

## International Association of Fire Chiefs

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### SAFETY, HEALTH AND SURVIVAL SECTION

**“LEADING THE FIRE SERVICE TO A  
SAFER AND HEALTHIER FUTURE”**

## Genesis

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- The Safety, Health and Survival Section grew from the IAFC's "Safety Committee"
- In August 2004, a petition to form a section was initiated by the section given the increasing interest in safety in the fire service.
- Over 600 signatures were collected.



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## Genesis

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- A set of initial bi-laws was approved by the IAFC in the spring of 2005.
- The first official meeting was held in Denver, Colorado on August 12, 2005.
- An interim slate of officers was elected.



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## Section Goals

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- To serve in a leadership role in the fire service relative to fire service safety, health and survival issues.
- To provide recommendations to the IAFC Board of Directors on positions that will foster improved safety, health and survival.
- Accomplishments include:



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## 2005 - Health and Safety Awards

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- Safety Executive of the Year, Fire Chief Carl Plaucher – Orange County, FL.
- Safety Organizations of the Year – Dallas (TX) and Bedford County (VA)
- Safety Officer of the Year – Ron Dennis, Lake Havasu City, AZ



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## Articles

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- Members of the SHS section provide safety and health related articles to:
  - Fire Rescue Magazine
  - On Scene (IAFC Newsletter)
  - SHS section monthly newsletter
  - Fire Chief magazine
  - Firehouse magazine
  - Fire Engineering magazine



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## Vulnerability Assessment Tool

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- Joint project with IAFC Metro Section, USFA and other organizations.
- A self assessment tool consistent with the accreditation model to help fire chiefs assess the vulnerability for a serious injury or LODD.



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## Involvement

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- Model Uniform Traffic Control Devices – Special Session
- ANSI Traffic Safety Vest
- NFPA Incident Management System Professional Qualification Standard
- NFPA 1500
- National Fire Service Mutual Aid System Task Force



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## Involvement

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- [www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com)
- [www.FirefighterNearMiss.com](http://www.FirefighterNearMiss.com)
- SCBA Interoperability
- Review of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan
- National Fallen Fighter's Life Safety Initiatives



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## Importance of NIOSH Fatality Investigation Program

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- The only science based investigation of firefighter fatalities.
- Tremendous credibility in the fire service.
- A data set that the fire service needs to reduce the number of fatalities.



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## Suggestions

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- Adequate budget to ensure that the program can do an investigation of every fatality.
- Informational sessions for Fire Chiefs that explain how the investigation process works, perhaps in cooperation with the IAFC.



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## Suggestions

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- Clear connections between the results of the investigations and the NFPA, IFSTA and other organizations involved specifically with the analysis of the data.
- Regular opportunities to provide feedback on the system (bi-annually)



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