

# **SECTION 1 - FIRE & PEOPLE**

## **UNIT 2 - ORGANIZATIONS WITH FIRE PROTECTION INTERESTS**

### **UNIT GOAL**

To introduce the student to the various types of public and private organizations that have an interest or that impact fire protection in the United States

### **UNIT OBJECTIVES**

The Student by the End of the Semester Shall:

- identify at least five [5] federal agencies that have an impact on fire protection in the United States
- identify at least three [3] state or local government agencies that have an impact on fire protection in the United States
- identify at least five [5] private organizations that have an impact on fire protection in the United States

### **KEY TERMS**

#### **PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS**

National Fire Protection Association

Building Officials & Code Administrators International

Insurance Service Office

Factory Mutual Research Corporation

Underwriter Labs, Inc

International Fire Service Training Association [IFSTA]

International Fire Chief's Association [IAFC]

International Association of Fire Fighters [IAFF]

International Association of Arson Investigators [IAAI]

International Society of Fire Service Instructors [ISFSI]

National Volunteer Fire Council [NVFC]

#### **PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS**

Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA]

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health [NIOSH]

Federal Emergency Management Agency

United States Fire Administration

Department of Transportation

Environmental Protection Association

State Department of Environmental Protection

State Office of Emergency Management

State Department of Labor

## INTRODUCTION

Fire suppression is primarily relegated to municipal fire services and to industrial fire brigades. While both of these organizations have a primary responsibility of fire suppression they also perform fire prevention functions as indicated by the “fire prevention triangle”.

Fire prevention on the other hand is some thing that is performed by a variety of organizations. Some of these are in the private [business] sector and others are in the public [government] sector. The public sector organization can be federal, state, or local. Historically fire protection has been considered a local issue, hence local fire departments. Many state agencies were created to handle fire protection needs within state government. But in later years they have taken on the role as a data gathering roles and to provide a more uniform approach to fire protection, i.e., state fire prevention codes, uniformed training requirements. The federal government had very little involvement in fire protection except for the protection of federal property, i.e., military bases, federal owned parks, and federal warehousing and distribution centers. Over the past thirty years that has changed. With the publishing of the “American Burning” report the federal government has taken on a more prominent role in fire protection. Some of the areas where they have become involved are:

- ◆ hazardous materials transport
- ◆ collection and dissemination of fire data statistics
- ◆ funding for firefighter training programs
- ◆ firefighter health and safety through OSHA & NIOSH

Private organizations have always had a greater concern with the prevention of fires than with the suppression aspects as mentioned before. Many of the national organizations that are actively involved in fire protection are within the insurance industry or allied with it. This is due to the active role that insurance companies had in pushing for better fire protection in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century’s.

Other organizations in the private sector are more directed towards the health and safety of the fire service, but they also have major concerns for fire prevention activities.

There are many local organizations or national organizations with local chapters that are actively involved in promoting fire prevention messages to the public. They may do it actively or help out with donations to other organizations.

In this section you will be introduced to some of the public and private organizations that impact fire protection in the United States

## PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

### **International Association of Fire Fighters**

The IAFF is an organization of permanent, paid firefighters with about 175,000 members. It was formed in 1918 and is affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Membership exists through joint councils, state associations, and chartered locals. Address: 1750 New York Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

### **International Association of Fire Chiefs**

Active membership in the IAFC is open to all chief officers or organized public, industrial, or government fire departments. Fire marshals, commissioners, and directors are also included if they are

involved in active fire fighting and administrative duties. The association, formed in 1873, is designed to further the professional advancement of the fire service. The IAFC has a membership of about 8,000 and holds an annual conference concerned with technical and educational advancement. Address: 1329 18th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

### **International Association of Arson Investigators**

Individuals may join the IAAI as active members if they are actively engaged in suppressing arson for a government or industrial business organization. Others may join as associate members if qualified. The primary function of the association is attacking the arson problem. Committees are formed within the group to carry out the task. Address: P.O. Box 600, 25 Newton St., Marlboro, Mass. 01752.

