The mission of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is to provide a unified voice for volunteer fire/EMS organizations.

This mission is accomplished by:

- Representing the interests of the volunteer fire/EMS organizations at the U.S. Congress and federal agencies
- Promoting the interests of the state and local organizations at the national level
- Promoting and providing education and training for the volunteer fire/EMS organizations
- Providing representation on national standards setting committees and projects
- Gathering information from and disseminating information to the volunteer fire/EMS organizations
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Dear NVFC Supporter:

2010 was an exciting year for the NVFC. We worked non-stop to provide support, advocacy, programs, and resources to the volunteer emergency services, and I look back at the year with a sense of pride at all we have accomplished.

The organization made the landmark decision to create an EMS/Rescue Section to more thoroughly address issues relating to the volunteer emergency medical services. While EMS has always been an integral part of the NVFC, this new Section gives a stronger voice to those who dedicate their lives as volunteers in the emergency medical and rescue fields.

Health and safety continued to be a high priority in 2010. The Put It Out program expanded nationwide with the launch of a web site to help first responders quit smoking and stay quit. National Firefighter Health Week reached more people than ever before. We provided health screenings at six fire service trade shows and trained dozens of first responders to be Health and Wellness Advocates for their departments. The Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities/B.E.S.T. Practices continued to be at the forefront of our work.

Fire Corps held its first ever State Advocate Summit, bringing together over 30 Fire Corps representatives from across the country to share ideas and methods for enhancing their state’s local Fire Corps programs. The Fire Corps Academy was also launched, providing a series of curricula to help departments and potential volunteers start, manage, and expand a local Fire Corps program.

The first National Junior Firefighter Academy was held to help strengthen the future of the fire service. We expanded our international relations efforts by meeting with fire service delegations from South and Central America, Greece, and Japan. We released new resources to help first responders with initiatives ranging from grassroots advocacy and grant writing, to helping their department go green.

We teamed up with the International Code Council to pilot the Sound the Alarm campaign, which is designed to help reduce instances of residential fires in high-risk rural areas. Thanks to this initiative, over 40 homes so far have been provided with smoke alarms and other safety measures to protect their residents from home fires as well as received home safety information to help prevent fires from ever starting.

And these are only some of the things that happened in 2010. I encourage you to read through this Annual Report and find out all of the ways the NVFC has been working for you during this past year. We couldn’t have the success we’ve had without the support of our members and corporate sponsors, and we thank you for making this an outstanding year. Together, we will continue to make sure the volunteer emergency services thrive.

Sincerely,

Philip C. Stittleburg
Chairman
The NVFC is comprised of 49 state fire association members, each of which appoints a representative from their organization to serve as the director from their respective state. Many states also select an alternate director. These representatives comprise the NVFC Board of Directors, which meets as a whole twice a year. Each state has one vote.

The directors elect officers (Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, and Secretary/Treasurer) every two years. The NVFC Executive Committee is comprised of the organization’s four officers, five elected members from the board, the Chair of the Legislative Committee, the Chair of the EMS/Rescue Section, the President of the NVFC Foundation, and a representative from a national EMS organization as determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets in person four times a year.

The board members also serve on several committees on a variety of topics. The committees meet twice a year, in conjunction with the biannual meetings, and often hold conference calls or communicate via email.

In 2010, the board created an EMS/Rescue (EMS/R) Section to focus on issues specifically affecting the emergency medical and rescue services. This Section has its own leadership and can make recommendations to the NVFC Board. The Chair of the EMS/R Section also sits on the NVFC Executive Committee. Learn more about the EMS/R Section, including its leadership structure, in the EMS chapter of this report.

### NVFC Officers

**Philip C. Stittleburg, CFO**  
Chairman  
_Wisconsin State Firefighters Association_  

Phil Stittleburg joined the volunteer fire service in 1972 and has served as Chief of the LaFarge (WI) Fire Department for 33 years. Phil is also legal counsel to the NVFC, the LaFarge Fire Department, and the Wisconsin State Firefighters Association. Phil has represented the NVFC on numerous NFPA standards making committees, including NFPA 1500. He is a past-President of the NVFC Foundation, is First Vice Chair of the NFPA Board of Directors, serves on the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors, is an adjunct instructor at the National Fire Academy, and is a regular contributor to national fire service publications.

**Jack Carriger**  
First Vice Chairman  
_Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association_  

Jack Carriger began his career in emergency service in 1976 as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff. After ten years of serving as a Deputy, he changed over to the volunteer fire service. Jack is the Chief of the Stayton (OR) Fire District and has served as President of his fire district’s Volunteer Firefighters Association, President of the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, and as alternate director and director to the NVFC for Oregon. During his time on the Council, he has served on several committees, including his current roles as Chair of the Executive and Standards committees.

**Jeff Cash, CFO**  
Second Vice Chair  
_North Carolina State Firemen’s Association_  

Jeff Cash has been in the fire service for over 30 years, serving in both the volunteer and career sectors. He has been Fire Chief of the Cherryville (NC) Fire Department since 1986 and is a past-President of the North Carolina Firemen’s Association. Jeff is on the NVFC’s Executive, Health and Safety, and Standards committees, represents the NVFC on the NFPA 1021 Committee and the IAFC Safety, Health & Survival Committee, and has testified before Congressional committees on fire service issues.

**J. Allen Metheny, Sr.**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
_Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association_  

Allen Metheny is a 46-year member of the volunteer fire and emergency services. He is a life member of the Hartly (DE) Volunteer Fire Company and has held nearly every elected office in the Company. Allen is a past-President of the Delaware State Fire Chief’s Association, the Del-Mar-Va Volunteer Firemen’s Association, and the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association of which he is currently the Treasurer. He has been an instructor at the Delaware State Fire School since 1970 and has served on the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission. Allen joined the NVFC as Alternate Director for Delaware in 1991 and currently serves as Director. He is a Certified Government Finance Manager.
2010 Executive Committee

Jack Carriger
Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association

Mike Bird
Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jeff Cash
North Carolina State Firemen’s Association

Patrick Hlavaty
State Firemen’s and State Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas

Norman Hoeft
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association

Jerry Johnston
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

Robert Kilpeck
Vermont State Firefighters’ Association

Kenneth Knipper
Kentucky Firefighters Association

Suzie Hill Koklich
Alaska State Firefighters Association

John Lyman
Rhode Island State Firemen’s League

J. Allen Metheny
Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association

Philip C. Stittleburg
Wisconsin State Firefighter’s Association

Bob Timko
Firemen’s Association of the State of Pennsylvania

NVFC Committees

1-800-FIRE-LINE
Audit
Bylaws
Conference/Education
Disaster Relief
EMS/Rescue Section
Executive
Finance
Health and Safety
Homeland Security
LOSAP
Legislative
Membership/Awards
Nominating
Radio/Wireless
Standards
Volunteer Advocacy
Wildland
The NVFC is headquartered in Greenbelt, MD, just outside of Washington, DC. The office is accessible to the nation’s capital and the Metro transit system.

Staff Contacts

Heather Schafer, CAE
Executive Director
Extension 17 I hschafer@nvfc.org

Heather Schafer joined the NVFC staff in 1993 and has served as the Executive Director since 1994. She manages all internal and external operations and is the organization’s chief fundraiser. She previously worked for the Chief of Staff during the Clinton administration and for FEMA during Hurricane Andrew. She is a CERT member in Anne Arundel County, MD. Heather graduated from Ohio State University and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Nonprofit and Association Management at the University of Maryland. She has received the Certified Association Executive credential from the CAE Commission of the American Society of Association Executives.

Sarah Lee, CAE
Deputy Director; Fire Corps Director
Extension 13 I slee@nvfc.org

Sarah Lee joined the NVFC staff in 2005 and assists Heather Schafer in administering the organization’s internal and staff operations. She also manages Fire Corps, providing vision and direction for the program and overseeing the development of all program tools and resources. Sarah comes from a family of career and volunteer firefighters and EMTs. With a Masters degree in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management, Sarah has over 12 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, with most of those years spent serving the fire and emergency services. She has received the Certified Association Executive credential from the CAE Commission of the American Society of Association Executives.

Meg Goldberg
Office Manager
Extension 17 I meg@nvfc.org

Meg Goldberg serves as Office Manager for the NVFC and also handles meeting planning. Prior to joining the NVFC in 2010, Meg served as the Office Administrator for a church organization and before that worked in association marketing. She also previously served as Program Coordinator for an association with a focus on fire service projects.

Tom Febrey
Administrative Assistant
Extension 10 I tfebrey@nvfc.org

Tom Febrey provides administrative support to the NVFC staff and is the point of contact for general inquiries to the NVFC as well as product ordering. Tom is a volunteer firefighter at the Cabin John Park (MD) Volunteer Fire Department and is currently pursuing a degree in Emergency Management with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Maryland-University College. He joined the NVFC in 2010.

Donna Clark
Membership Coordinator
Extension 21 I dclark@nvfc.org

Donna Clark is the point of contact for inquiries regarding NVFC membership. Prior to joining the NVFC in 2008, she served six years as the Executive Assistant for the Prince George’s County (MD) Volunteer Firefighters Association. She comes from a family with strong roots in the fire and emergency services community, is involved with her local Citizen Corps Council and Fire Corps, and serves as a Fire Corps State Advocate for Maryland.

National Office

National Volunteer Fire Council
7852 Walker Drive
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Greenbelt, MD 20770

Phone: 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832)
Fax: 202-887-5291
Email: nvfcoffice@nvfc.org
Melaku Alito  
Director of Finance  
Extension 11 | malito@nvfc.org  

Melaku Alito has a Master’s degree in Accounting and Financial Management from Keller Graduate School of Management, Devry University, Maryland. Joining the NVFC in 2007, Melaku handles financial reporting, account reconciliation, budget development, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, and audit preparation.

Dave Finger  
Director of Government Relations  
Extension 12 | dfinger@nvfc.org  

Dave Finger is the point of contact for legislative, regulatory, and standards issues concerning the volunteer emergency services. He serves as the NVFC’s liaison with Congress and federal government agencies and advises the board and membership on governmental matters. Dave graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Political Economy and spent several years working on Capitol Hill before joining the NVFC in 2005.

Kimberly Quiros  
Director of Communications  
Extension 19 | kimberly@nvfc.org  

Kimberly Quiros joined the NVFC team 2006. She serves as the main media contact and oversees the Council’s communications endeavors, including publications, web sites, and marketing initiatives. Previously, Kimberly served as the communications and development specialist at another DC-based non-profit, and before that she worked for a newspaper in Newport News, VA. She received her Bachelor’s degree from The College of William and Mary and her Master’s degree in Public Communications from American University.

Amy Tarte  
Director of Health and Safety  
Extension 14 | atarte@nvfc.org  

Amy Tarte is the point of contact for the NVFC’s health and safety initiatives, including the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program. Before joining the NVFC team in 2010, Amy served as the Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator and Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator for the City of Alexandria, VA. She is a volunteer firefighter with the Stonewall Jackson Volunteer Fire Department in Manassas, VA, and is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Public Health from the George Washington University.

Rachel Buczynski  
Program Manager  
Extension 27 | rachel@nvfc.org  

Rachel Buczynski joined the NVFC team in 2007 and is the point of contact for the National Junior Firefighter Program. She also assists with the implementation of the NVFC’s health and safety initiatives. Rachel is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where she received her degree in International Studies, with a focus on business and communications.

Allison Moore  
Program Manager  
Extension 28 | amoore@nvfc.org  

Allison Moore joined the NVFC staff in 2007. She assists with the implementation of the Fire Corps program and the NVFC’s health and safety initiatives, as well as works on several joint initiatives with the U.S. Fire Administration. Allison received her Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Mercyhurst College and her Master’s degree in Political Management from the George Washington University.

Lori Moon  
Program Manager  
lmoon@firecorps.org  

Lori Moon assists with the implementation of the Fire Corps program. Before taking this position in 2006, Lori served with Fire Corps at the grassroots level as Fire Corps Team Leader for Johnson County Rural Fire District #1 in Clarksville, AR. Lori received a degree in Marketing from the University of the Ozarks.

Kari Wood  
Program Manager  
kwood@nvfc.org  

Kari Wood assists with the implementation of several NVFC projects, including Fire Corps and the Sound the Alarm initiative. Before joining the NVFC staff in 2008, Kari served as an NVFC intern focusing on the National Junior Firefighter Program as well as led her local Fire Corps team in Clarksville, AR. Kari graduated summa cum laude from the University of the Ozarks with a degree in Marketing.
The NVFC is a strong advocate of the volunteer emergency services on Capitol Hill, working tirelessly with members of Congress and their staff to promote legislation that would benefit the volunteer fire and emergency services. The NVFC continued to advance the Council’s legislative priorities throughout 2010, including submitting Congressional testimony to support the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2010.

Legislative Priorities

The NVFC board moved the Broadband for First Responders Act to the top of its list of Legislative Priorities in 2010. Learn more about each of the Priorities and Monitored Items at www.nvfc.org/priorities.

**NVFC Legislative Priorities***

1. Broadband for First Responders Act (H.R. 5081, S. 3625, S. 3756)
2. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
3. Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (H.R. 1792, S. 3319)
4. Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3666, S. 3136)
5. Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act (S. 1025)
6. U.S. Fire Administration Funding
7. Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (H.R. 1194, S. 2947)
9. Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act
10. Citizen Corps/Fire Corps Funding and Authorization

**NVFC Monitored Items***

- Ryan White First Responder Notification
- Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement Rate (H.R. 524, S. 243)
- Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program
- Department of Interior Rural Fire Assistance Program
- Community Building Code Administration Grant Act (H.R. 2246, S. 970)
- Supporting America’s Volunteer Emergency Services Act
- Protect Children from Dangerous Lighters Act (H.R. 2050, S. 723)

*Note: Bill numbers are from the 111th Congress.

