



South Carolina State Directors Report

Please excuse my absence from the January meeting; I will be attending the FRE Conference and the NFPA Technical Committee meeting. I have asked the Executive Director to post this report to the web-site.

The first six months serving as your State Director to the SEAFCA has been interesting and a great learning process on how the SEAFCA Board of Directors operates. We have made great progress on several issues and will continue to push for things that benefit the Fire Service.

It is my pleasure to serve as your State Director. The following is my report for the first six months as your State Director.

EPA REGENERATION ISSUE

The issue of the EPA required emission regeneration systems has been a project that was assigned to me by the SEAFCA President in September. I am pleased to state that we have had several meetings with Matthew Spears, EPA Center Director, Heavy Duty Diesel programs. He informed me that based on our meetings his office has added a new **“Notice of Proposed Rulemaking”** to EPA's Regulatory Agenda to expressly address the performance of emergency vehicles complying with the latest emissions standards.

This is an important step to establish for us a regulatory pathway by which they can propose new regulations and/or modify existing regulations to address the concerns that have been raised. This step puts the EPA on track to propose new or modified regulations within a matter of months, depending upon the amount of inter-agency oversight that will be determined to be required for this specific rule.

Mr. Spears has scheduled a meeting on January 27th at the Myrtle Beach Fire Department to look at the problems first hand. It appears the Fire Service is making good in-roads towards the reversal of the requirement or at least devising a system that does not cause issues to the apparatus.

I will keep the membership informed through our Executive Director and the website on further progress.

SEAFc ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The 2012 Conference will be held in Hampton Virginia June 13 / 16, 2012. The conference is offering 15 educational programs with Chief Dennis Rubin {Retired Washington D.C. Fire Department} presenting and he will also give the Key note address. The list of presenters is on the SEAFc web-site as well as attendees information. There is a discount for early registration and there are over 100 exhibitors displaying various products.

All information is available on the SEAFc Website or you can contact the SEAFc Executive Director at executivedirector@seafc.org if you have any questions.

SEAFc SECOND VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATION

Chief Deron {Pat} Wilson, CFO, MIFireE, who is the Deputy Chief of the City of Johns Creek, GA Fire Department, has announced his nomination for the position of Second Vice President.

Chief Wilson has been the State Director to the SEAFc for the State of Georgia and is a very capable member of the Board of Directors.

I would ask that those members attending the SEAFc Conference support Chief Wilson in his bid for the Second Vice President.

IAFC UP-DATES

On Saturday, December 17, the U.S. Senate passed the conference report to H.R. 2055, the so-called "megabus" appropriations bill that will fund the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security, Agriculture, and Interior for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. The legislation passed the House of Representatives on Friday, so it now goes to the President for his expected signature.

Some highlights of the legislation include:

- The U.S. Fire Administration would receive \$44.04 million, which is an approximately \$1.55 million cut. This cut is less than the President and the House of Representatives proposed.
- The waivers for the requirements to the SAFER grant program were extended for both FY 2011 and FY 2012, so that fire departments also can re-hire and retain firefighters.
- The FIRE and SAFER grants would be funded at \$337.5 million each, which is a cut of \$67.5 million for each program.
- Funding for all of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's homeland security grants, including the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Urban Areas Security Initiative, Citizen Corps, and the Interoperable Communications Grant would be a combined \$1.350 billion, allocated at the Secretary's discretion.

- The Urban Search and Rescue teams would receive \$41.25 million, an increase of approximately \$6 million.
- The combined funding for the FLAME funds at the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior would be \$407.89 million, an increase of \$55.89 million.

Fire Departments Encouraged to Complete Fire Service Intelligence Enterprise Survey

In order to better determine the information-sharing requirements of the nation's fire and emergency service, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group (ITACG) have created a 15-question survey.

The IAFC urges each fire department to complete the survey before January 31, 2012, a copy of the survey can be found on the IAFC web-site.

Every fire department in the nation should complete this survey; "Fire and EMS departments need to be aware of the threats to their jurisdictions. This survey will help shape intelligence sharing tools for the fire and emergency service, so they know what's happening in the field."

The survey is intended to determine if the federal government is providing helpful intelligence to fire departments and the extent to which there's demand for a fire/EMS-focused, federally-produced intelligence product. The results of this survey will be used by the government to identify the best way to keep fire departments informed on emerging threats, tactics and techniques.

The survey should take about 5–10 minutes to complete; only one response is required from each participating department. All information will be kept private in accordance with civil rights and civil liberties guidelines.

IAFC MEMBERSHIPS

The IAFC has a Fire Department membership for departments that have a population under 10,000. This membership gives all members of the department access to the various functions and membership privileges through the Chief of the department.

Contact the SEAFC Executive Director Executivedirector@seafc.org for details and applications.