### **International Society of Fire Service Instructors**

The primary function of ISFSI is to provide a medium for the exchange of educational ideas and training techniques. It has done much to assist fire service instructors in their quest for improvement. The society was formed in 1960 and has members from all states and 10 other countries. Address: 20 Main St., Ashland, Mass. 01721.

### **National Volunteer Fire Council**

The NFVC is concerned with the interests of volunteer firefighters. Organized in 1976, it provides a unified position on matters affecting volunteers. Address: Changes every two years with the organization's president.

### **International Fire Service Training Association**

IFSTA was formed in 1934 to develop training manuals and materials for the fire service. The committees of IFSTA meet each July in Stillwater, Okla., to revise and validate the manuals. After validation, the texts are published by Fire Protection Publications, a division of Oklahoma State University. The publications are used throughout the United States and Canada and in several foreign countries. Address: Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla. 74078.

### **National Fire Protection Association**

The NFPA is an organization concerned with fire safety standards development, technical advisory services, education, research, and other related services. Its members come from the educational and scientific sectors of the fire protection field, both private and public. There are numerous committees that provide information and develop new standards. The NFPA was organized in 1896. Address: Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Mass. 02269.

### **Building Officials and Code Administrators International Inc.**

BOCA is a model code organization, providing model building codes for adoption by cities and states. BOCA also sponsors training, testing, and certification for code administrators and building inspection officials. Address: 4051 W. Flossmoor Rd., Country Club Hills, 111.60477.

### **Underwriters Laboratories Inc.**

The goal of UL is to promote public safety through scientific investigation of various materials in regard to the hazard they present by their use. The organization, after testing, then lists and marks the material

as having passed its rigorous tests. The nonprofit UL was founded in 1894. Address: 333 Pflingsten Road, Northbrook, 111.60062.

### **Factory Mutual Research Corporation**

FM conducts research in property loss control primarily to meet the needs of the Factory Mutual System. The information, however, is available for use by others. Data is gathered by testing, surveys, and studies. Address: 1151 Boston-Providence Turnpike, Norwood, Mass. 02062.

### **Insurance Services Office**

ISO is a voluntary, nonprofit, unincorporated association of insurers. Its duties include ratings, advising, and providing statistics. ISO was formed in 1971 by the consolidation of several other insurance service organizations. Address: 160 Water St., New York, N.Y. 10038.

## **PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS**

### **FEDERAL**

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

This agency was formed in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter's third reorganization plan to give the president the capability, within a single federal agency, to provide for national needs in preparing for, mitigating, and responding to all types of emergencies. Programs include fire prevention and control, continuity of government, strategic stockpiles, civil defense, federal insurance plans, flood plain management, dam safety, hurricane preparedness, earthquake preparedness, and radiological emergency preparedness. These form the foundation on which continuity of civilian government is built and on which authority is exercised in the aftermath of emergencies. The overriding objective is the maximum preservation of life and property in peacetime disasters and national security emergencies, including attack. Address: 500 C Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20001.

#### **U.S. Fire Administration**

The USFA was established by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-498). Its purposes are to:

- ◆ Reduce the nation's losses from fire through better fire prevention and control.
- ◆ Supplement existing programs of research, training, and education and to encourage new, improved programs and activities by state and local governments. Address: 16825 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Md. 21727.

#### **National Fire Academy**

The National Fire Academy was established by the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-498). The purpose of the academy is to advance the professional development of fire service personnel and of other persons engaged in fire prevention and control. It provides programs in organizational and executive development, education and public fire education, management technology, arson mitigation, hazardous materials, incident command, and fire prevention at the resident facility and in the field through state and local fire training agencies. Its courses meet or exceed the National Fire Professional Qualification Standards and are accredited by the American Council of Education. Address: 16825 S. Seton Ave. Emmitsburg, Md. 21727.

### **National Bureau of Standards**

The NBS, established in 1901, is under the authority of the U.S. Department of Commerce. It is engaged in fire research and tests involving building technology. The NBS fire tests materials and provides the results. A fire research center has also been established within the NBS concerned with advancing fire technology. Address: Washington D.C. 20234.

