



# FLASHPOINT

June/July 2010

Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Firefighters:

A few words to let everyone know that we are in the process of a telemarketing fundraiser. Realizing that some are dead set against this, I'm asking of anyone who would know better ways of doing fundraising, please contact Bim Snow, his address can be found on the Federation website.

We are looking for a Firefighter for the lifetime Achievement award to be

presented at Convention in the fall. Names must be submitted by August 10. Send either by e-mail [neifireext@live.com](mailto:neifireext@live.com) or by mail at 483 Main St., Madawaska, ME04756

We are still keeping an eye on the LOSAP at the federal level. I would like to thank Senator Susan Collins and Senator from Connecticut who did an excellent job for the Maine Firefighters.

Legislation this year was on the slow side for the

Firefighters. We are working with MFT & ED to try to get the training that the firefighters need and deserve.

Convention 2010 will be held in Presque Isle on Sept. 10, 11, and 12. They have a full fun weekend planned. Let's show our support by attending.

See you all in Presque Isle.

Richard A. Cyr, MSFFF Inc  
President

## WHO IS THAT MAN

He's the guy down the street; your next door neighbor; the little boy with the dirty face and skinned knees you watched grow into a fine, strong man.

He works a 40-hour week, but won't miss the training session Friday night and Saturday. He works on the fire trucks for hours after a "hard day at the office," but still makes it to his kids' little league games.

He enjoys a Sunday afternoon nap, but can be dressed and out the door in fifteen seconds, out of a dead sleep, at the sound of a fire tone.

He's loved and respected, and worried about, by his wife, kids and mother; but seldom about by those who can't see first hand the dedication he has to the department, to his brother firefighters, to mankind.

He's the one you know will be there when he's needed- to find a lost child, to assist at the scene of a car accident or flood, to fight a fire, to lay his life on the line to save yours.

He's like a fine-tuned piece of machinery, trained in first aid, fire fighting and life saving, with a keen perception

of all the equipment and techniques. But amid all that knowledge, there's compassion, and concern, and a willingness to give of himself to help others.

He doesn't look any different from any other man; you couldn't pick him out of a crowd. But he's on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He hopes you don't need him, but he's there if you do.

He's a volunteer firefighter.

Becky Shultz Sellars,  
Edgerton Missouri

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# **47TH ANNUAL MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS CONVENTION**

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**The Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters State Convention is  
coming to Presque Isle in September 2010!**

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

### **Thursday, September 9th**

7:00 p.m. - Finish MSFFF Board of Directors Meeting PIFD

### **Friday, Sept. 10**

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration (Vendors Open)-Presque Isle Fairgrounds

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Antique Judging-Presque Isle Fairgrounds

7:00 p.m. - Finish Annual Meeting-Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center

### **Saturday, September 11**

8:00 a.m. Registration and Vendors Open-Presque Isle Fairgrounds

7:00 - 9:30 a.m. Antique Judging and Parade Line Up-University of Maine  
Presque Isle (Route 1)

9:30 a.m. - Finish Parade

4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Social Hour-Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center

5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Convention Banquet & Awards Guest Speaker Randy  
Mantooth (TV Show "Emergency")-Presque Isle Inn and  
Convention Center

8:30 p.m. - Finish Comedian Bob Marley-Presque Isle Forum @ the Fairgrounds

### **Sunday, September 12**

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Vendors Open-Presque Isle Fairgrounds

8:00 a.m. - ??? Chief's Breakfast with VIP Vendors-Presque Isle Inn and  
Convention Center

8:30 a.m. - Finish Captains Meeting with Muster and Awards to follow-  
Presque Isle Fairgrounds

After Muster Kiwanis Poop A Pallooza-Presque Isle Fairgrounds

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**SEATING IS LIMITED FOR THE BANQUET AND COMEDY SHOW.  
PLEASE PRE-REGISTER WITH US TO GUARANTEE SEATING AT ALL EVENTS.**

**Please Contact:**

Grant Spinney-Convention Chair  
Adam Rider-Parade Committee Chair  
Kyle Bartley-Muster Committee Chair

