

**NIOSH Training Project Grants  
IAFF Annual Report  
October 2016**

**SECTION I**

**TPG Summary:** NIOSH funds a unique TPG in Emergency Responder Training Program through the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). This grant supports a comprehensive nationwide hazardous substance training program for fire fighters, paramedics, and other emergency responders across the United States. The IAFF has had a long-standing relationship with NIOSH since 1991; the IAFF has conducted 3,072 training deliveries, trained over 62,991 students, and logged 1,131,607 contact hours. Under NIOSH funding, the IAFF currently delivers the following training: First Responder Operations; Confined Space Operations; and Emergency Response to Terrorism—Operations, Illicit Drug Labs, Infectious Diseases and Chemical Process Industries.

<b>NIOSH Class Summary: September 29, 2015 - September 30, 2016</b>				
<b>Class Title</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Classes</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Contact Hours</b>
Confined Space Operations	24 Hours	1	15	360
Confined Space Operations	16 Hours	8	217	3,471
Illicit Drug Labs	8 Hours	12	183	1,464
Emergency Response to Terrorism: Operations	16 Hours	6	160	2,560
First Responder Operations	24 Hours	70	1,730	41,424
	<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>49,279</b>

**Relevance:** This federally funded training program provides an excellent model of a delivery system for training first responders. Using a cadre of instructors who are both certified fire service instructors and hazardous materials (HazMat) responders, the IAFF offers real-world training in HazMat response that few institutions can match. Furthermore, because the IAFF brings its training directly to the students in their own communities, the IAFF is able to tailor its presentations to address the unique concerns and challenges facing local responders.

**Key Personnel:**

Elizabeth M. Harman, Assistant to the General President for Grants Administration and HazMat Training Division, is the project manager and principal investigator and is responsible for coordinating the NIOSH grant. She can be reached at 1750 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20006, [eharman@iaff.org](mailto:eharman@iaff.org) or direct at 202-824-1534.

**TPG Website:** <http://www.iaff.org/et/HW/index.htm?src=web>

**SECTION II**

**High Impact Stories:** A recent delivery was the first time the IAFF First Responder Operations was delivered to the West Metro (Denver) Fire Department. The Colorado Metropolitan Certification Board (CMCB) normally delivers the training and agreed to host this class as a pilot since there were some concerns that the quality and materials were not up to the level of CMCB. West Metro Training staff were provided with the class agenda and offered the opportunity to sit in class and shadow any practical skills stations. They accepted the offer and did several audits for the various lectures and were pleasantly surprised on the Instructional Design and content that was delivered. In fact, several of the training staff approached the instructors to say how well the class was built and how they were skeptical at first of the IAFF training program, but now see the value of the class that was delivered. The class was such a huge success, that the West Metro Training Chief agreed to do a video testimony, validating the quality of instruction delivered and to inform other departments of the legitimacy of the IAFF programs.

A training delivery scheduled for Paducah, KY was met with extreme cold temperatures, which would have precluded training delivery due to apparatus pumps and water freezing while in the elements, were it not for the IAFF instructors who demonstrated their ability to adapt and overcome. The IAFF instructors perform an evaluation of the classroom and training sites the day before the sessions begin. In this class, they identified potential weather issues along with a classroom that was not conducive to group participation due to the size. They were able to relocate the class to the Paducah Convention Center thereby allowing apparatus to be parked indoors while students were kept warmer while training. However, while the instructors now had a spacious room, there were no tables, chairs, projectors, or easel pads and stands. The Instructors worked with Convention Center staff to assemble the needed items, many of which were brought along by the instructors since they have all experienced venue relocations and other issues with mobile training delivery. The class was a tremendous success and a testament to the seasoned cadre of IAFF instructors who always get the job done.

The Ponderosa Fire Department (AZ) First Responder Operations class had attendees (recruits) seeking positions as volunteer or fulltime fire fighters on departments from the Navajo Nation, U.S, Forest Service, Grand Canyon National Park, and other regional departments that protect critical infrastructure in Northern Arizona. There was a Gulf War veteran in the class that now works as a Wildland Firefighter with the Forest Service who was seeking structural firefighting knowledge, and of course, HazMat as well. There were at least four wild land fire fighters in the group, all found the information contained in the FRO program to be beneficial as they are seeing more and more illegal HazMat dumping in the National Forests. These departments and personnel have a very large geographic area to cover including several key highways, rail lines, mining enterprises, and a disparate population base. The IAFF program presented today that the IAFF is willing to go the extra distance to ensure the safety of all fire fighters through education, and therefore extend that safety to all of the citizens of the region.