Broadband for First Responders Act

The NVFC Board of Directors made the Broadband for First Responders Act its top legislative priority in 2010. Throughout the year, three pieces of legislation – H.R. 5081, S. 3625, and S. 3756 – were introduced that would allocate 10 MHz of radio spectrum in the 700 MHz band (generally referred to as the “D-Block”) to public safety in order to build a nationwide broadband communications network.

“Public safety needs this radio spectrum to improve our ability to communicate,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “Volunteer public safety agencies rely heavily on mutual aid to deal with responses to major incidents, and interoperability is a significant challenge because there are so many different types of communications systems in use.”

On September 23, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a hearing on S. 3756. Although the hearing took place at the same time as the NVFC fall meeting, Stittleburg submitted testimony to be included in the hearing record supporting S. 3756.

The NVFC will continue to work with Congress in 2012 to pass legislation re-allocating the “D-Block” to public safety.

AFG and SAFER

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs are a top priority for the
NVFC. AFG funds equipment, training, and apparatus purchases by local fire departments while SAFER funds the hiring of career firefighters as well as programs to recruit and retain volunteers. Unfortunately, Congress adjourned in December without reauthorizing or establishing FY 2011 funding levels for AFG and SAFER.

The NVFC strongly advocated for passage of FY 2011 Homeland Security Appropriations legislation providing $420 million each for AFG and SAFER. This would represent an increase of $30 million over the FY 2010 level for AFG and flat funding for SAFER. The President requested $305 million each for AFG and SAFER.

The House passed legislation funding AFG and SAFER at the level requested by the NVFC. On December 16, omnibus appropriations legislation that would have funded the entire federal government through FY 2011 and provided $420 million respectively for AFG and SAFER was filibusted by Republicans in the Senate and failed to garner enough votes to end debate and force a vote. The Senate voted to approve a continuing resolution after it became clear that the votes to pass the omnibus were not there. The legislation keeps the government running but does not establish FY 2011 funding levels for agencies or programs. The House subsequently voted to approve the continuing legislation to fund the government through March 4 at FY 2010 levels.

The task of establishing FY 2011 funding levels now falls to the 112th Congress, which convenes in January 2011. The NVFC will continue to work with House and Senate Appropriators and our allies in Congress to obtain adequate funding for AFG and SAFER for FY 2011.

Legislation reauthorizing AFG and SAFER also failed to gain passage in the 111th Congress. The House of Representatives passed legislation supported by the NVFC in November 2009 reauthorizing both programs. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved similar reauthorization legislation in July but it was never taken up by the full Senate. Passage of AFG and SAFER reauthorization legislation will be one of the NVFC’s top priorities in 2011.

**VRIPA**

Throughout 2010, the NVFC advocated for Congress to extend the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA), which exempts certain benefits that volunteer emergency responders receive as recruitment and retention incentives from income taxation. VRIPA was initially enacted in 2007 with an expiration date at the end of 2010. Extending the legislation is a top priority of the NVFC. VRIPA provides income tax exemptions on property tax benefits and up to $360 per year of “other benefits” that volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel receive as a reward for their service.

In March, legislation was introduced in the Senate to extend VRIPA and increase to $600 the amount of “other benefits” that are exempt from federal income tax in a given year. However, Congress failed to act on extending the bill before it expired. In December, Congress passed legislation that extended certain expiring tax provisions that had previously been extended by Congress, but since VRIPA has not been previously extended it was not included in the final bill.

The NVFC will continue to work with the House and Senate sponsors of VRIPA and the Committees of jurisdiction in 2011 to extend VRIPA, with a goal of
making the extension retroactive to the beginning of 2011.

Cap Wiz

The NVFC enhanced its grassroots advocacy capabilities in 2010 by subscribing to Cap Wiz, a grassroots advocacy outreach tool that makes it easier for our members and supporters to communicate with their U.S. Representatives and Senators.

Through Cap Wiz, the NVFC can post letters to elected officials and federal agencies on a special section of our web site and then email an action alert to NVFC members and supporters to let them know that the letter has been posted. Individuals can follow the link in the alert, read the draft letter, and send it to their elected officials simply by entering their contact information and clicking ‘send.’ Cap Wiz delivers the e-mails to the appropriate elected officials and generates reports on which offices receive e-mails so that NVFC staff can follow up to ensure that the message was received and answer any questions that the Congressional office may have.

“I am extremely excited that we are able to offer this new resource to our members and subscribers to make it easier for them to contact their members of Congress,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “In order to get things done in Washington, DC, we need to have good arguments and broad-based, vocal support that creates a sense of urgency in Congress to address our concerns. With Cap Wiz we have a tool that will make it easier for hundreds of thousands of volunteer emergency responders to communicate with their Representatives and Senators, while at the same time providing NVFC with information about the level of grassroots support for our various legislative priorities.”

The first action alert went out on November 30 to get NVFC supporters to ask their members of Congress to extend VRIPA. As a result, 576 supporters used Cap Wiz to send a total of 1,638 messages to 222 House and Senate offices.

The NVFC’s Cap Wiz site can be accessed at www.capwiz.com/nvfc. Anyone can sign up to receive legislative alerts from the NVFC, either by registering to receive the NVFC’s Dispatch newsletter or by signing up to receive legislative alerts through the NVFC’s Cap Wiz site.
The NVFC has representatives on several National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) committees. These committees develop the codes and standards that guide the fire and emergency services. Each committee is represented by a balance of affected interests. The NVFC has representatives on the following NFPA committees.

**Ambulances**
Principal: Joseph V. Maruca
Alternate: Kenneth R. Knipper

**Emergency Medical Services**
Principal: Kenneth R. Knipper (Committee Chair)

**Fire and Emergency Service Organization and Deployment – Volunteer**
Principals: Robert J. Kilpeck; John J. McAuliffe, Jr.; T.J. Nedrow
Alternates: Steven W. Hirsch; Vern A. Losh; George Stevens

**Fire Department Apparatus**
Principal: J. Allen Metheny, Sr.
Alternate: Al Rosamond

**Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications**
Principal: Kenn Fontenot
Alternate: Jeffery C. Cash

**Fire Officer Professional Qualifications**
Principal: Jeffery C. Cash
Alternate: Kenn Fontenot

**Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health**
Principal: Philip C. Stittleburg
Alternate: Michael W. Smith

**Forest and Rural Fire Protection**
Principal: Martin P. Carrier
Alternate: Bill Bulman

**Hazardous Materials Response Personnel**
Principal: Thomas D. Miller

**Incident Management Professional Qualifications**
Principal: Kenneth R. Knipper

**Professional Qualifications**
Principal: Philip C. Stittleburg
Alternate: Jeffery C. Cash

**Structural and Proximity Fire Fighting Protective Clothing and Equipment**
Principal: R. Wendell Robison

**Wildland Fire Fighting Protective Clothing and Equipment**
Principal: Michael W. Smith
Alternate: Richard Brown
The NVFC Board of Directors meets twice each year. The 2010 spring meeting was held in Alexandria, VA, on April 27-May 1, and the fall meeting was held in Bloomington, MN, on September 22-25. Highlights from the meetings are featured below. Learn more about the meetings at www.nvfc.org.

**Board Meetings**

**EMS/Rescue Section**

The board voted at the spring meeting to create a new EMS/Rescue Section of the Council that would consist of NVFC members but would be its own separate group dedicated to representing the interests of the volunteer emergency medical services. The Section will meet twice a year in conjunction with the NVFC board meetings. The first meeting of the EMS/Rescue Section was held at the fall meeting. See the EMS chapter of this report for more information.

**Legislative Priorities**

The board updated the NVFC’s Legislative Priorities, including adopting a new top priority: the Broadband for First Responders Act. See the Legislative section of this report or visit www.nvfc.org/priorities to learn more.

In addition, the board voted to support the Emergency Medic Transition Act, which assist military veterans who received emergency medical training during their time in the armed services to receive whatever additional training and/or certifications they need in order to work as a paid or volunteer EMS provider domestically. The board also voted to encourage states that have not already done so to adopt “Move Over” laws requiring motorists to slow down and/or move over when traveling on a highway and passing an emergency vehicle that is stopped on the side of the road with its lights flashing.

**Membership Rates**

The board voted to make some changes to membership rates during the fall meeting, including a slight increase for All Staff Department, All State, and Junior members, new discounts available for early renewals, and a two-year renewal option. See the Membership section of this report for details.

**Awards**

The NVFC presented four national awards during the spring meeting. See the Awards section of this report or visit www.nvfc.org/awards to learn more.

In addition, the board honored Chief Jeff Cash with the E. James Monihan Directors Award. Cash, who is the Second Vice Chairman of the NVFC and the Director from North Carolina, was recognized for his extraordinary involvement in the NVFC and for going above and beyond in his service and commitment to the Council. The Award is presented by the NVFC Executive Committee to a board member whose contributions exceed the normal expectations. It is named after founding board member and former NVFC Chairman Jim Monihan, who actively served on the NVFC board and Executive Committee until his death in 2009.

**Speakers**

The board heard from a wide array of distinguished speakers during the meetings on a variety of topics from grant programs to partnerships to recruitment ideas.

Spring meeting speakers included: Chief Glenn Gaines, Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator; The Honorable James Shannon, President of the National Fire Protection Association; Tim O’Dowd, Fire Program Specialist at USFA; Tim Manning, Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Elizabeth Harmon, Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs at DHS; Drew Dawson, Director of the NHTSA Office of EMS; Sara Yerkes, Senior Vice
President of Government Relations at the International Code Council; Victor Esch, Fire Program Specialist with the DHS/FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program; Duane Putman, Director, Employers – Coalitions, Organizations, and Associations at Pfizer, Inc.; and Eric Bernard, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Rescue Association.

At the fall meeting, guest speakers included Gene Winstead, Mayor of Bloomington; Michael Campion, Public Safety Commissioner for the State of MN; and MN State Representative Steve Smith. Actor, writer, and producer Randy Mantooth, known for his role as firefighter/paramedic John Gage on the TV series *Emergency!*, spoke to the board about carbon monoxide poisoning and health and safety issues. Mantooth is working with Masimo, a global medical technology company, to shed light on the issue of carbon monoxide poisoning in the fire service and develop a video promoting a healthy lifestyle among firefighters.

Meeting Sponsors

The NVFC appreciates the support of the Meeting Sponsors.

**Fall Meeting**

California Casualty

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

Masimo

PROVIDENT

SPARTAN

WATEROUS

**Spring Meeting**

California Casualty

EMERGENCY REPORTING

First Alert

nowforce

PROVIDENT

SCOTT

TECGEN

tyco

Fall meeting guest speaker Randy Mantooth signed the National Fire and EMS Seat Belt Pledge to show his support for the fire service. The entire NVFC board signed the Pledge during the meeting.

**National Fire and EMS Seat Belt Pledge**

The board signed the National Fire and EMS Seat Belt Pledge during the fall meeting. Proper use of seat belts is a top safety priority for the NVFC, and is part of the NVFC’s B.E.S.T. Practices for health and safety.

**Chaplain**

The NVFC board created the position of Chaplain at the spring meeting and welcomed Ed Stauffer as the NVFC Chaplain during the fall meeting.
The NVFC is the only national organization whose sole mission is to support the volunteer fire, emergency medical, and rescue services. Our members help us stay strong, providing us with critical support so that we can continue serving as the voice of the volunteer fire and emergency services on Capitol Hill, keep our members informed about legislation and federal regulations, and provide valuable programs, resources, advocacy, and vital information.

Membership

The All State Membership option continued to expand in 2010. The program is now offered in 5 states – North Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, Massachusetts, and Georgia – and has garnered 12,427 NVFC members.

At the 2010 fall meeting, the board voted to make a few changes to the membership rates, effective as of January 1, 2011. The changes include:

• All Staff Department Membership dues increased from $10 to $12 per person. The Department Member fee will continue to be waived. As before, all members of a department must join in order to take advantage of the All Staff Department Membership.
• The rate for All State Membership increased from $10 to $12. To take advantage of this rate, you must join the NVFC through your participating state fire association.
• The rate for Junior Membership increased from $10 to $12.
• The NVFC began offering a 10 percent discount on the Personal Member rate (normally $30) and the Department Member rate (normally $50) for those who renew their membership at least 30 days prior to their membership expiration date.
• The NVFC introduced a new two-year membership option with a 10 percent discount off of the regular Personal and Department Member rates.

The NVFC also restructured its Corporate Member benefits in December 2010 to offer enhanced and expanded benefits to its corporate supporters. View the new benefits list below.

The NVFC offers the following levels of membership. Learn more and join at www.nvfc.org/membership.

