

**HB**

**304**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 304</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
304</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/12/12

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/10/12

State Affairs Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 304

## HB 304-ALASKA FIRE STANDARDS COUNCIL

"An Act relating to the membership of the Alaska Fire Standards Council."

and recommends:

be replaced with SCS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_

adopt previous SCS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_

attached amendment(s)

adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LEG
CED	LAW
COR	LWF
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
DPS	✓			1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	No REC	AMEND
<i>Ullyot Kookesh</i>	Kookesh	✓			
<i>Giessel</i>	Giessel	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	Wielechowski	✓			



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

**REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN**

State Capitol Room 216, Juneau, AK 99801-1182 (907) 465-4993, (907) 465-3872 Fax  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 300, Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 269-0200, (907) 269-0204 Fax

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Bill Wielechowski, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Craig Johnson, Chair *CJ*  
House Rules Committee

DATE: March 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Scheduling Request for HB 304 (Pending Referral)

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I respectfully request that HB 304 "An Act relating to the membership of the Alaska Fire Standards Council" be considered for scheduling in your committee at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me or my staff, Erin Shine, at 465-6871.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

# Alaska House of Representatives

## Representative Craig Johnson

### House Rules Chairman

#### Session Contact

State Capitol Room 216  
Juneau AK, 99801  
Phone: 907-465-4993  
Fax: 907-465-3872



#### Interim Contact

716 W. 4th Ave. Suite 300  
Anchorage AK, 99501-2133  
Phone: 907-269-0200  
Fax: 907-269-0204

#### Sponsor Statement for House Bill 304

Alaska Fire Standards Council

*"An Act relating to the membership of the Alaska Fire Standards Council."*

House Bill 304 makes three changes to the membership of the Alaska Fire Standards Council (the Council): it designates an existing seat to a member of the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association; it adds a seat that must be filled by a member of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association and it reclassifies the existing seat from a "Firefighter Administrative Officer" to a "member of" the Alaska State Firefighters Association.

The mission of the Council is to establish (1) professional standards for fire service personnel and (2) curriculum requirements for the certification of training programs. The 11-member Council must include:

- two chief administrative officers or fire chiefs of local governments;
- four representatives of fire fighters (including at least one fire fighter administrative officer from the Alaska State Fire Fighters Association);
- two volunteer fire fighters (one from a community of less than 2,500; one from a community of greater than 2,500);
- two members of the public at-large (one from a community of less than 2,500; one from a community of greater than 2,500);
- The State Fire Marshall or his/her designee.

The Alaska Professional Fire Firefighters Association (APFFA), which is the Alaska affiliate of the International Association of Fire Fighters, represents roughly 500 professional career fire fighters throughout the state.

The mission of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) is to serve the people of the State of Alaska by influencing fire and emergency service programs and legislation; advancement of fire and emergency services professionals; and providing for the safety and well-being of fire fighters and their communities.

The mission of the Alaska State Firefighters Association (ASFA) is to serve our members through professionalism and leadership thereby enhancing the Fire/Rescue services of Alaska.

Under HB 304, the Governor appoints one member of the APFFA, one member of the AFCA, and one member of the ASFA to the Council from "a list of at least three nominees submitted by each association."

The intent of HB 304 is to ensure that the APFFA, the AFCA, and the ASFA are represented on the Alaska Fire Standards Council and to guarantee that the designees from these three important statewide firefighting groups can speak with the full confidence of their respective associations.



State of Alaska  
Department of Public Safety  
**Fire Standards Council**

Sean Parnell, Governor  
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

April 4, 2011

Alaska Fire Chief's Association  
Chief Jeff Tucker- President  
2358 Bradway Road  
North Pole, AK 99705

Dear Chief Tucker,

On January 31, 2011 the Alaska Fire Chief's Association (AFCA) solicited support from the Alaska Fire Standards Council (AFSC) for a designated seat on the Council. The AFSC recently reconvened for consideration of this request and passed a motion to support the AFCA in establishing a designated seat. This support is specific to the proposal for the designation of an additional seat (under AS 18.70.330 [b] {1}) for a representative of the AFCA.

The mission of the AFSC is to provide fire service personnel within the state of Alaska realistic and attainable standards to safely and effectively serve Alaskan communities. As the AFSC continues to establish training and performance standards for Alaska's Fire Service, we have a vision that includes maintaining the highest level of professional standards and comprehensive certification program requirements. Overall, we strive to have the greatest positive impact toward the safety and welfare of fire service personnel and their communities

In review of your request we have concluded that the AFCA would augment our ability to fulfill our mission. This decision is based on the AFCA's continued efforts to enhance fire service leadership, its longstanding support of the AFSC, and its commitment for continued support of the mission of the AFSC. As such, the AFSC endorses the AFCA efforts for the addition of a seat on the Council that is designated for a representative of the AFCA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Descutner".

