



FEMA

# USFA

News in Review

An Electronic Newsletter for First Responders and Allied Professionals

## Message from Deputy Administrator Charlie Dickinson

*When I walk by someone I don't recognize at NETC, I wonder who that is. I wonder where he/she works and what they are doing here. Most likely they're here to take a course. They are those who we, here at NETC, constantly talk about, the very ones that we budget for, design curriculums, and develop projects for. When I have time, I stop and talk to them. Of course I am talking about the*

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## Critical Infrastructure Center Gets Name Change

The name of the U.S. Fire Administration's Critical Infrastructure Protection Information Center (CIPIC) has been changed to the Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC). USFA officials explained that the new name more accurately reflects the duties of its critical infrastructure protection center and is consistent with the system of ISACs supported by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7, which promotes the protection of the nation's critical infrastructures.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the major purpose of an ISAC is to serve as an information sharing facilitator for a designated national critical infrastructure sector (e.g., water supply, transportation, telecommunications, emergency management and response, etc.). Specifically, an ISAC is the mechanism for the two-way trusted exchange of information in order to analyze and disseminate actionable intelligence on threats, attacks, vulnerabilities, anomalies, and security best practices involving a particular sector.

Since its creation on October 1, 2000, in response to Presidential Decision Directive-63, the CIPIC has performed the work of an ISAC, while serving the emergency management and response (EMR) sector of the United States. Now, as the EMR-ISAC, it will continue to benefit emergency managers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel by conducting daily research for current CIP issues, receiving and processing threat intelligence, preparing and distributing weekly INFOGRAMs and periodic CIP Bulletins, forwarding sensitive CIP information to sector key leaders, developing instructional materials and providing technical assistance to sector members.

To acquire EMR-ISAC materials, sector members should subscribe to the USFA-CIP INFOGRAMs on FEMA's DisasterHelp website at <https://disasterhelp.gov/portal/jhtml/index.jhtml>. For more information, contact the EMR-ISAC at 301-447-1325. You can also reach the center through fax at 301-447-1034 and by a new e-mail address: [emr-isac@dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@dhs.gov). The old e-mail address of [usfacipc@fema.gov](mailto:usfacipc@fema.gov) will remain effective only until March 31, 2004.

## Deputy Administrator's Message

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first responders and allied professionals who come here. Some call them students. I guess I call them practitioners and remind myself they are doing the real responder preparedness work everyday. I'm not. They are the experts.

Our collective work involves trying to help them be successful for whatever role or responsibility they may have. It's pretty interesting stuff, when you talk to them. Most, if not all, seem highly motivated and pleased they are here. Most seem intent on learning "something" and taking "it" home to "make a difference." All are away from their families, and some are here on their "own time!" More than a few face serious budget/funding battles at home in their own organizations.

So here they are, with their nose stuck under the NETC tent seeing what there is to see and learn. Some days I think we should put all of them together and just listen – listen to re-validate what we're doing well for them and what they see both now and in the future in their work/organization. That's where we are trying to go – to the future. We want to continue to help them.

Funny how easy it is to look right past them in our business. I am trying to talk/visit with as many "practitioners" as I can. They are a gold mine. I encourage you to stop and talk with me the next time you are at NETC.

## USFA and National Fire Protection Association Initiate Project Examining Behavioral Mitigation of Smoking Fires

USFA has partnered with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to develop sound, research-based recommendations for behavioral mitigation strategies to reduce smoking fire fatalities in the United States. Smoking continues to be the No. 1 cause of residential fire deaths.

In 1999, for example, residential fires started by smoking materials claimed an estimated 776 lives in the United States and injured more than 1,900 more people, according to the National Fire Incident Report System and NFPA. Nearly half of the victims were in the USFA target age groups of age 14 and under and age 65 and older.

USFA has a long history of partnerships aimed at reducing the loss of life from fire and officials say they are pleased to be working with the NFPA in this research initiative. NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. Its mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. More about NFPA can be found at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

Funding for this program is provided under the FEMA/USFA's National Fire Data Center Applied Research and Technology program.

More information on this research initiative can be found at: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/research/smoking-mitigation.shtm>.

