



*"Serving the Chief Fire
Officers of Colorado
since 1968"*

CSFCA Member Update **March 22, 2007**

Legislative Update

An update on the status of bills of interest to the Colorado fire service has been posted on the Legislative Page of the CSFCA Website at: www.colofirechiefs.org/legislative.htm.

Firefighter Presumptive Cancer Bill Passes 2nd Reading in House

March 22, 2007 – House Bill 07-1008, Concerning Workers' Compensation Coverage for Firefighters Who Contract Certain Types of Cancer, was taken up by the Colorado House of Representatives on 2nd reading this afternoon. The bill was amended on the floor and passed on a voice vote.

HB 1008's sponsor, Representative Cerbo, offered an amendment to the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee Report which requires the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment in conjunction with the workers compensation insurance carriers to provide a report to the legislature by March 1, 2008 regarding the number of claims allowed pursuant to the Act. The amendment, which passed with no objection, extends the due date of the report by one year, requires that it be done within existing resources of the Department, and requires that it include the cost of workers comp claims associated with the legislation.

The second amendment offered by Rep. Cerbo lowers the standard for rebuttable evidence from "clear and convincing medical evidence" to "a preponderance of the evidence". This amendment also passed without objection.

In presenting his bill, Rep. Cerbo noted that 23 states have firefighter presumptive cancer legislation in some form, and noted that these states have realized minimal or no impact on workers compensation as a result of firefighter cancer claims. He cited California and Oklahoma that experienced an impact of less than one-tenth of 1 percent, Illinois that experienced no impact, and Rhode Island and Nevada that have each experienced less than 1 claim per year.

Rep. Cerbo suggested that the medical evidence between cancer risk and firefighting is irrefutable. Yet, firefighters are reluctant to make a workers compensation claim because they know they will be denied and it would cost a significant amount of money to challenge the denial.

Four members of the House rose to speak in opposition to the bill, and much of the discussion surrounded the "slippery slope" created if this bill were to pass (which group of employees would be next?).

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Representative Liston, who sits on the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee, addressed his concerns with HB 1008, including the argument that the bill represents an unfunded mandate on local governments. He referred to a new fiscal note that was requested (a copy of which is not yet available) which indicates that the bill would impact local governments by a "large and unknown amount."

It is interesting to note that Rep. Liston made mention of the report released today that shows that 40% of the on-duty deaths of firefighters is due to heart disease, and suggested that proper diet and exercise could go a long way to address this issue.

Because, according to Rep. Liston, this bill affects local governments and the voice of local governments has not been heard on the issue, he offered a substitute motion to refer the bill to House Local Government Committee. The substitute motion failed.

Representative Stephens, who also sits on the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee, spoke against the bill and stated that there was not clear and convincing evidence that firefighters were at greater risk for the types of cancer this bill would cover. She indicated that a major flaw with the bill is that it does not address the safety issue, that being how we can better protect firefighters against the hazards they face.

From the voice vote taken on the motion to adopt HB 1008 on 2nd reading, it is unclear how much support there will be to pass the bill on 3rd and final reading in the House.

For a copy of the "Engrossed Bill" which includes the 2nd Reading amendments, click [here](#) or go to the CSFCA Legislative Page at: <http://www.colofirechiefs.org/legislative2.htm>.

Volunteer Chiefs Section Organizational Meeting

As a means to better serve the needs of the volunteer chief fire officer in Colorado, the decision was made to explore the creation of a Volunteer Chiefs Section of the CSFCA devoted to this need. Chief Don Chapman of the Alamosa Fire Department has agreed to chair the effort, with the assistance of Chief David DeTray of the La Veta Fire Department.

The Volunteer Chiefs Section organizational meeting has been set for Saturday, March 24, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at Alamosa Fire Station 2 at Craft Drive and Vigil Way in Alamosa. At this meeting we will be discussing the structure of the new section, its mission, goals and objectives, how and when to hold meetings and the content of the meetings, and specifically how the Section will reach out to the volunteer chief officers in the state.

All are welcome to participate. Please RSVP to Paul Cooke at paul@coloradofirechiefs.org.

Apparatus/Equipment to be Donated

The Arvada Fire Department is looking to donate a 1985 Sutphen Pumper to a deserving department within the State of Colorado. The truck is in good condition and has passed pump test every year without any problems. The details on this vehicle and the donation offer can be found on the CSFCA website or by clicking [here](#).

Harvard Medical School Study on Firefighter Deaths from Heart Disease

March 22, 2007 – The New England Journal of Medicine today published the Harvard Medical School study “Emergency Duties and Deaths from Heart Disease among Firefighters in the United States.” Following is an abstract of the study.

ABSTRACT

Background. Heart disease causes 45% of the deaths that occur among U.S. firefighters while they are on duty. We examined duty-specific risks of death from coronary heart disease among on-duty U.S. firefighters from 1994 to 2004.

Methods. We reviewed summaries provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the deaths of all on-duty firefighters between 1994 and 2004, except for deaths associated with the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Estimates of the proportions of time spent by firefighters each year performing various duties were obtained from a municipal fire department, from 17 large metropolitan fire departments, and from a national database. Odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for death from coronary heart disease during specific duties were calculated from the ratios of the observed odds to the expected odds, with nonemergency duties as the reference category.