Gordon Descutner  
AFSC Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Buddy Lane".

Buddy Lane  
AFSC Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Coon".

Greg Coon  
AFSC Vice Chairman

**"Establishing performance standards for Alaska's fire service"**  
**Alaska Fire Standards Council**

5700 E. Tudor Rd. - Anchorage, AK 99507 - Voice (907) 269-5061 - Fax (907) 269-0134



State of Alaska  
Department of Public Safety  
**Fire Standards Council**

Sean Parnell, Governor  
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

April 4, 2011

Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association  
Thomas Wescott- President  
PO Box 111222  
Anchorage, AK 99511-1222

Dear Mr. Wescott,

On January 31, 2011 the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association (AKPFFA) solicited support from the Alaska Fire Standards Council (AFSC) for a designated seat on the Council. The AFSC recently reconvened for consideration of this request and passed a motion to support the AKPFFA in establishing a designated seat. This support is specific to the proposal for designation of an existing seat (AS 18.70.330 [b] {3}) for a representative of the AKPFFA.

The mission of the AFSC is to provide fire service personnel within the state of Alaska realistic and attainable standards to safely and effectively serve Alaskan communities. As the AFSC continues to establish training and performance standards for Alaska's Fire Service, we have a vision that includes maintaining the highest level of professional standards and comprehensive certification program requirements. Overall, we strive to have the greatest positive impact toward the safety and welfare of fire service personnel and their communities

In review of your request we have concluded that the AKPFFA would augment our ability to fulfill our mission. This decision is based on the AKPFFA's history of active participation in statewide fire service issues and its commitment to support the mission of the AFSC. As such, the AFSC endorses the AKPFFA effort to seek seat designation within an existing seat on the Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Descutner".

Gordon Descutner  
AFSC Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Buddy Lane".

Buddy Lane  
AFSC Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Coon".

Greg Coon  
AFSC Vice Chairman

**"Establishing performance standards for Alaska's fire service"**  
Alaska Fire Standards Council  
5700 E. Tudor Rd. - Anchorage, AK 99507 - Voice (907) 269-5061 - Fax (907) 269-0134



# ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 111222 Anchorage, Alaska 99511-1222

[www.alaskapffa.org](http://www.alaskapffa.org)

North Pole – Ketchikan – Fairbanks – Anchorage – Kotzebue – Juneau – Shemya



Honorable Craig Johnson  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capital Room  
Juneau AK 99801

Representative Johnson:

My name is Tom Wescott and I'm the President of the Alaska Professional Firefighters Association. The AKPFFA represents roughly 500 firefighters from Kotzebue to Ketchikan and on behalf of these hard workingmen and women I'm writing you today to encourage our Alaska State legislators to support HB 304.

HB 304 will reassign a seat on the Alaska Fire Standards Council to the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association (AKPFFA). We feel the importance behind this reassignment is to better coordinate with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the parent organization to the AKPFFA, to which the Council references training and certification standards for education here in Alaska. The IAFF has a vast well-respected library of training modules and proven standards that they have compiled for the fire service since 1918. This relationship will open up those paths making it easier for the Council to access this information along with education towards receiving grants that can assist smaller departments with training needs, an obvious benefit for our small town Alaska fire departments.

The seat that the AKPFFA is asking to reassign to their organization is a seat that is represented by a city consisting of a population greater than 2,500. This seat historically has been filled by a firefighter from either the city of Fairbanks or the city of Anchorage, both to which our organization represents.

The AKPFFA has had extensive meetings and discussions with the Standards Council on this legislation. The council is positive on this reassignment knowing it will bring a voice to the table not only representing roughly 500 Alaskan Fire Fighters from some of Alaska's largest cities, but also a valuable tool with international resources for training and standards education.

Thanks for your support on this legislation,

Thomas A. Wescott  
President AKPFFA  
PO Box 111222  
Anchorage, AK 99511



## ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

2358 Bradway Road, North Pole, Alaska 99705

Phone: (907) 488-3400 FAX: (907) 488-6118

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February 12, 2012

To: Representative Johnson

Reference: House Bill 304, "An Act relating to the membership of the Alaska Fire Standards Council."

