

Congressional Fire Services Institute

Legislative Outlook



114th Congress - Second Session

Updated March 28, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE

2016 LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

In 2016, Congress will consider a number of issues of critical importance to the nation's fire and emergency services. Actions taken by Congress will have a direct impact on the fire service's ability to prepare for, respond to, prevent, and mitigate incidents both large and small: natural and man-made, local and national in scope. This document is intended to be a detailed snapshot of some critical issues that will be considered during the Second Session of the 114th Congress.

ABOUT THE FIRE SERVICE

(Data was compiled by the National Fire Protection Association – www.nfpa.org).

COMPOSITION OF THE U.S. FIRE SERVICE (2013)

Approximately 30,052 fire departments in the US

- 2,477– All career
- 1,971 – Mostly career
- 5,797 – Mostly volunteer
- 19,807 – All volunteer

Approximately 1,140,750 firefighters

- 354,600 career firefighters
- 786,150 volunteer firefighters

Fire Losses in the United States (2014)

- 1,298,000 fires were reported
 - o These fires caused 3,275 civilian deaths, 15,775 civilian injuries, and \$11.6 billion in property damages.
- 494,000 were structure fires, causing 2,860 civilian deaths, 13,425 civilian injuries, and \$9.8 billion in property damage.
- 93,500 were vehicle fires and 610,500 were outside and other fires.

Fire Department Calls –31,644,500 (2013)

- Fires – 1,240,000
- Medical Aide – 21,372,000
- False Alarms – 2,343,000
- Mutual Aide – 1,298,000
- Hazardous Materials – 366,500
- Other – 5,025,000

Firefighter Deaths and Injuries (2013/2014)

- There were 64 firefighter deaths in 2014.
- As in most years, sudden cardiac death accounted for the largest share of the on-duty deaths (36 deaths, or 56 percent).
- There were 65,880 firefighter injuries in 2013.
- 29,760 firefighter injuries in 2013 occurred during fireground operations.

FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS:

HISTORY OF THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, commonly referred to as the FIRE Grant, was first authorized as part of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. The legislation gave the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the authority to make “grants on a competitive basis directly to fire departments... for the purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.” The program also provided funding for United States Fire Administration (USFA) to enter into cooperative agreements with national, state, and local organizations to carry out fire prevention and education programs.

In 2003, Congress expanded the program, creating the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program. The SAFER grant program awards grants directly to fire departments for the hiring of firefighters. Additionally, SAFER grants can be used for recruitment and retention programs for volunteer firefighters.

The current authorization for the FIRE and SAFER grant programs expires on January 2, 2018.

FIRE & SAFER GRANTS

The Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) Grant Program is designed to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Created in 2001, the FIRE Grant Program has helped fire departments obtain critically-needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. FIRE Grants are competitive, peer-reviewed grants that require a local match from recipients. The grants are awarded directly to fire departments, ensuring the funds reach the end user.

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program is a competitive grant program created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer fire service organizations in order to help them increase the number of firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments’ abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), increasing the level of firefighter health and safety. Similar to the FIRE Grant Program, SAFER grants are peer-reviewed and require a local match. Ten percent of the funding is set aside for programs to hire firefighters in volunteer fire departments, and another ten percent of the funds are reserved for programs to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.

FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY GRANTS

The Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S) are part of the FIRE Grant Program. Targeting high-risk populations, the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and fire-related hazards. Congress expanded the eligible uses of funds to include Firefighter Safety and Research and Development when it reauthorized funding for Fire Prevention and Safety Grants in 2005. Eligible applicants for Fire Prevention and Safety Grants include fire departments and organizations recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities. Both private and public non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for funding in this activity.

Recipients of Fire Prevention and Safety Grants provide a 5% match.

