mandated, but is your agency doing it? Learn how your agency can save time, increase efficiency, improve documentation work-flow and create professional documents. The Chiefs share how they updated their data collection process, made it simple for the firefighters to use, easy for the administration staff to manage and budget friendly. Demonstration on apparatus inventory/inspections, meeting and training records, SCBA Inspections, PPE and other department records.

# The Discussion Continues on PTSD & Mental Health – *Mtg Rm* 9 Presenter: Ali Warren Rothrock, Founder, Hope Lives Publishing & Author, Where Hope Lives

Ali will continue her discussion on PTSD, mental health and the impacts it had on her. She will talk about finding her way back to the fire service and what positive coping skills she learned to integrate into her life to stay well. She will also discuss how to create more inclusive and respectful work environments. Ali will provide mental health education as it's relevant to first responders including suicide prevention, practical coping skills and relevant resources. Ali will also be able to answer any questions you may have about her presentation.



### RiverCentre · St. Paul, MN

### Friday, October 12, 2018

7:00 am – 2:00 pm Registration Open – Ballroom Concourse

7:00 am - 7:50 am Vendor Appreciation Breakfast ◆

(by invite only) – Mtg Rm 4

**7:00 am – 10:00 pm** Respite Room – *Mtg Rm 1* 

8:00 am - 4:30 pm Full Day Educational Sessions

Mtg Rms 10 & 15

8:00 am – 12:00 pm Morning Educational Sessions

Mtg Rms 7-9 & 11-14

8:00 am - 1:30 pm Exhibit Hall Open - Exhibit Hall A&B

1:00 pm Vendor Stamp Card Drawing

9:00 am Partner/Family Events •

Padelford Riverboat (or) Mall of America

Meet at Registration

Starting 9:00 am Morning Breaks – In Expo Hall

**12:00 pm – 1:30 pm** *Lunch on your own* 

### **Full Day Educational Sessions**

8:00 am - 4:30 pm: FITOAM Track - Mtg Rm 10 (Morning break at 9:00 am, Afternoon break at 2:30 pm)

**Human Behavior: The Stealth Killer of First Responders** 

**Presenter: Dr. Rich Gasaway** 

This program shares the powerful findings of Dr. Gasaway's extensive research on issues related to first responder decision making and flawed situational awareness. In his review of hundreds of near-miss reports, case studies, line of duty death reports and videos, he continually found himself being frustrated because there were so many clues, indicators and signs that the incident was going to end in disaster. This program will focus on some of the most pervasive situational awareness barriers first responder will face while operating in stress filled, dynamically-changing environments.

# **9:00 am - 3:30 pm: Administrative Support -** *Mtg Rm 15 (Morning break at 9:00 am, Afternoon break at 3:00 pm)*

The Administrative Support track is for individuals whose job duties consist of processing or completion of the following administrative functions: MFIRS Reporting, Workers Compensation Claims, OSHA requirements, Recruitment issues such as background checks, Minnesota Board of Fire Training and Education reimbursements, Public Employee's Retirement Association pension reporting, Office of the State Auditor Volunteer Pension Plan reporting requirements, Data Retention, Data Privacy, Critical Incidence Stress Debriefing and more.

This series of sessions will feature representatives from a few key agencies who will provide updates on new changes, an overview of their system and requirements, and time to interact to provide answers to your questions. Information packets for some of the agencies/areas who are not presenting will also be provided to attendees. A fantastic opportunity to actually meet the people you currently just talk on the phone or email with! Come check it out, network with other professionals, and take time to view the vast vendor display. For an additional charge, stay and join us for our annual Awards Banquet.

### Morning Educational Sessions - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Health and Wellness - Mtg Rm 7

(break at 9:00 am)

Presenters: MnFIRE, Assistant Chief Mike Dobesh, Richfield & Deputy Chief John Wolff, St Louis Park

### Minimizing Exposures to Products of Combustion

Participants will come away from this program with an enhanced understanding of how to minimize exposures to products of combustion in addition to how to implement simple and inexpensive solutions to improve firefighter safety through onscene DECON.

### What Are We Dealing With?

This awareness level training will review the chemical components of smoke and the impact that products of combustion and chemical flame retardants have on firefighter health and wellness. You will learn the most common ways you are exposed to these noxious hazards. Hear real life examples from firefighters on how their health has been impacted by products of combustion.

### The Fire Service Response & Best Practices

This program also reviews what leading agencies are doing to better understand the problem and what participants can do immediately to minimize exposures to products of combustion. This program will review current research, best practices, sample SOG's, and a variety of supplies and equipment available to improve health and wellness.

### State Fire Marshal - Mtg Rm 8

(break at 9:30 am)

### Stump the Fire Marshal

**Presenter: Bruce West, Minnesota State Fire Marshal** 

Marshal West will give updates on division activities and you will have an opportunity to ask him any question you want. There will also be a chance to provide input and feedback of the State Fire Marshal Division.

### **Getting Ahead of the Silver Surge**

Presenters: Amanda Swenson, Fire/Life Safety Educator North & Kathi Osmonson, Fire/Life Safety Educator South, Deputy State Fire Marshals

The total number of older adults (65+) is anticipated to double between 2010 and 2030, according to projections. By then, more than 1 in 5 Minnesotans will be an older adult. According to our statewide incident data, older adults are at higher risk across the state to be injured or killed in a fire. Join us to learn more about how we age, risk factors for older adults, and ways to increase your reach to older adults.

Attendees will recognize developmental changes due to normal aging process. Participants will develop skills in coordination, planning and presenting fire prevention to older adults. There will also be discussion on ways to evaluate the effectiveness of the fire and fall prevention program for older adults and identify what groups in the community are likely partners for presenting prevention programs to older adults.

### Lessons Learned - Mtg Rm 9

(break at 9:30 am)

The workshop will be a classroom setting typically addressing special incidents that have happened over the past year in Minnesota and the lessons learned from these events from the responders of these incidents.



### RiverCentre · St. Paul, MN

### Morning Educational Sessions - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Professional Development - Mtg Rm 11

(break at 9:30 am)

### Your Leadership Ladder

Presenter: Ted Schick, Corporate Trainer, Speaker & Consultant

In this fun and comprehensive presentation, we examine what it takes to lead, especially as it applies to serving as a senior leader within the department. From leading professional distance and ourselves to communication, to holding people accountable, to having and communicating a strategy and direction for our department. Technically, we are experts in our professions — this is an examination and discussion of the "soft skills" it requires to be truly successful. Filled with stories and examples, take a leadership assessment of YOUR leadership with this presentation.

Safety – Mtg Rm 12 (break at 10:00 am)

Decision Making Under Stress and Training for Adaptability Presenter: David Rhodes, President, Rhodes Consultants, Inc

Students will identify the differences in decision making under normal conditions and decision making while under stressors. Students will identify naturalistic and heuristic decision making processes. Students will identify training methods that enhance decision making in stressful situations. Students will participate in activities that reinforce training methodologies improving adaptability.

### Relief for Chiefs - Mtg Rm 13

(break at 10:00 am)

Presenters: Rose Hennessy-Allen, Pension Director, State Auditor Office; Brian McKnight, Partner, Parr McKnight; Kristie Strum, Department of Revenue; Phil Coleman, PERA

If you are a volunteer chief and your department has a relief association (you have not joined the state plan), this class is for you. All volunteer chiefs that have a relief are ex-officio members of the relief association. You have the same responsibilities and liabilities of all other board members. You can be sued if you breach your fiduciary responsibility! This class will address what you, as the Chief, need to know about your relief association operation. The class will cover your responsibilities, duties, and liabilities along with sharing information on how the funding works, understanding the required municipal contribution, how to build a plan to obtain increases in benefits, and how to interact with councils. The class will also touch on fire state aid, State Auditor oversight, and provide information on the state plan.

### Emergency Management – Mtg Rm 14

(break at 10:00 am)

Emergency Preparedness - Are you Ready, Is Your Department Ready?

The Forgotten Mission: When the Shooting Stops - Recovery from Active-Shooter Incidents in K-12 Schools

**Presenters:** Deputy Chief Doug Berglund; Hennepin County and Emergency Management Staff

This session will focus on emergency management issues and emergency management opportunities in Minnesota including hot topics in emergency management, emerging technology for emergency management use, intrastate mutual aid, and communications in an EOC and in the field. The session will identify resources for use within the State of Minnesota.

### Friday, October 12, 2018 continued

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm Afternoon Educational Sessions

Mtg Rms 7-9 & 11-14

Starting 2:30 pm Afternoon Breaks – In Expo Hall

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Memorial Service – Ballroom A&B

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm Social - Ballroom Concourse
6:45 pm - 9:00 pm Awards Banquet ♦ - Ballrom CDGH

◆ = ticket required

### Afternoon Educational Sessions - 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

### Influencing Change – Mtg Rm 7 (break at 2:30 pm)

Community Risk Reduction: How Burnsville Operationalized It Presenters: Chief BJ Jungmann, Retired Chief Andy Hamlin

In this session, you will learn what community risk reduction is and how you can analyze risks within your community. The session will also cover how to develop, implement and assess a community risk reduction program. The presenters will use Burnsville's case study of apartment fires to show how community risk reduction can keep not only citizens but firefighters safer.

### State Fire Marshal – Mtg Rm 8 (break at 2:30 pm)

Squeeze the Right Data Out of your Reports

Presenter: Jon Nisja, Supervisor, Data/Fire Protection Systems/ Fire Life Safety Education

Jon Nisja provides information on how to improve ImageTrend accuracy using a standardized coding method. This program reinforces proficiency within the ImageTrend system, as well as provides them the requisite knowledge to become a skilled advisor within their own departments.

### ImageTrend's Elite Incident Reporting System

Presenter: Scott Radke, Analyst, Forensic Investigation, Deputy State Fire Marshal

For individuals whose job consist of creating, recording, auditing fire incident reports, or for those who manage fire department operations this program is for you! ALL departments, if not currently using MN Fire Elite, will be migrated by year end 2018. This is an opportunity to talk and ask questions about the new Elite system as the regional training is only available online. Program will Feature: Navigation, Permissions, Forms, Management Tools, Setup, Migration, Resources and Question & Answer.

### Lessons Learned - REPEAT SESSION

Mtg Rm 9 (break at 2:30 pm)

The workshop will be a classroom setting typically addressing special incidents that have happened over the past year in Minnesota and the lessons learned from these events from the responders of these incidents.



RiverCentre · St. Paul, MN

### Afternoon Educational Sessions - 1:30 pm 4:30 pm

### Professional Development - Mtg Rm 11

(break at 3:00 pm)

**Engaging Non-Career Firefighters for Performance & Retention** 

Presenter: Chad Weinstein, Educator, Manager & Consultant

The Minnesota Fire Service depends on non-career firefighters to serve most of our communities, using a variety of deployment models. The success of any of these models depends on leadership: the ability to motivate firefighters with increasingly busy lives to respond, train, and maintain agency readiness over the course of a career. One leadership challenge in particular is the reality of ongoing change and the natural tendency of firefighters of all ranks to resist it. This session, aimed at both line and chief officers, will present practical concepts and techniques for stimulating firefighter motivation and engagement, and addressing the specific challenges associated with organizational and operational change.

Topics will include: Deliberate professionalism; Personal accountability and ownership; The science behind motivation; Six factors that stimulate engagement; Understanding and leading through change; Real case examples will be used to illustrate and explore many of these topics.

The entire session will be interactive, combining brief presentations with extended discussions and exercises. Participants will work to create their own "handout," capturing learning from their classmates in the course of the program, which will be distributed to interested participants via email following the session.

### Safety - REPEAT SESSION

Mtg Rm 12 (break at 3:00 pm)

**Decision Making Under Stress and Training for Adaptability** Presenter: David Rhodes, President, Rhodes Consultants, Inc.

Students will identify the differences in decision making under normal conditions and decision making while under stressors. Students will identify naturalistic and heuristic decision making processes. Students will identify training methods that enhance decision making in stressful situations. Students will participate in activities that reinforce training methodologies improving adaptability.



Chiefs Issues – Mtg Rm 13 (break at 3:00 pm)

**Understanding and Applying Applicable Industry Standards and Regulations** 

**Presenter: Chief Doug Cline** 

This program will take an eye opening approach to help the participant understand and apply fire service related Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and National Fire Protection Association standards. OSHA requires employers to implement safety standards to include the general duty clause and how that relates to the fire service industrial standards. This program will be based upon the instructor's experience of working through a fire department state OSHA complaint inspection and lessons learned.

New Officers - Mtg Rm 14 (break at 3:00 pm)

This class is for "new" fire officers in the fire service.

Panel Discussion of Current Chief Officers Sharing Ideas with **New Chief Officers** 

**Presenters: MSFCA, MSFDA, Minnesota State Fire Marshal** Office, MBFTE, Minnesota League of Cities, Minnesota Township Association, State Fire Marshal Office of Fire Investigation, NSWA, USAR/Chiefs Fast Team, Minnesota HSEM

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.

