

April 2008 Newsletter



The following goals were set by advocates at the IPASS meeting. Respective Regional Advocates name is in parenthesis.

» **Read the Full Story:** [I-PASS Summit \(Initiatives-Program Advocates Safety Summit\)](#)

Region 1 (Advocate Colameta)

» Recruit advocates for remaining states and conduct Train-the-Trainer in those states

Region 2 (Advocate McDonough)

» Have a meeting with state heads.

Region 3 (Advocate Bowers)

» 100% Compliance with Seat Belts though out the region

Region 4 (Advocate Hayes)

» Recruit Mississippi Advocate, Branch down into state districts Complete Train-the-Trainer

Region 5 (Advocate Hazime)

» Identify Advocates and bring about awareness of initiatives and report progress in newsletter

Region 6 (Advocate Kistner)

» Focus on Louisiana
» Provide resources on enclosed structures
» Recruit Oklahoma Advocate

Region 7 (Advocate Petroff)

» Conduct a meeting of State Advocates

Region 8 (Advocate Martin)

» 100% Seat Belt Compliance
» Conduct CTBS in 4 States

Region 9 (Advocate Mitchell)

» Review HI applicant recruit
» CTBS into State Agency
» 100% Seat Belt Compliance

Region 10 (Advocates Petersen and McHahan)

» Conduct CTBS TTT in April

» **Read the Full Story:** [I-PASS Summit \(Initiatives-Program Advocates Safety Summit\)](#)

Don't Be Me: Inspirational Words from a Fallen Brother

My name is Bob Kilduff. I have been a firefighter for 34 years. Were it not for some help from above, marvelous medical people and dumb luck I would well be on my way to an early death due to occupational cancer. I am telling my story in the hope that another brother or sister Firefighter will not have to share my experience.

Turnout Gear Sensor Takes the Heat

Turnout gear has come a long way. From the rubber coats of the 19th century to today's high-tech materials, no one can argue the modern firefighter is not better protected against the extreme temperatures that come with the job.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Peters Announces New Strategy to Improve Safety on Rural Roads

U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters today announced a new national strategy that will bring new focus, including resources and new technology, to reducing deaths on the nation's rural roads.

USFA Adopts Official Position on Residential Fire Sprinklers

U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade's Remarks to Graduates of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program Attending the 20th Annual Symposium.

NIST Evaluates Firefighting Tactics in NYC High-Rise Test

The experiments on NYC's Governors Island, conducted in partnership with the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) and New York's Polytechnic University, examined the effectiveness of firefighting tactics such as the use of positive pressure ventilation fans, wind control devices and hose streams to control or suppress deadly heat and smoke from the wind-driven fires.

Take the Initiative in Promoting Firefighter Safety

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors and Many conversations have been held concerning implementation or "deliverables" related to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation [16 Life Safety Initiatives](#). To further the cause, more than 100 movers and shakers of the U.S. fire service attended a summit earlier this month at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg to look at ways of implementing these initiatives.



[New State Advocate for Washington State](#)

Hello, my name is Chief Brian McMahan and I am proud to be a Life Safety Initiative Program Advocate for the State of Washington. I am a current Shift Battalion Chief for Eastside Fire & Rescue, a combination department thirteen miles east of Seattle.

Testimonials

My name is Tom Taylor. I am the Fire Chief for the Moses Lake Fire Department in Washington. I am also proud to say that I am a state advocate for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Everyone Goes Home Program. I recently attended one of the many fine courses at the National Fire Academy, and as I always do, made a brief presentation on firefighter safety and seat belts.

I challenged the entire class to 1) sign the pledge if they had not already participated, and 2) take the pledge back to their department and get them to sign it. It's been three months now and I am amazed at the level of participation that has been reported to me by my fellow classmates. Last week, Lt. Laren Johnson, an engine officer with the Dallas Fire Department, reported that she had secured almost 1400 signatures on the pledge. She had a huge task in front of her when she decided to make a difference. She was faced with the same hurdles most of us have been up against - culture, trust, tradition and any other excuse firefighters may have for not buckling up.

I just wanted everyone to know that there are changes being made, one firefighter and one department at a time. My helmet is off to Lt. Johnson for her untiring efforts on behalf of her sister and brother firefighters and our proud profession.

Fire Chief Tom Taylor
Moses Lake Fire Department
Washington State Life Safety Initiative Program Advocate

Please consider the [Golden, Colorado Fire Department](#) as a Life Safety Initiatives' Partner.

Our department has fully endorsed the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives.