FUNDING LEVELS FOR FIRE/SAFER GRANT PROGRAMS

	Fiscal Year 2015 – Enacted	Fiscal Year 2016 – Enacted	Fiscal Year 2017 – Administration’s Request
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (FIRE/ SAFER)	\$680,000,000.00	\$690,000,000.00	\$670,000,000.00

THIRD NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE U.S. FIRE SERVICE

The Third Fire Service Needs Assessment of the U.S. Fire Service was completed by the National Fire Protection Association in 2011. The first two surveys were conducted under grants from the U.S. Fire Administration. The goal of all the surveys has been to identify major gaps in the needs of the U.S. fire service, comparing what departments have with what they need for safe and effective operations. Here are some important findings from the three surveys (Data compiled by the National Fire Protection Association – www.nfpa.org).

Personal Protective and Firefighting Equipment:

Unmet needs for all types of personal protective and firefighting equipment have been greatly reduced, though far from eliminated. For example:

- 51% of all fire departments cannot equip all firefighters on a shift with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), but this figure is down from 70% in 2001 and 60% in 2005.
- 39% of all fire departments do not have enough personal alert safety system (or PASS) devices to equip all emergency responders on a shift, but this figure is down from 62% in 2001 and 48% in 2005.
- Personal protective and firefighting equipment accounted for the largest percentage reductions in need and also the largest shares of Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) awards and grant funds.

Facilities (Stations) and Apparatus (Engines, Pumpers, Ladders):

The AFG grants provided considerable support, at least in the early years, for acquisition/replacement of fire department engines and pumpers. These grants have helped to hold the line on the age profile of the fire apparatus inventory. For example:

- If there had been no replacement of engines and pumpers, nearly all of the 35% of engines that were at least 20 years old in 2001 would have been at least 30 years old in 2010; but in fact only 11% of engines were at least 30 years old in 2010, down from 13% in 2001.

Summarizing the report, NFPA stated, “In all areas emphasized by the FIRE and SAFER grants, there is ample evidence of impact from the grants but also considerable residual need still to be addressed, even for needs that have seen considerable need reduction in the past decade.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 107,000 Americans are employed in the manufacturing sector that produce fire and emergency services equipment.

Approximately 95% of the equipment firefighters use to protect our communities are manufactured in the United States.

Source: FAMA/FEMSA Government Affairs Committee: www.famafemsagac.org/

FISCAL YEAR 2017 FUNDING

Unfortunately, the past five years have seen a steep increase in the cost of some of the most common and sought-after firefighting equipment. An analysis by industry experts estimates that from 2011 to present, the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE) has increased by an estimated 11.4%. During the same time period, the cost of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) increased by an estimated 15%. These cost increases were due in part to the increased costs of raw materials and to necessary changes to equipment standards that improved firefighter safety.

Since 2011, there has also been a sharp increase in the cost of firefighting apparatus. The cost of pumper trucks, which make-up approximately 60% of the apparatus market, has increased by an estimated 14.6% increase due in large part to price increases for materials and labor.

Despite these price increases, the White House's Fiscal Year 2017 budget proposal recommends funding FIRE and SAFER at a combined \$670 million, a reduction of \$20 million from the level enacted by Congress for Fiscal Year 2016. In response to the budget request, and to the increased cost of this vital equipment, the national fire service organizations have asked Congress to restore funding for the FIRE and SAFER grant programs to the Fiscal Year 2011 level of \$810 million (split evenly between the two programs).

FIREFIGHTER OCCUPATIONAL CANCER

Studies have indicated a strong link between firefighting and an increased risk for several major cancers, including colon, lung, melanoma, mesothelioma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-melanoma skin cancer, prostate, rectal, testicular, stomach, multiple myeloma and brain cancer. The heightened risk of cancer among firefighters has been attributed to their frequent exposure to a range of harmful toxins.