### Saturday, October 13, 2018

7:30 am - 9:00 am Registration Open - Ballroom Concourse

8:00 am - 8:30 am Light Breakfast - Ballroom Concourse

8:30 am - 11:30 am Symposium Session - Ballroom A&B

### **Professional Development: Developing the Next Generation of Fire Service Leaders**

**Presenter: Chief Doug Cline** 

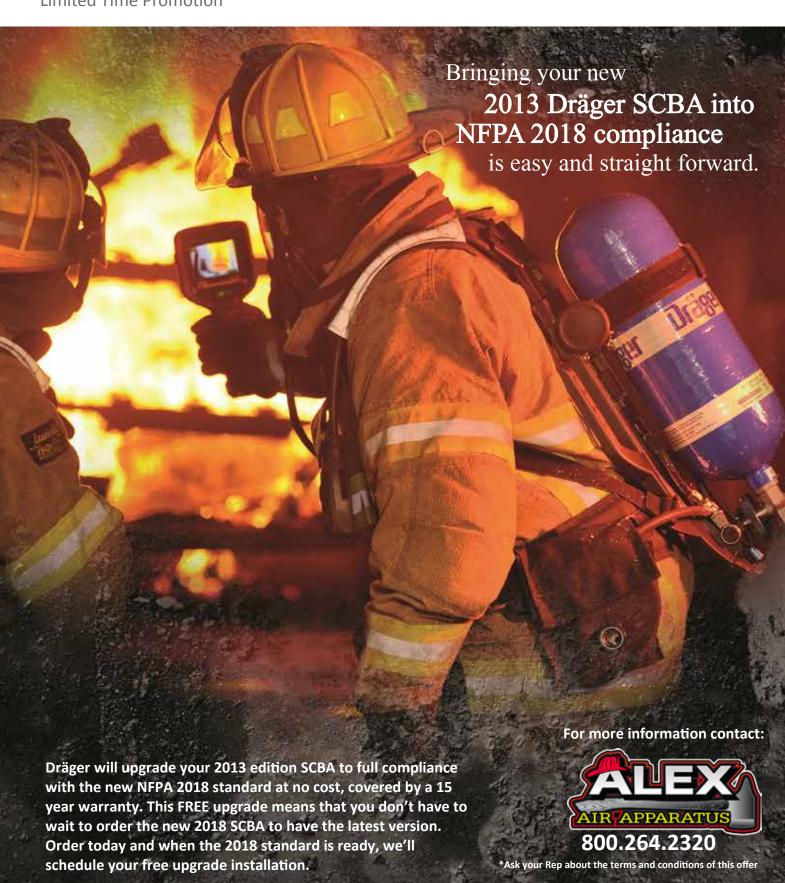
Professional development is the planned, progressive and lifelong process of education, training, self-development and experience that one gains during their development. In the fire service, professional development is a critical element of being a leader and a professional. When we step up to accept the responsibility of leadership, we also accept an obligation to continue our training, education, learning, personal experience and growth as we strive to improve our effectiveness. Professional development is an excellent tool for meeting that obligation. As fire service organizations, we must strive to provide continuing guidance to our most valuable resource, our personnel, through a carefully crafted professional development plan that meets the specific needs of the organization. This program will help students with a guide to developing themselves as well as the ability to develop an organizational professional development model for their department.

10:00 am - 10:30 am Morning Refreshments Ballroom Concourse

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- Technical Rescue:
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  - Confined Space I and II
  - Trench I and II

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# CERTIFICATION BOARD

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### By-Law Committee

The mission of the By-Laws Committee is to work with and at the direction of the President of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association to ensure the by-laws meet the needs of the Association.

The Bylaws committee will be reviewing the Association bylaws and proposing revisions for 2019. The review will be of the entire bylaws to more closely follow recognized language and formatting and to address any inconsistencies and possible omissions in the current bylaws.

### **By-Law Committee**

Chair: Ulie Seal, Fire Chief, Bloomington Mike Johnson, Fire Chief, Owatonna Mike Schutt, Fire Chief, Hastings Mike Scott, Fire Chief, Eagan Judy Thill, Fire Chief, Inver Grove

### CODE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Code Committee is to develop the Minnesota fire code on an ongoing basis, to maintain an active posture of participation in the national model code process, to provide a forum for the identification, discussion and preparation of recommendations for fire code related issues submitted by any interested parties and to provide for the review of fire code related decisions.

In Minnesota, the ICC model codes are reviewed every six years by the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Code Committee. The Code Committee consists of twenty-five professionals representing the fire service, building officials, architects, fire protection, and fire alarm designers.

This committee has had a busy eight months. Last November we began the arduous task of reviewing the 2018 International Fire Code (IFC). We were given a very aggressive time line to complete the review of the changes between the 2018 IFC and the current 2015 Minnesota State Fire Code (2012 IFC with state amendments). The process has included the review of the applicability of current amendments and the development of new language to be incorporated in what will become the 2020 Minnesota State Fire Code. The committee's recommended modifications have been submitted and reviewed by the Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) committees at the Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD).

In addition, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) committees and Construction Codes Advisory Council (CCAC) that are established by the Department of Labor and Industry join in a rigorous Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) process established in the Administrative Procedures Act. The Administrative Law Judge reviews the document to insure compliance with the Act and the rulemaking process provided by Minnesota Statute Chapter 14. Following the rules established in the Act, the document is then made available to the public for review and comment. If twenty-five people register an objection to the adoption of the code or some provision a public hearing is held. The last step before the rule is approved for adoption into the State Register is with the Governor who has the final opportunity to review the proposed rule.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to welcome 6 new committee members: Bill Beumer Fire Inspector for Maple Grove Fire Department, Brian Brom System Sales for Low Voltage Systems Integration, Jake Lindquist Deputy State Fire Marshal, Scott McKown Assistant Director for CCLD, Tim Pitschneider Fire Marshal for Shakopee Fire Department and Kris Skow-Fiske Fire Inspector for Rogers Fire Department.

The committee had one retirement. Marilyn Arnlund, Deputy Chief for the Maple Grove Fire Department retired June 29. She dedicated 25 years to this committee. Her passion, dedication and commitment to this committee will be greatly missed. Congratulations Chief Arnlund!

The Code Committee is made up of several dedicated people from several different disciplines. During code adoption years we meet twice a month for about a half day. We are always looking for chiefs with an interest in fire prevention and the codes, in particular chiefs from the greater Minnesota area. If you are interested in joining the Code Committee, please call me. We are looking to diversify the knowledge base of the committee with representation from as many applicable organizations as possible.

### Code Committee

Chair: Laura McCarthy, Assistant Chief Fire Prevention, Bloomington Rich Duysen, Fire Chief, Moorhead Brad Feist, Fire Chief, Rogers Kevin McGinty, Deputy State Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal Division Tom Pitschneider, Fire Marshal, Shakopee Fire Department John Piper, Fire Chief, Coon Rapids Cary Smith, Fire Marshal, St. Louis Park Dale Specken, Fire Chief, Hopkins Forrest Williams, Supervisor, State Fire Marshal Division

If you have any recommendations or questions, please contact Code Committee Chair Laura McCarthy at work: 952-563-8965 or through email at code@msfca.org.

### COMMUNICATIONS AND POLICY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Communications and Policy Committee is to provide policy recommendations to the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association's Board of Directors with emphasis on promoting goals, directions and quality within the organization, to assist the Board of Directors in coordinating all of the Association's committees and to oversee all facets of the Minnesota Fire Chief magazine operations that include, but are not limited to publishing, editing and advertising. This is done by ensuring that the educational and informational content meets the needs of the Association's members. The Communications and Policy Committee generally oversees the operations of the Association, the Minnesota Fire Chief magazine and provides timely fire service information by entering communication took through the MSECA website. hancing communication tools through the MSFCA website.

The Policy and Editing Committee is looking forward to going over our Association's Policies and updating them to reflect the current needs of the Association. We are also looking forward to going over some possible updating to the Association's current communications which we provide to our members. (Communication & Policy ontinued page 18)

### COMMUNICATION & POLICY COMMITTEE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

If you have any items which you would like to see the committee look into, please email policy@MSFCA.com.

### **Communication and Policy Committee**

Chair: Tom Miller, Fire Chief, Pine City Tim Bush, Fire Chief, Maple Grove

Allen Lewis, Fire Chief, Virginia Bruce West, State Fire Marshal Todd Seitz, Deputy Fire Chief, Brooklyn Park Jena Noah, Editor, Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine

### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

The mission of the Conference Committee is to provide leadership and direction to the Executive Director, who has the responsibility to manage the annual conference in October of each year. The chairman of this committee is the immediate Past President of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, who may call a meeting at any time. This committee exists to make sure the needs of the membership, as it pertains to the conference, are met. This committee interfaces with the Education Committee, the Marketing Committee and vendor representatives to ensure that a quality conference is offered at an affordable cost. Every effort is made to ensure exceptional educational offerings for all attendees.

As the dust settled in Rochester, the 2018 conference committee kicked into gear. As a group we knew that St. Paul would bring new challenges and some unknowns. The Education Committee and Conference Committee started with combined meetings at the RiverCentre to get an idea of the lay out and the logistical requirements. Great venue and great city.

As an organization, the fall conference provides professional development, networking with peers, exposure to technology and equipment, and various other opportunities. Our goal is for the conference to provide quality development for both the experienced fire service professional, as well as up and coming leadership.

The committee members' responsibilities vary but include; awards ceremony coordination, banquet preparation and coordination, memorial ceremony coordination, honor guard details, marketing and attire, vendor registration and floor arrangements, and registration and check in for attendees and vendors. The conference committee also works closely with the Education Committee for education tracts and classroom needs.

This was also the first conference with our new executive agent. SAMI staff have proven their salt as almost a seamless planning

process has taken place. Jennifer and her team are exceptionally experienced with running conferences and this has taken a tremendous load off of the committee members and the organization. The annual conference is our biggest operation of the year and SAMI jumped right in with sleeves rolled up.

Changes were made to the schedule again this year that included a symposium style speaker on Thursday. The major purpose of this change was to make day passes more attractive for this year's metro location.

If you have any feedback while in attendance look for a committee member or use the conference survey tools. We look forward to seeing you in St. Paul.

### Conference Committee

Chair: Don Johnson, Fire Chief, Chanhassen Executive Board Member and Vendor Liaison: Mike Scott, Fire Chief, Eagan Awards Banquet Coordinator: Rodger Coppa, Fire Chief, Plymouth Memorial Service Coordinator: Andrew Heger, Fire Chief, Victoria Committee Member - Host City: David Berger, District Chief, St. Paul Committee Member - Awards Coordinator: Allen Lewis, Fire Chief, Virginia Committee Liaison - Education: Dale Specken, Fire Chief, Hopkins Committee Liaison - Marketing: Steve Koering, Fire Chief, St. Louis Park Committee Member - Shane Gardner, Battalion Chief, Long Lake Committee Member - John Hall, Assistant Chief, Long Lake

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The mission of the "Education Committee" is to enhance the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association's (MSFCA) membership by providing high quality and current educational workshops at the annual conference and by promoting additional educational opportunities.

We are excited to be in St. Paul for this year's MSFCA Conference! St. Paul has created some interesting challenges but our committee has done a great job organizing great presenters for this year's conference.

The Education Committee is made up of members throughout the State of Minnesota and meets just three times annually, the rest of the work required to successfully present an educational opportunity for fire chiefs is completed electronically throughout the year by our various topic sub-committees.

### **Education Committee Goals:**

1. Understand that every chief is important to the MSFCA, therefore we must listen to and consider the needs of the state as a whole when establishing the various educational opportunities;

- 2. Determine what the timely topics currently are and then locate the most highly regarded experts to present them to the membership;
- 3. Recognize that it is vital to keep the conference affordable for all chief officers and therefore work with-in the allotted budget.
- 4. Bring quality training and speakers to all MSFCA Members and conference attendees

The Education Committee is by design very flexible, and welcoming. Every year some committee members retire, or leave the committee for greener pastures; however, due to the structure in place we are able to blend new members into the system very easily. Let this fact be an offer for you to join our group.

### **Education Committee**

Co-Chair: Dale Specken, Fire Chief, Hopkins

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Co-Chair: Judy Thill, Fire Chief, Inver Grove Lessons Learned: Scott Carriveau, Assistant Chief, Maple Lake Administration: Kim Cox, Administration, Eden Prairie Health & Wellness: Mike Dobesh, Assistant Chief, Richfield Influencing Change: John Hall, Assistant Chief, Long Lake Liaison: Tim Farmer, Past President, Coon Rapids Chiefs Issues: Chris Hofmann, Assistant Chief, Camp Ripley Professional Development: Tim Holmes, Fire Chief, Brainerd

Professional Development: Chip Lohmiller, Fire Chief, Cross Lake Hot Topics: Ulie Seal, Fire Chief, Bloomington Symposium: David Brosnahan, Assistant Chief, Roseville Safety: Adam Wodtke, Assistant Chief, West Metro Scott Gerber, Fire Chief, Excelsior Fire District Jacob Lindquist, Deputy State Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal Division Rob Pearson, Assistant Chief, Maple Grove Dan Roeglin, Fire Service Specialist, Hennepin Tech

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE / FIRE OFFICERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The mission of the Fire Officers School is to create a stronger, more effective Minnesota fire service by engaging leaders with the best training.

WOW! Who can believe that we are already talking about our 8th Annual Fire Officers School in Alexandria! The Alexandria FOS continues to offer some great educational opportunities for the new and upcoming officers of the fire service, some of the additional resources they need to further their fire career. The Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria has been the optimal facility for hosting such an event! The intention of the AFOS was to make it a "Family Event". The hotel offers an indoor water park and pools for the kids to take in and the committee has also made the Saturday Evening Meal a "Family Style" meal with items on the buffet for kids of all ages to enjoy along with games for the whole family to enjoy!! The AFÓS has sold out for the past 4 years. So, please sign up early when registration comes out!