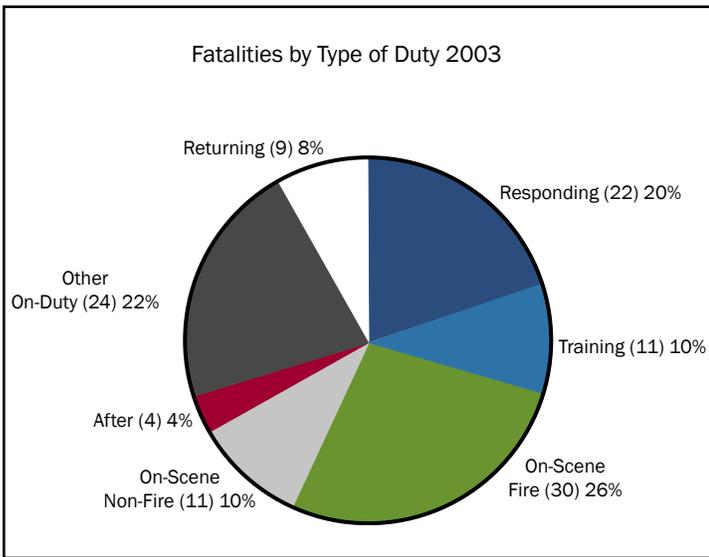
## USFA Issues Firefighter Fatality Figure for 2003

Despite advances in firefighting equipment, training and communication, 110 firefighters died while on-duty in the United States in 2003, an increase over the 100 deaths recorded in 2002, according to figures released by USFA. According to a review of the deaths, 36 states and Guam saw at least one firefighter die last year.

"Firefighters continue to give their lives while serving their communities. In 2003, President Bush signed a bill into law that will provide benefits to the survivors of firefighters who suffer heart attacks and die in the line of duty," said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "We are thankful to the President and Congress for this benefit, but

I earnestly hope that the efforts of the USFA will ensure those benefits are used less and less each year.”

According to the USFA, 20 firefighters died in seven incidents where more than one firefighter was killed. Eight Oregon firefighters were killed in a vehicle accident as they returned from fighting wildland fires; two Memphis firefighters died while fighting a fire in a business in June; two Idaho firefighters were killed in July when a wildland fire spread quickly and trapped them; two firefighters died as a result of a helicopter crash in Arizona in July; two Ohio firefighters were killed while operating at a silo fire in October; two Nevada-based firefighters were killed in an October airtanker crash in California; and two Oregon firefighters died in a helicopter crash in October.



Career firefighters comprised 30 deaths (27 percent) in 2003; volunteer, seasonal, and part-time firefighters accounted for 80 deaths. Sixty percent of the firefighters who died while on-duty in 2003 suffered fatal injuries or illnesses in emergency situations. Twenty-two firefighters died as they responded to an emergency or returned from one; many of these deaths involved vehicle collisions. Eleven deaths occurred during training.

The USFA collects and analyzes information about firefighter deaths each year to determine trends, make recommendations for further research or to propose changes in procedures that may serve to reduce fatalities in the future.

### National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Draws Visitors in 2003

Nearly 4,200 people visited the National Fallen Firefighters’ Memorial in 2003 to honor thousands of American heroes.

The Memorial is located at FEMA’s National Emergency Training Center, in Emmitsburg, MD. In addition, thousands more training center students and attendees at the annual memorial service also visited the memorial.

The Memorial was built in 1981 and officially designed by Congress as the national memorial to career and volunteer firefighters in 1990. Plaques listing the names of firefighters killed in service since 1981 encircle the plaza. The area is framed on two sides by a six-foot wall that dates back more than 100 years. When a firefighter dies on duty, local fire officials notify the U.S. Fire Administration, part of FEMA. A notice of death is immediately posted on the Memorial grounds and the flags are flown at half staff.

“We are grateful to those who help us honor the firefighters who give their lives each year,” said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. “The number of names on the Memorial is truly staggering. More than 100 new names will be added in the 2004 memorial ceremony. The USFA is working hard to reduce the number of names added in the future.”

The next National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, which includes a candlelight ceremony and memorial services, will be held Oct. 1-3, 2004. More information can be found at [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).

### U.S. Fire Administration Offers a New Round of Fire/Arson Investigation Management Studies for Fire and Law Enforcement Agencies

USFA has announced the beginning of the 15th year of no cost technical assistance to state and local fire investigation agencies – a project that is part of USFA’s ongoing effort to strengthen and enhance the work of fire investigation units across the country.

USFA’s technical assistance focuses heavily on improving the working relationships among fire, police, prosecutors and other state or federal agencies by suggesting strategies for closer cooperation. Case prioritization and management, arson data collection and analysis, investigation reports, training, and time-of-day staffing coverage also are key components of the site reviews.

