

**National Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program**

**Mini-Summit Report**

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***Prevention Mini-Summit***  
**January 13, 2007**  
**Washington, D.C.**

This interim summit on prevention was held in Washington D.C., to explore the relationships between fire prevention efforts and the goal of reducing firefighter injuries and fatalities. Like most meetings convened to discuss prevention efforts, the participants on this day were told to look at strategies that would result in a general decline in the number of fires in the United States, injuries and deaths among civilian populations, and to particularly focus on those which would save the lives of firefighters. Nearly one hundred participants were divided into five breakout groups: prevention, codes development, fire research, technology, burn care and research. This overview presents the work of the day, with the action items emanating from each working group.

**Breakout Group # 1: Prevention** The number one priority of the prevention group was to raise the role of prevention and public education within fire service organizations. To accomplish this, they believe every fire department should assign at least one person to manage/evaluate public education initiatives. There were 3 major recommendations to come out of this group:

1. Elevate the role of prevention within all fire department.
2. Create/Increase the credentials of public education practitioners.
3. Develop a national awareness campaign for fire prevention introducing the concept of keeping firefighters from danger through prevention efforts.

**Action Item #1:** Elevate the role of the fire and life safety education (FLSE) within fire departments. Create an expectation that every fire department will assign at least one person to manage/evaluate public education initiatives.

Strategies

- Tie promotion throughout the department to experience in prevention & education.
- Integrate prevention and education fully into recruit training—every member of the department should be able to respond to a request for a prevention program.
- Require continuing education for chief officers so they can stay current with emerging technologies and best practices in all the allied prevention fields; focus chief officers away from elementary school type prevention

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messages to a higher level to where they are defending the use of residential sprinklers and other technologies.

**Deliverable:** Create a position statement for fire departments to adopt which will show a commitment to FLSE.

**Who:** Input via survey from leading fire service organizations.

**When:** Within six months.

**Risks:** Inability of fire departments to embrace FLSE as a co-equal service.

**FSLI Role:** Newsletter article, website support

**Action Item #2:** Develop a national certification program for fire and life safety educators.

Strategies

1. Encourage departments to tie promotions to FLSE certification.
2. Promote via a national conference and develop programs for data collection and peer-to-peer information exchange.

**Deliverable:** A national certification program for all fire safety educators at all levels.

**Who:** Instructors, fire inspectors and educators who teach fire safety education. NFFF to develop a coalition to identify a entity to develop a national credentialing /cert system that is based on available national standards.

**When:** Coalition to be convened by NFFF within 12 months.

**Risks:** Inability to identify stakeholders; resistance by current FLSE educators to seek certification; fire department leaders will not commit resources.

**FSLI Role:** Spotlight importance of FLSE in each and every department who is properly trained and certified.

**Action Item # 3:** Increase public awareness of prevention and public education initiatives.

Strategies

- Identify celebrities who can share their fire stories with public.
- Use data to identify local problems to target prevention messages.
- Partner with public health experts to evaluate core messages—introduce the concept of preventing injury to firefighters through prevention.

**Deliverable:** A national campaign utilizing celebrity spokespersons (preferably one with a “fire “story) targeted at specific civilian populations.

**Who:** League of Cities, NACO, and all major fire service organizations. NFFF can provide media access and advice.

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**Risks:** Funding.

**When:** First release of target messages: 12 – 24 months.

**FLSI Role:** Advice regarding media production; spotlight and showcase for support.

**Breakout Group # 2: Codes** Advocate codes that address firefighter safety including the requirement for the installation of home sprinkler systems. Develop a long-term implementation strategy for fire sprinklers and effective smoke alarms in residential occupancies. Five recommendations came from this working group:

1. Encourage fire sprinkler codes nationally.
2. Educate the fire service regarding sprinklers.
3. Work with community leaders to overcome misperceptions about firefighter safety, codes, standards and sprinklers.
4. Add educational components to firefighter training regarding sprinklers.
5. Remove all fire sprinkler exceptions for new residential occupancies.
6. Create a partnership between the fire service, sprinkler industry, insurance industry, and other allied industries to create fire safe homes in the United States.

**Action Item #1:** Encourage fire sprinkler requirements in all codes throughout the United States. Residential fire sprinkler technology has come of age and proven its worth in potentially saving the lives of citizens and firefighters. Goal is to advertise how a drop in residential fires helps save firefighters' lives.

Strategies

- Encourage fire and building officials to attend International Code Council (ICC) hearings in May, 2007 (next opportunity won't occur until 2012).
- Get the "fire" perspective before code officials.
- Ask fire service organizations to sponsor fire officials to attend ICC hearings.
- Develop DVD or email link to video on the [www.EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://www.EveryoneGoesHome.com) website advertising the code hearings.

**Deliverable:** Find sources of funding to send fire community representatives to code council hearings—introduce the fire service organizations to the code process at a national level.

**Who:** NFFF, IAFC, IAFF, NHSFM, IFMA, FLSI.

**When:** Winter 2007/immediately—be prepared to submit suggestions for next round in 2010.

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**Risks:** Meeting is in spring of 2007; cost of attendance; inability to fund enough fire service community members to make an impact.