Personal Membership

Dues: $30 per year

The NVFC Personal Membership is for individual firefighters, EMS personnel, or anyone who is interested in supporting the volunteer fire and emergency services. Personal Members receive:

• $10,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance policy through Provident
• Member access to the NVFC web site
• Dispatch, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, and Fire Corps e-newsletters
• NVFC news alert email service
• Personalized membership card
• Complimentary copies of NVFC resources and manuals
• Eligibility to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union
• Discounted admission and waived application fee from Columbia Southern University, which offers online fire science degrees
• Discount on background checks through IntelliCorp for fire department recruits
• Discounts on entertainment, tickets, travel, and shopping through Working Advantage
• Discounted registration to Firehouse World, Firehouse Expo, and Firehouse Central
• Discount on dress uniforms from Lighthouse Uniform Company
• Discounted membership and waived registration fee from Snap Fitness health clubs
• Special discount offers on products from NVFC partners
Department Membership

**Dues: $50 per year**

The NVFC Department Membership is geared to the needs of fire and emergency service departments. Department Members receive:
- Member access to the NVFC web site
- *Dispatch*, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, and Fire Corps e-newsletters
- NVFC news alert email service
- Personalized membership certificate
- Complimentary copies of NVFC resources and manuals
- Eligibility to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union
- Discount on background checks through IntelliCorp for fire department recruits
- Access to the Working Advantage discount program through the department-designated contact
- Discounted registration to Firehouse World, Firehouse Expo, and Firehouse Central.
- Discount on dress uniforms from Lighthouse Uniform Company
- Special discount offers on products from NVFC partners
- Discounted membership and waived registration fee from Snap Fitness health clubs

**All Staff Department Membership***

**Dues: $12 per person; Department Member fee is waived**

* All department personnel must enroll as Personal Members

The NVFC All Staff Department Membership offers a discounted rate for departments who have 100 percent of their personnel enrolled as members in the NVFC. Each member receives all of the NVFC’s great Personal Member benefits, including the $10,000 AD&D insurance policy, and the department receives all of the Department Member benefits.

Junior Membership

**Dues: $12 per year**

Junior firefighters and Explorers ages 17 and younger can take advantage of the many great benefits of being a member of the NVFC. Junior Members receive:
- Special incentive rewards for achieving certain volunteer hour benchmarks
- Member access to the NVFC web site
- *Dispatch*, Junior Firefighter, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, and Fire Corps e-newsletters
- NVFC news alert email service
- Complimentary copies of NVFC resources and manuals
- Eligibility to join the FASNY Federal Credit Union, which offers a wide range of money-saving deposit and lending products, such as loans to pay for college
- Discounted admission and waived application fee from Columbia Southern University, a leading online university which offers online fire science degrees
- Discounts on entertainment, tickets, travel, and shopping through Working Advantage
- Discount on background checks through IntelliCorp for fire department recruits
- Discounted registration to Firehouse World, Firehouse Expo, and Firehouse Central
- Discount on dress uniforms from Lighthouse Uniform Company
- Discounted membership and waived registration fee from Snap Fitness health clubs
- Special discount offers on products from NVFC partners
State Membership

Dues: $500 per year

Forty-nine state fire associations are members of the NVFC. Each state association selects one representative and one alternate to serve on the NVFC’s Board of Directors. A full listing of the NVFC Directors and Alternates is included at the end of this report.

Corporate Membership

Dues: Range from $1,000-$10,000 per year

The NVFC Corporate Members include companies and organizations that are dedicated to supporting America’s volunteer emergency services. There are four levels of Corporate Membership, each with its own set of member benefits.

Chairman’s Club: $10,000
All the benefits of a Sustaining Membership, PLUS:
• Four complimentary ads in the Dispatch e-newsletter
• Four complimentary month-long ads on the NVFC web site
• One complimentary e-blast to the NVFC mailing list
• Logo recognition and web site link in every issue of the Dispatch e-newsletter
• Five complimentary registrations to the NVFC board meetings
• Ten complimentary Personal Memberships in the NVFC
• Company logo included with company profile and link on the NVFC web site

Champion: $5,000
All the benefits of a Sustaining Membership, PLUS:
• Two complimentary ads in the Dispatch e-newsletter
• Two complimentary month-long ads on the NVFC web site
• Two complimentary registrations to the NVFC board meetings
• Five complimentary Personal Memberships in the NVFC

Advocate: $2,500
All the benefits of a Sustaining Membership, PLUS:
• One complimentary ad in the Dispatch e-newsletter
• One complimentary month-long ad on the NVFC web site
• One complimentary registration to the NVFC board meeting
• Two complimentary Personal Memberships in the NVFC

Sustaining: $1,000
• Networking opportunities with potential customers
• One complimentary Personal Membership in the NVFC
• Acknowledgement in materials and at events throughout the year
• Subscription to the Dispatch, Heart-Healthy Firefighter, and Fire Corps e-newsletters
• Discount on NVFC advertising rates
• Year-long recognition and company profile with link on the NVFC web site
• Ability to promote your support of the NVFC and use of “Proud supporter of the NVFC” logo
• Ability to send an e-blast to the NVFC mailing list for an additional $1000 per e-blast (pending NVFC approval of content)
2010 Corporate Members

Chairman’s Club
- National Fire Protection Association
- Pierce Manufacturing, Inc.
- Rosenbauer Firefighting

Sustaining
- Amerex Corp.
- E-One
- Emergency Reporting
- Firehouse Central
- Firehouse Expo
- Firetec
- Globe Manufacturing Company
- Honeywell First Responder Products
- Insurance Services Office, Inc.
- International Code Council
- L.N. Curtis & Sons
- Lion Apparel
- Penflex, Inc.
- The Pennsylvania Fireman
- RBC Wealth Management
- SuperVac
- TEEX Emergency Services Training
- W.S. Darley & Co.
- Waterous Company

Affiliated Organizations
- Congressional Fire Services Institute
- EMS Magazine/Advanced Rescue Technology
- FEMSA
- Fire Chief Magazine
- Fire Department Network News
- Fire Department Safety Officers Association
- Fire Engineering Magazine
- Firehouse Magazine
- Firehouse.com
- FireRescue1.com
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- IFSTA
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- JEMS Communications
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
- PennWell

Champion
Communications

Providing relevant, accurate, and up-to-date information to volunteer fire and emergency service organizations and personnel is a vital part of the NVFC’s mission. The NVFC achieves this through a series of communications methods including web sites, newsletters, trade show exhibits, social networking, media outreach, and other opportunities.

Web Sites

The NVFC maintains a series of web sites for first responders to access news, information, and resources.

www.nvfc.org

The NVFC web site contains important information and resources for the volunteer fire and emergency services. These include tools such as the Fire and EMS Cost Savings Calculators, the State Benefits Guide, and resources for retention and recruitment, grant-writing, and health and safety. The site is the go-to place for breaking NVFC and fire service news as well as information regarding legislation, standards, grants and funding, federal regulations, emergency preparedness, and much more. A special Members-Only section allows NVFC members to access even more resources and tools. Whether you are a department member, a family member of a first responder, or someone who simply wants to learn more about the volunteer emergency services, the NVFC web site contains the information you need.

www.nvfc.org/juniors

A special section of the NVFC web site is dedicated to the National Junior Firefighter Program. This section provides resources for both junior firefighters and administrators of junior firefighter programs, including tools for starting or expanding a local program, a listing of junior firefighter scholarship opportunities, a compendium of schools that offer fire science degrees, and more. The site also features updated news and information about the National Junior Firefighter Program.

Departments can register their program for free on the web site to access even more resources, including being featured in a searchable nationwide listing of junior programs and monitoring their members’ junior firefighting activities. Junior firefighters and Explorers can use the site to find a local program, track their hours of service, and more. There is also a forum that lets junior firefighters and program advisors connect with their peers from across the country to share ideas, ask questions, and get advice.

www.healthy-firefighter.org

The NVFC maintains the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program web site to provide information and resources to help emergency services personnel get and stay heart-healthy. Sections on heart basics, fitness, nutrition, and lifestyle are supplemented by tools such as the Adopt the Program initiative, Fired Up for Fitness Challenge, and the NVFC Heart-Healthy Firefighter Resource Guide. The site also includes success stories, heart-healthy recipes, monthly health and wellness challenge ideas, and more.

www.healthy-firefighter.org/putitout

A special section of the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program web site that is dedicated to the Put It Out smoking cessation campaign launched in 2010. The NVFC partnered with Pfizer to develop Put It Out to encourage and motivate first responders to quit smoking and stay quit, as well as provide resources to family members, departments, and state associations to support smoking cessation initiatives. The site contains a ‘quit calendar,’ steps for how to quit, statistics and facts about smoking, sample documents such as press releases and no-smoking policies, outreach letters, motivational tools, and more.
The Fire Corps web site contains tools and resources to help departments and community members start, manage, and market local Fire Corps programs. These include resource guides like the Fire Corps Department Starter Kit, customizable sample documents, fire prevention resources, and a searchable database of registered Fire Corps programs. An improved login area was launched at the end of 2010 to make it easier for departments to register and maintain their program profiles as well as access additional resources. Registration with Fire Corps is free. Departments looking to implement, expand, or recruit for a Fire Corps program, community members looking to join a Fire Corps program, and active Fire Corps volunteers will find what they need on the web site.

The NVFC partnered with the International Code Council to develop the Sound the Alarm web site in 2010. Sound the Alarm is a community outreach and education program designed to reduce rural community fire hazards and other potential dangers in residential homes. The web site provides tools and resources for conducting a smoke alarm installation and home safety check campaign in the community. These include a home safety checklist, smoke alarm data sheet, web site banners, and more. Online forms are also available for departments to declare their desire to participate in Sound the Alarm and for local families to request smoke alarm installations for their own home.

The NVFC produces several electronic newsletters to keep our members and other interested persons up-to-date on issues affecting the fire and emergency services.

- The NVFC E-update is a monthly electronic newsletter that contains information about legislation, calls to action, training opportunities, grants, NVFC news, and much more. Beginning in January 2011, the E-update will be replaced with an electronic version of the Dispatch newsletter.
- The Heart-Healthy Firefighter E-news is a monthly electronic newsletter intended to increase awareness in the fire and emergency services of how to prevent serious heart-related problems, including heart attack, and maintain a heart-healthy lifestyle. Each issue contains items such as program and general health news, fitness and nutrition tips, monthly wellness challenge ideas, and upcoming events offered by the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program.
- The Fire Corps E-update is a monthly electronic newsletter that focuses on issues and news related to Fire Corps, a locally-driven Citizen Corps program that allows community members to offer their time and talents to their local fire and EMS departments in non-emergency roles.
- The EMS Update is a monthly electronic newsletter that focuses on issues of importance to the emergency medical and rescue services. The newsletter launched in 2010 as a resource offered by the NVFC’s EMS/Rescue Section. Each issue contains news, information, and resources specifically designed for EMS responders.
The Junior Firefighter E-news is the newsletter of the National Junior Firefighter Program. It is sent out every other month to provide information and resources to junior firefighters as well as junior firefighter program coordinators. This includes program news, activity ideas, tips, and more.

The Fire Corps State Advocate Newsletter goes out every other month to the Fire Corps State Advocate Network. It provides resources and information to the State Advocates to assist them in their role as promoters of Fire Corps in their states and mentors to local Fire Corps programs. To learn more about the Fire Corps State Advocate Network, visit www.firecorps.org.

The NVFC News Alert is sent out to inform NVFC members of breaking news and information in between the regularly scheduled e-newsletters.

The NVFC Legislative Alert was launched in 2010 using the CapWiz grassroots advocacy outreach tool. Alerts are sent out to the NVFC distribution list when action is needed on important legislative items in Congress. The tool allows members to click a link in the Alert that routes to a web page containing a pre-drafted letter that readers can easily send to their elected officials simply by entering their contact information and clicking ‘send.’

Members can sign up for the e-newsletters by logging in to the Members-Only section of the NVFC site, clicking on the “Update My Information” link and then “Edit Information,” and checking the boxes of the e-newsletters you want to receive and clicking “Save.” Non-members can sign up for the e-newsletters by going to the Members-Only homepage, clicking on “New Visitor Registration” and entering your email address, and filling out the subsequent form with your first and last name, checking the boxes of the e-newsletters you want to receive, and clicking “Save.”

Dispatch Newsletter

The last printed issue of the NVFC quarterly newsletter – the Dispatch – was sent out in fall 2010. The printed Dispatch was sent to all NVFC members and contained news, information, and issues of interest to the fire and emergency services, including special sections on legislative/government updates, the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, Fire Corps, the National Junior Firefighter Program, EMS, retention and recruitment, and staff activities.

Beginning in January 2011, the Dispatch will relaunch as an electronic newsletter and switch to a monthly schedule. The new Dispatch will combine elements of the printed version with elements of the NVFC E-update, which it will replace. The new format will allow for a more efficient and timely way to get information to NVFC members than the printed Dispatch offered, as well as expanded content from what the NVFC E-update offered.
Trade Shows

Trade shows give NVFC staff and board members the opportunity to meet directly with our membership and to promote the organization’s programs and initiatives within the volunteer fire and emergency medical services. The booth features resources that can benefit first responders and their departments, including information about the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, Fire Corps, and the National Junior Firefighter Program, and guides and resources on retention and recruitment, vehicle safety, and more.

In 2010, the NVFC brought its exhibit booth to four national trade shows:

- FDIC (Indianapolis, IN, April 19-24)
- Fire Expo (Harrisburg, PA, May 21-23)
- Firehouse Expo (Baltimore, MD, July 20-25)
- Fire-Rescue International (Chicago, IL, August 24-28)

In addition, the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program brought its booth to six state association conferences:

- California State Firefighters Association Conference (San Diego, CA, March 1-3)
- Wisconsin State Firefighters Association Convention (Stevens Point, WI, March 25-28)
- Nebraska State Fire School (Grand Island, NE, May 21-23)
- New York State Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference and Expo (Verona, NY, June 9-12)
- Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference (Hermiston, OR, June 21-25)
- North Carolina State Firemen’s Association Conference (Raleigh, NC, August 13-14)

In 2011, the NVFC will go to select national trade shows, and the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program will attend eight state conferences and fire schools. Visit www.nvfc.org/calendar and www.healthy-firefighter.org for information on the 2011 booth schedule.

