International Association of Fire Chiefs

SAFETY, HEALTH AND SURVIVAL SECTION

"LEADING THE FIRE SERVICE TO A SAFER AND HEALTHIER FUTURE"

Genesis

- The Safety, Health and Survival Section grew from the IAFC’s “Safety Committee”
- In August 2004, a petition to form a section was initiated by the section given the increasing interest in safety in the fire service.
- Over 600 signatures were collected.
Genesis

- A set of initial bi-laws was approved by the IAFC in the spring of 2005.
- The first official meeting was held in Denver, Colorado on August 12, 2005.
- An interim slate of officers was elected.

Section Goals

- To serve in a leadership role in the fire service relative to fire service safety, health and survival issues.
- To provide recommendations to the IAFC Board of Directors on positions that will foster improved safety, health and survival.
- Accomplishments include:
2005 - Health and Safety Awards

- Safety Executive of the Year, Fire Chief Carl Plaugher – Orange County, FL.
- Safety Organizations of the Year – Dallas (TX) and Bedford County (VA)
- Safety Officer of the Year – Ron Dennis, Lake Havasu City, AZ

Articles

- Members of the SHS section provide safety and health related articles to:
  - Fire Rescue Magazine
  - On Scene (IAFC Newsletter)
  - SHS section monthly newsletter
  - Fire Chief magazine
  - Firehouse magazine
  - Fire Engineering magazine
Vulnerability Assessment Tool

- Joint project with IAFC Metro Section, USFA and other organizations.
- A self assessment tool consistent with the accreditation model to help fire chiefs assess the vulnerability for a serious injury or LODD.

Involvement

- Model Uniform Traffic Control Devices – Special Session
- ANSI Traffic Safety Vest
- NFPA Incident Management System Professional Qualification Standard
- NFPA 1500
- National Fire Service Mutual Aid System Task Force
Involvement

- www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com
- www.FirefighterNearMiss.com
- SCBA Interoperability
- Review of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan
- National Fallen Fighter’s Life Safety Initiatives

Importance of NIOSH Fatality Investigation Program

- The only science based investigation of firefighter fatalities.
- Tremendous credibility in the fire service.
- A data set that the fire service needs to reduce the number of fatalities.
Suggestions

- Adequate budget to ensure that the program can do an investigation of every fatality.
- Informational sessions for Fire Chiefs that explain how the investigation process works, perhaps in cooperation with the IAFC.

Suggestions

- Clear connections between the results of the investigations and the NFPA, IFSTA and other organizations involved specifically with the analysis of the data.
- Regular opportunities to provide feedback on the system (bi-annually)