With the success of the Alex FOS, the MSFCA Board moved to offer a second Fire Officers School and in March of 2018, the Duluth Fire and Training Officers School held its first school and was a great success. There was just shy of 300 attendees and that committee had a great line up of classes. Some of the classes were the same as at the Alexandria Fire Officers School but with the addition of the same classes

that will be in conjunction with the FITOAM Organization. FITOAM is a section of the MSFCA with the hopes of growing their organization and providing educational classes at our MSFCA sponsored events.

These are two great events in two great locations. So, if you are a new or up and coming officer in the fire service, this is one of the events you will want to attend.

Please mark your calendar for next year's Alexandria Fire Officers School which will be held on February 1-3, 2019 at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria. And March 15-17, 2019 for the Duluth Fire and Training Officers School.

Again the Fire Officers School Committees and the MSFCA Board of Directors would like to thank the fire service in Minnesota for making the Fire Officers Schools one of the best schools/conferences in the state!

Be safe and thank you for what you do for your communities you protect and serve!

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The mission of the Emergency Management Committee is to provide a liaison between the Association and the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, county and local emergency managers, to encourage and assist Association members to be involved in their local emergency planning process and to provide feedback to the Association of pertinent emergency management issues and information.

The Emergency Management Committee meets regularly throughout the year and addresses issues as directed by the board of directors. During the past 12 months our committee has been busy with issues that affect all departments in Minnesota. The main goal of the committee in 2018 has been continuing to work with the Statewide Mutual Aid Plan, including the FAST Team. The Committee also held a training session with the MSFCA Board and Regional Directors to continue to address gaps in the system. These projects are ongoing and are the lead projects of the Committee. Both of these are long term projects. The "foundation" is now in place; yet, we need to continue to promote and educate. Ongoing plan education and plan maintenance will be key components as we progress forward.

Some of the specifics of the project are as follows:

We know that Minnesota has more than its share of disasters. Whether floods, wildfires, ice storms, or tornadoes, Minnesota has experienced its share of Presidential Disaster Declarations. The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association – Emergency Management Committee is continuing the education effort with many other individuals and associations to enhance the mutual aid system used in the fire service in Minnesota.

The goal is to create a system and process that is understood and utilized in times of need, by individuals throughout the State. Education is a critical cornerstone in this endeavor. The system and process identifies and guides people on the following matters:

- 1. Mutual aid use in day to day response
- 2. Mutual aid use in regional response
- 3. Mutual aid use in Statewide Disaster scenarios
- 4. Mutual aid used outside of Minnesota (EMAC)

Videos on the FAST team and Statewide Mutual aid are (Emergency Management continued page 20)

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

available on the MSFCA Website. The Plan was used in 2018 assistance with LODD's, non-line of duty deaths, and response to unique fire scenes. We have put new equipment in service that will enhance the FAST team response. The Intrastate Mutual Aid plan is on the MSFCA website for use. We are working on updates to the FOG (Field Operations Guide) for the Statewide Mutual Aid Plan.

The Emergency Management Committee consists of members that serve as representatives of numerous fire service and emergency management organizations throughout the state of Minnesota. Additional organizations represented include: HSEM, DNR, State Fire Marshal, MSP airport, and AMEM/MEMA. This cross section of talent on the committee enhances the wide variety of opinions expressed during our meetings.

The committee set additional goals and objectives for the year. In 2018 we have continued to address these goals:

- Ongoing Participation in various State and Local Committees and Task Forces
- Continued development and encouragement of Fire Chiefs involvement in the emergency management process.
- Development and utilization of technology in the emergency management arena. Specific discussions have been on the use of vertical cameras.

The committee is also involved with social media while attempting to keep our key activities/accomplishments posted on Facebook.

Our relationship with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and its representation on our committee has enabled our committee to stay in the forefront in reference to homeland security. The Homeland Security Advisory Committee has Ulie Seal, Bloomington Fire, as our committee's representative.

Stuart Glaser, Stillwater Fire, has been actively serving as the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) liaison this past year in order to keep effective and efficient communications.

Finally, I would like to remind our membership that committee information is posted on the MSFCA website. We encourage you to read the MN Fire Chief magazine. Our committee attempts to provide our members with timely information referencing emergency management issues throughout the state of Minnesota. If any of the MSFCA members are interested in serving on the Emergency Management Committee, please contact Scott Gerber at 952-960-1650. I would like to thank all the EM Committee members for their hard work this past year and we will stand ready to face challenges in the future.

**Emergency Management Committee** 

Chair: Scott Gerber, Fire Chief, Excelsior Fire District

Jim Flanders, Assistant Chief, Minnetonka David Burke, Fire Chief, MAC Fire

Greg Pederson, Fire Chief, White Bear Lake

Stu Glaser, Fire Chief, Stillwater

Ulie Seal, Fire Chief, Bloomington

Kristi Rollwagen, Emergency Management Chief, MAC Emergency Management

Chad Stangeland, Assistant Chief, Moorhead

Greg Hayes, Fire Chief, Mdewakanton Public Safety

Mike Meyer, Fire Chief, Lakeville

Charlie Smith, Fire Chief, SBM

Mike Richardson, Assistant Chief, Woodbury Public Safety

Joel McColl, Fire Chief, Savage

Tim Oland, Department of Natural Resources, Rural Wildland Coordinator

Roger Coppa, Fire Chief, Plymouth

John Kreuser, HSEM, Fire Service Specialist

Rick Luth, HSEM, Emergency Response Teams Coordinator

Ryan Muchow, Fire Chief, Fergus Falls

David Jensen, Assistant Chief, Hugo

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The mission of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Committee is to act in an advisory capacity, to make recommendations for review and action by the President and Board of the Minnesota State Chiefs Association regarding the EMS operations, education, OSHA, Minnesota State Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB) and other regulatory requirements and future administrative direction of emergency medical services within the fire service of Minnesota.

The MSFCA EMS Committee meets up to four times a year to discuss the current practices, focus, and future direction of the fire service and our involvement with Emergency Medical Services delivery. The Fire Service has had significant opportunity to direct, develop, and guide change in the field of pre-hospital care. With the ever changing service model responsibilities that go along with EMS delivery, we continue to see significant involvement from within the fire service—adapting to provide the best care to the residents in our communities.

The committee meetings are held at various fire departments in an attempt to involve as many of the committee members as possible. Our committee objective and charge is simple; act in an advisory capacity, making recommendations for review and action by the President and Board of the Minnesota State Chiefs Association regarding EMS in the fire service.

Topics that are commonly discussed within the meetings include Community EMT, Community Paramedicine, EMT/ Paramedic certification, and best practices as they relate to response for civil unrest or active shooter/MCI scenarios. Our Committee will continue to watch, discuss, and present on items mentioned previously, along with EMS law and best practice opportunities that are important to ALL of our service delivery models. Finally, we will continue to oppose vigorously that which threatens to disrupt our service delivery to the communities we are responsible for protecting with these important services.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE CONTINUED**

**Emergency Medical Services Committee** 

Co-Chair: Matthew Simpson, Assistant Chief, Saint Paul Co-Chair: Greg Peterson, Fire Chief, White Bear Lake Brian Carlson, Assistant Chief, Burnsville Erik Jankila, Fire Chief, Hibbing Wayne Kewitsch, Fire Chief, Richfield Steve Koering, Fire Chief, St. Louis Park

Amber Lage, Deputy Chief, Minneapolis Allen Lewis, Fire Chief, Virginia Mike Mondor, EMS Chief, Maplewood Tom Schmitz, Fire Chief, Edina Becki White, Assistant Chief, Eden Prairie Tim Wiebe, Fire Chief, Chaska

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Finance Committee is to provide a measure of control to the overall financial condition of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, to review the short term, as well as the long term finances of the Association, to investigate alternative and innovative methods of financing, to ensure stability in the solicitation of revenues and to monitor and review the annual budget of the Association.

The Finance Committee has worked diligently over the past year to ensure a smooth transition from our previous management firm to our current management firm. Extensive effort was spent by the Finance Committee and SAMI to bring the MSFCA's financial reporting in line with best practices. We are pleased to report that this effort is an ongoing success. The organization now has the ability to accurately report on income and expense by our primary functional areas: conferences, committees, magazine and administration. This will result in the ability to better forecast financial trends in the organization allowing leadership to be proactive rather than reactive.

Earlier this year the Board decided to release an RFP for auditing services. The responses were evaluated, firms interviewed and a decision was reached to switch to Wegner CPAs. The Finance Committee along with SAMI and the Board are currently working with Wegner to conduct a full audit of the MSFCA's finances.

We are pleased to report that, at this time, income and expenses have been in line with budget projections. The Conference and Finance Committees, along with SAMI, have worked closely together to ensure every possible success for this year's conference in St. Paul.

### Finance Committee

Chair: Wayne Kewitsch, Fire Chief, Richfield Vice Chair: Tom Oble, Fire Chief, LeSeur Martin Scheerer, Fire Chief, Waconia

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Legislative Committee is to provide focus, representation and visibility for the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association in legislative activities by advocating, supporting, sponsoring, opposing and actively participating in the legislative process involving those issues, areas or proposals as directed by the President of the Association.

The 2018 legislative session was the second year of the biennium, which means that all of the bills not passed in the first year carried over and were able to be heard/passed in the second year. This also means that it was not a budget year, which usually means legislators focus more time on policy issues and capital investments/bonding, and not finance. At the end of the session, there was still a lot of time spent on finance this past session. A supplemental budget that was 998 pages long passed the house and senate but ended up vetoed by the Governor.

A huge win this year was the passage of the post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) presumption. This effort was led by the MPFF and supported by MSFCA, MSFDA and MN-FAC (Minnesota Fire Association Coalition). This is one component of the MNFIRE initiative. By implementing the PTSD presumption, it shifts the burden from the employee to the employer. If you are diagnosed with PTSD as a firefighter it is now presumed that the illness was contracted as part of your work as a firefighter. The employer will now have to prove that the illness was not contracted as part of your course of employment. I hope that this will help firefighters and other public safety professionals get treatment for their mental health illnesses without having to worry about who is going to pay for it. This is a major policy change and there were very compelling speeches given on the house floor about this topic leading to unanimous vote to approve the bill. Those compelling speeches were given by State Representatives Zerwas, Mahoney and Johnson. Thank you to all of our fire service partners who helped work on this bill.

One big initiative that we will need your assistance to pass is the creation of Fire Protection District Authority. Unfortunately, the House Property Tax committee would not hear this bill. However, the Senate did hear this bill and included our proposal in the Senate Tax bill. Due to opposition from the House this bill was removed during conference committee negotiations between the house and senate. The framework proposed to allow Fire Protection Districts is important to the future of the Minnesota Fire Service giving departments another option for collaboration, equity between communities, staffing, equipment, transparency in budgeting and sustainable funding through collaboration. This initiative would allow two or more local units of government to create a fire district with its own taxing authority. This would be similar to how school districts operate with their own tax levy and ability to bond. Forty-two states already have enabling legislation and operate departments very successful under this model. We have a number of departments in our state interested in this initiative but it will take everyone's assistance to be successful as the current House Property Tax Committee has major reservation about allowing another special taxing district.

(Legislative Committee continued page 22)

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Without our proposed framework, It is likely that each of individual departments will then pursue special legislation to get their taxing authority set up. Currently most collaborative departments are set up through joint powers agreements/agencies which is not as stable of governance and funding as a taxing district. In addition, there have been concerns from some local governments about the current process of contracting for service and the sustainability of the current options for providing sustainable fire protection services. Given the makeup of Minnesota's Fire Service, I think the Fire Protection Districts will be key to providing a sustainable path forward for many departments in the state. Cloquet Fire District is currently set up as a fire protection district through special legislation. Chief Schroeder has been working for many years to get their legislation amended to fix a technical reference in their legislation which has been preventing them having bonding authority.

We will be discussing this issue more at the Chiefs Conference in St. Paul this year; attend the roundtable discussion to learn more about the benefits of Fire Protection Districts. Please contact me if you would like more information or are interested in assisting with this initiative.

Another big success this year is the adoption of the omnibus pension bill. It has been a few years since a pension bill has been adopted leaving many provisions recommended by the Auditors Relief Association Working Group. This year's bill includes requirements for the fire chief to certify service credit, clarification on concurrent service credit, enables EMS personnel to earn relief association benefits from a fire based EMS service, establishes combined service credit option, establishing a trust if a relief association dissolves and establishes/adjusts maximum benefit caps on some plans.

Two of our big defensive positions were also successful this year. Again, we held off the expansion of fireworks in Minnesota. The second perennial defensive position was the residential fire sprinkler ban. Surprisingly neither of the topics made it to the Governor's desk.

We continue to have a great working relationship with our other association partners who make up MNFAC (Minnesota Fire Department Association, Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota and International Association of Arson Investigators Minnesota Chapter) as well as the Minnesota Professional Firefighters. These relationships are key to providing a unified front from the fire service at the Capitol and the success of many initiatives. We also worked closely with the Minnesota Ambulance Association and the other associations to reach resolution on bills that we had concerns over.

As you are reading this, the committee has already started to work on the legislative agenda for the 2019 legislative session. While there is a committee to work on legislative issues, it is imperative that all members of the chiefs association communicate with their local legislators to advance our legislative agenda. The state legislators like to hear from and trust their local fire officials more than any of us can accomplish by meeting with your legislators at the capitol. If the legislators understand how this affects your department and their constituents, they will likely take more of an interest in our legislative issues. We can provide you with talking points and our lobbyist may be available to join you.