Some of these recent research studies include:

- LeMasters Review – 32 Studies / 20 Cancer Types (2006)
- NIOSH Firefighter Cancer Study Phase I (2013)
- Nordic Firefighter Cancer Study (2014)
- Australian Firefighter Cancer Study (2014)
- NIOSH Firefighter Cancer Study Phase II (2015)
- Cancer in the Fire Service – Policy Implications: Presented by Dr. Virginia Weaver; Johns Hopkins University (2015)

Studies examining cancer risks among firefighters have been limited by the availability of important data and relatively small sample sizes that have an underrepresentation of women, minorities, and volunteer firefighters. As a result, public health researchers have been unable to fully examine and understand the broader epidemiological cancer trends among firefighters.

A specialized national cancer registry would expand access to vital epidemiological data and improve research outcomes.

On Thursday, February 25th, Congressman Richard Hanna (NY-22) and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9) introduced H.R. 4625, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. This bill would establish a specialized national cancer registry to be managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- The registry would improve collection infrastructure and activities related to the nationwide monitoring of cancer incidence among firefighters.

(Firefighter Occupational Cancer continued...)

- The registry would store and consolidate epidemiological information submitted by healthcare professionals related to cancer incidence among firefighters.
- De-identified data would be available to public health researchers to provide them with robust and comprehensive datasets to expand groundbreaking research.
- As this registry grows, it will improve our understanding of cancer incidence and could potentially lead to the development of more sophisticated safety protocols and safeguards.
- To ensure the effectiveness of the registry, its administrators would be required to consult regularly with epidemiologists, public health experts, clinicians, and firefighters.

H.R. 4625, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

FIRE SPRINKLER INCENTIVE ACT

The cost of fire in America is enormous. In 2014, fire claimed the lives of 3,275 civilians and 64 firefighters in the line-of-duty. Another 15,775 civilians suffered injuries. The direct property damage caused by fire was an estimated \$11.6 billion.

One of the most effective ways to minimize the loss of life and property to fire is with automatic sprinklers. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has concluded that the death rate per fire can be reduced by at least 57% and property damage decreased by up to 68% in sprinklered buildings. Fire sprinkler save lives, including firefighter lives. In fact, no firefighter has ever died fighting a fire in a fully sprinklered-structure.

Current building codes require sprinklers in many of the most vulnerable occupancies, such as student housing, commercial and residential high-rise, and entertainment complexes. Unfortunately, there are still thousands of structures that were built and put in service before sprinklers were required. In many jurisdictions, these structures are grandfathered from current standards despite the dangers of these occupancies. Many building owners would install sprinklers if they were provided an economic incentive, but the Internal Revenue Code does not offer one. Under current depreciation rules, a sprinkler system has a 39-year depreciation schedule for commercial buildings and 27.5-year schedule for residential structures.

To address this problem, Congressman Tom Reed (NY-23), Congressman James Langevin (RI-2), Senator Susan Collins (ME), and Senator Thomas Carper (DE) have introduced the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act (H.R. 3591/S. 2068). The legislation contains two parts that target high-risk structures:

1. Section 179 tax treatment- Section 179 of the tax code allows small and medium-sized businesses to fully expense certain types of equipment purchases like machines, equipment, vehicles, and computers. Fire sprinkler systems are not currently a 179 property and this legislation would make them eligible for 179 tax treatment.
2. High-Rise Retrofits- The most vulnerable structure not covered by section 179 tax treatment are high-rise structures (buildings 7 stories or higher). In the United States, there are nearly 10,000 high-rise fires annually and they are some of the most deadly fires for civilians and fire fighters. This legislation will provide a financial incentive to high-rise building owners to install sprinkler systems by reducing the depreciation schedule from 39 years to 15 years. This reduction will also put sprinkler improvements more in line with the current tax code that allows 15-year depreciation for leasehold improvements.

(Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act continued...)

H.R. 3591 was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and S. 2068 was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. The Joint Committee on Taxation is currently reviewing the legislation to estimate its cost.