Here are a few of the things we are doing to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries:

1. The Courage to Be Safe curriculum is a part of the department's training program. It will also be given during the recruit academy beginning with Class 08-1 commencing in May.
2. We have participated in every Firefighter Stand Down with specific training dealing with the prevention of firefighter deaths and injuries.
3. We have signed the National Seat Belt Pledge
4. We have every recruit during the academy do a case study and present it to the academy on a firefighter line of duty death and go over the lessons learned
5. Most recently we conducted a survey of the seat belts in our apparatus and discovered nine belts unsatisfactory for use and immediately replaced the damaged belts. A lessons learned was presented as to why we are damaging those belts and how to prevent such. This was also written up in the Firefighter Near Miss Reporting.
6. We are continually reviewing and updating any policy relating to the safety of our personnel.
7. We recently completed training on operating safely on highway accidents.
8. Our department participates in the City of Golden 's Health and Wellness Program for both career and volunteer personnel.

We are attempting to be extremely proactive in the reduction of firefighter deaths and injuries. We feel there are many more things to accomplish but would be proud to be a partner. Thank you.

**Fire Chief John E. Bales,
City of Golden Fire Department
Life Safety Initiatives Partner**

Courage to Be Safe Train-the-Trainer course Held in Washington

Another successful train-the-trainer course was held for the *Courage to Be Safe* program, this one in Washington State. Fifteen students from all regions of the state participated and left with a strong commitment to carrying the message of the program forward. The Washington Fire Training Education Foundation sponsored the course and has committed monies and resources to conduct a number of CTBS deliveries throughout the state and the region in the coming months! - **Courtesy of Rob Dahl, Train-the-Trainer Instructor and Brian McMahan, Washington State and Region X Advocate**

» **More:** [About the Courage to Be Safe Program](#)

» **Events:** [Courage to Be Safe Classes and Other Life Safety Events](#)



INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Spotlighting one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives each month

Initiative #2 - Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.

What Initiative #2 means:

- Follow SOPs at all times.
- Train/Learn/Teach everyday
- Utilize Incident Command System.
 - **Wikipedia:** [Incident Command System](#)
- Adhere to Vehicle Inspection Schedules.
- Schedule and Stick to Equipment Checks.
- "Strap in and Stay In."
- Don't Take the Environment for Granted.

Online Media: [EveryoneGoesHome.com Online Learning Media Center](#) or specifically [Initiatives 1 through 4](#)

More Information: [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives](#)

Online TRAINING



FlashoverTV's Education and Training

Powered by FireRescue1
» **FlashoverTV: [All Videos](#)**

FEATURED Events

Courage to Be Safe Train-the-Trainer Course
Seminole Fire Rescue Station 29 - Florida
April 22, 2008
Read More: » [About the Event](#)

Facilitators' Forum & Initiatives Workshop
SC Fire Academy
April 26 - 27, 2008
Read More: » [About the Event](#)

Safety Through Leadership Train-the-Trainer Workshop
National Emergency Training Center - Emmitsburg, MD
May 27 - 30, 2008
Read More: » [About the Event](#)

In the Spirit of
SAFETY



Fire departments and organizations across the U. S. are proudly showing their support for the Everyone Goes Home® Program.

Featured Department
Cedar Hill Fire Dept. (TX)



Safety Management System

National Emergency Training Center -
Emmitsburg, MD

May 30 - 31, 2008

Read More: » [About the Event](#)

Editor's Note

Recently my neighbors experienced a very dramatic dryer fire. We share a common wall in townhouses built in the 1970's. No one was injured and thanks to old construction and a well built fire wall, the houses on either side did not receive even so much as smoke damage. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the firefighters and emergency personnel who answered the call for help and did so with speed, precision, and care.



Do you have an suggestion for the newsletter? Tell us about it! Please send your comments, articles, or news about what your department is doing to keep firefighters safe to editor@everyonegoeshome.com.

Don't Be Me: Inspirational Words from a Fallen Brother

Courtesy of the [Fire Fighter Cancer Foundation](#)

My name is Bob Kilduff. I have been a firefighter for 34 years. Were it not for some help from above, marvelous medical people and dumb luck I would well be on my way to an early death due to occupational cancer. I am telling my story in the hope that another brother or sister Firefighter will not have to share my experience.