I would ask that all of you get involved in the legislative initiatives of the fire service! Please contact our lobbyist Sherry Munyon at smynyon@capitolaccess.com, myself at legislative@msfca.org 952-895-4571 or any legislative committee member if you have any questions or need any assistance. Please also contact Sherry or me if you have any ideas for legislative issues that would be appropriate for the chiefs association to potentially adopt. We are also looking to get committee members from each region, please consider joining the committee if your region is not represented.

<u>Legislative Committee</u>

Chair, FSA, Taxing Districts: BJ, Jungmann, Fire Chief, Burnsville

John Cunningham, Fire Chief, Brooklyn Park

Rich Duysen, Fire Chief, Moorehead

PTSD, MNFIRE, Cancer, Flame Retardant, Residential Sprinkler: George

Esbensen, Fire Chief, Eden Prairie

Rail Safety: John Fruetel, Fire Chief, Minneapolis

Jared Gapinski, Captain, Sauk Rapids

Erik Jankila, Fire Chief, Hibbing

Wayne Kewitsch, Fire Chief, Richfield

Mark Klaith, Fire Chief, Marshal

Ryan Kunst, Deputy State Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal Division

Steve Koering, Fire Chief, St. Louis Park

Dan L'Allier, Fire Chief, Lino Lakes

Taxing Districts: Allen Lewis, Fire Chief, Virginia

Mark Marcy, 2nd Assistant Chief, Windom

2%: Jim McCoy, Fire Chief, Austin

Tom Miller, Fire Chief, Pine City

Rail Safety: John Piper, Fire Chief, Coon Rapids

Taxing Districts: Mike Pott, Fire Chief, South Metro

Taxing Districts: Kevin Schroeder, Fire Chief, Cloquet

Taxing Districts, Fireworks: Mike Scott, Fire Chief, Eagan

Charlie Smith, Fire Chief, SBM

Fire Code Transfer: Dale Specken, Fire Chief, Hopkins

2%: John Vance, Fire Chief, Minnetonka

Lobbyist: Sherry Munyon, Capital Access

### Marketing Committee

The mission of the Marketing Committee is to make the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association as visible as possible, act on ideas and suggestions from the membership and to promote any programs, education safety and fire service needs as directed.

The Marketing and Membership Services Committee's mission is to highlight the value of membership within the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA). The committee builds messages that enhance the organization's visibility throughout the state of Minnesota. In return, members can benefit from the vast network of resources within our highly performing organization. The committee, which works at the direction of the board of directors, is tasked with creating internal and external content that aligns with the Association's strategic direction and mission.

The Marketing and Membership Services Committee has

### Marketing and Membership Committee Continued

worked closely with the MSFCA office this year. Although paper renewals were available for the 2018 membership year, we encouraged members to go paperless and renew online. Numerous detailed email blasts, website posts, letters and magazine excerpts illustrated the various membership types and how to log in to your profile on the msfca.org website. If you or someone in your department has any questions about renewing, please reach out to the committee or the MSFCA office. As a reminder, the 2019 membership renewal process begins in December.

In addition, we are looking for members to serve on this exciting committee. As we innovate and adapt to the demands of growing our membership, our committee can be a clearinghouse for ideas and energy needed to bring them forward. Growing our membership, developing our leaders, creating solutions that make it easier for our leaders to lead, and reinforcing the return on investment that comes as a result of membership in the MSFCA will ultimately make this one of the most exciting committees to join.

We currently have 1500 individual memberships, with 212 ad-

ditional magazine subscribers. Over 400 departments are represented in the MSFCA membership. As we explore ideas on how to expand our membership, we need to ensure that we maintain affordability and relevancy for all members. It is up to each MS-FCA member to reach out to their neighboring departments who feel as if they may not belong. Through this, we can create a broad based view of Minnesota fire service reality, which is critical for serving the entire state and a key component of building organizational resiliency.

This is an exciting time to be part of the MSFCA and I look forward to speaking with all of you about your ideas. There will be a noticeable change in how we promote MSFCA apparel at the upcoming conference, so please stay tuned for opportunities to pre order. See you at the conference.

### Marketing and Membership Committee

Chair: Steve Koering, Fire Chief, St. Louis Park Jason Mickelson, Fire Chief, Dayton Tim Holmes, Fire Chief, Brainerd

### Public Education Committee

The mission of the Public Education Committee is to support the safety education process of the fire service and communities of Minnesota in order to reduce the loss of life and property from preventable events through the use of technology, information and resources.

2018 was another busy year for the public education committee. We continue to have sub-committees working on various projects. One the those is an augmented reality (AR) public education program. This committee is looking at ways to use AR software to create various activities the public could utilize by downloading an application on their mobile device. Using AR, a member of the public could focus their device on an image which would link to safety messages, games or activities. This would be like scanning a QR code today but would offer a greater ability to interact with the activities. This sub-committee would utilize the flip chart messaging document that was designed to assist in delivering consistent messages on various fire safety topics.

The first year of the Home Safety Survey program was a success and the committee is looking over all the results to determine if any changes are needed to the program before beginning additional cycles. We continue to work with our partners and the Fair Plan on funding for this program.

The Kitchen Fire Safety Live Demonstration Units continue to be popular and each of the trailers remain in demand throughout the state. This year both units received new homes for the next 2 years. One unit is now being hosted by the Menahga Fire Department, located in Wadena County. Menahga is located about 12 miles south of Park Rapids. The other unit is being hosted by the Faribault Fire Department, located in Rice County. Faribault is about 50 miles south of Minneapolis. We want to thank both the Brainerd Fire Department and the St. James Fire Department for hosting the trailers in the past.

The Interactive Kitchen Education Simulator is currently

hosted by the Ramsey Fire Department. This unit is an interactive self-contained kitchen fire prevention and safety education tool. Participants are challenged to find hazards in the kitchen and learn prevention techniques using a variety of props provided in the simulator. The unit features integrated digital flames in the oven and trash can, training smoke, and sound effects.

If you are interested in renting any of the props offered through the Public Education Committee, check out the Committees tab on the MSFCA website or contact the of-

We hope to see you at the annual MSFDA conference. If your department has not yet received the Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults Toolkit, they are free. And will be available at our conference booth.

### **Public Education Committee**

Chair: Tom Pitschneider, Fire Marshal, Shakopee Amanda Swenson, Fire & Life Safety Educator, State Fire Marshal Division Becki White, Assistant Chief, Eden Prairie Fire Dan Bernardy, Training Officer, Inver Grove Heights Darrin Bramwell, Deputy Chief, Eagan Fire David Jensen, Assistant Chief, Hugo Eric Zimmerman, Assistant Chief, Mdewakanton Public Safety James Van Eyll, Fire Chief, Long Lake Fire Jeff Smith, Captain, Elk River Jeremy Berger, Education Coordinator, St. Paul/New Brighton Mike Turnbull, Fire Inspector, White Bear Lake Sarah Buhs, Captain, Cloquet Area Fire District Tom Brace, National Fire Sprinkler Association Wayne Kewitsch, Fire Chief, Richfield Kathi Osmonson, Youth Firesetting Intervention Coordinator, State Fire

Marshal Division

### SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

The mission of the Safety and Health Committee is to enhance and monitor safety programs or regulations developed to protect Minnesota's fire service during the delivery of emergency services and training exercises.

The Safety and Health Committee will have their first meeting in 2018 at the conference. However, many of the committee members have been very active in advocating, promoting, and creating awareness for firefighter safety and health, through collaboration with the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative (MnFIRE).

MnFIRE has been working to promote best practices for firefighter health and safety by focusing on Cardiac Disease, Mental Health, and Cancer. These areas are the most relevant for firefighter health and safety today.

Additionally, a couple of members have been working specifically on the Rehab Program, started by a working group, including the MSFCA, in 2009. The Rehab Program allows departments to work on maintaining compliance with the NFPA 1584 standard, with minimal training and equipment. This program is available on the MSFCA website.

As we move through 2018 and into 2019, the Safety and Health Committee would like to continue to collaborate with our fire service partners and continue to enhance the safety and health of all the firefighters in Minnesota.

### Safety & Health Committee

Chair: Mike Dobesh, Assistant Fire Chief, Richfield MSFDA Representative: John Rhode, Captain, St. Bonifacius John Crelly, Fire Chief, Golden Valley Jay Forster, Assistant Fire Chief, Bloomington JR Klepp, Assistant Fire Chief, Minneapolis Amber Lage, Assistant Fire Chief, Minneapolis Pat McCarthy, Battalion Chief, Excelsion Justin McCoy, Fire Chief, Maple Plain Tristan Saito, Fire Chief, St. Paul Park Refinery Mark Schmidt, Fire Chief, Perham Kevin Schroeder, Fire Chief, Cloquest Area Fire District Kip Springer, Assistant Fire Chief, Eagan Troy Walsh, Instructor, Victoria

# Thank you to all of our committee members for your time and dedication to the MSFCA!

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# MINNESOTA STATE FIRE **CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**



The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association is made up of over 1,500 chief fire officers that represent nearly 400 departments in Minnesota. The MSFCA is a member driven organization that seeks to provide information and training to its members on a wide variety of technical and management subjects. The MSFCA holds the Annual Conference where instructors from Minnesota and all over the

country teach topics that are most relevant to today's fire service leaders. The MSFCA not only fosters individual growth, but strives to encourage community and the creation of professional connections. The MSFCA maintains strong relationships with other fire service organizations and seeks every opportunity to stay current with issues that impact the Minnesota fire service.

### **MSFCA Mission Statement:**

To create a stronger, more effective Minnesota fire service by engaging leaders with the best training, education and professional development opportunities available.

The mission of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association is fulfilled through the service and dedication provided by our Board of Directors, Committee members, Section leaders and the general membership. These unique groups bring like-minded fire service individuals together to focus on specific issues, such as public safety education, emergency management, association business or legislative advocacy.

Our Board of Directors is comprised of two elected officers, fifteen regional representatives, four representatives from the First Class Cities, four representatives from different state organizations, the Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine Editor, the MSFCA Executive Director, IAFC-Great Lakes Division Minnesota Representative (an elected officer of the GLD while serving), parliamentarian and the immediate past president. The variety of Board members ensures that the general membership has the opportunity to be adequately represented and that issues are considered from several points of view.

The Board meets at least four times a year, and the Chairs of the Committees meet with the Executive Board at least once a year. This allows each group to work efficiently while maintaining strong communication throughout the organization.

In addition, several Board members and other Association members also represent the MSFCA on other boards, commissions, foundations and joint boards. These include:

- Advisory Council on Fire Protection Systems
- ARMER Radio Board
- Construction Codes Advisory Council
- Department of Labor and Industry Construction Codes Advisory
- Department of Natural Resources MNCIS Committee
- Department of Public Safety Shared Services Task Force
- DPS Commissioner Quarterly Meeting
- Fire Instructors and Training Officers Association of Minnesota
- Fire Service Advisory Committee
- FMAM Board Delegate
- Governor's Council on Fire Prevention and Control

- Great Lakes Division of the IAFC State Representatives
- Homeland Security Advisory Committee
- Joint Executive Committee (MSFCA and MSFDA)
- League of Minnesota Cities Policy Development Committee
- Minnesota Ambulance Association
- Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education
- Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board
- Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Association
- Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board
- Minnesota Fire Service Foundation?
- Minnesota Fire Service Joint Council
- Minnesota Fire Service LODD Determination Committee
- Minnesota Great Lakes Region Representative
- MnFac
- MN Propane Education & Research Council
- MSA PSAP 911 Board
- National Volunteer Fire Council Committee
- North Star Women's Firefighter Association
- Office of the State Auditor Volunteer Fire Relief Working Group
- PERA Volunteer State Pension Plan
- Public Safety Commissioner's Fire Service Advisory Committee
- Propane Education Council?
- Responder Safety at Highway Incidents Task Force?
- Senior Advisory Committee (Public Safety)
- State Wide Volunteer Pension Plan Advisory Committee?
- Statewide Emergency Communications Board
- Working Group Task Force?

It is only through our members' willingness to actively participate on committees, boards, commissions, foundations, joint boards and task forces that we are able to meet our mission: to create a stronger, more effective Minnesota fire service by engaging leaders with the best training, education and professional development opportunities available. We wish to recognize and honor these people and to provide them with the opportunity to inform our members of their activities and future projects.

Thank you all very much for your involvement in making the MSFCA a strong and productive organization.

# MSFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS -

The MSFCA Board of Directors provides strategic direction and helps ensure the Association's long-term prosperity by collectively adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies. Its members are trustees that act on behalf of the Association's constituents who empower the board to make decisions that are in the best interest of and consistent with the mission.

The MSFCA Voting Members of the Board of Directors is comprised of two elected officers (President and Vice President), fifteen appointed regional representatives,\* the Fire Chief of the cities of the first class, the State Fire Marshal, the IAFC Great Lakes Division representative, and the immediate Past President of the MSFCA.

