

Resolution Expressing Support For the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Line of Duty Death Initiatives

Whereas approximately 100 firefighters in this nation die in the line of duty every year and thousands more suffer debilitating injuries;

Whereas the nation's fire and emergency services have reaffirmed their commitment to reducing the number of firefighter line of duty deaths and injuries;

Whereas the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, established by Congress in 1992 to honor fallen heroes and to provide services to surviving family members and the fire service, has launched an effort to address injuries and deaths within the fire service;

Whereas over 200 fire service leaders representing 100 state and national fire service organization convened for a summit in Tampa Florida in March 2004;

Whereas summit attendees developed recommendations that lead to specific initiatives that will profoundly improve the safety and health of our nation firefighters;

Whereas the initiatives include:

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety, incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. Empower all firefighters to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Ensure grant programs support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. Develop and champion national standards for emergency response policies and procedures.
12. Develop and champion national protocols for response to violent incidents.
13. Provide firefighters and their families access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Provide public education more resources and champion it as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Strengthen advocacy for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.

16. Make safety a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

Therefore be it resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute's National Advisory Committee support the initiatives in concept and encourage the Congressional Fire Services Institute to cooperate with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to advance these actions.

Resolution offered by the International Fire Service Training Association