Media Coverage

The NVFC is the go-to source for media in matters relating to the volunteer fire and emergency services. The organization and its programs are routinely referenced in both trade publications and general media outlets. The NVFC also regularly contributes content to national and state fire service publications and web sites.

A highlight of media coverage in 2010 included a segment on the volunteer fire service on CBS Sunday Morning in November, featuring an interview with NVFC Chairman and LaFarge (WI) Fire Department Chief Philip C. Stittleburg. An editorial by Stittleburg regarding the right of career firefighters to volunteer during off-duty hours was also featured in the Washington Times in July.

Social Networking

The NVFC continued to increase its social media presence in 2010. Follow the NVFC on Twitter to get breaking news, announcements, and headlines from the NVFC. ‘Like’ the NVFC, the National Junior Firefighter Program, and Fire Corps pages on Facebook to network with other emergency service members and supporters and stay up-to-date on program news, information, and events. The NVFC will be launching a health and safety blog in January 2011 to focus on topics relating to the NVFC’s Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities/B.E.S.T. Practices. Follow the blog at www.nvfcbestpriorities.blogspot.com.
The NVFC provides resources and tools to help the volunteer fire service thrive. Below are some highlights of resources the NVFC released in 2010. Also see the program sections of this report for program-specific resources released in the past year. Learn more about these and all of the NVFC’s resources at www.nvfc.org.

**Resources**

**National Fire Service Resource Guide**

The NVFC released the *National Fire Service Resource Guide* as a one-stop reference source to provide fire and EMS departments with quick information regarding topics of importance to the fire and emergency services. The guide includes a compilation of available resources and tools that departments can refer to concerning each topic, as well as tips and guidance to help departments in their initiatives.

Topics covered in the guide include: governance, grassroots advocacy, grants, retention and recruitment, media and public relations, line of duty, training, health and safety, public education materials, fire service awards, NVFC membership, and additional resources. Departments are encouraged to print a copy of the guide and place it in a convenient location to provide quick and easy access when they need to find information and resources for the department and personnel.

The guide is available for free on the NVFC web site under the Resources tab. Development of the guide was supported by VFIS and Provident Agency.

**Training White Paper**

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 released a white paper concerning training in the volunteer fire service and the need for improvement.

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. The NVFC white paper focuses on the need for proper training to ensure the safety and effectiveness of firefighters and also examines several barriers to implementing basic training in volunteer fire departments. These barriers include lack of resources, lack of convenient training options for volunteers, and a lack of emphasis on training from leadership within fire departments.

Download the white paper at www.nvfc.org/training.

**Guide to Communicating with Elected Officials**

The NVFC released an updated version of its *Guide to Communicating with Elected Officials* in order to assist fire departments in communicating effectively with their local, state, and federal legislators. The guide provides information and advice on how to engage public policy makers in order to educate them about the needs of the volunteer fire and emergency services. Topics covered include why grassroots advocacy is so important to the fire and emergency services, tips to make advocacy less daunting, the tools for effective communication, information for understanding legislators, and the how-to’s and ‘tricks of the trade’ for volunteer advocacy. Find this and other resources for legislative advocacy in the Volunteer Fire Service Advocacy Center at www.nvfc.org/resources/capitolhillconnection/volunteer-fire-service-advocacy-center/.

**Funeral Procedures for Firefighters, Second Edition**

Firefighting is a dangerous profession. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, about 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year in the U.S. It is only fitting, given the heroic efforts of the fire service personnel, both paid and volunteer, that they be given the final respect they deserve. The NVFC released the second edition of *Funeral Procedures for Firefighters* in response to numerous requests for information about how to properly conduct funeral services. The NVFC also released a companion brochure that highlights the basic steps of implementing a firefighter funeral. Find the full guide, the companion brochure,
and other resources for dealing with the loss of a department member at www.nvfc.org/lodd.

Fire and Emergency Services Grant Writing Guide

The NVFC, with support from the U.S. Fire Administration, developed the Fire and Emergency Services Grant Writing Guide to help departments navigate the complexities of applying for federal grants. Since more requests are made for federal grants each year than there are funds available, it is extremely important to prepare the best grant application possible. Writing a compelling narrative and adhering to numerous rules and guidelines can often be challenging. This guide is designed to make the process less daunting and assist departments and their grant writers in preparing a competitive application for these important grant opportunities. Find this and other grant writing resources at www.nvfc.org/grants.

Critical Health and Safety Issues in the Volunteer Fire Service

The NVFC updated the 2004 Critical Health and Safety Issues in the Volunteer Fire Service study. This included the development and implementation of a survey identifying the new and changing health and safety issues facing the volunteer fire and emergency services. The study resulted in a revised document that addresses key findings as well as provides information on initiatives, programs, and strategies currently available to help reduce fatalities among the nation’s first responders. Highlighted issues include obesity, heart attack, stress, sleep deprivation, behavioral health, and substance abuse.

Guide for Going Green in the Fire Service

People all across the nation are taking steps to decrease their impact on the environment, and there are many ways the fire service can do its part. The NVFC, thanks to support from the U.S. Fire Administration, released the Guide for Going Green in the Fire Service to highlight sustainable practices and inspire departments to reduce their impact on the environment. The guide looks at a range of Earth-friendly steps departments can take, from simple practices such as recycling and energy conservation to complex solutions such as green construction. Some of these green practices have the added benefit of helping the department’s bottom line, such as lowering energy costs. Profiles of several green departments from across the country are also spotlighted. Find this resource at www.nvfc.org/resources/going-green/.

Workshops

The NVFC offered a total of six workshops on retention and recruitment and grant writing in 2010. Five workshops were taught by NVFC’s North Carolina Director and Second Vice Chairman Jeff Cash, including a retention and recruitment workshop at the West Virginia Fire School and a series of four workshops (two of each) in Bismarck and Fargo, North Dakota. Rhode Island Alternate Director Kevin Quinn taught the retention and recruitment workshop during the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts’ annual conference.

Arson Awareness Week 2010

The NVFC partnered with the U.S. Fire Administration to help promote the 2010 Arson Awareness Week and distribute information and resources to the volunteer fire and emergency services.
Partnerships

The NVFC frequently partners with other organizations and companies on projects of mutual interest designed to benefit and further the volunteer emergency services. Below are highlights of the NVFC’s partnerships in 2010. Also see the program sections for additional partnerships related to specific programs.

ADT Pet Fire Safety Day

The NVFC partnered with ADT Security Services and the American Kennel Club for Pet Fire Safety Day on July 15. The partnership, which began in 2008, works to educate pet owners about potential risks when pets are left home alone as well as provide the public with fire prevention and home safety measures to ensure the safety of everyone in the household, including pets.

An estimated 500,000 pets are affected by home fires each year. In addition, data analysis by the National Fire Protection Association shows that nearly 1,000 house fires each year are accidentally started by the homeowner’s pet. Pet Fire Safety Day is designed to educate the public on how they can prevent and prepare for emergencies and present solutions for reducing these tragic instances.

In addition to the awareness campaign, the NVFC and ADT partnered with fire departments across the country to distribute pet alert window clings. Community members can put these clings in their windows to alert rescuers as to the number and types of pets in the house. The NVFC also provides a web page with a list of departments distributing the clings as well as important pet fire safety tips that departments can distribute in their communities. In areas where a department is not distributing the alert clings, they can be ordered for free at www.adt.com/pets.

ADT Security Services, a Tyco International company, is the world’s largest electronic security company. In North America, ADT helps provide peace of mind protection to over six million residential, commercial and government customers. Headquartered in Boca Raton, FL, ADT employs 24,000 people at over 240 locations in the U.S. and Canada. More information is available at www.adt.com.

Ashburn Hill Corporation

The NVFC partnered with Ashburn Hill Corp. (AHC), maker of the patented TECGEN® fiber for personal protective apparel, to support the fire service in a variety of ways. The partnership focuses on the mutual goal of keeping first responders safe and included furthering firefighter health and safety through National Firefighter Health Week, distributing valuable resources at industry trade shows, sponsoring the NVFC spring meeting, and much more.

“We are very pleased to partner with AHC to further the safety and well-being of first responders across the nation,” said NVFC Executive Director Heather Schafer. “Like the NVFC, AHC, with its innovative TECGEN® products, is committed to keeping firefighters safe and preventing the tragedies of death and injury. By joining our efforts together, we can reach even more first responders with important safety messages.”

As part of the partnership, AHC sponsored two major components of National Firefighter Health Week 2010. This included a special edition of The Pulse printed newsletter, which was sent to every department in the country. In addition, AHC sponsored the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) focus day of National Firefighter Health Week to educate first responders on health and safety issues related to PPE and motivate them to always follow proper PPE protocol. The proper use of PPE is one of the NVFC’s health and safety priorities, and AHC created TECGEN® as an innovative protective apparel solution to keep firefighters safe and comfortable during response.

Other elements of the partnership included providing a co-branded bag at the NVFC trade show booth to ensure visitors could take home valuable resources,
conducting a national postcard mailing to alert first responders of important health and safety initiatives, sponsorship of the NVFC spring meeting, and the introduction of a special Fire-Resistant T-shirt where a portion of the proceeds are donated to the NVFC.

Ashburn Hill Corp., based in Greenville, SC, with manufacturing in Angleton, TX, is dedicated to bringing innovative protective apparel solutions to the industrial and firefighter markets. With their patented TECGEN® fiber, AHC has developed the next-generation of flame resistant garments, including products such as TECGEN XTREME® coveralls, TECGEN SELECT® coveralls, and TECGEN® base layers and hoods. Through their unwavering commitment to ‘Advance the Science of Safety,’ the company is developing products that increase industrial and firefighter workers’ comfort as they meet and exceed regulatory compliance standards. For more information, visit www.TECGENFR.com.

Columbia Southern University Scholarships

For the second year, the NVFC partnered with Columbia Southern University (CSU) to award scholarships to two NVFC members to attend CSU. The recipients were selected based on a competitive application process open to all NVFC members. CSU provided one two-year scholarship towards a Bachelor’s degree program and one two-year scholarship towards an Associate’s degree program. Both scholarships included tuition and books.

“We received many outstanding applications, and we thank everyone who applied for this terrific opportunity,” said NVFC Executive Director Heather Schafer. “With an online format and flexible schedule, Columbia Southern University is a great option for busy first responders who want to achieve their educational goals. We appreciate CSU offering these scholarship opportunities to NVFC members and for their continued support of the volunteer fire and emergency services.”

Kevin Painter won the scholarship towards a Bachelor’s degree. He first entered the fire service over five years ago as a junior member of the Blue Ridge Mountain Volunteer Fire Company in Harpers Ferry, WV, and has since risen through the ranks to Assistant Fire Chief. Painter places great value in higher education and feels that fire line officers should have education beyond fire academy training. Since age 16, he has continually taken classes to become further educated and qualified in various aspects of the fire service. The financial assistance provided by the CSU scholarship will allow him to achieve his dream of earning a Bachelor’s degree.

Keith Wolven received the scholarship towards an Associate’s degree. He began his service in 1984 as a volunteer firefighter for a small rural department in MO. He has since become a career Assistant Fire Chief with the Southern Stone County Fire Protection District, a primarily volunteer department in Brandon West, MO, and is currently also serving as the Interim Fire Chief with the District. The scholarship will enable Wolven to earn his Associate’s degree in Fire Science. He then intends to pursue a Bachelor’s degree and apply for the Executive Fire Officer program with the National Fire Academy.

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One of the nation’s first online universities, CSU offers a wide range of degree programs in a variety of fields including fire science, business administration, human resource management, and more. With its flexible learning format, open enrollment, and self-
paced programs, earning a degree is achievable for those with even the busiest and most unpredictable schedules. The format is ideal for volunteer firefighters, who are juggling the fire service, full-time jobs, family, and other responsibilities. All NVFC members and their families receive a 10 percent discount and waived application fee to CSU.

Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade™ Grants

For the third year, the NVFC partnered with Georgia-Pacific to increase the outreach efforts to fire departments eligible for the Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade™ grant program. The program helps departments in communities with Georgia-Pacific facilities — many of which are volunteer and combination departments — purchase needed gear and equipment. Grants have been used to fund a variety of necessities, including turn-out gear, extrication equipment, vehicle repairs or purchases, water pumps, hoses and nozzles, programming initiatives, and more.

Georgia-Pacific awarded $175,000 in grants in 2010, the largest amount awarded in the program’s history. Twenty-five recipients were selected from more than 120 applicants in 23 states. Georgia-Pacific also provided all applicants with a Department Membership in the NVFC.

“We know first-hand the significant role these fire units play in the life of a community. The Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade is one way we say ‘thank you’ for their work,” said Jim Hannan, CEO and President of Georgia-Pacific. “Many of our own employees are members of their local fire and rescue units, so we also know the need for the financial support necessary to safely continue the work these departments do.”

Launched in 2006, the Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade has contributed more than $600,000 to rural and small town fire units in communities with Georgia-Pacific facilities. The program supports firefighters with cash donations for programming and purchasing necessary equipment, and with materials for fire safety education in local schools.