Dear Rep. Johnson,

On behalf of the Alaska Fire Chief's Association I want to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 304. HB 304 will allow the Alaska Fire Chief's Association and the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association to join with the Alaska State Firefighters Association in contributing to the success of the Alaska Fire Standards Council.

The Alaska Fire Standards Council's mission is: "To establish professional standards for fire service personnel, and curriculum requirements for the certification of training programs." The mission of the Standards Council's compliments the mission of the Alaska Fire Chief's Association which is: "To serve the people of the State of Alaska by influencing fire and emergency service programs and legislation; advancement of fire and emergency services professionals; and providing for the safety and well-being of firefighters and their communities."

Each of our associations works to improve the fire service in Alaska. The Fire Standards Council has a direct impact on how we provide those services to our residents and visitors. By having a seat on the Council we each would have a representative who would speak for all of the members of our associations and would allow us to better work with the Fire Standards Council in order to accomplish its mission.

The Fire Standards Council and its members unanimously support the inclusion of the Alaska Fire Chief's and Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Associations on the Council and we encourage all legislators to support HB 304.

I would like to again thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Tucker", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Tucker, Fire Chief  
Chair, Alaska Fire Chief's Association Legislative Committee

February 23, 2012

Honorable Craig Johnson  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 216  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Johnson,

The Alaska State Firefighters Association supports the changes to the Fire Standards Council that is being presented by HB 304. As a member of the Fire Standards Council at the time the change was presented, I did have some input into these changes. As president of the ASFA I, believe that the change from Administrative Officer to ASFA Member will allow us to continue to have good representation filling on the Fire Standards Council. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-738-0601. Thank you.

Sincerely

Robert Dennard,  
President  
Alaska State Firefighters Association  
209 Park Street  
Sitka, AK 99835

## **Alaska Fire Standards Council**

### **Mission:**

To establish professional standards for fire service personnel, and curriculum requirements for the certification of training programs.

### **Vision:**

- Maintain the highest level of professional standards for the safety and welfare for fire service personnel and their communities
- Maintain comprehensive certification program requirements
- Enhance the capability and capacity of fire service response personnel
- Preserve public confidence in fire service professionals
- Enhance interoperability within Alaska's emergency response system

### **Values:**

- Firefighter safety
- Effective open communications
- Public service
- Continuing education and training
- Professional credibility and integrity
- Community support
- Transparent process

**Term:** Four years

**Description:** 11 members - 10 appointed by the Governor: 2 chief administrative officers or fire chiefs of local governments (only one of these may be from a local government where the fire department consists entirely of paid employees); 4 representatives of fire fighters, including at least one fire fighter administrative officer from the Alaska State Fire Fighters Association (these members may not, while serving on the council, be a fire chief); 2 volunteer fire fighters, one from a community with a population of 2,500 or less and one from a community with a population greater than 2,500; and 2 members of the public at large with at least one member from a community with a population of 2,500 or less. In addition, the state fire marshal or a designee of the state fire marshal shall serve on the council during his or her continuance in office.

**Function:** The council may adopt regulations for the administration of AS 18.70.320-18.70.369 including establishing minimum training and performance standards for certification of fire services personnel; establish minimum fire training curriculum requirements for certification of training programs that are designed to enable trainees to meet these standards; govern the procedure for certification of fire services training programs that meet the minimum curriculum requirements; govern the procedure for certification of individuals who satisfy the minimum training and performance standards; govern the procedure for revocation of the certificate of a person or program; consult and cooperate with municipalities, agencies of the state, other governmental agencies, universities, colleges, and other institutions concerning the development of fire services training schools and programs offered in the state; employ an administrator and other persons necessary to carry out its duties and charge and collect fees determined by the council to be necessary.

**Chair:** Buddy Lane

For more information, please go to our [contact page](#).

We appreciate your interest in boards and commissions. For further information contact the boards and commissions staff at (907) 465-3500 or by [e-mail](#).