THE SAFE BUILDING CODE INCENTIVE ACT

On April 13, 2015, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25) introduced H.R. 1748, the Safe Building Codes Incentive Act. The legislation would encourage states to adopt and enforce model-building codes that meet minimum life safety standards. The Safe Building Code Incentive Act is not a federal mandate. However, it would give a powerful incentive to states to adopt and enforce stronger statewide building codes. Under the legislation, states that adopt and enforce nationally recognized model building codes for residential and commercial structures would qualify for an additional 4% of funding available for post-disaster grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Since 1983 the U.S. has spent nearly \$1 trillion on disaster recovery and rebuilding. But more than ten percent of that amount, \$137 billion, was spent in just the past four years. Despite the alarming numbers, the federal government invested just \$22 million in pre-disaster mitigation between 2011 and 2013, correlating to \$1 spent on mitigation efforts for every \$6 spent on recovery during that same period.

Stronger, safer buildings during natural disasters can save lives, reduce property loss, and public disaster aid. According to a National Institute of Building Sciences study, for every \$1 spent to make buildings stronger, the American taxpayer saves \$4 in federal disaster assistance. The Louisiana State University (LSU) Hurricane Center estimated that stronger building codes would have reduced wind damage from Hurricane Katrina by 80%, saving \$8 billion and the LSU Hurricane Center conducted a comparative analysis of the economic loss in Mississippi due to Katrina, showing savings of \$3.1 billion if tougher building codes had been in place.

Standardized building codes promote a level and consistent playing field for design professionals, suppliers, and builders and create a minimum standard upon which consumers can rely. In addition to saving lives and reducing property loss, statewide building codes based on nationally recognized standards contribute to the durability of structures; and, in some locations, favorably affect the affordability and availability of insurance.

H.R. 1748 is part of an ongoing national mitigation investment strategy being championed by the Build-Strong Coalition, a coalition of national business and consumer organizations, companies, and emergency management officials dedicated to promoting stronger building codes. CFSI and a number of the national fire service organizations have joined with the BuildStrong Coalition to promote the legislation. H.R. 1748 has been referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

WILDLAND FIRES AND THE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

The United States is facing an alarming trend with the growth of wildland fires. The cost of suppressing these fires consumes more than 50% of the U.S. Forest Service's annual budget even though more than 80% of wildland fires are extinguished on initial attacks by local fire departments. The Forest Service estimates that the value of the service provided by local fire departments exceeds \$36 billion per year. Despite the significant value of service contributed by America's rural fire departments, the federal government's supporting for these agencies has dwindled in the past decade.

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, (USDA) provides matching grants to fire departments protecting communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer. VFA grants help these budget-challenged departments procure new equipment and provide training opportunities to their firefighters that would otherwise be out of reach. In Fiscal Year 2010, VFA was funded at \$16 million. The decrease in funding for the VFA grants since 2010, coupled with the elimination of the U.S. Department of Interior's Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grant program in the same year has hampered the ability of local fire departments to protect their communities.

Federal support is critical to ensure volunteer fire departments are safely and effectively able to respond to wildland fires. Reducing the funding for programs like RFA and VFA from a combined \$23 million in FY 2010 to \$13 million in FY 2015 leaves volunteer fire departments with fewer resources to respond to wildland fires and will lead to higher federal spending on fire suppression in the long run.

CFSI, along with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Volunteer Fire Council, have requested Congress to include a minimum of \$16 million in funding for the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR THE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (S. 609/ H.R. 2752)

The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (S. 609/H.R. 2752) allows communities to provide volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel with property tax reductions and up to \$600 per year of recruitment and retention incentives without those benefits being subjected to federal income tax and withholding. S. 609 was introduced by Senator Charles Schumer (NY) on February 27, 2015. H.R. 2752 was introduced by Congressman John Larson (CT-1) on June 12, 2015.

Without the donated services of volunteer fire service personnel, many communities could not provide emergency services protection, while others would need to raise taxes to pay salaries and benefits for full or part-time staff. Unfortunately, emergency services agencies are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain the next generation of volunteers. Over the past six years, the number of volunteer firefighters in the United States has declined by 41,000, or about five percent. At the same time, in small communities where volunteer firefighters are nearly ubiquitous, more than 30 percent of firefighters are 50 years of age or older, up from just 18 percent in 2000.