### T. John Cunningham - President

President@MSFCA.org Fire Chief, Brooklyn Park FD (763) 203-1641

### Tom Miller - Vice President

VicePresident@MSFCA.org Fire Chief, Pine City FD (320) 980-5797

### Region 1 - Capitol City Mike Scott

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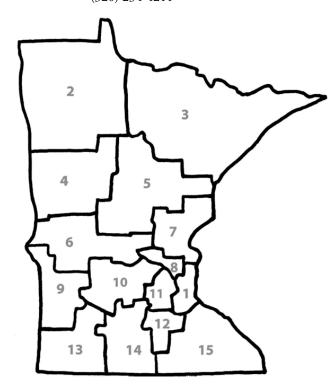
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#### Parliamentarian Ulie Seal

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\*Changes to the MSFCA By-Laws that were approved by the membership in 2017 will expand the elections to include the fifteen regional representatives. The next elections will take place in 2019.

The Executive Board is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Association as authorized by the Board of Directors. The Executive Board meets on a frequent basis to carry-out Association business and to execute the strategies and direction as determined by the entire Board of Directors. The Executive Board consists of the President, Vice President, Executive Director, and three Directors selected from among the Board of Directors.

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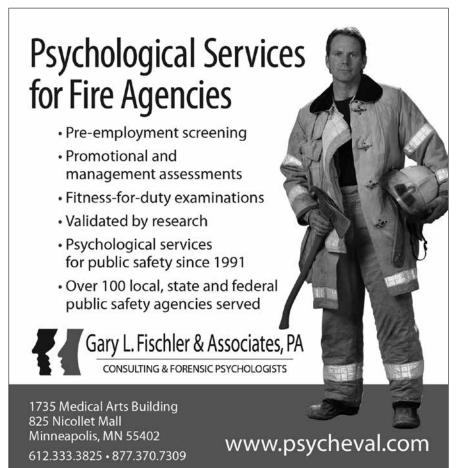
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#### Region 3 - Arrowhead **Kurt Rogers**

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#### Region 8 – North Suburban Jerry Streich

Region8@MSFCA.org Fire Chief, Andover FD (763) 767-5192



## Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association 2018-2019 External Appointees

It is only through our members' willingness to actively participate on committees, boards, commissions, foundations, joint boards, and task forces that we are able to meet our mission: to create a stronger, more effective Minnesota fire service by engaging leaders with the best training, education and professional development opportunities available. We wish to recognize and honor these people and to provide them with the opportunity to inform our members of their activities and future projects.

#### **Fire State Aid Working Group**

Jim McCoy, Fire Chief, Austin Fire Department Mike Scott, Fire Chief, Eagan Fire Department

#### **Governor's Council on Fire Prevention and Control**

Tom Brace, Minnesota State Fire Marshal (ret.)

#### **Homeland Security Advisory Committee**

Greg Hayes, Director, Mdewakanton Public Safety

#### International Association of Fire Chiefs, Great Lakes Division

Adam Mannausau, Fire Chief, International Falls Fire Department

#### **Minnesota Ambulance Association**

Steve Koering, Fire Chief, St. Louis Park Fire Department

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Chip Lohmiller, Fire Chief, Cross Lake Fire Department Becki White, Assistant Fire Chief, Eden Prairie Fire Department

#### Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Construction **Codes Advisory Council**

Laura McCarthy, Fire Marshal, Bloomington Fire Department

#### Minnesota Department of Public Safety, State Fire Marshal **Division, Service Planning Grant Program**

Tim Holmes, Fire Chief, Brainerd Fire Department

#### Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board

Matt Simpson, Assistant Fire Chief, St. Paul Fire Department

#### Minnesota Fire Service Advisory Committee (FSAC)

B.J. Jungmann, Fire Chief, Burnsville Fire Department Don Smiley, Fire Chief, Little Canada Fire Department

#### **Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board**

Hugo Searle, Assistant Fire Chief, St. Louis Park Fire Department B.J. Jungmann (alternate), Fire Chief, Burnsville Fire Department

#### **Minnesota Fire Service LODD Determination Committee**

Jay Wood, Fire Chief (ret.), Plato Fire Department

#### Minnesota Fire Association Coalition (MnFAC)

George Esbensen, Fire Chief, Eden Prairie Fire Department B.J. Jungmann, Fire Chief, Burnsville Fire Department Wayne Kewitsch, Fire Chief, Richfield Fire Department John Piper, Fire Chief, Coon Rapids Fire Department

#### **Minnesota Fire Service Foundation**

George Esbensen, Fire Chief, Eden Prairie Fire Department Michael Meyer, Fire Chief, Lakeville Fire Department Jay Wood, Fire Chief (ret.), Plato Fire Department

#### Minnesota Propane Education & Research Council

Eric Bullen, Fire Chief, Albertville Fire Department

#### Minnesota Work Group on Relief Association Conversions and Dissolution

George Esbensen, Fire Chief, Eden Prairie Fire Department Greg Peterson, Fire Chief, White Bear Lake Fire Department Marty Scheerer, Fire Chief, Waconia Fire Department Tim Wiebe, Fire Chief, Chaska Fire Department

#### **National Volunteer Fire Council**

Judy Thill, Fire Chief, Inver Grove Heights

#### Office of the State Auditor Volunteer Fire Relief Working Group

Nealon Thompson, Fire Chief, Apple Valley Fire Department

#### **PERA Volunteer State Pension Plan**

Jeff Sanborn, Fire Chief, Crane Lake Volunteer Fire Department

#### **Public Safety Commissioner's Fire Service Advisory Committee**

T. John Cunningham, Fire Chief, Brooklyn Park Fire Department B.J. Jungmann, Fire Chief, Burnsville Fire Department

#### Statewide Emergency Communications Board (renamed from ARMER)

Erik Jankila, Fire Chief, Hibbing Fire Department Trevor Hamdorf, Deputy Director, New Brighton Department of Public Safety

If you are interested in serving on an external board, committee, or working group, please contact the Executive Director via phone or email at agent@MSFCA.org. Thank you all very much for your involvement in making the MSFCA a strong and productive organization.

# DNR forestry awards volunteer fire assistance 50:50 matching grants

By Shelly Serich, DNR Forestry Division & Tim Oland, DNR Rural Wildland Coordinator

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, has awarded \$426,805.00 in Matching Grants for 2019. One hundred fifty nine (181) fire departments out of 381 grant applications will receive matching grants.

#### Fifty-nine grants for Personal Protective Gear were given to:

Austin, Avon, Belle Plain, Browns Valley, Brownsdale, Cannon Falls, Carsonville, Chandler, Chatfield, Colville, Crookston, Dalbo, Delano, Dodge Center, Eden Valley, Emmons, Fountain, Glenwood, Good Thunder, Grand Marais, Grand Meadow, Hayfield, Hendricks, Int'l Falls, Ivanhoe, Jackson, Jeffers, Kandiyohi, Kellog, Kerrick, Lake Bronson, Lake Crystal, Lake Elmo, Lakeport, Lester Prairie, Lowry, McGregor, McIntosh, McKinley, Medford, Nerstrand, New Germany, Newport, Northhome, Ruthton, Solway, South Haven, St. Charles, St. Hilaire, Staples, Stewart, Tofte, Toivola, Trout Lake, Wells, West Concord, White Earth, Winger, Wyoming.

#### Forty-three grants for Water Movement Equipment:

Blackhoof, Cambell, Cass Lake, Colvin, Cosmos, Crosby, Dalton, Deer Creek, Duluth, Eagle Bend, Eliszabeth, Fergus Falls, Gaylord, Gonvick, Hallock, Hawley, Hinckley, Karlstad, Kelliher, Lakewood, Lexington, Longville, Louisburg, McDavitt, Montrose, Motley, New York Mills, Nodine-New Hartford, Palo, Pickwick, Sherburn, Silver Lake, Sleepy Eye, Squaw Lake, St. Leo, Stacy-Lent, Swanville, Twin Lakes, Vesta, Walker, Waseca, Wendell, Zumbro Falls.

#### Eleven grants were awarded for Wildland Firefighting Equipment:

Cromwell, Darfur, Dover, Elysian, Floodwood, Hackensack, Lake Benton, Lake Park, Loman, Minneota, St. Joseph,

#### Fifteen grants for Safety Equipment:

Claremont, Culver, Dawson, Elrosa, Glencoe, Isanti Area Fire District, Kettle River, Le Sueur, Long Prairie, Mission, Montevideo, Montgomery, New London, Renville, St. Martin.

#### Forty six Communication grants were given to:

Adams, Adrian, Albany, Alborn, Alden, Altura, Arlington, Breckenridge, Buhl, Eagle Lake, Edgerton, Excelsior, Finland, Garrison, Ideal, Kasota, Kasson, Kilkenny, Kimball, Lake Kabetogama, Lindon, Long Lake, Loretto, Mahtomedi, Mahtowa, Marietta, Melrose, Miltona, Moutain Iron, Nisswa, Oronoco, Pierz, Rolling Stone, Spring Grove, St. Bonifacius, Taunton, Trimont, Upsala, Vermilion Lake, Vernon Center, Wadena, Waverly, Welcome, Willow River, Zimmerman, Zumbrota.

#### Seven grants to convert Federal Property vehicles to fire rigs were given to:

Clarkfield, Ellsburg, Grand Lake, Lake Wilson, Norwood Young America, Park Rapids, Shevlin.



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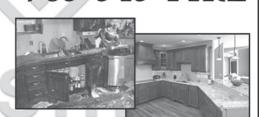






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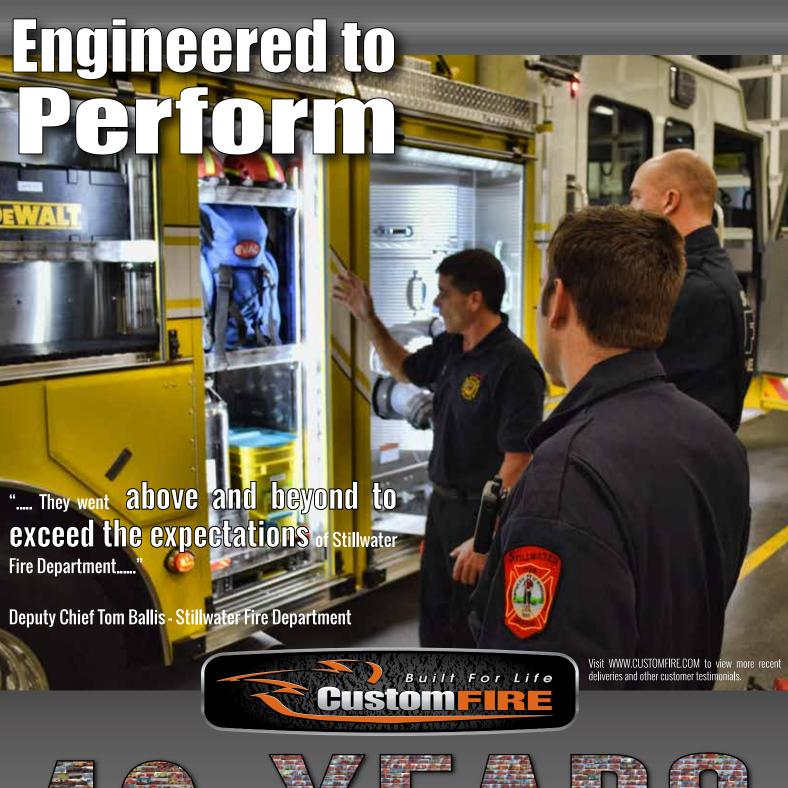
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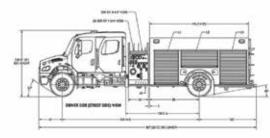




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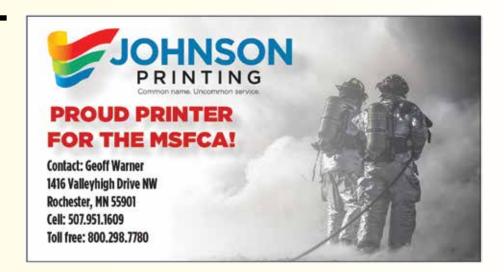
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## Certification and licensure

By David Schliek, Chairman, Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board

As we gather together for another year's conference, I would like to talk about frequently asked questions regarding differences between fire fighter certification and fire fighter licensure. This subject will also be part of a Round Table discussion presented during this conference on Thursday. The question often takes a form similar to, "Compare certification versus licensure". First of all, I would say the question should not be certification versus licensure. This subject should not be viewed in the light that these programs are competing with one another. I will agree that components of the certification program are part of the process to obtain a fire fighter license within the state of Minnesota. Let's take a look at features of each, and hopefully, clear up any misunderstandings.

Fire fighter licensure is a product of legislation passed in 2009. The initiative was brought forward via the Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters, with the intent of establishing a benchmark credential of professionalism in Minnesota's fire service. The statue that defines the program is MS299N and can be found on the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education website (www.mbfte.org). The statute lists requirements for licensure and states the firefighting personnel required to obtain a license. Career fire service professionals are required to obtain licenses, while fire fighters that serve in a paid-on-call or volunteer capacity may also obtain a license, but are not bound by the statute's requirement. The cost for a fire fighter license is \$75.00. Licensure also requires relicensure to remain current in the system. Currency is required for career firefighters, and paid-on-call or volunteer personnel to remain active in the program. Licenses are valid for a three year period. Relicensure requires participants to remain active on a fire department and participate in 72 hours of approved firefighter training over the previous three year licensure period. The cost of relicensure is \$75.00. The fees for licensure and relicensure are spelled out in the statute.