## AFFILIATE LOCALS

Anchorage Fire Fighters Union  
*Local 1264*

Fairbanks Fire Fighters Association  
*Local 1324*

Ketchikan Fire Fighters Association  
*Local 2761*

Juneau Career Firefighters Assoc.  
*Local 4303*

North Pole Fire Fighters  
*Local 4505*

*Visit our Website . . .*  
*alaskapffa.org*



## Officers & Contact Information

### President:

Mark Drygas  
Fairbanks Local 1324  
907-322-7808  
drygas@alaskapffa.org

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Matt McSorley  
Anchorage Local 1264  
907-230-4124  
mcsorley@alaskapffa.org

### Vice-President, Northern Region:

Dominic Lozano  
Fairbanks Local 1324  
907-590-2109  
lozano@alaskapffa.org

### Vice President, Southcentral Region:

Nate Paulson  
Anchorage Local 1264  
907-242-0925  
paulson@alaskapffa.org

### Vice-President, Southeast Region:

Dave Boddy  
Juneau Local 4303  
907-789-2702  
boddy@alaskapffa.org

### Legislative Coordinator

Jeff Briggs  
Anchorage Local 1264  
907-441-2469  
briggs@alaskapffa.org

### Mailing Address

Post Office Box 111222  
Anchorage, Alaska 99511



*International Fire Fighter Magazine  
and AKPFFA Newsletter*

# ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



*affiliated with the*

**International Association  
of  
Fire Fighters  
AFL-CIO, CLC**

*Respecting Tradition . . .  
. . . Embracing the Future*

## ALASKA PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

The Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association was chartered by the International Association of Fire Fighters in 2004, bringing together nearly 500 professional, career fire fighters into a statewide organization.

Though our State Association is relatively new, our goals and objectives have been in place for many years with Anchorage Local 1264 and Fairbanks Local 1324 being chartered when Alaska was still a territory, 1957 and 1959 respectively. By uniting our efforts with Ketchikan Local 2761, Juneau Local 4303, and recently North Pole Local 4505 we present a united voice for professional fire fighters throughout the state. Our members respond to 75% of fire and EMS 911 calls in Alaska.

By combining forces we have already had an impact on the legislature in Juneau. This led to the recent passage of Alaska's Presumptive Disability Law, providing the presumption of job related illness for certain cancers and heart and lung disease contracted by fire fighters. We will actively work for legislation that supports the needs of career fire fighters and will fiercely oppose any proposed legislation that negatively affects the safety or welfare of our members.

To be effective in Juneau we must be active in the election process. We identify candidates for the House, Senate and Governor offices that support the goals and objectives of career fire fighters. We reach across party line and support candidates solely on their positions on issues that affect career fire fighters and their families.

The AKPFFA works with other state and provincial associations through our membership in the Federation of State and Provincial Professional Fire Fighters and in May 2008 hosted a conference in Anchorage for the federation.

We work with our International Association to provide training for our affiliate locals and provide leadership assistance when requested. Our annual convention provides an opportunity for professional fire fighters from across Alaska to meet and share information important to our future.



## The International Association of Fire Fighters IAFF

The IAFF was established on Feb. 28, 1918, for the sole benefit of rank-and-file fire fighters in the United States and Canada. It was on this date that 36 fire fighter delegates attended the first IAFF Convention and adopted the IAFF Constitution and By-Laws. The objectives incorporated into that Constitution remain in its preamble to this day.

Throughout the last 90 years, the members and staff of the IAFF have worked tirelessly to fulfill each of these charges. As a result of their work, the IAFF was the driving force behind nearly every advance in the fire and emergency services in the twentieth century, from the introduction of shift schedules early in the century to the enactment of the 2-in/2-out safety regulation near its close. With extremely active political and legislative programs, and with recognized experts in the fields of occupational health and safety, fire-based emergency medical services and hazardous materials training, the IAFF has long occupied a special place in the North American fire service.

Today, the IAFF is the primary advocate for providing fire fighters and paramedics with the tools

they need to perform their jobs. The union also provides a strong voice in the development and implementation of new training and equipment, and has worked hard to advance the proper staffing of fire and EMS departments.

At the founding meeting in 1918, the delegates decided to dedicate their union to the following objectives (modified only slightly over time):

- To organize all fire fighters and emergency medical or rescue workers;
- To secure just compensation for their services and equitable settlement of their grievances;
- To promote as safe and healthy a working environment for fire fighters as is possible through modern technology;
- To promote the establishment of just and reasonable working conditions;
- To place the members of the Association on a higher plane of skill and efficiency;
- To promote harmonious relations between fire fighters and their employers;
- To encourage the formation of local unions, state and provincial associations and joint councils;
- To encourage the formation of sick and death benefit funds;
- To promote the research and treatment of burns and other related health problems common to fire fighters;
- To encourage the establishment of schools of instruction for imparting knowledge of modern and improved methods of fire fighting and prevention; and
- To cultivate friendship and fellowship among its members.