Like many of you reading this, I only went to the doctor when hurt. You know the drill: burns, cuts, smoke inhalation and the many orthopedic injuries that come part and parcel with our job. For reasons unknown the thoughts of retirement age prompted me in May of 2003 to get my first physical exam in 30 years. I felt the best I had in years and the test results bore this out. All was well. The doc however advised that I have a colonoscopy due to my age. Not really thrilled, I acquiesced. The procedure was a piece of cake; however, the test revealed a large tumor in my colon which needed to be addressed. Twenty days later a section of my colon was removed. I had to undergo a 6 month chemotherapy program which could have been avoided with early detection. It now appears that my cancer is in remission and the doctors predict these procedures will help save my life.

The issue here is why go to the doctor and learn you're very sick when you can go to the doctor and keep from getting very sick. I have learned the hard way that you must act prudently if you want to see your grandkids grow, have a chance to retire, golf, fish, hunt, go to the track or whatever. If you don't have regular medical checkups your odds of enjoying a longer than normal life are greatly diminished. Early detection of cancer is paramount in successful treatment. This will allow you to do what you want to do and not what your doctor will allow you to do.

In 1990 a cancer presumption law was passed by the Legislature in Massachusetts. The reason it was signed into law was that it has been shown that firefighters have a serious problem with cancer. Numerous studies have pointed to the fact that there are over a dozen cancers that attack firefighters more often than the general population. Our exposure to the products of combustion and the resultant carcinogens are the reason and we must be more proactive in protecting ourselves through cancer screening. The Boston Fire Department's Medical Examiner Mike Hamrock deals with cancer and firefighters daily. From his observations, firefighter cancer screening should take place if there is a family history of cancer. For example, colon screening normally scheduled for a fifty year old should take place at age forty due to our higher incidence of the disease. Firefighter deaths due to occupational diseases are far more common than the number of line of duty deaths caused by other means and we must take them seriously.

Lt. Robert T. Kilduff



It is with great sorrow and regret that we announce the passing of Boston Lt. Robert T. Kilduff of Local 718. Also known as "Bob" or "BK", he worked tirelessly to advance the health, safety, and work conditions for Boston and Massachusetts fire fighters and as a result, improved the fire service nationally. He was a vocal cancer advocate up to his death from occupational cancer.

I ask that you take a few minutes to examine your efforts to help yourself stay healthy. Think for a moment about my experiences over the last ten months and if necessary take the action necessary to help you avoid my fate.
Remember, DON'T BE ME.

God Bless and stay safe

-BK

Turnout Gear Sensor Takes the Heat

Courtesy of [FireRescue1](#)

By **Jamie Thompson**
FireRescue1 Editor

Turnout gear has come a long way. From the rubber coats of the 19th century to today's high-tech materials, no one can argue the modern firefighter is not better protected against the extreme temperatures that come with the job.

But for many, the advances in protective clothing have had a downside, too. The 21st century firefighter can enter further and further into the fire, often to the point of no return.

This has led experts to come up with a device that works in a similar way to the SCBA low-air warning bell - except this one tells firefighters when their actual gear simply cannot protect them any more.

For the past two years, safety engineers at the Fire Protection Engineering Department at the University of Maryland have been working on the heads-up temperature display.

Their research has centered on the thermal response of gear and how to timely alert firefighters to excessive heat exposure.

The result of their efforts is a device that has just gone into field testing, contracted by NIOSH, for six months with the Prince George's County, Md., Fire Department.

"We hope we can implement this sensor within the fire service so that people will have thermal ability information similar to knowing how much air they have," said Professor Marino di Marzo, chair of the engineering department behind the project.

Heads-up unit

The sensor is designed to be incorporated into a firefighter's head-ups display unit. Seemingly similar devices currently on the market only respond to the actual current temperature. But the new prototype aims to accurately predict what it will be if the firefighter remains in the existing conditions.

In the past few years, there have been instances of firefighters suffering severe burns inside their gear without any apparent damage to the actual clothing itself, which di Marzo said is precisely the issue his team has tried to address.

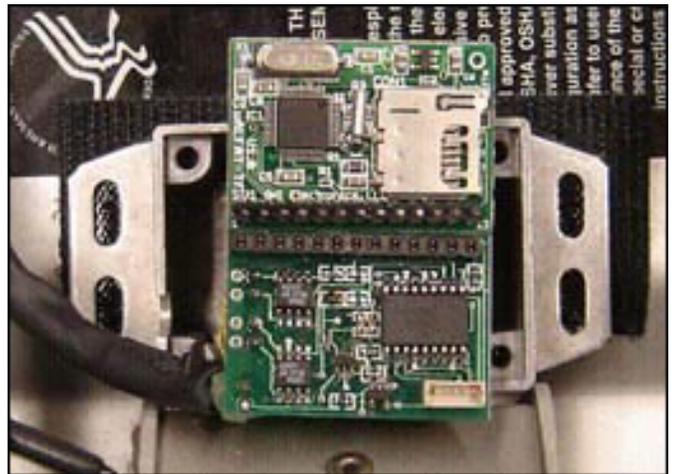


Photo courtesy of Marino di Marzo
Components of the device, attached to the SCBA.