Phone: 207-769-0881 • Fax: 207-764-2537 • Email: pifire@maine.rr.com

All registrations can be mailed to:

Presque Isle Fire Department, 43 North Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769

**Please make all check payable to:**

PI Vol. Fire Dept

Check for updates and additional events on our website: <http://www.pifd.org>

**For more information please visit [www.pifd.org](http://www.pifd.org) to download the  
convention packet. Automated forms are now available.**

# TRIBUTE TO MIDNIGHT

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Midnight, a female Black Labrador Retriever, was born on Saturday, November 4, 1995. We met in September of 1996 and became close friends. She graduated from the Maine State Police Canine Accelerant Detection School on Friday, May 16, 1997, and was certified as an Accelerant Detection K-9 through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Her first demonstration was at a public speaking engagement on the Friday afternoon of her graduation, at the Oxford Hills Middle School, before approximately 90 students and teachers. Her first fire scene was on the following day (Saturday), at a structure fire in Harpswell. This first scene is where she "schooled me" on the phrase "trust your dog," a lesson I kept with me through her career.

Midnight had a lengthy and successful career with the State Fire Marshal's Office, serving the citizens of the State of Maine. Midnight retired on September 4, 2008 at 1,400 hours. After a moderate "adjustment period," she settled into her retirement. Midnight had many accomplishments throughout her career. She was featured in many TV reports, newspaper and magazine articles during her career and even after her retirement.

She was cremated today, May 24, 2010, and is now "home" with me forever. I will miss her every day for the rest of my life!

Handler & Owner, Richard Shepard

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## WARREN FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NEW PUMPER/TANKER

On May 5, 2010 the Warren Fire Department took Delivery of a 2010 Metalfab/International pumper/tanker. The pumper has a 1500 g.p.m two stage pump and carries 2,600 gallons of water with a rear dump, portable dump tank and other assorted equipment.



Warren, Maine: 2010 International — Allison 4000EVS Automatic Transmission — Kussmaul Battery Charger — Hale QTwo 1500 gpm Two Stage Pump — 2600 Gallon Water Tank — Newton Dump Chute - Suction Hose Tube — Zico Electric Portable Tank Rack — Rear Chevrons.

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## Waldo County Fire Academy

It all started in September 2009. The Waldo County Firefighter Training Committee was formed. The committee member consisted of Brooks Chief, Jeff Archer; Montville Chief, John York; Morrill Deputy Chief, David Wight; Searsmont Chief, James Ames; Searsport Chief, Jim Dittmier; Liberty Chief, William Gillespie; Thorndike Chief, Peter Quimby and Waldo County EMA, Dale Rowley.

The training committee, with the assistance of Walter Morris and Phil Meunier of MFT&E, developed and implemented firefighter training classes for Waldo County Firefighter's. The Waldo County Firefighter Training Committee mission is to provide certified local training, professional development, and team work. In the past the majority of trainings are at weekend attack schools held in Winslow, Bethel, and Gorham that are held twice a year. The logistics of attack schools for volunteers, developed into a concern with cost, personnel coverage, and time away from family. Providing local training would allow for flexibility of year round training that could be scheduled to meet the needs of local fire departments and students. A major benefit of allowing volunteers to train locally is the ability to spend more time with family without having to travel across the state to attend classes. The cost of providing local training would also be to produce savings. Funds raised are invested into Waldo County training programs and training facility improvements. This will provide us the ability to provide more training opportunities at a savings to fire departments and tax payers.

Four classes were chosen based on request from Fire Chiefs, firefighters, and recommendation from MFT&E. The classes chosen were Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations (S.T.I.C.O.), Preparation for Initial Company Operations (P.I.T.C.O.), Scene Support, and Basic Fire Attack School. The classes were held at the Waldo County Technical Center and the Waldo County Firefighter Association training building.