At the inception of the statute, there was a "grandfather" period that allowed existing career and paid-on-call, or volunteer personnel to enter the program and obtain a license with current credentials. After July 1, 2011 all new applicants were and are required to pass a certification examination administered by an IFSAC accredited organization that includes competencies in fire prevention, fire suppression, and hazardous materials operations (MS 299N.04). The Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board (MFSCB) was appointed by the MBFTE as the IFSAC accredited entity that administers the certification examination defined in the legislation.

The obtaining of a firefighting license has been seen as an attainment of and the continuing of delivering a professional level of service, much the same as an engineer, nurse, police officer, plumber, and/or cosmetologist. Many paid-on-call or volunteer fire fighters have participated in the process of obtaining a fire fighter license. In fact, at one point in time there were more paid-on-call or volunteer fire fighters in the licensure program than there was career. The cost of licensure is paid for by the interested individual or the employing fire department.

Fire fighter certification in Minnesota has been in existence since 1988, with initial International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) accreditation granted in 1998. Initial ProBoard accreditation was received in 2008. Program accreditation is a third party (IFSAC/ProBoard) review and attestation of an entity's (MFSCB) examination processes, policies, and adherence to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) professional qualification standards for fire service personnel. Accredited entities are revisited every five years to insure ongoing compliance. The MFSCB is the only entity in Minnesota that is accredited to issue IFSAC and/or ProBoard certifications. Per IFSAC and ProBoard policy only one entity per state, Canadian province, and/or international entity per country are allow to receive certification accreditation and award accredited certifications.

A significant benefit that an internationally accredited certification provides is that it allows individuals to transfer their credential to other accredited states, Canadian provinces, or international countries. The intense accreditation process provides participating entities to build consistency across the entire IFSAC/ProBoard system. As our society becomes increasingly mobile, the portability of these certifications allows individuals to move outside the boundaries of Minnesota and take their certifications with them.

On the flip side, fire fighters that come to Minnesota as their careers or family life changes can fill roster spots in the new community in which they live. Many communities within the state have benefited from this feature when looking to add folks to their membership roles. As the recruitment and retention issue continues to be a major issue in the fire service, this attribute allows firefighters to chief officers to fill a need, and in many cases reducing training costs to bring this person into the organization.

Licensure of a new firefighter from outside the boundaries of Minnesota is made much easier when candidates come with current IFSAC/ProBoard certifications. Credentials and currency are important as that also evens the playing field when comparing candidates from outstate and instate. Requiring a current certification provides a measure that does not disadvantage folks from within the state that maybe applying for the same position.

The MFSCB provides certification to the latest editions of thirty plus levels of professional qualification. NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and NFPA 472: Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents, are the documents that define job performance requirements and competencies written in MS299N.04. This examination has been given in excess of 1000 times over the past several years, and has become an institutionalized measure of entry level fire fighters across the state of Minnesota.

Certifications awarded by the MFSCB start at a cost of \$115.00 and increase based on the level and complexity of the examination. The competencies needed to meet the minimum licensure requirements necessitate the taking of two certification examinations. The total cost of these two examinations is \$230.00. The cost for these and all certification examinations are eligible for fire department reimbursement through programs administered by the MBFTE.

With the NFPA 1001 level of certification being a prerequisite benchmark of training, many fire fighters and departments have used this certification as a springboard to further ranks of competencies and promotional opportunities. Over the past several years, Minnesota's fire service has utilized the certification process to raise the plane of professionalism of their organization significantly with certifications that not only provide a basic point of competency, but also a demonstrated level of competency among the various ranks of responsibility within the organization.

The certification process also requires a recertification process. This process also covers a period of three years, and sets 72 hours of training at the level of certification to maintain an active status within the program. The justification for recertification is to maintain currency at the level certified to. It also provides currency when fire service personnel look to upgrade their credentials. Many professional qualification standards speak about

requisite knowledge to advance to higher levels certification.

The cost for recertification is \$25.00 per certification level for the three year period. For fire service personnel that have multiple certifications, MFSCB policy caps recertification fees at \$75.00 regardless of number of certifications. This policy was instituted to not discourage fire service personnel from advancing their qualification(s), but to enhance individual credential.

My hope is that I was able to accurately define the components of each program. Both of these programs offer fire service organizations several opportunities to professionalize themselves and their fire department's levels of service. Communities and townships across the state have seen significant value in both these efforts. That value is often times seen in increasing degrees of support for the fire service.

Many fire departments have evaluated the worth of each of these systems and have seen advantages to participation. Individual organizations must review and assess benefits of each when considering involvement.

I wish you the best and hope to visit with you over the next couple of days.

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## National Volunteer Fire Council update . . .

Submitted by Judy Thill, NVFC Representative

The NVFC Board of Directors is made up of representatives from 48 states. The Minnesota Fire Service shares that representation between the MSFDA with Dave Yurczyk and me as your MSFCA rep. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) represents the interests of and serves as the voice for Volunteer (non-career) Fire, EMS and Rescue agencies in the national arena. The NVFC, through its staff and board members, is involved in all aspects of the non-career fire service. This includes legislative issues, health and safety, training, diversity and homeland security. NVFC also has representatives on 17 different NFPA Standard Committees.

As your MSFCA representative to the NVFC, I am the Vice Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force and serve as a member of the Health, Safety and Training and Volunteer Advocacy Committees. My specific committee involvement includes offering input on various proposals received, providing written material, supporting a variety of fire service studies, etc. In addition to those committee activities, I have volunteered annually to review individual applications for NVFC members who apply for Columbia Southern University Scholarships, Globe Gear Give-Away, and Training Summit scholarships. Also, for the 2017 MSFCA Conference, we were able to bring in a NVFC speaker for round table discussion on Recruitment and Retention. For 2018, NVFC selected a MN representative to Vision 20/20 who will be helping them update some of their one-day course material to make it more relevant and relatable for non-career departments.

Some of the many NVFC accomplishments and activities over the past year are listed.

- Awarded grants from both Motorola Solutions to provide on-line/in-person training and another from Johnson Controls to provide updated training to Fire
- Teamed with Emergency Reporting to release a guide called How to Build a Smart Recruitment Program.
- Received and continue to apply for Fire Prevention and Safety Grants to further their health and safety initiatives.
- Debuted the new Firefighter Strong Newsletter.
- Held annual Training Summit in North Carolina.
- Worked jointly with International Association of Fire Chiefs Volunteer/Combination Officers section on National Safety Standown/Safety week and the Lavender Ribbon Report on Firefighter Cancer.
- Partnered with Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to release a Pipeline Incident Toolkit.
- Continued supporting the Share the Load Program for providing access to critical resources for mental health for responders.
- Received Power of a Summit Award for their Make Me a Firefighter Campaign and the All Media Award on the Heart Disease Risk Factors Quick Tips.

To learn more about the NVFC, go to www.NVFC.org and browse all they have to offer. To join as an individual member, it only costs \$29 a year, but if you are also a MSFDA member, you only need to pay \$15 a year. For that low amount, you not only get access to all of their training programs and other benefits, you are also eligible for a \$10,000 AD and D insurance policy.

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MSFCA 911 Tribute Float and Memorial Float are offered to the entire Minnesota Fire Service as a float-in-a-box. All the items you need to create the floats in your community are included with instructions and photographs on how to setup the floats. Both of these floats can be used in a parade setting or as a static display at your event.

For the communities and firefighters who have used the floats, the response has been overwhelmingly moving and emotional. Community members have talked about the floats for weeks after the event. Call to

schedule your event today to bring the 911 Tribute Float and Memorial Float to your community. The cost to reserve and use both floats is \$25. To reserve these floats for your next community event

contact:

Dan Bernardy, Training Officer Inver Grove Heights Fire Dept 7015 Clayton Avenue E. Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076 651-315-3448



## **Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association:** A year in review ...

Reflecting on the activity over the past 10 months I paused to assess whether or not I could adequately summarize changes that have occurred in the Association without having a full year under my belt. "How can someone just becoming involved have any perspective on who we are and how we got here?" It's easier than you might think, and here's why: the beauty of an association is that it is far larger than any single entity.

Each President leaves their mark, every Committee member who took the lead or chased down grant funding to implement a new resource for members has had impact, everyone who's dedicated their time to put together an event or instruct an educational session has advanced the fire service in some way. Every one of those people contribute to the

The organization is a growing, developing entity unto itself. Our office, as all the previous staff before us, are simply one piece of that large, complex structure. Electronic files, boxes of paperwork and the stories shared among the general members and throughout leadership paint a very clear picture of the strong, thriving MSFCA.

#### Administration/Operations

The most impacting change the Association has gone through in 2018 was the shift in office location, staffing and executive management. While being out of state comes with challenges, operations have been running fairly smooth once the major transition pieces were in place. The Executive Board meets at least every two-weeks to handle operational matters, including the many tasks that have risen throughout the transition and first year with the new office.

#### Financial

The Finance Committee Chair and Executive Board receive reconciled financial reports on a monthly basis to monitor the fiscal activity of MSFCA. During the transition much work was needed to clean-up some previous reporting practices and to update and expand on some of the categories within the chart of accounts. MSFCA is in good fiscal health and continues to thrive.

#### Website/Social Media/Communications/Branding

Effort in 2018 has been put into elevating the visible, professional appearance of the organization through streamlining the look of regular e-mail communications, providing standardized e-mail addresses for leadership, and having a stronger more proactive presence on Facebook. Basic maintenance and minimal work has gone into the current website, but a more comprehensive approach will be considered for overhauling the website at a later date.

#### **Publications**

Editor-in-Chief, Jena Noah, continues production of the bimonthly Minnesota Fire Chief magazine, and the MSFCA E-Newsletter in the alternating months. The expense and effectiveness of all MSFCA communication tools are being reviewed to ensure that the Association provides members with important Association and fire service information in the most timely, cost-effective way, while showcasing the level of contribution and support from its many generous sponsors and advertisers.

2018 was the inaugural year for the Annual Fire Officer and Training Officer School (in Duluth), which was structured similar to the 7th Annual Fire Officer School (in Alexandria). Both were well attended, profitable and plans are in the works for improvements and changes to both through the strong commitment of the Education Committee and FITOAM working together to making these events premiere training opportunities in MN. (Please see page 90 & 92 for more Annual Conference detail.)

#### Membership

As of August 30, 2018 there are 1,729 total MSFCA members of all types. Within that total, 896 of those are voting members and 210 members are magazine subscribers. MS-FCA represents about half of the MN fire service through membership of at least one fire officer from 383 different departments among the total of 779 departments statewide.

#### Inventory/Equipment/Storage

MSFCA had inventory stored in the Firefighter Hall and Museum which was untouched for years, many identified assets on the books which have not been fully depreciated/ removed when the items/equipment were no longer in use, and a wide variety of things that have accumulated over the years. The Executive Board has worked all year to appropriately liquidate and purge outdated and unused material, dispose of superfluous items and convert many records into electronic format for better access and record keeping purposes. More procedures will be developed to better identify storage methods and procedures while preventing future clutter. With this in mind, the Marketing & Member Services Committee has identified an independent promotional company to manage MSFCA branded apparel/inventory.

#### **Future Initiatives**

Each month brings forward new ideas about better ways to do the work the MSFCA does today, but later in 2018 a Strategic Planning session will be held to examine if the current activities are the right steps towards achieving the goals of MSFCA. Much work is planned for a complete overhaul

to the Policy Manual. Most of the document was drafted in 2015 and has not maintained pace with the ongoing decisions made at Board meetings. A reorganized format of all the Promotional Opportunities available to sponsors, advertisers and exhibitors is in development, which should help those companies who support and contribute to the MSFCA realize great return on their investments. There are a plethora of other projects and tasks on the table, but those three major initiatives will tremendously impact the MSFCA's external presence, internal operations and the relationship with its generous allies.

In these few months that our office has been involved MSF-CA has made extraordinary strides forward, while simultaneously tackling some long-time lingering matters. I look forward to the work ahead of us and will continue to perform every task with the goal of setting the stage for long-term, stable and sustainable success for MSFCA.