"I believe there is a significant need for educating the firefighter on what the gear does and what the limitations are," he said. "The gear behavior is not intuitive and requires some detailed insight in order to be understood."

The Fire Protection Engineering Department's research focused on the time delay there can be in the firefighter's perception of their environment. Simply put, exposure can already be significant by the time a firefighter first perceives it and can worsen in the minutes that follow, even when they leave the fire scene.

"Essentially, if you're going into a hot room, you won't notice it until a couple of minutes. Once you actually start to feel warm, it's kind of too late," di Marzo said. "The gear has soaked up so much heat that it's getting warmer and warmer for the next several minutes or so and can even burn you. But often you're not aware of it until it's too late."

Di Marzo's team worked on an algorithm for the sensor that can predict what the amount of heat stored in the gear will rise to if it remains in the same environment.

It calculates whether the temperature will exceed a certain threshold up to 10 minutes further down the line, and will accordingly send signals to the firefighter alerting them as to how long they can safely remain where they are.

"The way it's been configured is kind of like an air tank alert. This one has four lights; four lights means you can stay in for four minutes and so on," di Marzo said.

"When all four lights flash it means the gear has heated up to beyond what you can tolerate."

Manufacturer talks

Once the field testing currently under way is completed, di Marzo said the next step is to talk with SCBA manufacturers to see which will be interested in using this device in their equipment.

Di Marzo said he is confident the device could become commonplace in the fire service in the next few years, mainly because of the concerns that already exist about modern turnout gear being too good in some respects.

"Some people do lament sometimes about years gone by. Especially around the ears and neck you didn't have so much protection so you could feel the heat there.

"If you started getting a tingling on the top of your ear, then you would know you should stop and get out.

"Today with Nomex hoods you never feel anything and by the time you do it may be too late."

The NFPA has been looking at similar devices for about the past 15 years, according to Bruce Teele, a senior emergency services safety specialist at the organization.

"The biggest issue we had was heat sensors that saw convective heat were very good at detecting the convective heat but not very good at seeing radiant heat, and vice versa."

What makes di Marzo's team's device different is that it measures the temperature of the cloth's outer layer, rather than the convective or radiant heat of the air.

"If it keeps either the incident commander or safety officer or individual firefighters aware of their environment and

tells them with sufficient time that they have to change the atmosphere or get out of there then it could be a worthwhile thing," Teele said.

In addition, Teele said, it is vital that firefighters remember that the advances in turnout gear are not necessarily about allowing them to stay in dangerous conditions for longer periods of time.

"Personal protective clothing is designed to give a degree of protection that will allow you to extricate yourself from the situation when needed and into a safer environment," he said. "If you're caught in a serious situation, you have some extra seconds to get yourself out of there."

U.S. Transportation Secretary Peters Announces New Strategy to Improve Safety on Rural Roads

Courtesy of [U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters today announced a new national strategy that will bring new focus, including resources and new technology, to reducing deaths on the nation's rural roads.

"...The Department's Rural Safety Initiative will help states and communities develop ways to eliminate the risks drivers face on America's rural roads and highlight available solutions and resources. The new endeavor addresses five key goals: safer drivers, better roads, smarter roads, better-trained emergency responders, and improved outreach and partnerships. The Secretary said approximately \$287 million in existing and new funding is available to support the effort..."

Visit www.dot.gov/affairs/ruralsafety/ for the full plan and press release.

U.S. Fire Administration Adopts Official Position on Residential Fire Sprinklers

Courtesy of the [U.S. Fire Administration](#)

U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade's Remarks to Graduates of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program Attending the 20th Annual Symposium

As the U.S. Fire Administrator, it is my job to direct programs implemented to reduce the loss of life and property due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support. In that role, I would like to address members of the Fire Service, homeowners, home builders, and other interested parties about the powerful protection from fire provided by residential fire sprinkler systems and why all homes should be equipped with them.