On June 5, 2010, the Basic Fire Attack School ended the first Waldo County Fire Academy with live-burn fire training. One hundred-twenty firefighters from all over Waldo County, since January, have completed 3,860 hours of hands-on and classroom training. If firefighters were paid for training at \$12.00 an hour, it would have a value of \$46,320.

The success of Waldo County Fire Academy could not have happened without the support from local businesses, community, Waldo County Fire Departments, firefighter's families, and Maine Fire Training and Education. Over \$10,000 worth of supplies, material, and labor were donated to support the Waldo County Fire Academy.

We now have multiple training props including a propane tank, forcible entry prop, wall breaching prop, and roof ventilation props at the training building.

Currently, we are planning to build a live-burn room at the training facility for the next fire academy this fall.

On June 26, 2010, a graduation will be held for all students of the first class of the Waldo County Fire Academy at the Morrill Fire Station from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Applications for the fall Waldo County Fire Academy are currently being accepted.

## Sullivan Fire and Rescue

I was coerced by Bim Snow, the Hancock County Maine Federation of Firefighters Board member, to write a piece for the newsletter called "FLASHPOINT." The surrounding towns of Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor, Franklin, Sorrento and Hancock all have the joyous task of introducing NEW pieces of equipment/apparatus. Sullivan will have a time of it when they are required to replace two Class "A" pumpers in the next few years. I am not complaining, just pointing out the fact. Like many other things, we flow with the rest of our peers.

We have members that are embracing the Academy System of teaching Fire Fighter I and II. It is comprehensible and gives each of the graduates the same basic concepts to absorb and put into practice. All of us are very pleased with the end test results.

On Wednesday, May 13, a call came in to RCC in Hancock for a structure fire at #38 Evergreen Point Road in Sullivan. The dispatcher "toned out" Sullivan and Franklin Fire, as is outlined in the protocol. Sullivan's Chief, Mike Hiser (F-1) was on the way to the structure fire on Evergreen Point Road. People at the scene could see large amounts of dark smoke at the eaves of the three story dwelling. Sullivan (F-1) RCC requesting (MA) mutual aid from Hancock Fire Department and also Sorrento Fire. Hancock (F-1) was ready with Engine 4 and a crew. Sorrento responded with their rescue/pumper. Hancock was directed by Command (F-1) Sullivan to establish a water supply at the Whalesback Road Quarry. The fire then erupted. Command (F-1) Sullivan went into defensive mode. Command had water supply on TAC1 to keep the other lines open. All other units were to use their "home" frequencies.

At some point, everyone was stepping on everyone else without realizing that they were lost. [It was my idea that each of the departments has its own Town frequency. If you have the repeater for your Town on priority, then you never get the short messages, only the static that ultimately means trouble.] The TAC channels are meant to be used on priority only.

Other arriving units announced to Command that there was a second fire at Porcupine Lane – a woods fire. RCC toned out Forestry and the fire was extinguished. Almost at the same time the Command at Evergreen Point announced "loss stopped" in over-

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haul. With the MA agreement between Lamoine and Hancock Fire, Lamoine was put on stand-by at their station until cleared by Command and RCC.

The Fire Marshal's Office was investigating and there was enough information left at the scene to have the determination that arson was the cause. According to Sergeant Tim York of the Fire marshal's office, the matter is still being investigated.

There was a mortgage that paid for some of the home, but not all, according to sources in the news.

All units cleared and Mutual Aid was released by RCC and Command was terminated. Many good things come from the melding of so many well informed people.

Thank you all for being there and for your help!

Thanks,  
Mark H. Rudolph.

## Hancock County

The Hancock County Firefighters held elections at their Annual Meeting held in Blue Hill. The following were elected to a one-year term:

President, Julia Clark – Orland Fire Department

Richard Tupper – Ellsworth Fire Department

Vice President/Sergeant-at-Arms, Robert Conary – Orland Fire Department

Secretary/Treasurer, Lisa Winger – Trenton Fire Department

Outgoing President Craig Bowden – Bucksport Fire Department.

We presented Forest Ranger, John Cousins with an award for his many years of volunteer service to the Association including President.