Headquartered at Atlanta, Georgia-Pacific is one of the world’s leading manufacturers and marketers of building products, tissue, packaging, paper, cellulose and related chemicals. The company employs more than 40,000 people at approximately 300 locations in North America, South America and Europe. Georgia-Pacific creates long-term value by using resources efficiently to provide innovative products and solutions that meet the needs of customers and society, while operating in a manner that is environmentally and socially responsible and economically sound. The familiar consumer tissue brands of Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products LP include Quilted Northern®, Angel Soft®, Brawny®, enMotion®, Sparkle®, Mardi Gras® and Vanity Fair®, Dixie Consumer Products LLC, a Georgia-Pacific company, manufactures the Dixie® brand of tabletop products. Georgia-Pacific has long been among the nation’s leading manufacturers and suppliers of building products to lumber and building materials dealers and large do-it-yourself warehouse retailers, with brands such as Plytanium® plywood, DryPly® water repellent plywood, Ply-Beam® panels and Wood I Beam™ joists offered by Georgia-Pacific Wood Products LLC and DensArmor Plus® interior panels, DensGlass® Sheathing and ToughRock® drywall offered by Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC. For more information, visit [www.gp.com](http://www.gp.com).

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Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade™

Launched in 2006, the Georgia-Pacific Bucket Brigade has contributed more than $600,000 to rural and small town fire units in communities with Georgia-Pacific facilities. The program supports firefighters with cash donations for programming and purchasing necessary equipment, and with materials for fire safety education in local schools.

Headquartered at Atlanta, Georgia-Pacific is one of the world’s leading manufacturers and marketers of building products, tissue, packaging, paper, cellulose and related chemicals. The company employs more than 40,000 people at approximately 300 locations in North America, South America and Europe. Georgia-Pacific creates long-term value by using resources efficiently to provide innovative products and solutions that meet the needs of customers and society, while operating in a manner that is environmentally and socially responsible and economically sound. The familiar consumer tissue brands of Georgia-Pacific Consumer Products LP include Quilted Northern®, Angel Soft®, Brawny®, enMotion®, Sparkle®, Mardi Gras® and Vanity Fair®, Dixie Consumer Products LLC, a Georgia-Pacific company, manufactures the Dixie® brand of tabletop products. Georgia-Pacific has long been among the nation’s leading manufacturers and suppliers of building products to lumber and building materials dealers and large do-it-yourself warehouse retailers, with brands such as Plytanium® plywood, DryPly® water repellent plywood, Ply-Beam® panels and Wood I Beam™ joists offered by Georgia-Pacific Wood Products LLC and DensArmor Plus® interior panels, DensGlass® Sheathing and ToughRock® drywall offered by Georgia-Pacific Gypsum LLC. For more information, visit [www.gp.com](http://www.gp.com).
International Code Council Sound the Alarm Program

In the spring of 2010, the International Code Council (ICC) received a Fire Prevention & Safety Grant from the federal government to implement Sound the Alarm, a community outreach and education program designed to reduce rural community fire hazards and other potential dangers in residential homes. The NVFC is coordinating the implementation of this program. In this first phase of the project, a pilot program was launched in three states: Alabama, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

For the pilot programs, 19 teams consisting of fire department members, Fire Corps volunteers, and building officials are conducting home safety checks, installing smoke alarms, and completing follow-up evaluations. All materials are provided to the teams, including smoke alarms, installation kits, and informational handouts for the families. The states participating in the pilot programs were chosen in part because of their high fire death rates.

“The NVFC is so pleased to partner with the ICC on this project, which brings Fire Corps teams and local building code officials together to provide smoke alarms to those in need,” said Heather Schafer, Executive Director of the NVFC.

The Sound the Alarm web site at www.soundthealarmtoday.org launched in August. It contains a multitude of resources about fire and general home safety, as well as information about smoke alarms. The resources are available for participating Sound the Alarm teams, Fire Corps teams, emergency service departments, and the general public.

The goal of the pilot programs is for each team to reach three homes per month, totaling over 340 homes in the course of the pilots. As of the end of December 2010, 43 home visits had been conducted. The results of these initial visits were as follows:

- Only 12% of homes had a fire extinguisher on every level of the home.
- 85% of homes did not have any carbon monoxide detectors.
- 93% of homes did not have smoke alarms in every bedroom.
- 35% of homes only had one smoke alarm previously installed; 16% did not have a smoke alarm at all.
- 37% of homes had at least one smoke alarm that was not working.
- 42% had smoke alarms that were over 10 years old.
- Approximately 40% of decks contained boards that were rotting or decayed.
- 33% of decks did not have proper railings.
- Only 28% of households had an escape plan.

The ICC will be seeking another grant to continue Sound the Alarm in 2011. If the grant is awarded, additional teams from rural communities will be sought out to participate. Learn more, access resources, and sign up for the Sound the Alarm e-mail list at www.soundthealarmtoday.org.

The ICC, a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention, and energy efficiency, develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties, and states choose the International Codes, building safety codes developed by the ICC. The International Codes also serve as the basis for construction of federal properties around the world, and as a reference for many nations outside the United States. Learn more at www.iccsafe.org.
**Pfizer Put It Out Campaign**

Smoking cessation is an important step to a heart-healthy lifestyle. The NVFC partnered with Pfizer in 2009 to develop the Put It Out campaign to help first responders quit smoking and stay quit. In 2010, the Put it Out web site was launched to provide tools and resources for firefighters and emergency personnel nationwide who are ready to take the steps to stop smoking and lead a healthier, smoke-free lifestyle.

The web site contains sections to assist individuals in quitting smoking, family members in supporting first responders who are quitting, departments in establishing a no-smoking policy and smoking cessation program, and state associations in encouraging their members to adopt a smoke-free lifestyle. Tools and resources include a ‘quit calendar,’ steps for how to quit, statistics and facts about smoking, sample documents such as press releases and no-smoking policies, outreach letters, motivational tools, and more.

Learn more and access program resources at www.healthy-firefighter.org/putitout.

Pfizer applies science and global resources to improve health and well-being at every stage of life. Every day, Pfizer colleagues work across developed and emerging markets to advance wellness, prevention, treatments, and cures that challenge the most feared diseases of our time.

**Prestone® Own it for Good Campaign**

Prestone®, a leading producer of antifreeze/coolant, partnered with the NVFC to hold three car winterizing events in November as part of the “Own it for Good” campaign. This nationwide initiative spotlights and helps vehicle owners who use their cars “for good.” Prestone provided complimentary winterization for the personal vehicles of over 110 volunteer firefighters in the metropolitan areas of Chicago, New York City, and Washington, DC, as well as made a monetary contribution to the host departments and the NVFC.

“There are very few organizations in this country that rely on their personal vehicles more than volunteer firefighters,” says Kelley O’Donnell, Director of Marketing Global Coolants for Prestone. “Our goal is to provide an important service to these men and women while also informing the public that proper vehicle maintenance is vital in these tough winter months.”

At each event, Prestone’s certified technicians winterized dozens of vehicles for local volunteer firefighters. The technicians were joined by firefighter and former NFL player Erron Kinney, who has more than 10 years of volunteer firefighting experience that spans back to his days at the University of Florida. In addition, Prestone donated $5,000 to each of these departments and $15,000 to the NVFC in support of the volunteer fire service. The events were hosted by the Manhasset-Lakeville (NY) Fire Department, the East Hazel Crest (IL) Fire Department, and the Cabin John Park (MD) Volunteer Fire Department.

Honeywell Consumer Products Group, a business unit within the Honeywell Transportation Systems segment of Honeywell International Inc., has headquarters in Danbury, CT. Its leading automotive care products include FRAM® oil, air, transmission and fuel filters; Autolite® spark plugs and ignition wire sets; Prestone® antifreeze and car care products; and Holts® car care. It maintains R&D capabilities in both the United States and Europe and has a manufacturing footprint in 10 countries worldwide.
Six Flags America Firefighter’s Appreciation Days

The NVFC partnered with Six Flags America for Firefighter’s Appreciation Days on August 16-22. First responders and their families and friends from Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, and the surrounding area received a 60 percent discount off of regularly priced tickets to the Maryland theme park during the event. Coinciding with National Firefighter Health Week, the event celebrated the hard work and dedication of firefighters, both volunteer and career, all over the world.

WSFFA 1-800-FIRE-LINE Partnership

The Washington State Fire Fighters’ Association (WSFFA) began a combined media campaign for 1-800-FIRE-LINE in December and partnered with the NVFC for management of the influx of inquiries to the line. The NVFC developed an online form, voicemail script, and follow-up surveys for both department representatives and prospective volunteers. Learn more about 1-800-FIRE-LINE in the Fire Corps section of this report. Learn more about WSFFA at www.wsffa.org.
International Outreach

The NVFC is committed to fostering relationships and encouraging idea-exchange with the international fire service community and continued these efforts in 2010. These included meetings with fire service leaders from Central and South America, Greece, and Japan.

“There are many issues affecting the fire service that cross international boundaries, such as retention and recruitment, funding, and health and safety, among others,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “When we can get together and discuss these issues, we take steps towards finding solutions that can benefit all firefighters. It is important to keep an international dialog open between the U.S. and other nations so that we can exchange ideas, share our challenges and successes, and keep the lines of communication open. We have so much we can learn from each other.”

In September, Stittleburg attended a meeting of the Organización de Bomberos Americanos, a group of fire service representatives from throughout North and South America. The meeting, which took place in Chicago, IL, was an opportunity for many nations throughout the Americas to discuss the fire service in their countries, share ideas, and explore common issues. Stittleburg gave a presentation on the U.S. fire service and the role the NVFC plays in representing volunteers. Stittleburg previously attended a meeting of the Organización de Bomberos Americanos in Argentina in 2008.

Also in September, NVFC Director Mike Bird (MA) and Alternate Director Kevin Quinn (RI) met with Makis Tsioguris, the president of the Union of Hellenic Fire Service Volunteers, the organization that represents the 2,000 volunteer firefighters in Greece. In addition to discussing the fire service in both countries, Tsioguris participated in a live fire training exercise at Quinn’s department, Union Fire District (RI), and attended the annual lobster bake at the West Barnstable (MA) Fire Department.

Bird and Quinn were among the NVFC representatives that met with a delegation from the Japan Firefighters Association in Rhode Island and Connecticut in October. Former NVFC Board members John McAuliffe (CT) and Jim Williams (NY), Executive Director Heather Schafer, and Director of Health and Safety Amy Tarte also participated in the meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest and further the lines of communication between the fire services of the two nations.

The Japan Firefighters Association made a $5,000 donation to the NVFC’s Disaster Relief Fund and attended a live fire training exercise at the Union Fire District facility. In addition, they presented a medal to McAuliffe for his work to foster the relationship between the U.S. and Japanese fire services. McAuliffe has played a pivotal role in coordinating communications between the two countries in recent years and was instrumental in facilitating much of the progress and idea-sharing that has taken place.

Leaders from the NVFC have previously hosted delegations from the Japan Firefighters Association, including a visit in 2005 when the Association made a donation to the NVFC’s Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund, and in 2007 when a Japanese delegation including members of the Association toured the U.S. The Japan Firefighters Association has invited Schafer to speak at their conference in February. The organization is particularly interested in junior firefighting programs and retention and recruitment, and Schafer will provide an overview of these issues in the U.S.

These recent meetings are part of the NVFC’s ongoing efforts to foster communications with the international fire service community. The NVFC is cultivating relationships with fire service leaders in many countries, including meetings in 2007 with firefighters from Finland and England. In 2008, NVFC Chairman Stittleburg participated in the International Volunteer Fire Service Conference in Tokyo, which brought together fire service leaders from North America, Asia, Europe, and Australia. The NVFC will continue to work with the international fire service to address issues of importance to firefighters worldwide.
Fire Corps

Fire Corps is a federally-funded, grassroots effort to connect community members with their local fire/EMS department. Launched in December 2004, Fire Corps is one of five programs under the Department of Homeland Security’s Citizen Corps initiative. It is administered on a national level by the NVFC, in partnership with other national fire service organizations that make up the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee. Fire Corps is also supported by the U.S. Fire Administration and is funded through the Department of Homeland Security and Citizen Corps.

Fire Corps increases the capacity of volunteer, career, and combination fire and EMS departments by engaging the talents and skills of community volunteers in non-emergency roles such as fire safety and prevention education, administrative work, fundraising, vehicle maintenance, or whatever the department needs. This frees up department members to focus on training and emergency response, as well as increases the services the department can offer. In return, community members gain a better understanding of the fire and emergency services and become better prepared to handle their own emergencies as well as those of their neighbors.

In 2010, 125 new programs registered with Fire Corps, reporting 1,340 additional volunteers. As of December 31, Fire Corps had a total of 1,107 local programs with 16,171 active and engaged community volunteers in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Conferences and Outreach
Throughout the year, Fire Corps representatives exhibited at national, regional, and state conferences; conducted workshops and seminars; and participated in speaking engagements and presentations at events across the nation. These activities include:

- 12th Annual Smoky Mountain Weekend, Sevierville, TN, March
- Firehouse World, San Diego, CA, March
- FDIC, Indianapolis, IN, April
- Fire Expo, Harrisburg, PA, May
- Michigan Fire Corps Training Conference, Mt. Pleasant, MI, June
- National Urban Areas Security Initiative Conference, New Orleans, LA, June
- Texas Unites 2010: Texas Citizen Corps and Texas VOAD Inaugural Conference, Dallas, TX, June
- Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference, Hermiston, Oregon, June
- Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association Conference, Lacrosse, WI, June
- Vision 20/20 Model Performance in Fire Prevention Symposium, Baltimore, MD, June
- Firehouse Expo, Baltimore, MD, July
- Fire-Rescue International, Chicago, IL, August
- 2010 UASI Citizen Corps Conference: Integrating Preparedness, Response and Recovery Partners, Portland, OR, November
- IAFC-VCOS Symposium in the Sun, Clearwater Beach, FL, November
- 2010 State of Michigan Citizen Corps Training Conference, Traverse City, MI, December

State Advocate Network
Fire Corps State Advocates assist local fire/EMS departments in their designated geographic area who are establishing or implementing a Fire Corps program. The purpose of the Fire Corps State Advocate Network is to harness the energy of the Fire Corps program at the state and local level by sharing resources and information to make local, state, and national Fire Corps efforts better and stronger. These representatives assist the Fire Corps national office in promoting the program and help new and existing programs expand their services.