(Tax Incentive for Volunteer Firefighters continued...)

To bolster recruitment and retention, many volunteer fire departments now provide a number of incentives, including non-monetary gifts, reductions in property taxes or other fees, per-call payments, stipends, and retirement benefits. Volunteer benefits are typically small, but demonstrate community support.

As volunteer incentives have become more prevalent, the Internal Revenue Service has made ensuring that benefits are properly reported and taxed a priority. Complying with IRS reporting requirements can often be burdensome for some volunteer fire departments, many of which are located in small communities that may not have employ full-time administrative staff. The Volunteer Incentive Protection Act would allow local agencies to provide nominal benefits without having to worry about being audited by the IRS. It would also enhance the incentive value of volunteer benefits by allowing individuals to keep the entire amount.

Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (H.R. 1171/S. 616)

The Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act simplifies how Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAPs) are taxed without increasing or reducing federal spending or taxes. Simply put, it eliminates burdensome and confusing IRS requirements that make it unnecessarily difficult for departments to administer plans and for volunteer emergency personnel to receive benefits.

A LOSAP is a retirement account for volunteer emergency responders that approximately 20 percent of the 783,300 volunteer firefighters in the United States are enrolled in. Many communities provide modest financial incentives to their volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel to boost recruitment and retention and LOSAP is one of the most popular benefits.

There are three specific problems that the bill would fix:

- The tax code specifies that employer contributions into a retirement account cannot exceed compensation in the form of salary, wages or other benefits. This might make sense for an employee who receives a regular wage or salary in addition to pension contributions, but it is problematic for volunteers who receive no compensation outside of the LOSAP. As a result, many LOSAPs are either not funded or the funds are set aside but not guaranteed to the individual volunteers. Consequently, if the entity responsible for the LOSAP declares bankruptcy, volunteers could lose their benefits. Additionally, if a volunteer is injured in the line of duty they could be forced to take their LOSAP early and be subject to tax penalties and, in some cases, a much higher tax rate. The legislation would allow sponsors of LOSAPs to elect to make contributions guaranteed and portable.
- Under current tax law, there is a \$3,000 limit on annual contributions into LOSAPs. Established in 1996, the cap has not been adjusted for inflation. The legislation would raise the annual contribution limit to \$5,500 and create a mechanism for adjusting the cap for inflation.
- Many volunteer fire and EMS agencies are private entities, although they are nonprofit and are funded and authorized to operate by local governmental units. Because the tax code has different rules for government- and privately-maintained deferred compensation plans, LOSAPs for private, nonprofit volunteer emergency service agencies fall into a gray area. The legislation specifies that LOSAPs funded by private, non-profit emergency services agencies be treated as governmental for the purposes of taxation.

The Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act was introduced on February 27, 2015 in the House (H.R. 1171) by Congressman Peter King (NY-2) and in the Senate (S. 616) by Senator Susan Collins (ME).

FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY (FIRSTNET)

Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 122-96), enacted February 22, 2012, provided America's public safety providers with the needed spectrum to build a nationwide, broadband network. Specifically, the legislation created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), an independent authority within the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Congress directed that FirstNet be run by a 15-person Board of Directors, with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget named as permanent members of the Board. Congress charged the Secretary of Commerce with selecting the remaining 12 members.

FirstNet will develop and operate the broadband network, which is to be based on a single, nationwide network architecture, thus enabling first responders and public safety officials to communicate with one another within and across jurisdictions. The secure and interoperable network will also support cutting-edge applications – for example, enabling firefighters to download blueprints of burning buildings in order to plan their entry route, allowing emergency medical technicians to remotely access a victim's medical records from an ambulance, or helping police to identify criminal suspects through facial recognition or iris scanning technologies.