The Hancock County Firefighter's Association recognized the fifth Hancock County Fire Academy graduating class. The 17 students represented 13 towns throughout Hancock County and one town from Penobscot County. The students spent 11 weekends to complete the course.

Students were follows:

Stefan Blanchard, Town of Blue Hill

Colin Goodson and David Wilson, Town of Castine

Robert Dorr, City of Ellsworth

Kurt Strauch and Bernard Johnson, Town of Lamoine

Steve Grindle, Town of Franklin

Lori Saffell, Town of Mariaville

Andrew Flanagan, Town of Mt. Desert

Robert Paulson, Jonathan Harrison and Owen Reed, Penobscot

Justin Bartlett, Town of Old Town/Town of Bar Harbor

Jamie Wood, Town of Sedgewick

Kenneth LeMoine, Town of Swans Island

Paul Davis and Jillian Sanner, Town of Southwest Harbor

Mike Pinkham and Jeremiah Tate, Town of Sullivan

During the program, the students received instruction from local and state career and volunteer firefighters in both a classroom as well as hands-on instructions. In order to meet the skills/objectives, the students were trained in property conservation, forcible entry, ventilation, self contained breathing apparatus and other firefighting skills, including safety and survival. The students took part in a Class A burn in Ellsworth where they not only were able to utilize a donated house for ventilation, forcible entry but also live burns. The students were in Franklin for their Class B burns where 1,800 gallons of propane was burned for an invigorating experience.

This year's students also were able to receive certification in first aid and CPR, Hazmat Operations and Wildland Fire Fighting-G190, all of which were above and beyond the Jones and Bartlett curriculum.

Lead Instructor, Kevin Bland, led the main instructors: Daryl Clark, Gary Saunders, Richard Tupper, Dennis Nadeau, Jim Metcalf, Randy Lowe and Kevin Stradley.

The Hancock County Fire Academy has, in the last five years, graduated over 140 students here in Hancock County representing over 20 towns. This program has been highly successful partly due to the dedication from the instructors as well as the support from the chiefs and area businesses in Hancock County. Each town recognizes the importance of this academy as it enables the students to stay close to home and get some top notch training with fellow county members, all who could be calling for mutual aid help with the state's oldest countywide mutual aid agreement.

A great job by all students, instructors, county commissioners, fire chiefs and all those that are behind the scenes helping to make this academy the success it has become. Thank you all!!!!

*Celebrating our*  
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**FIRE**  
CORPS



**NVFC**  
EMS

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 450, Greenbelt, MD 20770

TO: NVFC Chairman  
Phil Stittleburg

FROM: Robert Kilpeck  
VT Director

DATE: April 27, 2010

I attended the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial, Tribute & Remembrance Conference April 16 & 17, 2010 in Tampa, FL. representing the NVFC. There were 30 people in attendance at the conference. Executive Director Ron Siarnicki gave an overview of the Foundation and the activities that the Foundation is involved with. The goal of the meeting was to help others that are involved with state and local memorials, to share information on fundraising — strategies and pitfalls, planning, establishing and creating memorial sites and some of the pitfalls that others have had to work through.

All of the participants were given the opportunity to share the experiences that their state or organization had to deal with in getting their memorial through the process of having it become a reality.

There were three different break-out sessions that were conducted by different people that the participants could attend;

- Accounting Basics, properly recording contributions, pledges and when and how to record and account for these when promised, asset restrictions are Them permanent or unrestricted.
- Corporate Partnership Programs
- Grant Proposals

Hope Janke gave a presentation on the Public Safety Officers Benefits. Today the benefit is \$311,810.00; the benefit as everyone knows is tied to the consumer price index and is adjusted Oct. 1st each year. This past year the benefit went down for the 1st time since the program was created. The Hometown Hero's claims are now down to about 60 claims that have not yet been finalized one way or the other, waiting on additional documentation before a determination can be made.