In 2010, Fire Corps appointed 12 new State Advocates, bringing the total number to 49 Advocates in 36 states. Fire Corps continues to maintain communication with Advocates through monthly conference
calls, State Advocate activity reporting, and monthly reports shared from the national office. Official Fire Corps email addresses were also created for each Advocate to make it easier for local programs to contact them. A full list of State Advocates and their contact information is available on the Fire Corps web site.

Fire Corps held its first State Advocate Summit on November 6 in Arlington, VA. The event gave over 30 Fire Corps State Advocates from across the country the chance to network and meet face-to-face for the first time to discuss how to further the Fire Corps program in their states.

During the Summit, Advocates were given an update on Fire Corps from the national perspective and benefited from dynamic presentations from fellow State Advocates on topics including collaborating with agencies and stakeholders such as Citizen Corps Councils, using the State Regional Advocates and incident command system methodology, marketing Fire Corps, and utilizing Fire Corps volunteers in rehab programs. In addition, Jenelle Gabriele from the Individual and Community Preparedness Division for FEMA joined the group to talk about Citizen Corps grants and funding for Fire Corps programs.

“This was a tremendous event,” said Fire Corps Director Sarah Lee. “The State Advocate Network is a valuable resource for Fire Corps programs nationwide. The Summit gave Advocates a chance to learn from each other and generate ideas to strengthen programs in their state.”

Fire Corps Academy

Fire Corps developed a series of courses for a new Fire Corps Academy designed to help fire/EMS departments and Fire Corps coordinators establish, manage, and expand a local program. The first two modules of the Academy were launched in the fall of 2010.

FC-100: Introduction to Fire Corps was first presented on November 12 at the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section Symposium in the Sun in Clearwater Beach, FL. Nearly 40 attendees participated in this introductory course to learn about Fire Corps and the steps to establish a community support program in their department. The course was taught by Eddie Buchanan, Division Chief of the Hanover County (VA) Public Safety Department and member of the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee and Curriculum Development Committee.

FC-100 was piloted again along with a subsequent module, FC-200: Starting and Implementing a Fire Corps Program, at the 2010 State of Michigan Citizen Corps Training Conference in Traverse City on December 3-4. MI State Advocate and Macomb Township Fire Corps Manager Dwayne Thompson instructed the courses, and Fire Corps Director Sarah Lee provided an update to attendees about the progress of Fire Corps, including current and upcoming initiatives and resources. FC-200 teaches program leaders how to successfully develop a Fire Corps program along with avoiding and mitigating issues that slow or hinder progress.

“We are so pleased to launch the Fire Corps Academy,” said Fire Corps Director Sarah Lee. “We had a great turnout and received very positive feedback from the participants at both events. Thank you to VCOS and the Michigan Citizen Corps Program for their generosity in hosting the Fire Corps Academy workshops.”

Additional modules will be released throughout 2011 and will be offered both online and in-person. Stay tuned to the Fire Corps web site for more information and additional course opportunities.
Grassroots Forums

Fire Corps hosted its final two regional roundtable forums in San Antonio, TX, and Hermiston, OR, in early 2010. Along with two additional grassroots forums held in Glen Allen, VA, and Macomb Township, MI, in 2009, these meetings were designed to identify best practices, challenges, effective retention and recruitment practices, and recommendations and feedback for Fire Corps from the grassroots level.

Fire Corps received tremendous feedback from participants about successes and challenges encountered by local programs. The forums provided an opportunity for key stakeholders, from local volunteers and program coordinators to the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s regional coordinators, to network, share ideas, and discuss how Fire Corps initiatives can be supported at the local, state, and national level.

The Grassroots Forums Report was released in October. It provides a compendium of ideas and information gathered through the four events, including challenges, innovative practices, and recommendations to strengthen the Fire Corps program. The data gathered from these events will be used to help identify future Fire Corps activities and resources. The report is available to local Fire Corps programs to allow them to learn and benefit from the experience of others. Find the report at www.firecorps.org/implement.

1-800-FIRE-LINE

1-800-FIRE-LINE is a national recruitment campaign allowing community members to call toll-free from anywhere in the country to learn about both local emergency and non-emergency (Fire Corps) volunteer opportunities in the fire and emergency services. The campaign is managed on the national level by the NVFC through Fire Corps. Calls made to 1-800-FIRE-LINE are routed by area code to either the state association in the state from which the person calls or to the Fire Corps national office.

1-800-FIRE-LINE was promoted nationally in many ways throughout 2010. The campaign’s web site at www.1800fireline.org was reorganized to make it easier for prospective volunteers to learn more about subjects such as what to expect as a volunteer firefighter/EMT or non-emergency volunteer and commonly used fire service jargon. Monthly advertisements on Facebook generated over 5,000 clicks to the Fireline web site. Other methods of promotion included distribution of bumper stickers, window clings, door hangers, and static cling posters.

For the first time, a survey was conducted among all of the state representatives for 1-800-FIRE-LINE. The results provided the national office with information on what kinds of assistance were most valuable and most needed, which resources are most helpful, and new ideas for promotional items to advertise the line. The survey also revealed the creative and innovative ways that states are advertising the line on their own.

Award of Excellence

Fire Corps bestowed the 2010 Award of Excellence to the Seymour (TN) Volunteer Fire Department Support Services Division. Sponsored by the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Fire Protection Publications, the Award of Excellence annually honors a Fire Corps program whose remarkable achievements in the fire and emergency services and the community exemplify outstanding performance. Seymour Support Services Division received the award during a special presentation at the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee Meeting in Greenbelt, MD, on November 8.
“The Seymour Support Services Division is an exemplary Fire Corps program that has truly made a positive impact on their department and community,” said Fire Corps Director Sarah Lee. “This program embodies Fire Corps’ mission and demonstrates how citizen volunteers can be active in their fire department and the emergency services.”

The Support Services Division is extremely active within their department. Started in 2007, the Division has grown to include 12 members and a rehab/command vehicle that responds to all of the department’s structure fires and vehicle accidents involving entrapment. In addition to providing rehab services, Division members participate in department training programs as well as their own monthly training to ensure everyone is on the same page. Some Division members are also certified under department policy to operate fire apparatus and support vehicles. This increases the department’s capabilities, especially when additional assets are needed but firefighters are committed to other functions.

Other activities of the Fire Corps team include assisting the department with fundraising, public education, and even social functions, such as helping with a firefighter’s wedding or assisting the family of a firefighter who is sick or injured.

Learn more about the Award of Excellence and the Seymour Support Services Division at www.firecorps.org/award.

Award Sponsors
The mission of IFSTA is to identify areas of need for training materials and foster the development and validation of training materials for the fire service and related areas. IFSTA is an association of fire service personnel who are dedicated to upgrading firefighting techniques and safety through training. Learn more at www.ifsta.org.

Fire Protection Publications (FPP), a department of Oklahoma State University, is the headquarters for IFSTA. Fire Protection Publications’ primary function is to publish and disseminate training manuals as proposed and validated by IFSTA.

IFSTA/FPP will sponsor the Fire Corps Award of Excellence again in 2011.

NAC Meeting
The Fire Corps National Advisory Committee (NAC) met on November 8 in Greenbelt, MD. The NAC, which is comprised of representatives from many national fire and emergency service organizations as well as other prominent leaders in the industry, came together to provide expertise and guidance for Fire Corps’ activities and to discuss the direction of the program.

Fire Corps Director Sarah Lee updated the NAC on the progress of Fire Corps since the group’s last meeting, and Lori Moon, Fire Corps Program Manager, reported on the status of the State Advocate Network. Paulette Aniskoff, Director of the Individual and Community Preparedness Division for FEMA, provided an overview of the Community Preparedness Division’s initiatives, and welcomed feedback from the group.

In addition to the speakers, the NAC participated in a brainstorming session with the goal of ensuring the continued success of the program, as well as reviewed the Fire Corps strategic plan and discussed methods for furthering the Fire Corps message. NAC members also discussed how Fire Corps teams are critical in meeting the needs of fire departments in areas such as emergency rehab.
Fire Corps Evaluation

An evaluation of Fire Corps was conducted by an independent, external research firm in 2010 to measure the success of Fire Corps, its performance, and the results of efforts to promote and sustain the Fire Corps model of volunteer support. The evaluation included a set of surveys administered to Fire Corps program coordinators, citizen volunteers, and State Advocates.

Overall, the evaluation found that Fire Corps teams are helping departments in a variety of ways, that volunteers find their time spent with Fire Corps is rewarding, and that many departments began using citizen volunteers because of the Fire Corps program.

“When Fire Corps launched five and a half years ago, we knew it had a great deal of potential to help fire departments that were struggling to meet the increasing needs of their communities,” said Fire Corps Director Sarah Lee. “We are thrilled to receive such positive results from this external evaluation, and also to learn of areas that can be improved upon moving forward.”

The information gathered from the evaluation will help inform the national office of the program’s strengths and areas of opportunities, as well as guide the future direction for the program and the development of new tools and resources. Download the evaluation report on the Fire Corps web site.

Resources

Fire Corps provides many resources and tools to assist local programs in their efforts to support their fire and emergency service departments and keep their communities safer and better prepared. In 2009, Fire Corps released a series of new and updated resources. Find all these and more at www.firecorps.org.

First Alert Smoke Alarm Donation Program

Fire Corps partnered with First Alert for the second year to donate smoke alarms to registered Fire Corps programs. Programs were able to apply for these free First Alert smoke alarms by filling out the Smoke Alarm Request Form available on the Fire Corps web site. As with the first year, First Alert donated 1,000 smoke alarms to Fire Corps programs in 2010. The program will continue in 2011, with First Alert pledging 1,500 alarms to donate to Fire Corps programs. Learn more at www.firecorps.org/prevention.

Fire Corps Recruitment and Retention Guide

Recruitment and retention of volunteers is critical to the success of a Fire Corps program, yet both can pose significant challenges to the organization seeking help. The Recruitment and Retention Guide: Understanding Volunteerism Today and in the Future helps local programs in their efforts to find and keep volunteers. The guide starts with an examination of volunteerism today to give fire and emergency service departments insight into how to find, recruit, motivate, and retain volunteers. It then provides specific ideas and suggestions for recruiting and retaining volunteers, including where to find potential Fire Corps volunteers, how to reach out to them, and how to sustain the program. Find the Fire Corps Recruitment and Retention Guide at www.firecorps.org/implement.

Third Edition of Fire Corps Resource Guide

The third edition of the Fire Corps Resource Guide was released to help fire/EMS departments wishing to establish or enhance Fire Corps programs. The updated Guide includes information on starting and administering a local program, enhancing an existing program, recruiting and retaining Fire Corps members, and much more. It also profiles several successful Fire Corps programs and provides sample documentation. Find the Guide at www.firecorps.org/implement.

National Preparedness Month Resource Center

National Preparedness Month (NPM), which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, communities, and schools. NPM provides Fire Corps programs a chance to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement in their communities. The theme for NPM 2010 was “Plan Now. Work Together. Be Ready.”

As a member of the NPM Coalition, Fire Corps maintains an online National Preparedness Month Resource Center with new information added each year based on that year’s theme. The Resource Center contains information, tools, and materials relating to general emergency preparedness as well as specific topics including fire safety, terrorism, hurricanes and other weather-related disasters, and pandemic influenza. In addition, Fire Corps released a weekly e-blast throughout the month containing tips Fire Corps teams can use to help keep their communities prepared.

Fire Prevention Week Resources

Fire Prevention Week was October 3-9, and the 2010 theme was “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With.” This theme focused on the importance of smoke alarms in preventing fire deaths, injuries, and property loss. Fire Corps promoted Fire Prevention Week in advance through its various communications tools as well as sent out an e-blast at the beginning of the week. Fire Corps also maintains an online Fire Prevention Week Resource Center at www.firecorps.org/firepreventionweek.
The health and safety of our nation’s volunteer fire and emergency service personnel is a top priority for the NVFC. Each year, first responders are killed or injured due to factors that may have been prevented with the proper safety and health precautions. The NVFC is dedicated to promoting and implementing initiatives to keep first responders healthy and safe. This focus on safety and health continued in 2010 with the introduction of new resources and the expansion of existing initiatives to protect first responders. The NVFC was recognized for its commitment to health and safety in March with the Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award.

The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program
Heart attack is the leading cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities each year. The NVFC launched the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program in 2003 to counter this alarming trend by providing tools, resources, and information to keep first responders healthy and better prepared for the rigors of emergency response. The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, which is supported by federal grants, is the nation’s only heart attack awareness and prevention campaign targeted at all firefighters and emergency services personnel, both volunteer and career.