**FSLI Role:** Promote meeting on website and newsletter.

**Action Item # 2:** Educate the fire service to advocate for fire sprinklers.

Strategies

- Assemble reports and make available to the fire service regarding sprinkler technology.
- Ensure classes at National Fire Academy include fire sprinkler data and materials.

**Deliverable:** Assemble reports for circulation and prepare curriculum suggestions for NFA.

**Who:** USFA.

**When:** Within one year.

**Risks:** Funding, difficulties with curriculum development.

**FSLI Role:** Encourage continued action.

**Action Item #3:** Work with political leaders, building officials, manufactures, and media, among others to overcome any misconceptions about residential sprinklers.

Strategies

- Work in at-risk identified communities to amend codes to require sprinklers.
- Prepare an education package for homeowners.

**Deliverables:** Develop a training program for company officers that would emphasize the importance of codes and standards and develop partnerships with state organizations. Identify current advocates.

**Who:** USFA/FLSI.

**When:** 1 year for DVC outline, approval, and funding source identified.

**Risks:** Funding and available staff to develop training program.

**FLSI Role:** Promote and encourage.

**Action Item # 4:** Add educational components about firefighter safety, codes, standards, fire sprinklers and smoke alarms to fire department training requirements.

Strategies

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- Encourage all fire departments to train all members, at all levels, in the positive aspects of residential sprinklers.

**Deliverables:** Add requirements to NFPA 1000 series standards and develop or assemble material to include in firefighter training material.

**Who:** NFPA, ISFSI, IFSTA, IAFF, IAFC, NASFM

**When:** Within two years.

**Risks:** Cost of lengthening training time.

**FLSI Role:** Promote and encourage from a neutral standpoint/lend support from the FLSI regional advocates.

**Action Item # 5:** Remove all fire sprinkler exceptions for new residential occupancies; focused as a firefighter safety issue and a civilian safety issue.

Strategies

- Work to identify target populations.
- Identify potential communities residential sprinkler exceptions.

**Deliverable:** Prepare for next code cycle in 2010.

**Who:** FLSI take lead role.

**When:** By 2010.

**Risks:** Need to stay focused for three years.

**FLSI Role:** Help to keep focus

**Action Item # 6:** Create a partnership between the fire service, sprinkler industry, insurance industry, building industry, water purveyors, and building officials to create fire safe homes in the United States.

Strategies

- Create allies in all housing-related stakeholders.
- Create a “Good Housekeeping”-type *Seal of Approval* for fire safe houses.

**Deliverable:** Establish a committee involving representatives from the allied agencies to establish a national initiative for fire safe houses.

**Who:** FLSI

**When:** Action to begin within at second Firefighter Life Safety summit in winter 2007

**Risks:** Territorial claims by different groups; inability to reach consensus.

**FLSI Role:** Support and guide process.

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**Breakout Group # 3: Technology** Technology is coming into the fire service at a very fast pace, but much of it is unevaluated scientifically. This group focused on two recommendations:

1. Develop a way to evaluate new or expanding technologies.
2. Encourage the improvement of existing fire suppression technologies.

**Action Item # 1:** Develop a model/process to identify, select, validate, support and adopt new or enhanced technologies (or expand the use of existing technologies). Stress integration of technologies to reduce firefighter injuries and LODDs.

Strategies

- Focus on technology that will help reduce LODDs and serious injuries.

**Deliverables:** Convene a meeting to initiate process for identifying new technology gaps, and look at present applications of technology or emerging technologies to address shortcomings.

**Who:** NFFF convene meeting with NIST, NIOSH, USFA and CFSI to identify partners and to develop process.

**When:** Six months to initiate process, be ready to present material at fire service trade shows within one year.

**Risks:** Isolation and resistance to new technologies, dissenters; difficulties in bringing together stakeholders.

**FLSI Role:** FLSI to convene meeting and help with funding; identify subject matter experts.

**Action Item # 2:** Encourage the improvement, adoption and use of new and existing technologies in fire detection, suppression and consumer product design.

Strategies

- Work with residential sprinkler experts to determine impact possible on LODDs.
- Develop material for fire service to advocate for its own safety

**Deliverables:** Explore new/next generation technology regarding smoke alarms and sprinkler systems; develop educational material regarding technology improvements.

**Who:** FLSI to identify partners and initiative discussions to identify strategies.

**When:** Within one year.

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**Risks:** Lack of participation by industry to support firefighter safety initiatives

**FLSI Role:** Initiative and support.

**Breakout Group # 4 Burn Prevention and Care:** Support care-giving and expand the capability to manage all aspects of burn-related issues. This group offered two recommendations:

1. Improve relationships between the fire service and the burn care community.
2. Develop a model burn injury protocol.

**Action Item #1:** Foster relationships between the fire service, burn centers, and burn survivor organizations.

Strategies

**Deliverables:** Improved relationships between the fire service and the burn community; presentations at existing fire service conferences on burn prevention and care.