The program receives about 400 claims a year. In 2009 280 claims were approved. In the statements that are submitted with the claim it is very important to use words very carefully, probationary, recruit, junior member, retired. These words can and do throw up red flags to those reviewing the claim and can delay the outcome of a claim. The NFFF has folks that can and will review the claim before it gets submitted to help make sure that any red flag issues get addressed before it gets submitted.

Hope reported that some time this summer they will be sending out an information kit covering the program and the Hometown Hero's act.

The NFFF has a Line-of-Duty Death State Response Teams Program; it is referred to as the Local Assistance State Team (LAST). The goal is to have a team in every state, I would encourage all of our NVFC Directors and Alternates to know who these teams are in their state and get involved with them.

The mission of these teams is to provide the families and fire departments of fallen firefighters the support mechanisms needed before, during and after the funeral. Act as a resource for the family and fire department and to bring expertise to the family and department in filing the PSOB claim. There are very clear guidelines as to what the team can provide, what the team will do and what the team won't do.

Ronny Coleman and Wayne Powell were present for this meeting and gave a presentation on a project they and others have undertaken, the being the National Fire Heritage. Center. The primary purpose of the National Fire Heritage Center is to help save important historical written work relating to America's fire services and fire protection disciplines.

Many fire museums hold artifacts such as apparatus and equipment but not necessarily historical writings. Much of this written material is discarded due to space or storage limitations. The Heritage Center will be located in Emmitsburg, MD near the National Fire Academy.



Frenchville, Maine: 2007 Sterling — Allison 4000 EVS - 3050 Gallon Water Tank — Class 1 Gauges —Akron Brass Control Handles — Gold Leaf Lettering with Black Outline — LED Lighting.

# K&T FIRE EQUIPMENT

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# NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL 2010

## Spring Meeting Alexandria, Virginia 30th April 2010

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Timothy Patrick O'Dowd, United States Fire Administration Project Officer — NVFC Grant, Tim.ODowd@dhs.gov

USFA meets with NVFC staff each month to discuss the status of projects, mutual goals and pressing issues in the volunteer fire and emergency services.

NVFC attends several conferences a year promoting USFA/NVFC Joint Programs including Fire Expo, FDIC, Firehouse Expo and IAFC Fire Rescue International.

NVFC Website - [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org) Information on the website includes: Media, News, Statistics & Factsheets, Regulations & Standards, Membership, Recruitment & Retention, Training & Education, E-update Archive, In the Line of Duty, Resource Center, 1-800-Fire-Line, Grants & Funding, Capitol Hill Connection, Links, State Benefits Guide, Contact NVFC, Health & Safety and EMS.

The USFA funds a portion of the production and distribution costs for the NVFC quarterly newsletter, Dispatch. In addition to being available as a download from the NVFC website, the Dispatch has a printed circulation of over 3,500.

### Training Workshops

The NVFC, in partnership with the US Fire Administration, offered a total of six workshops on retention and recruitment and grant writing. The workshops are presented by NVFC's very own Jeff Cash. To date, workshops have been delivered in West Virginia and North Dakota with additional workshops scheduled for Connecticut and Indiana.

### AFG and SAFER Grant-Writing Workshops

The training is designed to help volunteer and combination departments prepare successful applications for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), and Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grant programs.

### Retention and Recruitment Workshop

The NVFC offers a Retention and Recruitment Workshop focusing on the results of a comprehensive NVFC study. The workshop provides recommendations on retention and recruitment topics and delves into the reasons why there's been a decline in the number of volunteers in the fire and emergency services.

### NVFC — USFA Publications

The USFA provides information resources in many formats, including books, pamphlets and DVD's, free of charge. Customers can use our online catalog to order from over 400 publications and other information products. <https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/publications>

Emergency Services - Challenges and Solutions, FA-310 — May 2007, is a valuable resource is designed for all volunteer and combination departments that are experiencing retention and recruitment challenges. It addresses the primary challenges departments face and provides proven solutions to overcome retention and recruitment challenges.

Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations for Volunteer and Small Combination Emergency Service Organizations This publication is the result of a cooperative project between the USFA and the NVFC. With vehicle accidents the second leading cause of line-of-duty firefighter fatalities each year, it is clear that this is an issue that needs to be discussed and acted upon. Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations contains best practices, motivational strategies, and standard operating guidelines to help volunteer and small combination emergency service organizations mitigate the fatalities, injuries, costs, and reduced efficiency associated with vehicle crashes.

Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services This guide, FA-321 — February 2009, provides information on health and wellness issues, trends, and programs focused on the needs of the volunteer fire service. It addresses fitness including aerobic exercise, flexibility, strength training, diet; smoking cessation; and other areas that will have a positive impact on volunteer firefighters.

Emerging Health and Safety Issues in the Volunteer Fire Service - FA-317/March 2008 A study of emerging occupational health and safety issues in the volunteer fire and emergency services that provides information on initiatives, programs, and strategies for reducing fatalities among volunteer firefighters.

### NVFC Volunteer Firefighter - Recruitment Kit

The goal of the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment Kit is to help states achieve their recruitment goals. This will be accomplished through advertising, public relations and community relations using professionally designed materials provided in the Kit.

### Terrorism Awareness Guide

The Terrorism Awareness Guide includes a Department of Homeland Security Overview, Grants, Training and Learning Resources, Informational Tools and DHS Standards & Guidelines.

### State Benefits Guide

The NVFC developed the State Benefits Web guide which serves as a useful resource to both fire service leaders and legislators on the state level to compare what their state government does for its firefighters with other states. The NVFC State Benefits Guide lists

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State-by-State benefits available to Volunteer Firefighters. The Guide can be used to find and/or compare State benefits in the following categories: Death - One-Time, Death - Workers Compensation, Death - Funeral, Death - Pension, Death - Child's Education, Death - Spouse's Education, Death - Support Organizations, Education, Workers Compensation, Funding, Health, Legal, Malpractice, Retirement and Taxes.

### **White Paper on Training in the Volunteer Fire Service**

The NVFC is committed to ensuring that volunteer firefighters have an appropriate level of training to safely and effectively carry out their responsibilities. As part of its efforts, the NVFC has released a white paper concerning training in the volunteer fire service and the need for improvement. The roles and responsibilities of the fire service have evolved over the years. As the breadth and scope of what it means to be a firefighter has expanded, the necessity for training within the fire service has grown. Unfortunately, a large number of volunteer fire departments are still operating with personnel who are not trained to a level consistent with national consensus standards for basic firefighter preparedness which can lead to ineffective and unsafe responses that put lives and property at risk.

### **Alternate Water Supply Planning & Implementing Program**

The NVFC was involved in the development and review of training materials on Planning for Rural Water Supply. The goal of the course is to introduce local fire services and related authorities the need to objectively plan for the use of alternative water supplies. The Alternate Water Supply — Planning & Implementing Programs course (Q-217) is available online via the NFA Virtual Campus.

### **Funeral Procedures Guide**

The NVFC will update its Funeral Procedures Guide for Firefighters which was released in 1992. The revised Guide will be available for download. The NVFC will also develop a condensed companion piece which will be printed and distributed at fire service trade shows and conferences. Sample documents from departments will be made available in the Guide, as well as information on death benefits, such as the Public Safety Officers Program.

### **Guide to Going Green**

The NVFC is developing an online Guide to Going Green which will include information on how departments can implement environmentally friendly and cost efficient practices within their department. This Guide will provide simple steps to going green, from the smallest changes a department can implement to more complex changes for those who have the budget to implement green initiatives to their maximum capabilities. Profiles of departments who have implemented green practices will be included to show what is already being done in the fire service as well as

how these departments and their communities have benefited.

### **National Firefighter Health Week**

National Firefighter Health Week is held each August to educate the fire and emergency services community and the public about a variety of health and wellness issues that affect first responders.

### **Health and Safety Committee**

The USFA is a member of the NVFC's Health and Safety Committee which provides Health and Safety information regarding Behavior, Equipment, Standards and Codes and Training to Volunteer fire and emergency services organizations.