I am truly honored to serve as MSFCA's Executive Director, and understand that in this role, I too am just one individual contributing towards the greater good – just as all who have come before me.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rzepka, CAE Executive Director

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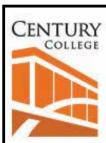
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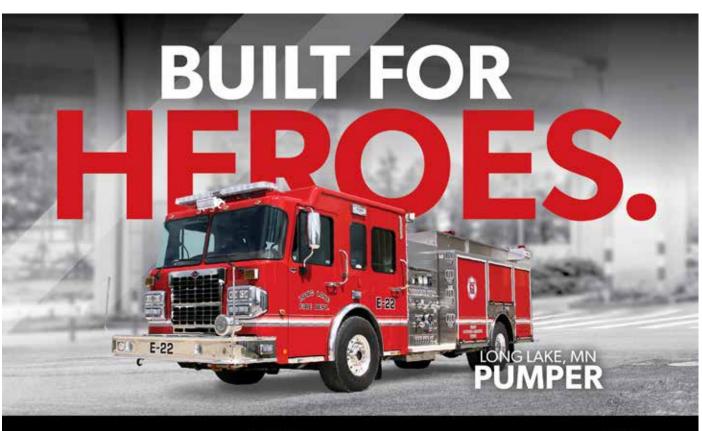
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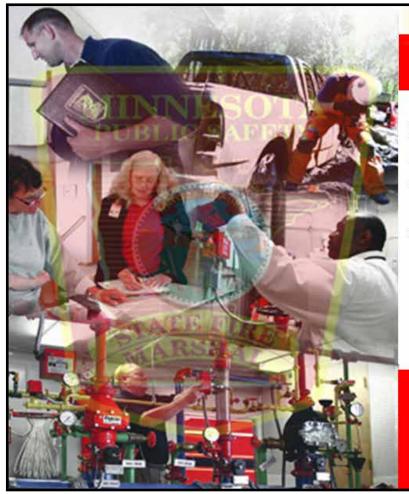
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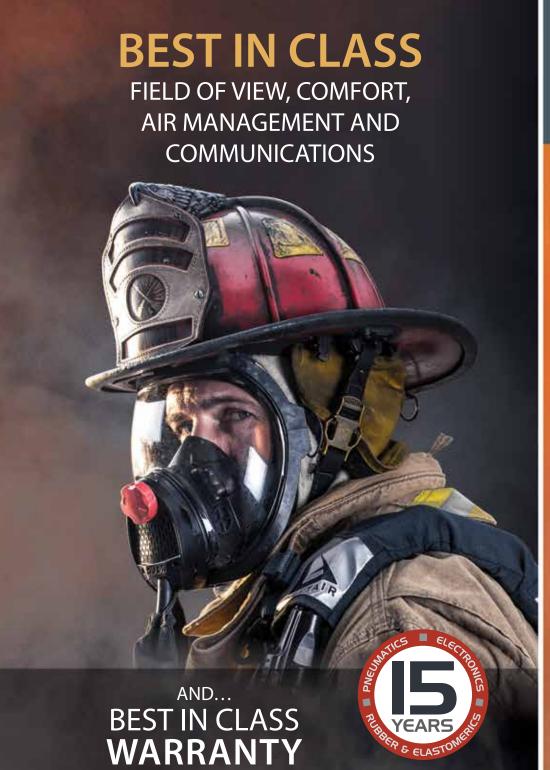
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## MBFTE update...

By Steve Flaherty, MBFTE Executive Director

The Minnesota fire service has \$6.9 million in funding for training reimbursements in round eleven (fiscal year 2019) thanks in part to a one-time appropriation of nearly \$2.5 million from the Fire Service Advisory Committee (FSAC). In fiscal year 2017, when we had a record amount of just over \$8 million, some fire departments were able to capture a tremendous amount of their training expenses in both their initial reimbursement award and their redistribution award. I cannot stress the "one-time appropriation" enough — this additional funding will not be available next year, and our fiscal year 2020 budget will most likely resemble that of fiscal year 2018.

Round eleven is well under way, and at their August board meeting the MBFTE approved reimbursement awards to fire departments at a record rate of \$205 per firefighter for fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018, thorough June 30, 2019). Fire departments have until August 1, 2019 to submit their reimbursement requests to the MBFTE. Any fiscal year 2019 redistributions will be made shortly after the August 1 deadline for departments that have submitted eligible expenses over and above their initial award amount.

The MBFTE has partnered again with Sourcewell (formerly National Joint Powers Alliance) in Staples to provide additional reimbursements of \$167 per firefighter for fire departments in Sourcewell's Region 5 (counties of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena). At a total of \$372 per firefighter, this extra funding will provide even more outstanding training opportunities for the fire departments in Region 5 and benefit the entire Minnesota fire service.

In other board action, the MBFTE also approved separate funding in fiscal year 2019 for 116 live burns in acquired structures, and separate funding for 407 students to take Fire Instructor 1 and/or Fire Instructor 2 with certification, provided that the student completes the instructor course(s) and passes the certification test(s).

There are some changes this year with regard to the NFPA 1001 program, which is now called the "Basic Firefighter Training" program. There is \$1.7 million available this year to provide Basic Firefighter Training with certification(s), which means that students can either take the entire NFPA 1001, merely take Firefighter 1, or even take NFPA 1001 w/ Hazmat Ops 472. Students will be required to complete the course and pass the certification test(s) to be eligible for reimbursement, and fire departments cannot be reimbursed out of this separate funding by the MBFTE until the student has met this criteria.

Furthermore, fire departments will be invoiced directly by the training providers or academies and the Certification Board, and the departments will then submit the invoices to the MBFTE for reimbursement using the Basic Firefighter Training reimbursement form (found on the MBFTE website at www. mbfte.org under the "Reimbursement Forms" tab).

In fiscal year 2018, a record number of fire departments (702,

or 90 percent) in Minnesota took advantage of the reimbursement program of \$105.50 per firefighter, and 396 departments qualified to receive additional redistributions of up to another \$45.65 per firefighter simply by submitting invoices over and above their original award amount.

With 52 departments submitting for reimbursements in fiscal year 2018 that did not do so in fiscal year 2017 (five of them submitting for the very first time), 98 percent of the Minnesota fire departments have now used the training reimbursement program at least once in the previous ten rounds.

With help from the three fire service specialists (with a fourth coming soon) and public and private training providers, we hope to achieve our goal in round eleven of reaching the last 15 departments in Minnesota that have never submitted for reimbursement.

Fire departments can submit their training reimbursements electronically by going to the "Reimbursements" tab on our website. Using their department login and password, departments can upload their reimbursements directly to the MBFTE at any time during the fiscal year, and they can view the documents they've uploaded. Fire departments also have the option to have the MBFTE pay the training provider directly if they have enough of a balance in their award to cover the invoice.

The MBFTE will once again conduct two separate Fire Service Leadership Development courses this fiscal year. This course is free and specifically designed for up-and-coming fire service leaders of Minnesota, targeting new chief officers in Minnesota fire departments. There have been over 130 students (fire service "rock stars") who have completed this four-module course over the last four years, and the feedback has been extremely positive. If you are interested in being nominated to attend this course, please contact your MSFCA or MSFDA regional director, or contact me personally at steve.flaherty@state.mn.us.

Please keep in mind that whatever funding does not get used this year will end up going back to the Fire Safety Account. We cannot afford to give the money back that so many have been working so hard to get in the first place! Take advantage of this opportunity of one-time funding to do the training you've been needing/wanting to do for some time.

Lastly, the MBFTE's website also offers e-licensing information. By clicking on the "Licensing" tab, new applicants can apply for a license online, and licensees or departments can access, renew and update their information at any time. The MBFTE now has more than 3,800 active, licensed firefighters in our database - more than half of whom are members of a paid-on-call or volunteer fire department.

I look forward to seeing you at the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Conference in St. Paul, and as always, I wish you continued success in your fire service career. Stay low — stay safe!

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## Notes from the State Fire Marshal





By Bruce West, Minnesota State Fire Marshal

Welcome to St. Paul. We hope you have an enjoyable and educational conference. This is a great opportunity to learn some important new tips and information, visit over 100 vendors, and network with chief fire officers from across the state. Please take an opportunity to stop by our State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD), Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS) and Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) exhibitor booths; talk to our staff; and most importantly, receive your fire department copy of the "2017 Fire in Minnesota" report.

#### **State Fire Marshal Division**

#### Behavior, Behavior

In 2017, there were 68 fire deaths, 25 more than in 2016, which is a grave concern for our division. These are not merely numbers; bear in mind that each of these fire deaths was somebody's son, daughter, father, mother, sibling, loved one or friend. We must never forget that each fire death is a tragedy that represents a failure: a failure to recognize the dangers of fire, a failure to escape a fire in time.

The primary cause of fires continues to be carelessness. Said another way, it is personal behavior that causes trouble. The good news is that personal behavior can be improved. We all need to do what we can to influence the habits of those around us — so when you see behavior that's not safe, step up and say something! You may just save a life.

#### Fire Service Specialists

Our three fire service specialists (FSS) continue to work with fire departments across the state. Our FSS partnership with the MBFTE is vital, and the education they provide about the MBFTE is proving helpful. I am hopeful our fourth and newest FSS, who will be serving the fire departments in northwest Minnesota, will be on board for the MSFCA fall conference.

#### **Barn Conversions to Wedding Event Centers**

At an alarming rate, older barns in rural and metro areas throughout Minnesota are being repurposed for weddings and other large gatherings. A barn is the latest perfect place for brides and grooms to bring family and friends to witness their celebration. Many of these structures have been converted with no review or approval by the local fire code official. The SFMD estimates that less than 1 percent of the estimated 100+ converted sites in Minnesota have met the state's building and fire codes (after being reviewed by local building code officials).

In early June a letter, information sheet and self-inspection check list was sent via certified mail to over 90 venues, such as barns converted to wedding venues and wineries, located throughout Minnesota. The goal was to provide owners information on fire and life safety provisions that apply to these types of buildings.

The letter did generate some questions to our office on fire code requirements. A copy was also mailed to the local fire department charged with protecting these venues. As one owner stated during testimony at the Capitol this spring, one fire in a wedding barn with injuries or deaths could devastate this fast-growing industry.

#### Fire Code Inspections and Arson Investigations

SFMD staff conducted more than 4,400 code inspections and 510 fire/arson investigations in 2017. Our fire code inspectors reported 8,871 fire safety violations during their site inspections. Ninety of those 510 arson investigations were determined to be arson-related fires.

Our fire code inspections ensure people and buildings are safer in Minnesota, and training on fire code and fire protection systems produces more inspectors and staff members who are up-to-date on these issues. I also believe we now have more suspicious fires being investigated by thoroughly trained and professional fire investigators than ever before.

During 2017, SFMD received 2,290 phone or email fire code inquiries or fire code information requests from code officials, fire chiefs, contractors and plan reviewers from across the state. If you have a fire code question, please send an email with your contact information to firecode@state. mn.us.

Your SFMD has a very aggressive fire inspection and fire investigation training system in place. Effective July 1, 2017, the SFMD made an internal change to our fire investigation training coordination. Fire Investigator Kevin Mahle will now be our coordinator for all internal and external fire investigation training across the state of Minnesota. If you have questions in regards to fire investigation training, please contact Kevin at kevin.mahle@state.mn.us.

#### 2017 State Fire Marshal Division Annual Report

Our annual report was for many years included in the SFMD "Fire in Minnesota" publication, which consisted mainly of statistics. This independent report details the diverse accomplishments of the SFMD staff in 2017 and provides a narrative description of each of our SFMD teams' (school, health care, residential care and lodging, fire protection, support services and investigations, etc.) activities.

Statistics contained in the report compare the results of this year's efforts with those from previous years. You will also find information on the division's history, along with a staff list and contact information. We hope you will use this report as a resource throughout the year.

Our 2017 annual report is also available at our SFMD booth during the conference. Please stop by to get a copy for your fire station. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

#### "Fire in Minnesota" by the Numbers

The 2017 "Fire in Minnesota" is available here at the MS-FCA conference, and once again it contains full-color graphs and charts of fire statistics from over 300,000 records received by our office. Over 99 percent of fire departments reported via the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS), with only five of our 778 fire departments failing to report their incident statistics. Stop by the SFMD booth to pick up your free copy of the report.

Thanks to all the reporting fire departments in 2017: Once again, you've made us No. 1 in the nation! Our goal is 100 percent MFIRS participation for 2018, and our staff will work hard to achieve that goal. Use the Fire in Minnesota report to help focus the fire and life safety education in your community and compare your community with others around the state.

#### Service Planning Grant Program (formerly Shared Services Grant Program)

In 2016, MAD conducted an independent evaluation of the Shared Services Grant program. As a result, the following recommendations were made to improve the program:

- 1. Expand the SFMD involvement.
- Establish categories of grants, articulate expected outcomes, and establish performance measures accordingly.
- 3. Develop a questionnaire to help interested departments assess the extent to which they are already sharing services.
- 4. Establish program performance measures and improve program evaluation.
- 5. Improve information sharing.

MAD also mentioned that a change to the name of the program may be helpful, as many parties were not in favor of "Shared Services" due to its implication of full-out department consolidations. As a result, the program is now call Service Planning Grant Program. For more information on this program, please contact Fire Service Specialist Tate Mills at tate.mills@state.mn.us.

For fiscal year 2018-2019, six service planning grant awards were presented to fire departments across the state for varying projects. Our office continues to hear from fire departments seeking information about ways to share services. If you have any questions or if you need more information on sharing services with your neighboring departments, contact one of the fire service specialists.

#### Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety

The Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety started 2018 with an educational push. MNOPS staff hosted the annual Pipeline Safety Conference at Breezy Point Resort, where more than 400 pipeline and underground-damage prevention professionals enjoyed presentations on customer service, regulatory updates and technology. MNOPS also brought the Locate Rodeo back to the spring conference with 20 participants from the locating community.

MNOPS inspectors travel the state each year to educate pipeline operators, utility companies and excavators on Minnesota's Call Before You Dig Law. The presentations focus on safe digging practices and remind everyone to call 811 before an excavation to have underground utilities located.

#### Pipeline Maps for Responders

If you are wondering where pipelines run through your coverage area, or how to contact your local pipeline operator, we can help you. Maps for emergency responders may be obtained from your local gas company, or you can obtain credentials to get onto the PHMSA mapping website at www. npms.phmsa.dot.gov. For additional information, contact our office at 651-201-7230.

The Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) programs, where pipeline companies do presentations and training on pipeline emergencies, are not always well attended by responders. Pipeline operators are required by law to conduct these sessions — and it's in your best interest to attend this free awareness training.

#### Oil and Hazardous Substances Training

Fire departments will be able to schedule awareness training for firefighters on oil and other hazardous substances. The training will also identify strategies for hazard identification, initial isolation of the scene, and other actions necessary to ensure public safety.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) is the coordinating agency for fire department oil and hazardous substances training across the state of Minnesota. For more information on railway and pipeline awareness training, contact Bob Berg at 651-201-7444 or robert.m.berg@ state.mn.us or John Kreuser at 651-201-7438 or john.kreuser@state.mn.us.

