National Fire Service Responder Credentialing System

Agencies Involved

- NFA BOV
- FESHE
- IAFC
- NVFC
- IAFF
- IFSAC
- NAFTD

- ProBoard
- NFAAA
- NWCG
- TRADE
- PARADE
- NASFM
- Others invited but did not participate

National Fire Service Responder Credentialing System

- Identifies individuals requested to respond to a federalized incident
- Provides access control
- Confirms individual's qualifications
- Needs to function within existing State systems

The Credentialing Process

- The local fire department determines if its members will participate
- An eligible individual applies for a credential
- The credentialing organization:
  - Verifies individual's qualifications
  - Creates a record
  - Uploads to the management infrastructure
  - Issues the credential

Credentialing vs. Certification

- Process where an organization confirms an individuals competency to perform
- Acknowledgement via a credential/card

- Measurement of an individual's competence through a testing or evaluation process

Components of NFSRCS

- Eligible participants
- Certification and Standard Qualifications
- The Credentialing Organization
- The Credential
- The Recordkeeping system

Eligibility Requirements

- Active member of a participating department

- At least 18 years old

- Certified as meeting at least one of the competency standards

- Medical and fitness status verified

Certifications and Standards

- National Fire Protection Association
- Code of Federal Regulations (hazmat)
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group (or state equivalent)

Competency Standards

- 19 Competency standards
  - FF I - II
  - Fire Officer I – IV
  - Fire Apparatus Operator
  - Rescue Technician
  - EMS Haz Mat
  - Haz Mat
  - Wildland FF
  - Safety Officer
  - Airport FF
  - Fire Inspector
  - Fire Investigator
  - Fire Instructor
  - Telecommunicators
  - Public Information
  - Emerg Vehicle Tech
  - IMT Teams
  - Marine FF
  - Industrial Fire Brigade

- 1 medical qualification

Medical Qualifications

- The individuals authorizing agency must annually verify to the credentialing organization the medical and fitness standards of the credentialed individuals using NFPA 1582

Credentialing Justification

- The certification system measures each individual's KSA's

- The credentialing agency verifies individual's qualifications

- The third-party review/accreditation validates the process

Credentialing Organization

- Agency is empowered by legal act, legislation, resolution or statute to certify fire service personnel or,

- Organization that provides evidence of support for its involvement as a certifying entity or,

- Organization supported by a law broad enough in scope to encompass certifying activities

Metro Fire Departments

- Many function outside state certification system

- Many provide training that meets or exceed state and NFPA standards

- Credentialing organization will work with Metro departments to establish policies to credential members for a period of two years, then Metros must work through the credentialing agency.

Credentialing Organization Third Party Review

- International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC)
- National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board)

- Equivalent Process that should include:
- Self-analysis
- Written report of analysis
- Review by members of local fire service members and organizations

The Credential

- Credential must meet FIPS Pub 201
(Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 201)

- Recordkeeping system
  - Consistent with FIPS Pub 201

Implementation Recommendations

- DHS should establish and implement the NFSRCS

- DHS will provide the database, software, equipment and staff to support the NFSRCS

- DHS will provide hardware, software, staff

- DHS will establish a program manager and staff within NIMS Integration Center

Implementation Recommendations

- DHS shall investigate worker's compensation and medical coverage for personnel at federal level incidents

- DHS should not tie participation in NFSRCS to eligibility for funding/grants

Funding Recommendations

- DHS should develop a ongoing funding/grant to support implementation of NFSRCS

- DHS should provide funding to fire departments to participate in NFSRCS, including the cost of certification