Congress allocated \$7 billion of spectrum auction proceeds and valuable spectrum bandwidth for the deployment of the nationwide network. FirstNet will also seek to leverage existing commercial and government infrastructure for the new network.

The Public Safety Advisory Committee —composed of representatives from public safety and state, territory, local and tribal organizations—is providing advice and recommendations to FirstNet on a variety of topics, most recently in the areas of public-safety grade, priority and preemption and user equipment. The broadband network may take years to build out, and initially it will only support data applications through the Long Term Evolution (LTE) standard. Recognizing this, mission critical voice capabilities, mainly carried through land mobile radios, must continue to be supported through funding and standards development to ensure operability and interoperability.

THE CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS

House Co-Chairs	Senate Co-Chairs
Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9) - Chair	Senator John McCain (AZ)
Congressman Peter King (NY-2)	Senator Thomas Carper (DE)
Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-5)	Senator Susan Collins (ME)
Congressman David Reichert (WA-8)	Senator Jon Tester (MT)

In 1987, the Congressional Fire Services Caucus was established to educate members of Congress about the fire and emergency services. The Caucus was created to be a bipartisan group where Republicans and Democrats could work together to improve the readiness of local first responders and to jointly recognize their valor and dedication. To preserve the bipartisan spirit of the Caucus, the chairmanship rotates every two years between Republican and Democratic members. Previous chairmen include Senators John McCain (AZ), Paul Sarbanes (MD), William V. Roth, Jr. (DE), Joseph Biden (DE), Congressmen Curt Weldon (PA), Steny Hoyer (MD), Sherwood Boehlert (NY), Robert Andrews (NJ), David Reichert (WA) and Congressman Peter King (NY).

Today, the Fire Caucus is the largest caucus in Congress with members in the House and Senate. The Caucus is not about ideology, but rather respect and support for our nation's first responders. The Congressional Fire Services Caucus unites all members of Congress in support of fire service legislation that benefits all of our nation's fire and emergency services. Acting in a bipartisan manner, the Caucus is dedicated to addressing the needs and challenges of our nation's fire and emergency services. The Caucus serves as a forum for education and discussion on a broad range of issues that impact the readiness and response capabilities of our nation's first responders to all forms of hazards.

The Fire Caucus helps members of Congress build upon relationships with local fire service leaders. In many instances, members of the fire service are the pillars of a community. They attend the Rotary and Chamber meetings. They organize the blood drives and the Fourth of July picnics. In many smaller communities, the volunteer fire chiefs are also prominent business leaders. Most importantly, firefighters are among the first on the scene when a disaster strikes.

Joining the Congressional Fire Services Caucus is a win-win proposition for members of Congress and local fire departments. Members of the Fire Caucus are not expected to support an agenda, but rather a cause. Members of Congress interested in joining the Fire Caucus can do so by contacting one of the current co-chairs. By working together, the fire service and the Congressional Fire Services Caucus can continue "Making a Difference at the National Level."

**CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES INSTITUTE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

<p>American Fire Sprinkler Association Center for Campus Fire Safety Center for Public Safety Excellence Common Voices Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association Engineering Laboratory; National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Federation of Fire Chaplains Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association Fire Chief/FireRescue1 Fire Engineering Magazine Fire Rescue Magazine Firehouse Magazine Institution of Fire Engineers—United States of America Branch Insurance Services Office International Association of Arson Investigators International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters</p>	<p>International Association of Fire Chiefs International Association of Fire Fighters International Association of Wildland Fire International Code Council International Fire Buff Associates International Fire Marshals Association International Fire Service Training Association International Municipal Signal Association International Society of Fire Service Instructors National Association of State Fire Marshals National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications National Fallen Firefighters Foundation National Fire Protection Association National Fire Sprinkler Association National Volunteer Fire Council North American Fire Training Directors SimplexGrinnell Society of Fire Protection Engineers Underwriters Laboratories USA Sprinkler Fitters Association VFIS</p>
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