According to the United States Fire Administration’s (USFA) report *Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2009*, which was released in 2010, 90 firefighters died in the line of duty in 2009. This is one of the lowest totals in the 33 years that USFA has conducted its annual fatality analysis, and represents a significant decrease from the 118 on-duty deaths in 2008. However, 50 of these firefighters died as a result of stress or overexertion, including 39 deaths caused by heart attack. Heart attack continues to be the number one cause of line-of-duty death for firefighters.

The Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program works to reduce the number of firefighter deaths from heart-related illnesses, including heart attack and stroke. This is accomplished by promoting a healthier lifestyle and by providing firefighters with the tools and information they need to become heart-healthy. The Program includes an interactive trade show exhibit, an extensive web site at [www.healthy-firefighter.org](http://www.healthy-firefighter.org), Health and Wellness Advocate training, an online fitness challenge, a monthly electronic newsletter, the *Heart-Healthy Firefighter Resource Guide*, the *Heart-Healthy Firefighter Cookbook*, and other resources and outreach efforts.

The NVFC received a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Department of Homeland Security in 2010 to provide continued support of the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program as well as introduce new components.

**Trade Shows and Speaking Engagements**
Fire service trade shows are an important platform for reaching the grassroots members and leaders of the fire service with health and safety messages and resources. The NVFC took its interactive Heart-Healthy Firefighter booth to six trade shows and fire schools in 2010, visiting California, Wisconsin, Nebraska, New York, Maryland, and North Carolina. The booth contained free cholesterol screenings, a Wii fitness challenge, and resources and tools to help first responders in their efforts to get and stay heart-healthy.

At five of these shows, NVFC board members and staff also presented to attendees about the importance of staying heart-healthy and the resources available through the NVFC and the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program. In addition, NVFC Director of Health and Safety Amy Tarte gave a presentation about the program to students and staff at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

**Health and Wellness Advocate Workshops**
In conjunction with the trade shows and fire schools that hosted the Heart-Healthy Firefighter booth, the NVFC presented six Health and Wellness Advocate Workshops in 2010. These free, two-day workshops promote wellness in the fire service by creating advocacy within fire/EMS departments. Participants learn basic principles behind developing a sound health and fitness program and how they can become advocates for health and wellness within their department.

**Webinars**
The NVFC developed a series of five webinars to educate first responders about important health and
wellness topics. The webinars are available on the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program web site and include:

- **Functional Exercise** - Michelle Detwiler of L&T Health and Fitness discusses how to improve your on-duty performance through targeted workouts.
- **Heart-Health** – Dr. Thomas White describes the anatomy of the heart, how a heart attack happens, and the unique risk factors of a first responder.
- **Nutrition** – Dr. Jeannie Gazzaniga-Moloo explains how to use the nutrition facts label, smart snacking tips, and how to eat healthfully when dining out.
- **Program Design** – Detwiler presents safe and effective training and exercise programs to implement at the station.
- **Smoking Cessation** – NVFC Board member Thomas Miller, LPC, CAC, IADC, leads the “Know Your Health: Why I Smoke and How to Quit” presentation, sponsored by Pfizer.

In addition, the NVFC partnered with Fire Engineering to present “The Heart Healthy Tactical Firefighter” webcast. Hosted by Erron Kinney, firefighter and former NFL Tight End for the Tennessee Titans, the webcast motivates and empowers first responders to combat their risk of heart disease and improve their overall physical readiness. A link to the archived webcast is available on the Heart-Healthy Firefighter web site.

**Looking Forward**

The NVFC will continue to expand the reach of the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program in 2011. This includes bringing the Heart-Healthy Firefighter booth to trade shows and fire schools in eight states, providing eight Health and Wellness Advocate Workshops, introducing a new behavioral health workshop, and providing additional tools and resources to promote health and wellness in the emergency services.

**Health and Safety Priorities**

The NVFC Health and Safety Committee developed the Volunteer Firefighter Health and Safety Priorities in 2009 to guide departments on key issues that will keep members safe and eliminate cases of preventable injury and death. These Priorities are set forth in a series of B.E.S.T. practices divided into four main focus areas: Behavior, Equipment, Standards and Codes, and Training.

In 2010, the NVFC was named one of three recipients of the Congressional Fire Services Institute’s Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Safety Leadership Award in recognition of its efforts to improve the health and safety of first responders through the development and promotion of the B.E.S.T. practices.

“Receiving this award is a great honor for the NVFC and the Health & Safety Committee,” said Kenn Fontenot, Chair of the NVFC Health and Safety Committee. “What you - the leaders of the fire service - can do to enhance this occasion is to adopt the B.E.S.T. practices in your organization. Have written policies and procedures that encompass each of the Priorities and ENFORCE them… We are all aware that 75 percent of all LODD’s result from heart attacks/strokes and going to and coming from incidents… We can and must change these numbers.”

The B.E.S.T. practices have also been featured in national and state emergency service media throughout the year. This includes a series of video news stories on FDNNTV.com and a series of health and safety articles written by NVFC Board members in Firehouse Magazine, among others. The NVFC will continue to keep the B.E.S.T. practices at the forefront of the fire service and is launching a new B.E.S.T. blog in January 2011 to further promote health and safety issues. Learn more about the B.E.S.T. practices and download a poster for your department at www.nvfc.org/health_safety.
National Traffic Incident Management Coalition

The NVFC continued to be an active member of the National Traffic Incident Management Coalition (NTIMC) through the participation of T.J. Nedrow, the NVFC’s Washington State Director, at various stakeholder meetings over the course of the last year.

Firefighter Wellness Program Research Project

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), in collaboration with the NVFC, continues in the second phase of a three phase research project designed to identify barriers and facilitators to firefighter wellness and fitness programs. The project is funded through a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant.

Phase one of the project, which was completed in 2009, featured a series of focus groups with firefighters throughout Maryland. In phase two, which is currently in progress, JHSPH and the NVFC conducted a survey of Maryland firefighters to determine modifiable barriers to and facilitators of implementing a successful department health and wellness program focused on nutrition awareness and behavior change. Based on the results from the survey and focus groups, JHSPH has developed and is currently implementing a pilot intervention using strategies identified from the research. The results will be analyzed in the final phase of the study.

“By using input from firefighters we are better able to develop an effective health and wellness program plan for fire and emergency service departments,” said NVFC Director of Health and Safety Amy Tarte. “We lose more firefighters to heart attack each year than any other cause. This research is critical in finding what programs and policies will work for first responders to that we can reduce these tragedies in the future.”

National Firefighter Health Week

The fourth annual National Firefighter Health Week was held August 16-20. The 2010 theme – Only You Can Keep it Strong. Are You Up for the Challenge? – asked first responders to take personal responsibility for their health and wellness and take the steps necessary to keep their heart, mind, and body strong. Each day of the week was dedicated to a different health issue of particular concern to emergency service personnel: behavioral health, personal protective equipment, heart-health, cancer, and fitness and nutrition.

A National Firefighter Health Week Resource Center was created on the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program web site containing resources, daily activity suggestions, and other tools for each of the focus topics. Thanks to the support of Ashburn Hill Corp. (AHC), a special National Firefighter Health Week edition of The Pulse newsletter was sent to every fire department in the country. AHC also sponsored the personal protective equipment focus day of the week. In addition, the NVFC sent out an e-blast each day of the week featuring information and resources on that day’s topics, as well as partnered with state and local fire service media to reach as many first responders as possible with health and wellness messages.

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. The NVFC launched the initiative in 2007 to create awareness around important health issues in the emergency services and encourage first responders to take action.
Statistics show that the volunteer fire service is an aging population. In addition, volunteer departments are facing challenges retaining and recruiting members at a time when call volume has more than doubled in the past two decades. Departments across the country are struggling to attract younger members to join their ranks and ensure the future of the fire service. Junior firefighter programs are a great way for departments to gain the interest of potential first responders while they are young and help build the next generation of fire and emergency service leaders.

There are thousands of local junior firefighter programs nationwide. The NVFC's National Junior Firefighter Program provides an umbrella program where departments and youth alike can find the resources, tools, and information they need to help develop, grow, enhance, promote, and participate in these local programs.

The goal of the National Junior Firefighter Program is to get more youth involved in the fire and emergency services, thus fostering a lifelong connection with the emergency services where they can continue to serve as first responders or community supporters of the fire service throughout their adulthood. Junior firefighter programs also instill life-enhancing skills and values such as leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and community service in the youth who participate.

Program Sponsors

The National Junior Firefighter Program launched at Firehouse Expo in July 2007 with support from Spartan Motors, Inc. Spartan Motors has continued to be an avid sponsor of the program and has enabled the development and maintenance of many of the program’s key components, such as the program’s website and hour tracking tool, resources, the program’s e-newsletter and the National Junior Firefighter Academy, among others.

Tyco International has sponsored the National Junior Firefighter Program since 2009, supporting the creation of a national awards program, the introduction of a new rewards level for junior firefighters participating in the volunteer hour tracking incentive program, the launch of a national survey, and additional program efforts.

California Casualty and Firehouse Expo supported the creation of the National Junior Firefighter Academy. The inaugural Academy was held at Firehouse Expo in July, followed by a special lunch reception sponsored by MSA.

National Junior Firefighter Academy

The NVFC, in partnership with Spartan Motors, Inc., California Casualty, and Firehouse Expo, presented the first educational session open to all junior firefighters and program advisors nationwide. The National Junior Firefighter Academy took place on Saturday, July 24, as part of Firehouse Expo in Baltimore, MD. A lunch reception was held afterwards, courtesy of MSA.

The Academy featured one session for junior firefighters aged 13-18 and one for program advisors. This inaugural Academy was a great success and was attended by more than 60 youth, advisors, chiefs, and parents of junior firefighters. Presentations included:

- NVFC Executive Director Heather Schafer and Program Manager Rachel Buczynski provided an overview of the National Junior Firefighter Program and the resources available.
- 2010 National Junior Firefighter of the Year Michelle Carilli of the Coventry (CT) Volunteer Fire Association and Jay Stanton, junior firefighter at Elkridge (MD) Volunteer Fire Department, led a youth leadership panel in which junior firefighters shared ideas and best practices from their own programs and departments.
- Mike Barnett, Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department Junior Firefighter Program Coordinator, shared activity ideas with the youth and program advisors.
- NVFC Director of Government Relations Dave Finger presented information on how youth can get involved in fire service legislation.
Bob Timko, NVFC Executive Committee member, and Steve Carter, University of Maryland—University College Academic Director of Emergency Management, Fire Science, and Homeland Security, led sessions on future career and educational paths in fire science.

Timko led a session on applying for grants to fund youth programs.

Barnett spoke to the program advisors about building youth leaders.

“The National Junior Firefighter Academy brought together a wide range of junior firefighter program stakeholders to learn more about implementing and participating in a local program as well as share ideas and best practices with each other,” said Buczynski.

“We received very positive feedback from the attendees and are pleased with the success of this inaugural Academy. Thank you to our sponsors for supporting this important initiative and making it possible.”

Timko, who began his time in the fire service as a junior firefighter, said the knowledge provided at the Academy assists departments with setting goals for what each program wants to accomplish. “They get to hear from experienced leaders and connect with other programs from across the country,” he said.

The NVFC, with support from Spartan Motors, will again host a National Junior Firefighter Academy at Firehouse Expo on July 23, 2011. The NVFC is also working on securing funding and resources to hold additional National Junior Firefighter Academies throughout the year.

National Awards

The NVFC, thanks to support from Tyco International, honored a junior firefighter and a junior firefighter program with two new national awards to recognize their outstanding achievements in the area of junior firefighting. The recipients of the Junior Firefighter of the Year Award and the Junior Firefighter Program of the Year Award were selected from nominees across the country and were recognized at a special awards ceremony during the NVFC spring board meeting on April 30 in Alexandria, VA.

Both award winners received a trip to Alexandria to attend the award ceremony, a personalized award, and complimentary one-year membership in the NVFC, among other items. In addition, the recipients spent a day on Capitol Hill meeting their Congressional representatives.

The 2010 National Junior Firefighter Program award winners are:

**Michelle Alyssa Carilli**

**NVFC Junior Firefighter of the Year Award**

An honor roll student and Varsity volleyball player, Junior Firefighter Captain Michelle Alyssa Carilli has been a junior firefighter with the Coventry (CT) Volunteer Fire Association for four years. In that time, she has organized a program for her fellow high school students to become first aid certified, raised almost $2,000 so that the department could sponsor the Coventry Special Olympics, and led a recruitment campaign to get more students involved with the department, which resulted in many of their parents becoming volunteer firefighters and EMTs. She was the first junior firefighter to be named the Coventry Volunteer Fire Association’s Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year.

**Westhampton Beach (NY) Fire Department**

**NVFC Junior Firefighter Program of the Year Award**

The Westhampton Beach Fire Department junior firefighters have organized fundraising events that raised thousands of dollars for the local veterans sup-
port group, the Stonybrook Burn Center, and to help pay for medical treatment for a department member battling cancer. They also developed and hosted a fire safety puppet show for local home-schooled students, in addition to public school students. The junior firefighters have completed over a thousand hours of meetings, training, and community service.

Nominations for the 2011 awards, also sponsored by Tyco, are open until February 1, 2011. The recipients will be recognized at an awards ceremony at the NVFC spring meeting in April. Learn more about the awards as well as the 2010 winners at www.nvfc.org/awards.