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- Reimbursement Award Updates
- Reimbursable Expense List
- OSHA Common Violations
- Annual Training Requirements
- State and Federal Training Requirements
- 11 Core Elements
- MN Fire Apparatus Operation Rules
- Live Burn Training Information
- MBFTE Training Calendar

THE MBFTE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE DEPARTMENTS THAT UTILIZED THEIR TRAINING REIMBURSEMENTS IN 2018. WE ENCOURAGE ALL DEPARTMENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROGRAM IN 2019.

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"LISTEN" for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should meet.

"LEARN" two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.





#### 2018 Poster Contest sponsored by the **National Fire Sprinkler Association** - Minnesota Chapter

#### **Poster Contest Rules - Please Read Carefully:**

- 1. Posters should be created on 12"x18" white construction paper - Please no 8.5 x 11
- 2. Each poster much clearly state the fire prevention theme;
- 3. Conduct a fire prevention poster contest(s) under fire department sponsorship;
  - Cooperate with local school officials in operation of the contest;
  - Open the contest to grade school students at one or all of the following levels; K-1, 2-3, 4-5.
- 4. Each poster must have the poster contest form attached to the back of the poster. Please download this form at www.msfca.org
- 5. Assure that all work is original;
  - Select impartial judges, at least one of whom fire safety message;
  - Award local prizes at the discretion of the fire department;

is qualified to rate entries on the basis of their

Before December 31, 2018 mail up to three prize winning posters from each grade level to:

> Jena Noah, MSFCA Posters 97 Bergen Street • Kenyon, MN 55946

For the 2018 poster contest, the NFSA will award \$600 in cash prizes to statewide winners. Local departments also often award cash and other prizes to the children in their own communities. Three categories have been created for the contests:

Grades		Prizes		
	First	Second	Third	Honorary (5)
K-1	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$10
2-3	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$10
4-5	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$10

First prize winners in each grade level will receive \$75. One of the winner's posters will be featured on the cover of the March/April 2018 issue of the Minnesota Fire Chief.

Chiefs are encouraged to hold contests in each of the grade categories. You may submit up to three posters in each grade category to the MSFCA Editor. Chiefs may also opt to hold their own local contests.

#### THIS YEAR'S FIRE PREVENTION THEME IS:

LOOK, LISTEN, LEARN, BE AWARE. FIRE CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE.



#### NFSA & MSFCA Fire Prevention Poster Contest 2018

Theme: LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.

Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.™

Student's Name:		Grade:
Your Teacher's Name:		
Name of Your School:		
School Address:		
City/Zip	School Phone Number: (	)
Your Fire Department Name:		
Fire Department Contact Person:		
Fire Department Address:		City/Zip
Fire Department Phone Number: (	)	

Posters must be postmarked by December 31, 2018

Form must be completely filled out and securely attached to the back of every poster



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Officer & Training Officer School ALEXANDRIA

### February 1-3, 2019 Arrowwood Resort Alexandria, MN

#### **Tentative Schedule:**

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

6:00pm - 8:00pm: Registration for Early Arrivals

8:00pm - 11:00pm: Social Gathering

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

8:30am - 5:00pm: Development Training Classes

**All Day: Vendor Show** 

5:00pm: Family Meal & Games

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

8:00am - 12:00pm: Development Classes

- · All classes are approved for MBFTE reimbursement
- · Registration limited to 300 students!

Watch your e-mail, future issues of the Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine and MSFCA E-Newsletter for more details as they become available.

800-743-0911 • office@msfca.org



Visit msfca.org for attendee, exhibitor and sponsor details!

## THE MSFCA WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS!

#### **Diamond Sponsors**

**Emergency Response Solutions** 

**Emergency Apparatus Maintenance** 

Fire Safety USA

**Custom Fire / Sutphen** 

**General Safety** 

**MacQueen Emergency Group/Pierce** 

#### **Platinum Sponsors**

**Alex Air Apparatus** 

#### **Gold Sponsors**

Great Plains Fire
The Parr McKnight Wealth
Management Group
Clarey's Safety Equipment
Brunton Architects

#### **Silver Sponsors**

**Customized Rescue Training** 

**Jefferson Fire** 

National Fire Sprinkler Association –

**MN Chapter** 

**North Central Emergency Vehicles** 

**Waterous** 

**Heiman Fire** 

**ANCOM** 



#### **Bronze Sponsors**

**Med Compass** 

**Advanced Minnesota** 

F.I.R.E.

**Five Bugles** 

**MES** 

**North Memorial** 

**Century College** 

**Lindstrom Restoration** 

**Enbridge** 

Life Link III

Safe Fleet - FRC/FoamPro/ROM/Elkhart Brass

**South Park** 

**Superior Construction Services** 

**Lake Superior College** 

**Midwest Fire** 

**Custom Fab & Body** 

**Pro Hydro Testing** 

**Street Smart Rentals** 

**Wold Architects & Engineers** 



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fire Officer & Training Officer School DULUTH



## March 15-17, 2019 The DECC • Duluth, MN

#### **Tentative Schedule:**

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 15

6:00pm - 8:00pm: Registration for Early Arrivals

8:00pm - 11:00pm: Social Gathering

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 16**

8:30am - 5:00pm: Development Training Classes

All Day: Vendor Show

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

8:00am - 12:00pm: Development Classes

· All classes are approved for MBFTE reimbursement

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

- · Edgewater Hotel & Waterpark · Pier B
- Inn on Lake Superior Holiday Inn

Watch your e-mail, future issues of the Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine and MSFCA E-Newsletter for more details as they become available.

800-743-0911 · office@msfca.org

Visit msfca.org for attendee, exhibitor and sponsor details!

## RENT THE MSFCA SAFETY HOPPER FOR YOUR NEXT PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATION EVENT

The cost to rent the Safety Hopper is \$150 per day. Proceeds from the rental go toward upkeep and updating the Safety Hopper Program. The hopper is stored in a trailer which is able to be towed by standard vehicles and pickup trucks. The unit can be set up very easily and requires a 110 volt power supply. In the event of threatening weather, the hopper, which stands 19 feet tall, can be set up inside a fire station or other structure.

In addition to the hopper, public education displays, a public address system, a tv/vcr/dvd, a 911 simulator, handout materials, folding tables, and chairs are in the trailer for use.

The concept of this new educational tool is to attract persons of all ages, and once they are waiting their turn to use the jumper, use this time to educate the children and their parents in fire safe habits.

#### To rent the Safety Hopper contact:

James Van Eyll
PO Box 606
Long Lake, MN 55356
952-473-9701
jvaneyll@ci.long-lake.mn.us





Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association msfca.org



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION PACKET

#### THANK YOU!

The success of the Minnesota State
Fire Chiefs Association has always been,
and will always be, a direct result of our
membership. We continue to leverage the
diverse and robust talents, enthusiasm, and
dedication of our members into unprecedented
legislative success, record setting conferences,
highly active committees, and a first class
magazine available online and in print.

Membership renewal time is upon us. Memberships are one calendar year, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st. It is important to renew on time so you can maintain access to your profile. Access to your profile ensures your membership is taken into account for discounts and benefits.

In order to complete your membership renewal, it is important to determine what members you will be renewing and at what membership level described on page 2. If you have any questions contact Ashley: <a href="mailto:ashley@msfca.org">ashley@msfca.org</a>.

#### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE

- · Discounted attendance at the MSFCA annual fall conference
- Discounted attendance at the Fire Officer Schools and other MSFCA events.
- · Subscription to Minnesota Fire Chief Magazine
- · Legislative advocacy for issues concerning the Minnesota fire service
- Inclusion in the Intrastate Mutual Aid Plan
- · Responder Rehab Program technical support
- Access to the Minnesota Fire Chiefs Assistance and Support Team (FAST)
- Regular updates on Minnesota fire codes and residential sprinkler requirements
- · Fire Chief's Handbook, for developing standard operating procedures



#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

#### **ACTIVE MEMBERSHIPS**

 Full membership includes the magazine, discounted conference registration and all other event registration, full web access, years of service recognition, and more.

ACTIVE MEMBERS - FULL MEMBERSHIPS	DUES AMOUNT
Fire Chief – Primary Member – Voting	\$93
Other Officer – Command Level – Voting	\$57
Associates – Line Officers – Non-voting	\$57
Retired – Non-voting	\$57

- Each department has one primary voting member with the ability to add other voting members.
- Voting rights are reserved for primary members or other officers who have 3 bugles or more.
- Command level = Chief, Assistant Chief, Deputy Chief, Training Chief, Fire Marshal, Safety Officer (3 or more bugles)

### DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIPS

 \*E-members receive valuable information via the digital magazine but not full membership benefits.
 Digital members do NOT accrue years of service in the organization or receive any other membership rights. Only full memberships (listed above) accrue years of service.



DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIPS	DUES AMOUNT
Department	\$300
Fire Chief – Primary Member – Voting	Included
Other Officer – Command Level – Voting OR Associate Member – Non-Voting	Included
All other department members are eligible to be E-Members* - Non-voting	Included
Additional Other Officer – Command Level – Voting Member	\$57 each
Additional Associate Member – Line Officer – Non-voting	\$57 each

#### OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS	<b>DUES AMOUNT</b>
Lifetime This is a non-voting membership. Application required and majority Board approval needed. Lifetime members receive print magazine, e-member access, discounted conference registration and all other event registration.	None
Subscriber This is a non-voting membership. Receive 6 printed copies of the bi-monthly Fire Chief Magazine	\$25
Sustaining Member This is a non-voting membership. Sustaining memberships are for businesses and organizations that are friends of the Fire Service, such as equipment vendors or safety organizations. (Individual representatives within these businesses and organizations are eligible	\$200

#### **SECTION ADD-ONS**

SECTION	DUES AMOUNT
FITOAM	\$10
North Star Women's Fire- fighter Association	\$43

By joining a section, you support the specific mission and focus of that group. You must be an active MSFCA full-membership member in order to add the section to your membership. The section dues go directly to that section's treasury to allow them to continue working on their mission. The two available section memberships are: North Star Women's Firefighter Association and Fire Instructors Training Officers Association of Minnesota.











Be sure to stop by the MacQueen Emergency booth to learn more about everything we offer! Or visit www.macqueengroup.com









## YOUR ONE STOP SHOP

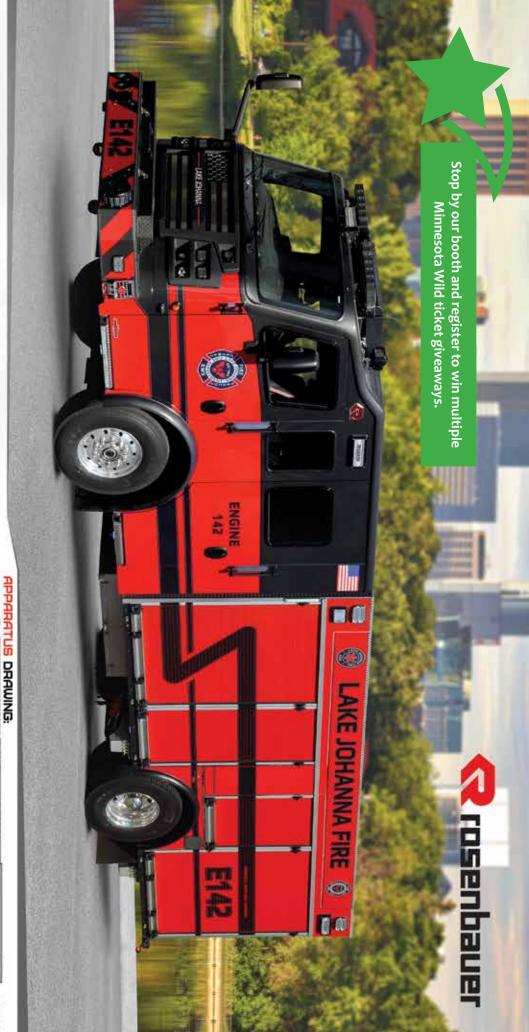












## APPARATUS FEATURES

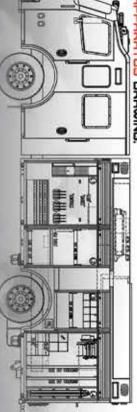
- **▼ 1250 GPM Pump**
- LoPro Ladder Rack 920 Gallon Tank
- Pual Cab EMS Cabinets
- Parabolic Front Suspension
- Crossfire EXT Aluminium Body w/
- Lifetime Transferable Warranty
- Sealed Lever Bank Valve Controls

## MEET THE DEPARTMENT:

- Fire Chief: Tim Boehlke
- Number of Rosenbauer Units: 25 Location: Shoreview, Minnesota
- Department Size: 21 Volunteers

- Coverage Area: 36 Sq. Miles
- Population: 42,000

Rosenbauer Dealer: General Safety



ROSENBAUER GROUP

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ROSENBAUERAMERICA.COM

INFO@ROSENBAUERAMERICA.COM

W ROSYFIRE

ROSENBAUERFIRE

General Safety Fire Apparatus, Inc. 5181 260th Street / Wyoming, MN 55092 / 651-462-1000

Neil Sjostrom / 612-321-1519 Bob Running / 651-245-8767 Steve Harris / 612-703-6019