### **Department of Transportation**

DOT is concerned with public safety on the nation's highways, airways, and coastal waters. It has developed a variety of regulations that control such things as hazardous materials and their shipping containers. DOT subdivisions include the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Materials Transportation Bureau, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Address: 400 Seventh St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

EPA provides an "on-scene coordinator" at oil or hazardous substances spills that threaten or reach inland waters. The coordinator has authority to see that the spill is contained and cleaned up to minimize environmental damage. Address: 401 M St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

### **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

OSHA was established in 1970 when the Occupational Safety and Health Act became federal law. Its purpose is to guarantee safe working conditions for all. OSHA is part of the Department of Labor, which enforces its regulations. Address: Department of Labor Building, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

### **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health**

NIOSH was established within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to conduct research and provide educational functions to support OSHA. It also recommends occupational safety and health standards that affect workers. Address:  
Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Md. 20852.

### **U.S. Forest Service**

An arm of the Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service provides fire protection to national forests, grasslands, and nearby private lands across the United States. The Forest Service has equipment, aircraft, personnel, and communications systems to combat large scale wildland fires. It has research facilities and provides technical, financial, and equipment procurement assistance to the states. The Forest Service also delivers training, pays the cost of fire fighting, and provides surplus federal equipment. Address: U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

## **STATE AGENCIES**

### **State Division of Fire Safety**

Central focus within the state for any fire safety or fire protection issues. Oversees the state fire reporting

system, coordinates fire loss data with the USFA, and provides certification of fire code inspectors and administrators.

### **State Fire Training Academy**

Provides higher level training courses for local fire departments. These courses involve organization and management, large scale fireground operations, fire and arson investigation, and fire and building code administration.

### **State Fire Training Commission**

Establish standards for firefighters, fire officers, and fire instructors. Determines what types of Recertification are also needed. Acts as a liaison between the fire service and the governor and state legislature.

### **State Fire Chief's Association**

An organization where chief officers can interact with their peers and exchange information that is of mutual use and concern. They also act as a lobbying force for fire service management.

### **State Office of Emergency Management**

Provides resources for any types of emergencies that may occur within the state. They also are required to develop and maintain a statewide emergency action plan for all types of natural and man made disasters, and to coordinate with local emergency managers and review their emergency plans.

### **State Department of Environmental Protection**

Oversee potential problems that may arise with the discharge of hazardous materials.

### **State Department of Labor**

Makes sure that all fire service personnel are afforded the proper safe equipment and work environment. Enforce state OSHA or federal OSHA regulations.

### **State Health Department**

Oversee health regulations that impact emergency services workers. Oversees blood-borne pathogens regulations and is the oversight organization for training and certification of EMTs and Paramedics.

## RECOMMENDED REFERENCES

- **International Association of Fire Fighters**
  - <http://www.iaff.org>
- **International Association of Fire Chiefs**
  - <http://www.ichiefs.org/>
- **International Association of Arson Investigators**
  - <http://fire-investigators.org/>
- **International Society of Fire Service Instructors**
  - <http://www.isfsi.org>
- **International Fire Service Training Association**
  - <http://www.ifsta.org/>
- **National Fire Protection Association**
  - <http://www.nfpa.org>
- **Building Officials and Code Administrators International Inc.**
  - <http://www.bocai.org>
- **Underwriters Laboratories Inc.**
  - <http://www.ul.com/>
- **Factory Mutual Research Corporation**
  - <http://www.fmglobal.com/default.asp>
- **Insurance Services Office**
  - <http://www.iso.com>
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency**
  - <http://www.fema.gov>
- **U.S. Fire Administration**
  - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/>
- **National Fire Academy**
  - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/tr.htm>
- **National Bureau of Standards**
  - <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/>
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**
  - <http://www.osha.gov/>
- **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health**
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>

## STATE AGENCIES

### State Division of Fire Safety

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firewww.html>

<http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs>