

## **SEAFIC Position Statements**

January 12, 2002

### CHIEF FIRE OFFICER DESIGNATION PROGRAM

The SEAFIC Board believes in the professional development of fire and emergency service chief officers by providing a voluntary designation program that promotes excellence and serves as a career path for junior officers. The Chief Fire Officer Designation is a program that the SEAFIC Board supports and promotes for the use by our members.

### CHILDREN'S SLEEPWEAR

The SEAFIC Board remains supportive of HR 528/730 that has been introduced in Congress and seeks to reinstate the 1972 flame-resistant standard for children's sleepwear. The SEAFIC Board continues to oppose the decision of the Consumers Product Safety Commission that eliminated this vital safety measure for children. The SEAFIC further requests that the IAFC urge other fire service organizations to join in opposing the CPSC's actions regarding sleepwear for children and ask the IAFC to support passage of HR 528/730.

### COMMISSION OF FIRE ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL

The SEAFIC Board encourages members to consider participating in the accreditation process and to set a goal to become an internationally accredited agency. Continuous quality improvement and enhancement of service delivery remains a major challenge of the fire service. The Commission of Fire Accreditation International, originating from IAFC, provides a voluntary program by which our members can evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of their organization and set a course for improvement.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The SEAFIC Board supports the development of new technologies and systems that would allow the integration of multi-agency communications equipment for disaster response through the efforts of the IAFC Government Relations Department and the Legislative process.

### DIVERSITY

The SEAFIC Board feels the IAFC and all members should take a proactive approach to address the issue of diversity. It is incumbent on our organization to be the leader in insuring diversity is a goal. This goal will make our organization strong and representative of all of our members.

### DRUG TESTING

The SEAFIC strongly believes in and supports the concept of a drug free work force. To this end, the Board supports all drug testing and monitoring procedures and policies now in place in our respective states. The Board further advocates taking necessary actions to implement random drug testing for members of the fire service.

### EMS INITIATIVES

The SEAFIC Board supports the efforts of the IAFC to focus greater attention on delivery of emergency medical services by the fire service. With many of our members involved in some sort of EMS delivery to the public, the SEAFIC supports efforts to improve the delivery system of

fire-based EMS and urges the IAFC Board of Directors to support the same. The SEAFIC also supports the development of a single EMS patient form that has electronically based software support. The SEAFIC also supports the recently adopted HCFA reimbursement schedule for EMS first response, patient treatment and patient transport. Accordingly, the SEAFIC encourages members and the IAFC to pursue mechanisms that will assist in successfully recovering costs by member agencies that provide any level of EMS service (first responder to ALS) even if agencies do not transport patients.

#### FARM CHEMICAL PLACARDING

The SEAFIC Board is opposed to any measures that would remove or eliminate the current standards for placarding of hazardous chemicals used in agricultural applications. This would be an infringement on the safety of not only our personnel but also the general public.

#### FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The SEAFIC Board feels the IAFC should pursue the effort of identifying and appropriate agency within the Federal Public Safety System to place monies for Domestic Preparedness and other Federal initiatives which address the Nations Fire Service. Support of the Enactment Legislation to make FEMA's Office of National Preparedness (ONP) as the single point of contact for terrorism preparedness would be an excellent opportunity for this. Monies for this effort should not be commingled with current funds appropriated for the fight against crime.

#### FEDERAL MANDATES

The SEAFIC Board supports efforts by the IAFC to ensure the Federal Government funds any staffing, equipment or programs mandated on local fire services by the Federal Government.

#### FEMA OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

The SEAFIC Board supports President Bush's proposal to create an Office of Domestic Preparedness with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to centralize the federal government's focus on terrorism. A single agency responsible for planning and preparedness of this country's capabilities relative to terrorism in our municipalities is both prudent and responsible. With the events occurring September 11<sup>th</sup>, we urge the President to continue efforts to see that this initiative is moved to completion.

#### FIRE SERVICE NEEDS

The SEAFIC Board supports the initiatives presented by IAFC President John M. Buckman III, on the needs of the American Fire Service to the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space. We urge action by Congress on the 11 points highlighted in President Buckman's testimony.

#### FITNESS STANDARDS

The SEAFIC Board supports the IAFC/IAFF physical fitness standards for entry-level employees and encourages member fire department leaders to evaluate the CPAT program for implementation in their organizations. The SEAFIC Board further supports the continued development of fitness standards for incumbent employees. The SEAFIC is supportive of efforts to eliminate language in the fitness standards that makes employee refusal to participate in a fitness program non-punitive.

### IAFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEATS

The SEAFB Board feels that it is incumbent on the IAFC to maintain an elected executive Board of Directors comprised of chiefs currently serving as “Chief of Department”. Representatives of Divisions and Sections should be left to the discretion of the Division and Section based on their constitution and bylaws as approved by the IAFC. Divisions and Sections should guarantee that any representative that they elect to the IAFC Board would be an active participant in the duties assigned. We must continue to make every effort to project a vision of the organization as a professional organization ran by professionals. We must do everything possible to live up to the ideals of LEADERSHIP, EXPERTISE and INTEGRITY.

### IAFC COMMUNICATIONS

The SEAFB Board strongly supports the IAFC initiates efforts to increase the communications between the International Division and State organizations. The Board is committed to assisting the IAFC in any way possible to ensure our members get accurate and timely information. The Board would also encourage each Division and Section to initiate a strategic planning process as well as position statements and share such information throughout the IAFC. This is another key in “narrowing the gap” between International, Division and State organizations.

### IAFC DIRECTED VOTES BY REPRESENTATIVES

It is the SEAFB Board’s firm conviction that the principle of “directed votes”, on issues critical to the mission of the IAFC, and must be agreed to by IAFC appointed representatives prior to serving on such committees or work groups. Individuals serving on standards development committees of the NFPA, as appointed representatives of the IAFC, or individuals working on committees or work groups of other organizations in which the IAFC has an interest, must agree to the principle that the IAFC Board may direct them to vote a particular way on issues placed before the committee or work group. . The interests of the general membership of the IAFC must be protected and advanced by the Board.

### IAFC DISASTER RESPONSE GUIDELINE

The SEAFB feels the IAFC should adopt the following:

With the disasters that occurred on September 11, 2001, a new need to define proper responses to the scene of catastrophic emergencies/disasters has emerged. While the IAFC recognizes the inherent desire to lend a hand in the face of such devastating events, they also realize the need for the coordination of resources to maximize abilities, focus efforts, ensure safety, and provide assistance in an already confused situation.

It is the position of the IAFC that all agencies or individuals that wish to respond to the scene of an emergency/disaster should offer their services through the chain of command. Since the chain of command can differ for each locality, contact should begin with lowest level authority that is responsible for the coordination of emergency responses for your jurisdiction. These authorities will then communicate their available resources to the next higher authorities, which in turn will either coordinate with the persons in charge of the scene or federal officials. At no time should any agency or individual respond to a scene without an official request that has been disseminated down through the chain of command.

Following this procedure will ensure that resources are organized and concentrated at the emergency/disaster scene for maximum benefit. This will also eliminate the danger of having unqualified personnel on the scene, or having personnel on the scene that are unaccounted for. This will ultimately provide safety for all responders and provide quick, efficient, and appropriate responses for the victims of the emergency/disaster

#### IAFC EDUCATIONAL TELECONFERENCES

The SEAFB Board encourages the IAFC to continue the Educational Teleconferences. The teleconferences provide membership with cost effective, timely and important information to assist in the management of today's emergency service organizations.

#### IAFC FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

The SEAFB encourages the IAFC to develop, appoint and fund a committee that encompasses fire, life safety, and guideline codes, fire safety education, fire investigations and other related fire prevention activities. The SEAFB feels strongly that the areas mentioned above are critical in today's modern fire service.

#### IAFC GOVERNANCE

The SEAFB Board is supportive of the objective of Governance and Organizational Structure as identified in the recommendations of the Strategic Plan. It is evident that recent changes in management style are effective and are providing the direction to move the organization forward and prepare it for future. The current strategic planning process provides the continuity needed as our elected officials move through the chairs and for staff as they handle the day-to-day operation. The current mode of operation provides the flexibility to staff to maintain a very dynamic organization with the ability to act quickly to different situations. The SEAFB Board would encourage the IAFC to institutionalize the process.

#### IAFC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MEMBERS

The SEAFB Board supports the IAFC in its creation of a designated group consisting of section and/or state association representatives to meet annually at FRI to discuss legislative issues and work together to share ideas on addressing challenges each state may be facing legislatively. The SEAFB will continue to support a "legislative email tree" that will allow not only IAFC staff, but state representatives to share issues and/or ideas affected either federal or state legislative actions, utilizing this network to aid in communications.

#### IAFC LINE OF DUTY DEATH

The Board of the SEAFB supports the IAFC in the development and adoption of a guideline in how the organization addresses and responds to LODD. A formal structure will ensure our organization is consistent in recognizing and honoring not only our members but also any Chief Officer that has gone before us

#### IAFC STRATEGIC PLAN

The SEAFB Board encourages the IAFC to continue the Strategic Planning Process. This process is one of the key elements that will not only prepare our organization for the future but will insure that everyone is working together. The success of our organization depends on every member and we must make every effort to narrow the gap between the International, Division

and State organizations. The SEAFB Board would also request that the IAFC Board and staff make every effort to pursue completion of the objectives outlined in the October 2000 recommendations.

### ISO

The SEAFB Board encourages the ISO to evaluate their current program and make modifications that take into account modern technologies and current standards. We stress the importance of a strong partnership with the IAFC and ISO in the development of this document.

### USFA/NFA

The SEAFB Board fully supports the efforts of the administration of FEMA, USFA and NFA to implement changes as outlined in the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations. The implementation of these recommendations will enhance the operation of these agencies and in turn greatly assist the emergency services on a National, State and Local level.

### WELLNESS PROGRAMS

The SEAFB Board supports the concept of fitness/wellness for all fire service personnel. A comprehensive program to accomplish this has been jointly developed by the IAFC and IAFF and implemented in 10 U.S. metropolitan fire departments. The SEAFB Board request that the IAFC Health & Safety Committee study for cost implication, implementation timing, and appropriateness for all levels of fire delivery systems.

### WOMEN CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS

The SEAFB Board supports the WCFO's efforts to insure the IAFC is open and sensitive to the diverse work force in the fire service. The SEAFB believes the mission, vision, and value statements developed by the WCFO set a standard for the IAFC that will make the entire organization, and all its members, capable of meeting the many diversified challenges over the next decade