From the Preamble of the Constitution and By-Laws of the International Association of Fire Fighters



Delegates to the 1918 Founding Convention

Home  
About Us  
Board of Directors  
Bylaws  
Legislative/Resolutions  
MEMBERSHIP Roster  
Jobs  
Memorial  
Contact Us  
AFCA APPLICATION  
Fire Chiefs Survey  
GRANT Information  
Side Text  
Strategic Plan  
Vendor Information  
Agenda / Minutes  
News Releases  
Announcements  
Documents

## About Us

### What does the AFCA do?

#### Educate

We strongly support quality training for our firefighters. During the late 90's we were successful in getting the Fire Standards Council approved by the state legislature.

Our support of education does not stop with firefighters. We are also advocates of public education.

#### Train

Twice annually we have the opportunity to train together. We have the Alaska Fire Conference (fall) and Leadership Summit (spring) conference during which we offer a wide variety of training for chief level officers.

#### Network

We have numerous opportunities to discuss our problems and concerns with our peers. The Department of Veteran and Military Affairs has, for years now, graciously allowed us to use the First Class e-mail system. The majority of our members are taking advantage of this.

We also have monthly teleconferences where we make decisions on the direction of our organization. Frequently, neighboring departments will gather and share the expense of the teleconference.

Finally, we get to meet in person, twice a year, at our conferences. This is a great time to learn from and share with our fellow chief officers.

#### Lobby

Every spring we travel to Juneau for the Leadership Summit to take our concerns to the legislature. This is a great opportunity to get some of your community issues brought forth as well. We generally spend two afternoons "on the hill" talking with the legislators. The rest of the time is spent training.

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#### Goals

In 1971 the State of Alaska had 1,081 actual fires that resulted in 33 fire fatalities, which was also the ten year average for fire fatalities in Alaska at that time. In that year, the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association was established. Now, just over a third of a century later, we find that there were 2,758 actual fires resulting in 12 fire fatalities. Our current ten year fire fatality average is 16.

The over 50% reduction in the 10 year fire fatality average rate has been the result of the combined efforts of the Alaska State Fire Marshal office, the Alaska State Firefighters Association, and the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association. In 2005 we welcomed the Alaska

The goals for our Alaska Fire Chiefs Association are:

- Home
- About Us
- Board of Directors
- Bylaws
- Legislative/Resolutions
- MEMBERSHIP Roster
- Jobs
- Memorial
- Contact Us
- AFCA APPLICATION
- Fire Chiefs Survey
- GRANT Information
- Side Text
- Strategic Plan
- Vendor Information
- Agenda / Minutes
- News Releases
- Announcements
- Documents

**Long term**

1. Zero fire fatalities.
2. A sustainable funding source for the Alaska Fire Standards Council.

**Short Term**

3. Passage of a Fire Safe Self-Extinguishing Cigarette bill.
4. A statewide assistance program to assist registered fire departments with matching requirements for federal grants.
5. Assist registered fire departments with training and equipment needs.

**Upcoming Events**

2012 LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
 REGISTRATION  
 2012 Leadership Summit Conference Schedule

**Quick Links**

Lighthouse Uniform Company  
 With All Due Respect  
 Fire Service Bookstore  
 Daily Dispatch  
 Fire Service Library  
 Western Fire Chiefs



9-11 Commemorative Chin Strap

## **About the Alaska State Firefighters Association**

The Alaska State Firefighters Association (ASFA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Representing Alaska's firefighters with chapters from Kotzebue to Ketchikan representing the interest of Alaskan firefighters, fire prevention specialists, Emergency Medical Technicians, dispatchers, and various other positions encompassed within the fire service today. The departments represented consist of paid, volunteer, and combination departments. The Alaska State Firefighters Association website will be a resource for both the safety minded Public and the members of the State Firefighters Association throughout the state.

### **Our Mission**

To serve our members through professionalism and leadership thereby enhancing the Fire/Rescue services of Alaska.

### **Our Vision**

The Alaska State Firefighters Association Seeks to:

- Provide a progressive voice for Alaska's firefighters
- Be a professional organization that provides the finest training and education opportunities to Alaskan firefighters
- Foster a fire safe Alaska

### **We Value**

- The contribution of all members
- Providing an atmosphere of involvement and participation
- The dedication of all Fire Rescue personnel to provide life safety and the protection of property
- Public and firefighter safety/education
- Inter-agency cooperation and communication
- Open communications at all levels
- Family unity and support
- Camaraderie, trust and integrity of the Fire/Rescue service