**Who:** NFFF lead organization; all fire service & EMS organizations will be contacted.

**When:** Within 2-3 months, goals and objectives will be developed; within 12-18 months all stakeholder groups will be contacted.

**Risks:** Scope of the process is too complex; difficulty in getting multiple organizations focused on same issues; available resources within each organization to commit to this issue.

**FSLI Role:** Spotlight in newsletter; on-going support.

**Action Item #2-** Development and Implementation of a Standardized and Comprehensive Burn Injury protocol.

Strategies

- Influence standard initial treatment
- Identify Critical Care standards
- Model Rehabilitation & reintegration protocols
- Reporting Injury Component

**Deliverables:** Development of a Standardized & Comprehensive Burn Injury Protocol.

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**Who:** American Burn Association lead organization with Phoenix Society, supported by Federation of Fire Chaplains, Fire Service Instructors, EMS and Fire national-level organizations, FLSI.

**When:** Within 6-12 months: Creation of a manual and Taking Care of Our-type module for delivery; 6 months – Standardized reporting component developed; within 12 months – Development of Train-the-Train deployed

**Risks:** Cultural barriers; how to measure success; how to get all burn units on board.

**FLSI Role:** Support initiative and market via website and newsletter.

**Breakout Group # 5 Fire Research:** The fire research group identified six areas for study:

1. Building Codes Issues
2. Training and Education
3. Behavioral Change
4. Science-based interventions
5. Impact of Mental Health Issues
6. Influence of research on building construction and materials

**Action Item #1:** Analyze all fire fatality incidents to determine if building code issues or lack thereof contributed to the cause of death.

Strategies

- Analyze all firefighter deaths
- Conduct analysis within 72 hours of each incident
- Regional investigative teams

**Deliverables:** Identify programs that have a measurably proven effect on change through research and develop a position statement for fire service distribution.

**Who:** Partnership between NIOSH and NFPA.

**When:** Position statement available within six months.

**Risks:** Large number of deaths may facilitate the creation of regional investigative teams.

**FLSI Role:** Support.

**Action Item #2:** Effective education and training of current and future fire service personnel is necessary to create and maintain safe firefighters, supervisors, managers and leaders. Occupational health is a multidisciplinary field that requires all persons to have comprehensive training and education.

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**Deliverables:** Complete compendium of current academic and technical literature; investigate effective training technologies: computer based, interactive, collaborative, and all other delivery systems.

**Who:** National training organizations: ISFSI, NFPA (Fire Science and Technology Education section); academic institutions with fire science program.

**When:** Year 1: Publicize this initiative to fire service

Year 2: Partner with funding sources & create research teams

Year 3: Initiate projects

**Risks:** Identification of research partners; funding.

**FLSI Role:** Spotlight on website and newsletter.

**Action Item #3:** Evaluate effective methods of changing behaviors and attitudes of stakeholders regarding fire safety—focus on quantifiable statistics and statistical methodologies to learn about attitudes and behaviors.

**Deliverables:** Identify programs that have a measurable, proven effects on change.

**Who:** USFA and non-governmental organizations.

**When:** Complete by winter, 2008.

**Risks:** Funding; non-responsiveness of stakeholders

**FLSI Role:** Support via newsletter.

**Action Item #4:** Identify science-based interventions with credible evidence of effectiveness and study dissemination, implementation and impact on injuries.

Strategies

- To avoid wasting resources on what is not effective and to increase the likelihood of preventing fires and reducing fatal and non-fatal injuries.

**Deliverables:** Researchers will examine peer reviewed literature to locate existing intervention programs.

**Who:** Hired researchers.

**When:** Within one year, conduct a panel review and identify best practices. Within second year, develop materials to support adoption into the fire service. Also in second year: disseminate material to fire departments; develop tailored material for local use; evaluate implementation. Year 3: conduct next panel review and repeat process.

**Risks:** Funding; buy-in.

**FLSI Role:** Disseminate material.

**Action Item # 5:** Study the impact of mental health issues on risk-taking behaviors that result in firefighter injuries and line-of-duty deaths. Mental health

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issues left un-addressed are related to increased risk-taking behaviors, depression, poor decision-making/judgment, anger management, problems in personal life, teamwork issues, reduction in self-care, substance abuse, etc.

Strategies

- Learn about risk-taking/decision-making during emergencies
- Impact of trauma and effective intervention methodologies
- Personal health and wellness

**Deliverables:** Study on how mental health effects firefighter behavior in the area of risk-taking and decision-making.

**Who:** Interested fire researchers; input from IAFF, IAFC, NFFF, NIMH, APA, CDC, NIOSH.

**When:** Initiative study in the next 6 – 12 months.

**Risks:** Fire Department culture, funding, time, human subjects' issues and focus groups.

**FLSI Role:** Support for research.

**Action Item # 6:** Research influence of fire on modern building materials & construction methods as related to firefighter survivability.

**Deliverables:** Research and report

**Who:** NFAP, NIST, building & materials industries representatives.

**When:** Begin within 12 months with continuous reevaluation as technology advances.

**Risks:** Stakeholder groups not wanting to participate.

**FLSI Role:** Support research.