USFA provides this assistance to help improve arrest and conviction rates and promote arson prevention by highlighting the positive features of a jurisdiction’s arson control operations, recommending options for resolving problem areas, and identifying potential inter-agency and

community anti-arson partnerships. The Arson Control Assistance results in a confidential report with guidelines to improve arson investigations and case outcomes.

This program already has proven to be a valuable service to more than 130 state and local jurisdictions. Any state, county, or municipal fire investigation agency interested in participating should meet the following criteria:

- Have a sincere interest in ascertaining the strengths and problem areas of their fire investigation and arson control programs and operations;
- Investigate a minimum of 200 fires per year, a significant number of which are determined to be incendiary;
- Provide the necessary application materials and background information, and cooperate with the designated technical assistance team in scheduling the field work; and
- Implement as many of the recommendations as feasible.

To ensure the continued success and quality of the Arson Technical Assistance program, USFA requires that all agencies selected to participate in this project be willing to complete an evaluation regarding the quality of the service provided and to report on the status of the implementing recommendations contained in the final report.

The field assessment and technical assistance on arson control is organized around three stages.

**Stage One - Information collection and preparation.** USFA uses the information on your application to get a basic idea of your current situation and the problems you face. To obtain a more complete picture USFA asks for a package of information to be used to study and prepare for the site visit. USFA also works with the jurisdictions, developing a list of people who will be interviewed and scheduling the interviews and meetings for a site visit.

**Stage Two - Site visit and field work.** USFA's fire investigation and arson control experts will spend approximately three days in your area. USFA will conduct interviews and meetings, review additional data, and analyze information from all relevant sources. There will be a kick-off meeting to explain the project to all principals; later, USFA officials meet with selected officials to review the main issues and close out the field work.

**Stage Three - Preparation of draft and final report.** After the site visit, a draft report containing a description of

your jurisdiction and of your arson control measures is completed. The report also will highlight the positive features found and discuss the problem areas. Recommendations for improvements and changes will be itemized. You will have three weeks to review and provide comments on the draft report before a final report is prepared. You are asked to implement as many of the recommendations as feasible.

The application is available at [www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/arson/arson-unit.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/arson/arson-unit.shtm)

Please return the application no later than February 27, 2004 to:

USFA-Arson Investigation Technical Assistance Project  
Joseph Ockershausen, Project Manager  
TriData Corporation  
1000 Wilson Boulevard • 30th Floor • Arlington, VA 22209  
Phone: (703) 351-8300 • Fax: (703) 351-8383  
E-mail: [jockershausen@tridatcorp.com](mailto:jockershausen@tridatcorp.com)

## USFA Reviews New Jersey Boardwalk Fire For Lessons Learned

A technical review of a New Jersey boardwalk fire that destroyed three businesses and damaged others – and took 120 firefighters four hours to control – was released by the USFA. According to the review, most of the boardwalk businesses are closed for half the year and the absence of business owners for long periods of time can impede the prompt resolution of code violations.

The review stressed the importance of documenting code violations since New Jersey statutes allow local fire departments to recover the cost of their suppression if a fire can be directly or indirectly linked to code violations.

“The Wildwood Fire Department had implemented an aggressive inspection program in the months prior to the fire and this meant local firefighters were familiar with the general layout of the boardwalk, important to a successful response,” said US Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. “Two vehicles, modified because of previous fires and difficulty with access, also helped in suppression efforts.”

USFA develops reports on selected major fires and emergencies, usually involving multiple deaths or a large loss of property. The objective reviews are intended to uncover significant “lessons learned” or new knowledge about firefighting or to underscore ongoing issues in fire

service. USFA, which has no regulatory authority, sends an experienced fire investigator to the community after a major incident only after conferring with local fire authorities.

The boardwalk fire occurred on August 29, 2000, and fire investigators later determined it was deliberately set. At the time of the report, no one had been charged with the crime. The fire went to seven alarms and required firefighters from four communities. No one was killed in the blaze and one firefighter suffered a minor injury.

A copy of the full report can be ordered by going to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/techreports/tr137.shtm>.

### New On-Line Course Helps Build Effective Partnerships With Tribal Governments

A new on-line, independent study course has been unveiled. The course will help those who interact with tribal governments learn how to work in concert with them to protect native people and their property against all types of hazards. The course is open to anyone who has an interest in learning more about building partnerships with tribal communities.

Specialists at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute developed the course, which is part of the Institute's extensive independent study program. The course, *Building Partnerships with Tribal Governments, IS 650*, has seven lessons with topics on historical and legal perspectives, tribal culture, and challenges in delivering government programs and can be completed between four to six hours. Those who successfully pass the final exercise receive a certificate of completion. The course is located at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is650.asp>.