Junior Firefighter Program Survey

The NVFC conducted a nationwide survey to determine the current status and needs of junior firefighter programs. Sponsored by Tyco International, the survey was open to all departments - with and without current youth programs – throughout the month of October. The feedback received from the survey will help guide the direction of the National Junior Firefighter Program and identify new resources and tools that will help departments implement and manage a local youth participation program. Results from the survey are available at www.nvfc.org/juniors.

Resources

The NVFC provides many resources for departments and youth to help them implement, manage, expand, and participate in a local junior firefighter program. In 2010, several new resources were released to further these efforts. Highlights include:

- **State Legislation Information**: Each state has different regulations and laws concerning the activities in which youth fire service volunteers are allowed to participate. It can be difficult for department leaders and program advisors to know what their junior firefighters are allowed to do. The National Junior Firefighter Program created an online listing of available state regulations. Additional information may be available from a state’s Department of Labor web site, state fire association, or State Fire Marshal’s office.

- **Safety Information Distribution**: The NVFC has partnered with the Home Safety Council (HSC) and Impact Teen Drivers to bring important safety information to junior fighters and their program advisors. HSC has resources for teaching preschool through middle school age children about important home, fire, and life safety issues, as well as information that can be distributed to all age groups. Impact Teen Drivers is a national nonprofit organization whose goal is to make teens aware of the dangers of reckless and distracted driving and reduce teen deaths through online and in-school campaigns. With emergency vehicle accidents the second leading cause of line-of-duty firefighter fatalities each year, instilling good driving habits in teen firefighters is critical in keeping the future of the fire service safe.

- **New Incentive Reward**: With support from Tyco International, the NVFC was able to add an additional reward level to its hour tracking incentive program. NVFC Junior Members can receive rewards as they reach certain benchmark hours of service. This motivational tool is designed to encourage higher levels of participation by junior firefighters in their local programs and provide an extra resource for departments in their junior firefighter retention efforts. The 500 hour level has now been introduced, with a backpack as the reward.
It was a landmark year for the NVFC on the EMS front, with the creation of the new EMS/Rescue Section, the launch of a new EMS Update newsletter, and continued participation with several committees, workgroups, and partnerships regarding EMS. The emergency medical service has always been an integral part of the NVFC’s mission and initiatives, and this commitment to EMS shone through in 2010.

EMS/Rescue Section
The NVFC created a new EMS/Rescue (EMS/R) Section to provide volunteers in an emergency medical or rescue delivery system with information, education, services, and representation to enhance their professionalism. The Section is comprised of NVFC members but focuses specifically on issues pertaining to the volunteer emergency medical and rescue services. The Section meets twice a year in conjunction with the NVFC spring and fall board meetings. The first Section meeting was held in September.

“EMS has long been an integral part of the NVFC’s mission, and this new Section gives the emergency medical services an even stronger voice on the national level as well as within the Council,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “We encourage all volunteer EMS and rescue personnel to join the new Section and let their voice be heard.”

The EMS/R Section leadership is elected annually by the Section membership and consists of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, an NVFC Director, and three Directors At-Large. The Chair of the EMS/R Section also holds a position on the NVFC Executive Committee. In the interim before the 2011 elections, Stittleburg appointed the following Section leadership for 2010:
- Chair, Ken Knipper
- Vice Chair, John Lyman
- Secretary, T.J. Nedrow
- NVFC Director, Lee Sachs
- Three Directors At-Large: TBD

Any NVFC member can join the EMS/R Section. Benefits of membership include voting rights in the Section and the opportunity to work with other dedicated members of the emergency medical field to promote EMS issues on the national level. In addition, the Section’s monthly EMS Update newsletter, which launched in August, contains information and resources specifically for the EMS and rescue disciplines.

“The field of EMS is going through a period of significant changes, and what we do now will benefit the next generations,” said Knipper. “We are working towards the future of EMS. Through the new EMS/R Section of the NVFC, the Council will more effectively address the needs of the volunteer emergency medical services.”

Join the EMS/R Section for only $15 and become part of this group committed to the advancement of the volunteer emergency medical and rescue services. You must be a member of the NVFC to join the EMS/R Section; if you are not a current NVFC member, join at www.nvfc.org/membership.

Meetings and Committees
The NVFC is actively involved in many national committees, meetings, work groups, and partnerships regarding EMS. These include the following:
- NVFC Kentucky Director Ken Knipper serves as Chair of the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) EMS Committee.
- NVFC Alternate Director Joe Maruca (MA) serves on the NFPA Ambulances Committee.
- The NVFC is a member of the Advocates for EMS.
- The NVFC is a member of the Steering Committee of the Fire Service-Based EMS Advocates.
- The NVFC has partnered with NAEMT to foster a collaborative relationship with EMS for the betterment of America’s communities. NAEMT past-President Jerry Johnston holds a position on the NVFC Executive Committee.
Award Recipients

The NVFC annually honors those who make an outstanding contribution to the volunteer fire service. During the spring board meeting in April, the NVFC bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award, Fire Prevention Award, and the Legislator of the Year Award. See the National Junior Firefighter Program section for information about the Junior Firefighter of the Year and Junior Firefighter Program of the Year awards. Learn more about all of the NVFC’s awards, including past recipients, at www.nvfc.org/awards.

Chief John McAuliffe (left) accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award from Jason Cannon (center) of Scott Health and Safety and Joe Guyotte (right), Chair of the NVFC Membership and Awards Committee.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by Scott Health and Safety, recognizes those individuals whose remarkable achievements in the fire service and community exemplify outstanding performance. The 2010 award was bestowed to Chief John McAuliffe.

With over fifty years in the fire service and an abundance of leadership roles and accomplishments to his credit, McAuliffe truly exemplifies outstanding lifetime achievement in the fire and emergency services. McAuliffe joined the Wethersfield (CT) Volunteer Fire Department in 1958 and rose through the ranks to become Chief for six years before retiring in 1996. In spite of his retirement, he continues to serve his department and the entire fire service community.

“One of my favorite reasons to be appreciative of John McAuliffe is that he’s acted as our ‘Director of International Relations,’” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg during the award ceremony. “He has been instrumental in making and building international connections for the U.S. fire service, and he continues this work even in his retirement.”

McAuliffe has served as President of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association (CSFA) as well as Chairman or Vice Chair of the CSFA Fallen Firefighter, Strategic Planning, Pension, License Plate, and Legislative Committees. Through his work on the Legislative Committee, McAuliffe was integral in the passing of state legislation that bans municipalities from restricting career firefighters from volunteering in the communities in which they live.

McAuliffe served as an NVFC Board member from 1982-2009, where he was Chairman of the Homeland Security and Disaster Relief Committees, and has held leadership roles in the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, the City of Hartford Terrorism Irregulars Association, and the Connecticut Firefighters Irregulars Association. He is also a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Firemen’s Association of the State of New York, and the America Legion. Learn more about McAuliffe and the Lifetime Achievement Award at www.nvfc.org/awards/laa/.

Award Sponsor

A business unit of Tyco International, Scott Health and Safety is a premiere manufacturer of innovative respiratory and other personal protective equipment and safety devices for fire and rescue services, industrial workers, police, military and civil defense organizations around the world. With five global manufacturing locations, Scott Health & Safety produces products that protect thousands of individuals each day from environmental hazards including smoke, toxic fumes, combustible gases, falling objects, and flame contaminants. The Scott product line includes self-contained breathing apparatus, supplied air and air-purifying respirators, gas and flame detection instruments, thermal imaging cameras, air compressors, accountability systems, head, eye and face protection, and firefighter and personal protective clothing.

Fire Prevention Award

The NVFC Fire Prevention Award, sponsored by First Alert, is given each spring to a volunteer firefighter who exemplifies the philosophy of fire prevention through their contributions to the field. The Award was created in memory of Marc Mueller, a former NVFC Board member from California, to honor his leadership and passion for fire prevention and to attract well-deserved attention to the heroes of public education.

Earl Cunningham, Jr. received the 2010 Fire Prevention Award in recognition of his efforts and leader-
ship in spreading the messages of fire prevention in his community. A dedicated proponent of fire prevention for 35 years, Cunningham’s service exemplifies the spirit of the Fire Prevention Award.

Cunningham joined the Plymouth (PA) Fire Company No. 1 as a volunteer firefighter in 1975. He led his first fire prevention class that same year. Since then, he has received national and local accolades for his work in fire prevention education and reached countless individuals at day care centers, senior citizen homes, churches, campgrounds, and his own workplace.

“Earl Cunningham, Jr. has a true passion for fire prevention and making sure his community members receive the information and education to keep them safe,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg.

In his first full year with the Plymouth Fire Company, Cunningham chaired a committee planning Fire Prevention Week activities in Plymouth. Under his leadership, the activities were held in front of a local senior citizen’s home and near several apartment complexes, reaching more people than ever before.

Throughout the years, Cunningham has organized and implemented many fire prevention and preparedness activities in his community. These include creating posters on fire safety, providing medical history cards for seniors, ordering USFA materials to distribute in the community, creating fire safety and prevention tip bookmarks, and helping replace smoke detectors in the community. Through his work on the school board, he was able to have health and first aid curriculum implemented. He is always searching for new ways to educate people of all ages in the community.

Learn more about Cunningham and the Fire Prevention Award at www.nvfc.org/awards/firepreventionaward.

Award Sponsor
BRK Brands, Inc. (Aurora, IL), is a fully owned subsidiary of Jarden Corporation (Rye, NY) NYSE:JAH, a leading provider of niche consumer products used in and around the home. For 50 years, BRK Brands, Inc. has been the manufacturer of First Alert®-branded home-safety products, the most trusted and recognized safety brands in America. BRK® Brands designs and develops innovative safety solutions including Tundra® Fire Extinguishing Spray, ONELINK® wireless alarms and a comprehensive line of smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguishers and escape ladders to protect what matters most. Such products are also marketed under the BRK Electronics® brand, The Professional Standard for the builder and contractor audiences. BRK Brands, Inc. products are found in more than 30 countries worldwide. For more information, visit www.firstalert.com, www.brkelectronics.com or www.jarden.com.

Legislator of the Year Award
The NVFC named Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) the 2010 Legislator of the Year. The award is given annually to a member of the U.S. House or Senate for their support of the nation’s volunteer fire service.

“I’d like to thank Senator Dodd for his tireless efforts on behalf of the NVFC and our members,” said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. “This award is not only for his work over the course of the past year, but in recognition of all that he has done during his career in the U.S. Senate on behalf of volunteer emergency responders.”

Senator Dodd is a co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and was one of the authors of the original bills that created the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs. Dodd was the Senate sponsor of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA), which was enacted in 2007 and exempted certain benefits that volunteer emergency responders receive as recruitment and retention incentives from federal taxation, and he also introduced legislation to reauthorize VRIPA. Dodd was the lead Democrat on the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (VESRRA), which was introduced on May 5 by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and would clarify how length of service award programs (LOSAPs) are treated under the tax code.

Dodd retired at the end of 2010 after a 30-year career in the U.S. Senate. Learn more about the Legislator of the Year Award and view past recipients at www.nvfc.org/awards.
## 2010 Directors

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2010 Alternate Directors

Alaska State Firefighters Association
Dave Miller
Arkansas State Firefighters Association
Clay Whaley
Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona
Ted Smith
California State Firefighters’ Association
Ron Coleman
Colorado State Fire Fighters Association
Ronald Graton
Connecticut State Firefighters Association
Robert Guthrie
Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association
James Cubbage
Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association
Richard Knoff
Georgia State Firefighter’s Association
Larry Sharpless
Idaho Volunteer Fire & Emergency Services Association
Juan Bonilla
Illinois Firefighter’s Association
Bill Offerman
Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association
Willie Parish
Iowa Firefighters Association
Brian Seymour
Kansas State Firefighters Association
Dan Romine
Kentucky Firefighters Association
Bryant Stiles
Maine State Federation of Firefighters
Horace Benner
Maryland State Firemen’s Association
James P. Seavey Sr.
Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters’ Association
Joseph Maruca
Michigan State Firemen’s Association
Dan Pearsall
Minnesota State Fire Department Association
Tony Bronk
Mississippi Firefighters Association
George Stevens
Fire Fighters Association of Missouri
Rob Erdel
Montana State Volunteer Firefighters Association
Kraig Hansen
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association
John Bomar
Nevada State Firefighters’ Association
Mike Heidemann
New Jersey State Firemen’s Association
Charles Siedenburg
New Mexico State Fire Fighters’ Association, Ronnie Walls
Firemen’s Association of the State of New York
Thomas Cuff Jr.
North Carolina State Firemen’s Association
Paul F. Miller
North Dakota Firefighter’s Association
Allan Klein
Ohio State Firefighters’ Association
Timothy Adams
Oklahoma State Firefighters Association
David Thompson
Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association
Allen Montgomery
Firemen’s Association of the State of Pennsylvania
Robert Timko
Rhode Island State Firemen’s League
Kevin D. Quinn
South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association
Dr. Henry Bozard
South Dakota Firefighters Association
Denny Gorton
Tennessee Fire Chief’s Association
Barron Kennedy
State Firemen’s and State Fire Marshals’ Association of Texas
Dallas Renfrew
Utah State Firemen’s Association
Brent Marshall
Virginia State Firefighter’s Association
Ken Brown
Washington State Firefighters’ Association
Ron Roy
Wisconsin State Firefighters’ Association
Larry A. Plumer
Wyoming Fire Chiefs and Firemen’s Association
Ken Metzler

in memory of…

ROBERT PAGE
NVFC Colorado Director
Colorado State Fire Fighters Association