### **Arson Awareness Week**

This is the fourth year that the NVFC has partnered with the USFA to promote Arson Awareness Week to the volunteer fire and emergency service sector. The NVFC disseminate tools and information regarding Arson Awareness Week as well as specific volunteer-oriented messages relating to the theme.

### **Arson Awareness Week – May 2nd - 8th 2010**

The goal for this year's Arson Awareness Week is to focus attention on the horrific crime of arson and provide communities with tools and strategies to combat arson in their neighborhoods, businesses, schools and places of worship. A community Arson Watch Program can put the neighbor back into neighborhood by creating a sense of cooperation. It brings the fire service, law enforcement and the citizens together to reduce the crime of arson. [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/arson/arson\\_awareness.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/arson/arson_awareness.shtm)

### **Firefighter Arson**

The NVFC will partner with the National Association of State Marshals on a two-year project on the contentious topic of firefighter arson. The study will analyze the causes behind it, best practices for preventing it, and effectively managing firefighter arson when it does occur. A toolkit will be developed for fire departments to assist them in dealing with the issue effectively and immediately along with methods to reduce the chances that a firefighter arsonist will be in your department.

### **Firefighter Obesity**

First responders face many threats to their health and safety. Beyond the most obvious threat of fire, they face severe threats to their health with heart disease being the number one cause of line of duty deaths. Obesity is a major contributor to heart disease, yet the extent of its affect on the fire service remains largely unknown. The NVFC will analyze existing data on obesity and its prevalence and effect on firefighters and firefighter deaths.

### **Fire Service Webinars**

The NVFC will develop and offer three web-based  
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workshops or webinars to assist volunteer and combination fire departments in writing grants for their departments, retaining and recruiting volunteers, and managing change within the department. Two of these workshops are based on existing in-person workshops, Grant Writing for the Fire Service and Retention and Recruitment in the Volunteer Fire Service, previously made available through the support of USFA.

The webinar titled Managing Change: Making the Transition from Volunteer to Career will assist attendees in managing the process of moving from a fully volunteer department to a combination department and will utilize case studies and best practices to give attendees the tools they need to manage this change in their own department.

### Fire Corps

Fire Corps is an exciting new initiative with a goal of enhancing the ability of fire departments to utilize citizen volunteers and to promote these opportunities to the public.

Fire Corps was launched in December 2004 as a program partner of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Citizen Corps initiative. The mission of Fire Corps is to increase the capacity of resource-constrained fire and emergency service departments by engaging community volunteers to in non-emergency department functions. Departments have found many unique and innovative ways to utilize these community volunteers within their department. Some citizens assist in administrative capacities while others provide fire prevention and safety education to area schools, donate IT expertise, conduct fundraising activities, or even provide canteen services to firefighters and EMS personnel in the field. Fire Corps programs can be found in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

### Fire Corps & the National Fire Academy

Beginning March 20, 2010 the USFA's National Fire Academy began introducing its students to the Fire Corps program in an effort to encourage them to get citizen volunteers involved in their fire department to perform non-emergency tasks. Students are presented with a letter from Fire Administrator Kelvin Cochran and a Fire Corps brochure. In the letter, Cochran describes the diverse responsibilities of fire departments and how Fire Corps can "hold some exciting solutions to current and future challenges facing our nation's fire services."

### National Fire Academy - Volunteer Incentive Program

The NFA has compressed course work into 6 days, or has devised new courses and tailored them to the special needs of volunteers, still maintaining content, quality, and integrity. VIP courses are offered during a "VIP Week" four times per fiscal year also have recommended college accreditation through the American Council on Education (ACE). <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/resident/vip/index.shtm>

The VIP curriculum consists of the following courses:

- Command and Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards
- Challenges for Local Training Officers
- Command and Control of Incident Operations
- Community Education Leadership
- Fire Cause Determination for Company Officers
- Leadership and Administration
- Advanced Safety Operations and Management Leading
- Community Fire Prevention
- Management Strategies for Success
- Presenting Effective Public Education Programs



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# FLASHPOINT

June/July 2010

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