### Well-Known Staffer at NETC Retires

Known for her cheery, friendly voice, Mary A. Walter, the secretary for the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration, retired last month after 17 years at NETC. Mary had attended St. Joseph College before it became FEMA's training facility and has lived in Emmitsburg for 42 years, where she and her husband have raised five children. Mary began her tenure as a clerk typist. She plans to garden and do some traveling in her retirement.

### New Multi-Hazard Risk Management Series Released

The Department of Homeland Security has announced the release of four new publications in the Multi-Hazard Risk Management Series developed by FEMA. The publications contain guidance on designing, constructing, and engineering high occupancy buildings that are more resistant to damage resulting from terrorist attack.

The purpose of the publications is to make communities aware of science and technology that can be applied to protect people and critical infrastructure from the affects of terrorist attacks on high occupancy buildings. The documents now available are:

- FEMA 426, *Reference Manual to Mitigate Potential Terrorist Attacks Against Building*
- FEMA 427, *Primer for Design of Commercial Buildings to Mitigate Terrorist Attacks*
- FEMA 428, *Primer to Design Safe School Projects in Case of Terrorist Attacks*
- FEMA 429, *Insurance, Finance, and Regulation Primer for Risk Management in Buildings*

An outreach campaign is underway that will promote use of these materials by members of the current and future emergency management and building science professional communities. In addition, each document will be promoted to additional key audiences with unique interest in the subject matter. The primary users for these publications are public policy officials at all levels, emergency managers, facility owners and managers, architects, and building construction professionals.

The publications are free and can be downloaded from FEMA's Web site at <http://www.fema.gov/fima/rmsp.shtm>.

### USFA Advocates Development of Incident Management Teams

#### Stakeholders, Experts Come Together to Develop IMT Training Roadmap

FEMA has announced a training "roadmap" for the nation's fire and emergency services wanting to develop local and regional/metropolitan Incident Management Teams (IMTs). This recommendation comes in part as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USFA,

the International Association of Fire Chiefs/National Fire Protection Association Metropolitan Chiefs. The MOU signed in 2002 is designed to:

- Establish metropolitan area IMT regional overhead teams based on the U.S. Forest Service (USFA);
- Develop IMT capability;
- Develop and train IMTs to support command;
- Provide mutual aid staff -unified command training and development; and
- Use the Integrated Emergency Management System.

This IMT training roadmap, developed in partnership with USFA, also supports Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5), which states: To prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies, the United States government shall establish a single, comprehensive approach to domestic incident management. The objective of the United States government is to ensure that all levels of government across the nation have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together, using a national approach to domestic incident management.

“The USFA Incident Management Team training roadmap is a result, as well as the next step, of the MOU signed in early 2002 with the Metropolitan Chiefs,” said R. David Paulison, U. S. Fire Administrator. “Today’s fire service leadership is faced with extremely complex response requirements. The IMT roadmap will ensure all departments will have the necessary incident management support they need, if they need it to further protect their residents and cities.”

The IMTs have been designed to assist local emergency services and support unusually large, complex, or long-term emergency incidents, when requested. An all-hazards IMT consists of emergency service officers from appropriate disciplines (fire, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous materials, law enforcement) trained to perform the functions of the Command and General Staff of the Incident Command System. These functions include Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Administration/Finance, as well as Safety, Information, and Liaison. Members of the initial responding departments often fill these functions; however, the size, scope, or duration of an emergency incident may indicate the need for an IMT to support them. The local Incident Commander can request, through standard mutual aid

procedures, an IMT to help support management of the incident.

“The operations of IMTs are highly dependant on the local community needs, available resources, and the level of training/experience,” said Charlie Dickinson, Deputy United States Fire Administrator and former chief of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. “Local jurisdictions may establish, train, and control IMTs at their respective levels. The USFA and USFS will work together in delivering training to develop the IMTs.”

USFA and USFS are also working together in delivering specialized training to develop “Type 3” IMTs for regional or state level incidents. Type 3 IMTs are recommended for States and large metropolitan areas with multiple jurisdictions and mutual aid agreements (such as the DHS Urban Area Security Initiative locales). Members of Type 3 IMTs are appointed by a state or metropolitan authority having jurisdiction, and respond as a team to support or assist a local IMT at major incidents that may have national implications.

For further information regarding the IMT efforts, or any USFA program, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).