

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
(IAFC)/NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION AGENCY (NFPA) METRO CHIEFS
AND THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA),
UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION (USFA)

I. Purpose

This MOU provides a frame of reference within which IAFC/NFPA Metro Chiefs and FEMA/USFA will cooperate to decrease the incidences of fire and other hazards and to promote fire safety education.

II. Mission

IAFC/NFPA Metro Chiefs

The mission of the IAFC/NFPA Metro Chiefs is to provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the international community through vision, information, education, services, and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. In addition, IAFC/NFPA Metro Chiefs seeks to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing scientifically based consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

FEMA/USFA

The mission of FEMA is to provide leadership and support to reduce the loss of life and property and to protect our institutions from all types of hazards through a comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazards emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. As an entity of FEMA, the mission of the USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination, and support.

III. Authority

The IAFC/NFPA Metro Chiefs and FEMA/USFA have entered into this MOU pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206; Executive Order 12148, as amended; and the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act, 15 U.S.C. 2201 *et seq.*

IV. The IAFC/NFPA Metro Chiefs Strategic Objectives

- Establishing metropolitan area IMT regional overhead teams based on U.S. Forest Service models
- Developing Incident Management Team capability

- Developing and training Incident Management Teams to support command
- Providing mutual aid staff—unified command training and development
- Utilizing the Integrated Emergency Management System
- Developing and implementing nationwide credentialing system similar to the U.S. Forest Service's "Red Card" program

V. FEMA/USFA Strategic Objectives

- Reducing the number of firefighter and civilian fatalities
- Addressing emerging issues
- Identifying 2500 disaster-resistant communities with fire department playing a primary role
- Promoting public awareness and education on fire safety issues

VI. Coordination of Effort

The IAFC/NFPA Metro Chiefs and FEMA/USFA agree to coordinate efforts to:

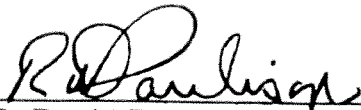
- Address interoperability issues, including:
 - Communications
 - Equipment/apparatus standardization
 - Unified Incident Command
 - Integrated Incident Command Systems
- Raise public awareness about fire and other hazards and actions that can be taken to reduce vulnerability
- Share publications and materials to raise awareness of fire safety issues
- Promote fire prevention and preparedness to community members and community leaders, including risk assessment and reduction
- Communicate information and successes

VII. Special Understandings

- This MOU does not mandate IAFC/NFPA Metro Chiefs or FEMA/USFA to undertake any specific level of activity.
- This MOU is not a fiscal or funds obligation document.
- While it is the intent of the parties to cooperate in accord with the MOU, neither party shall be liable to the other, or to any third party, for failure to comply in any way with the provisions contained in this MOU.

VIII. Period of Agreement

This MOU shall be effective from the date it has been signed by representatives of both organizations and shall expire on March 1, 2005. Either party may terminate this MOU upon 60 days written notice to the other party. This MOU may be amended at any time upon mutual agreement of the parties.



R. David Paulison, Administrator
United States Fire Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency



Mario Trevino, Chair
Metro Chiefs Section

Date Sept 27, 2002

Date 10/7/02