Every day the U.S. Fire Administration collects news stories from our Nation's media that deal with the tragic loss of life from fire in American homes. In January and February alone, over 300 people lost their lives in home fires. Commercial buildings such as schools, office buildings, and factories have benefited from fire protection sprinkler systems for over a century. But what about our homes? Although we protect our businesses from fire, what actions do we take to protect our families, our homes, and our possessions from fire? Millions of Americans have installed smoke alarms in their homes in the past few years, but a smoke alarm can only alert the occupants to a fire in the house. It cannot contain or extinguish a fire. Residential fire sprinkler systems can.

In the year 2006, 19% of all reported fires occurred in one- and two-family structures; however, these fires caused 66% of the fire deaths in the United States - over 2,100 people died in their own homes. In addition, approximately 25 firefighter deaths occur during responses to residential fires each year. Despite the fact that these statistics represent improvement over the last 30 years, they continue to be appalling. Such losses are unacceptable.

Since the 1970's, the U.S. Fire Administration has promoted research studies, development, testing, and demonstrations of residential fire sprinkler systems and smoke alarms. These efforts, in concert with heroic efforts by many organizations and individuals, have resulted in the adoption of requirements to install smoke alarms in all new residential construction. In many jurisdictions, the retrofit of smoke alarms into existing residential occupancies has been mandated. Together, these initiatives have saved many lives.

The results have been different, however, with respect to residential fire sprinkler systems; only a few jurisdictions have mandated their installation in new construction, and none have mandated retrofit of existing one- and two-family housing stock. The Center for Fire Research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology has studied the impact of both smoke alarms and sprinklers in residential occupancies, and estimates that:

1. When fire sprinklers alone are installed in a residence, the chances of dying in a fire are reduced by 69%.
2. When smoke alarms alone are installed in a residence, a reduction in the death rate of 63% can be expected.
3. When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present in a home, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82%, when compared to a residence without either.

Much has been written about the reduction of residential fire deaths due to improvements in building codes and the installation of smoke alarms. Without a doubt, these have had a substantial impact on the home fire problem. The annual number of fire deaths in residential occupancies continues to decline. The trend in fire death data, however, shows that the number of residential fire deaths is declining at a slower rate over the past 10 years than it did in the period 1977 through 1995.

Full-scale fire tests in residential settings suggest one explanation for this slowing in the rate of decline in residential fire deaths. The research shows that the available time to escape a flaming fire in a home has decreased significantly from 17 minutes in 1975 to only 3 minutes in 2003. This decrease in time to escape has been attributed to the difference in fire growth rates of home furnishings. In short, a fire involving modern furnishings grows faster than a fire involving older furnishings. The practical impact of this finding is clear - smoke alarms alone may not provide a warning in time for occupants to escape a home fire.

We at USFA have carefully reviewed the data and the relevant research and it is our official position that all Americans should be protected against death, injury, and property loss resulting from fire in their residences. All homes should be equipped with smoke alarms and automatic fire sprinklers, and families should prepare and practice emergency escape plans. The Fire Administration fully supports all efforts to reduce the tragic toll of fire losses in this nation by advocating these actions, including the proposed changes to the International Residential Code that would require automatic sprinklers in all new residential construction.

Only fire sprinklers can detect fire AND automatically control it - affording families the time to make a safe escape and protect valuables and property. Please join with us in helping to save lives by supporting the installation of residential fire sprinklers in all American homes.

For more information on increasing the awareness of the benefits and availability of residential fire sprinkler systems, please visit the USFA Web site at www.usfa.dhs.gov and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's Web site at www.homefiresprinkler.org.

NIST Evaluates Firefighting Tactics in NYC High-Rise Test

Courtesy of [ScienceDaily.com](http://www.sciencedaily.com)

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) fire protection engineers turned an abandoned New York City (NYC) brick high-rise into a seven-story fire laboratory last month to better understand the fast-moving spread of wind-driven flames, smoke and toxic gases through corridors and stairways of burning buildings. The experiments on NYC's Governors Island, conducted in partnership with the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) and New York's Polytechnic University, examined the effectiveness of firefighting tactics such as the use of positive pressure ventilation fans, wind control devices and hose streams to control or suppress deadly heat and smoke from the wind-driven fires.

To view the entire article click: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080318182728.htm>

Take the Initiative in Promoting Firefighter Safety

Courtesy of [FireRescue1](#) and the [Fire Department Safety Officers Association](#)

By Michael Petroff, Region VII Regional Advocate

Many conversations have been held concerning implementation or "deliverables" related to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation [16 Life Safety Initiatives](#). To further the cause, more than 100 movers and shakers of the U.S. fire service attended a summit earlier this month at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg to look at ways of implementing these initiatives.

