

**Resolution Regarding the February 24, 2005 Summit Concerning  
the U.S. Fire Administration**

*Resolution offered by the International Association of Fire Chiefs*

Whereas, 16 national fire service organizations met on February 24, 2005 to discuss the status of funding at the U.S. Fire Administration;

Whereas, these organizations agreed to the following findings:

**Finding #1:** The U.S. Fire Administration was created by Congress to reduce the Nation's losses caused by fire through better fire prevention and control; and to supplement existing programs of research, training, and education, and to encourage new and improved programs by State and local governments;

**Finding #2:** The fire service is recognized in the National Critical Infrastructure Plan as one of the thirteen key elements and requires adequate support;

**Finding #3:** The U.S. Fire Administration serves as a key federal agency in addressing the federal government's role vis-à-vis our nation's fire and emergency services;

**Finding #4:** The Department of Homeland Security was created after the tragic events of September 11, 2001 mainly to protect the United States from terrorist attack. However, the universally accepted doctrine of emergency preparedness for all hazards has not been sufficiently embraced by the new department;

**Finding #5:** Because of its unique role as the federal agency authorized by Congress to address the needs of the fire services, the U.S. Fire Administration must have adequate resources to fulfill its mandated mission;

**Finding #6:** Because the fire service provides a key initial response to all hazards including terrorist attack, and because fire service personnel experience the greatest exposure to these hazards, the fire service must have a critical role in the development and implementation of the Department of Homeland Security's policy, doctrine, and initiatives;

**Finding #7:** The National Fire Academy, the Office of National Fire Programs, and the Emergency Management Institute are strategically positioned to develop and deliver national training programs in support of the homeland security initiatives;

**Finding #8:** The lack of full funding for the U.S. Fire Administration will impede activities of the National Fire Data Center, various prevention and fire service outreach initiatives, and course development and revision at the National Fire Academy;

Whereas, based on these findings, these organizations agreed to the following goals:

**Goal #1:** America's fire services must be represented by fire chiefs and other fire service leaders within the office of the Secretary of Homeland Security and in key positions throughout the department;

**Goal #2:** The U.S. Fire Administration must occupy a key position and function in a comprehensive role within the Department of Homeland Security proportionate to the responsibilities of the fire services in responding to incidents of terrorism and all hazards events;

**Goal #3:** The Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Homeland Security need to recognize and designate the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy as being "homeland security relevant" in the federal budgeting process;

**Goal #4:** The U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy must be fully funded to the authorized levels to support the ongoing mission to reflect contemporary issues and community risks, and there should be a line item in the president's budget and appropriations bills for the United States Fire Administration, which would include funding for the National Fire Academy.

**Goal #5:** To ensure the most effective utilization of training resources, the Department of Homeland Security should be required to work more closely with the National Fire Academy, national fire service organizations providing fire service related training, and state and local fire training academies regarding the use of curriculum and the delivery system for terrorism response training;

Whereas, these organizations agreed to continue to work together to develop a strategy between now and April 7<sup>th</sup>, the date of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Fire Emergency Services Dinner to achieve these goals by working in consensus with our fellow fire service organizations;

Be it resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute and the members of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) support these eight findings and five goals, and the most effective strategies for fulfilling these goals.