



IAFC SHS Section Strategic Plan and Action Steps 2009-2010

Mission: The mission of the Safety, Health and Survival Section of the IAFC is to support and provide leadership for the advancement of occupational safety and health within the fire service and in the greater emergency response community.

1. *Strengthen our alliances with organizations having similar goals.*
 - a. Operate with other organizations transparently by sharing information, resources and participating in projects that relate to the safety, health and survival of firefighters.
 - b. Continue with ongoing projects and work to further strengthen the alliances already in place.
 - c. Work with the NFPA to establish an emergency ambulance vehicle standard.
 - d. Convene a working group of all organizations that compile line-of-duty death (LODD) statistics and work to establish a national standard definition.
 - e. Convene a working group of all organizations that compile line-of-duty injury (LODI) statistics and work to establish a national standard definition.
 - f. Identify organizations that have similar goals and ensure they have representation at our meetings and monthly teleconferences.

2. *Define the roles and responsibilities of the SHS Section and the IAFC headquarters staff as they relate to section activities (e.g., staff liaison, communications, marketing, FRI, etc.) through approved written policies.*
 - a. Request clarity from IAFC headquarters regarding the role of the staff in relationship to the Section.
 - b. Ensure inclusion of the IAFC Board of Directors, executive director and staff in all applicable projects and activities of the Section.
 - c. Establish a working group to identify the Safety Week theme for the upcoming year.
 - d. To provide input to the IAFC Board of Directors and staff in the establishment of:
 1. Guidelines related to the roles and responsibilities of sections within and external to the IAFC.
 2. A master plan identifying IAFC organizational and program priorities.

3. *Develop specific goals and objectives related to firefighter cancer and other health-related issues (e.g., MRSA).*
 - a. Identify a means of educating the fire service on the risk factors.
 - b. Develop and distribute specific prevention steps firefighters can take to reduce their risk factors.
 - c. Identify the latest treatment and prevention programs and ensure the fire service has this information readily available.

4. *Implement recommendations contained in the NIOSH-FFFIPP report developed by the Section.*
 - a. Ensure the current document and working group remains focused and work toward the implementation of goals contained within the document.
 - b. Identify the means of funding the recommendations.
 - c. Establish a working group to further define the issue of equipment related problems and failures.

5. *Maintain focus on the fireground communications issue.*
 - a. Continue our alliance with the IAFC Communications Committee working to identify and resolve issues related to radio transmissions and systems.
 - b. Work to ensure radio communications issues maintain their relevance at the local, state, national and international level.

6. *Identify and publish three specific adoption steps for fire chiefs.*
 - a. Vehicle and roadway operations
 1. Encourage the development of policies that address the following:
 - a. Stop at red lights and stop signs
 - b. Slow down
 - c. Mandatory seat belts
 - d. Driver qualifications
 - e. Policy enforcement
 2. Include the above elements as part of the 2009 Safety Week message.
 - b. Structural firefighting
 1. Establish an operational staffing group to positively identify the issue of fireground staffing and develop recommendations that fire chiefs can use to educate their elected officials as well as their own operational personnel as to exactly how much they can do in relation to the resources they are provided.
 2. In cooperation with the FDSOA, update the “rules of engagement” document originally developed by the IAFC Health and Safety Committee.
 3. Work with the IAFC Fire and Life Safety Section to aggressively pursue core requirements for residential fire sprinklers.
 - c. Wellness-Fitness
 1. Convene a working group to identify partnerships and funding sources to provide an annual Wellness-Fitness Initiative/NFPA-compliant physical for every firefighter in North America.
 2. Issue a proclamation from the Section stating that fire chiefs everywhere should adopt a health and wellness program for their fire departments.