The largest group in attendance was the state and regional advocates of the initiatives program, of which I am one. Facilitation strategies were discussed to help meet the overall goal of reducing firefighter death and injury. What's pleasing, and of particular note to safety officers, is the fact there are organizations out there that are already implementing the initiatives as a course of their daily operations.

The FDSOA is an organization that can be a resource for initiative implementation. Initiative #5 calls for national firefighter training and certification along with recertification. Our group has long been a certifying agency of the [National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications \(Pro Board\)](#) for certifying and recertifying incident safety officers and health and safety officers.

But we're not the only organization that can assist in implementing this initiative. NFPA standards exist in all duty categories in the fire service from entry level firefighter to executive fire officer. In addition, the [International Fire Service Accreditation Congress](#), the Department of Defense and state fire training entities are all resource agencies that can assist in implementing certification at all levels of the fire service.

Initiative #6 cites development of medical and physical fitness standards based on firefighter duties. [NFPA 1582](#) Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments, the Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative and the National Volunteer Fire Council [Heart Healthy Firefighter program](#) are all resources for implementing this initiative.

Initiative #7 - creating a national research agenda and data collection system - can be linked to participation in the [National Fire Incident Reporting System](#). The system was created under the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-498) to "gather and analyze information on the magnitude of the nation's fire problem, as well as its detailed characteristics and trends." Assistance in implementing Initiative #7 is available from the USFA and state agencies involved in NFIRS.

Initiative #9 regarding the investigation of firefighter fatalities and injuries along with near misses is an area being addressed by NIOSH along with the USFA. The [National Fire Fighter Near Miss Reporting System](#) is another effort to gather data regarding firefighter injuries, while Chief Billy Goldfeder's [Firefighter Close Calls](#) provides an informal method of reviewing incidents.

Initiative #15 - advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire

sprinklers - while toward the bottom of the list numerically speaking, may be the single best implementation to achieve the goals of the program. Sprinklers work. With automatic sprinklers, fire stays small or is extinguished. Less fire equals less firefighter risk; less risk equals less death and injury. The [National Fire Sprinkler Association](#) can provide resources necessary to aid in implementation of the initiative. In addition, fire chiefs need to publicly acknowledge the value of fire sprinkler systems at every opportunity.

The USFA's [AFG program](#), [Responder Safety](#), [Fire 20-20](#), the [Firefighter Cancer Support Network](#) and a host of other organizations can assist with implementation of the initiatives. But the implementation of these initiatives, even with the assistance of these partners, will not be easy. If a firefighter does not meet physical standards for instance, what options are available to that firefighter - retirement, termination? Home builders associations regularly and vehemently oppose residential sprinkler ordinances. One fire district in Missouri even sent fire inspectors to a national meeting to oppose residential sprinkler action. It's vital to bear in mind that no one said this journey would be an easy one. But consider the alternatives - another flag at half staff at Emmitsburg and a grieving family in your town. Have the courage to be safe.

New State Advocate for Washington State

Hello, my name is Chief Brian McMahan and I am proud to be a Life Safety Initiative Program Advocate for the State of Washington. I am a current Shift Battalion Chief for Eastside Fire & Rescue, a combination department thirteen miles east of Seattle.

I have been in the fire service for 24 years with 10 of those years as a Training Officer.

I am an elected fire commissioner for the Snohomish County Fire District 1 where I live and where I have served for 11 years.

I have previously served two terms as President of the Washington State Firefighters Association and three terms as a board member of the Washington State Fire Training and Safety Officers.

I have also served on the Washington State Senate sub-committee on Fire Protection.

I am currently the CEO of the non-profit Washington State Firefighters Training and Education Fund. I have served in this position since its inception 10 years ago. This organization is dedicated to helping fire departments gain training through non-traditional, cost effective efforts.

I am currently active in the Washington Fire Commissioners Association (WFCA) and have served on several committees. I am also the Legislative Chairman of the National Association of Elected Fire Officials (NAEFO).

I have served on numerous boards, committees related to both fire, and public service. I also hold a degree in Fire Command Administration and an Incident Safety Officer certification. I have taught classes throughout the state on numerous fire and safety topics.

My affiliations include being a Member of NFPA, IAFC, Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), NAEFO, Washington Fire Chiefs (WFC), and WFCA.

Thank you for the opportunity, sincerely,

Brian S. McMahan
Battalion Chief
Eastside Fire & Rescue