Results. Deaths from coronary heart disease were associated with suppressing a fire (32.1% of all such deaths), responding to an alarm (13.4%), returning from an alarm (17.4%), engaging in physical training (12.5%), responding to nonfire emergencies (9.4%), and performing nonemergency duties (15.4%). As compared with the odds of death from coronary heart disease during nonemergency duties, the odds were 12.1 to 136 times as high during fire suppression, 2.8 to 14.1 times as high during alarm response, 2.2 to 10.5 times as high during alarm return, and 2.9 to 6.6 times as high during physical training. These odds were based on three estimates of the time that firefighters spend on their duties.

Conclusions. Certain emergency firefighting duties were associated with a risk of death from coronary heart disease that was markedly higher than the risk associated with nonemergency duties. Fire suppression was associated with the highest risk, which was approximately 10 to 100 times as high as that for nonemergency duties.

To read the complete study, go to: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/356/12/1207>.

12 Lead Cardiac Monitor Needed

Indian Hills Fire/Rescue is in desperate need of a twelve lead cardiac monitor in order to allow a member paramedic to serve in that capacity instead of being limited to BLS services. Is there anyone who might be upgrading their equipment and would have a twelve lead cardiac monitor available at a less than new, retail price?

Please contact Chief D. J. Himstedt, Indian Hills Fire/Rescue at chief@indianhillsfirerescue.org or (303) 697-4568.

Make Your Reservations Now for June Meeting in Glenwood Springs

The Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association General Membership Meeting of June 1, 2007 will be located at:

AmericInn at Glenwood Springs
52000 Two Rivers Plaza
Glenwood Springs, CO

Make your reservations now by calling Toll Free (888) 411-8188.

Rates: \$89.00 (Government Rate) on Thursday the 31st of May, and \$109.00 on the Friday and Saturday, June 1st & June 2nd for a 2 queen standard room. They also have a few suites available that they will offer to us at the rate of \$150 per night for a basic suite and \$175 for a deluxe suite, subject to availability.

To receive the special rates, our members must CALL the hotel prior to May 16, 2007 and identify themselves as being with the State Fire Chiefs Group. They are not able to receive these reduced rates over the Internet.

The AmericInn is a brand-new hotel on the site of Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park. The hotel is fully sprinklered and has a lot of amenities. Their website is: <http://www.americinnglenwoodsprings.com/>.

Note: The Combo Chiefs Meeting will be held in Glenwood Springs on May 31, 2007. This is a change from the schedule posted on the website and will be the subject of a separate E-mail message from Chief Bruce Mygatt. The General Membership Meeting will be held on June 1, 2007 beginning at 9:30 a.m., and a meeting of the new Volunteer Chiefs Section is being proposed for Saturday, June 2, 2007, also beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Keep Going Hall of Fame Looking for Firefighters

Fairfax, Va., Mar. 16, 2007... For the past 20 years, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has had a successful partnership with Energizer®, promoting the Change Your Clock Change Your Battery® program throughout the United States.

Energizer is now offering fire-service and EMS members an opportunity to enter a contest with significant rewards. Please review the information below to nominate people in your department who exemplify the "Keep Going" spirit of this award. One hundred semifinalists and 10 finalists will be recognized. The grand-prize winner will be inducted into the

Energizer *Keep Going*® Hall of Fame and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize, plus a \$5,000 donation to a charity of his or her choice.

Please see contest information at: <http://www.keepgoinghalloffame.com>.

Fire Service Award for Excellence 2007

The 2007 application period for the Fire Service Award for Excellence is now open. This award, co-sponsored by U.S. Safety Fire Technologies and the IAFC, recognizes innovations and achievements in managing resources to reduce the loss of life and property from fire and other emergencies. This prestigious award was conceived in 1989 by Chief Ronny J. Coleman, IAFC President 1988-1989; and sponsoring partner, Mr. Wayne Boyd, President of U.S. Fire Safety Technologies. Over the years, nominations have come from nearly every conceivable program area: management, fire prevention, personnel accountability systems and minority hiring practices, to name a few.

Seven finalists are recognized at Fire-Rescue International (FRI) each year during a reception hosted by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. The international champion is selected from the seven finalists and presented with the grand prize during a general session at FRI.

Please share this message with your division and association members and other fire service colleagues to encourage participation in this most prestigious recognition. There are a great many programs out there that deserve to be showcased!

Application forms are available for download at: [Fire Service Award for Excellence](#)

The deadline for applications is 1 June 2007.

CSFCA Membership Renewals

It is that time of year! The applications for membership (for all classes of members) are found on the CSFCA website at: www.colofirechiefs.org/membership.htm. Please take a moment download, fill out the application, and submit it by fax, e-mail, or regular mail.

This year, as a convenience to our members, we are accepting credit card payments. The instructions for payment by credit card are attached to the application.

Thank you!

Report on Fire Code Adoption in Colorado

The Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association (CSFCA) conducted a survey of Colorado fire departments from 12/18/2006 – 2/6/2007. Among other things, this survey was designed to collect information on the current status of fire code, urban wildland interface code, and wildland fire mitigation plan adoption in the state.

A total of 107 fire departments responded to the survey out of approximately 398 fire departments in the state, for a response rate of 26.8%.

A report "Fire Code Adoption in Colorado – 2007" which presents the compiled results of the survey related to these topics has been posted to the CSFCA website at: <http://www.colofirechiefs.org/library.htm>.

Fire Code Amendment Concerning Gated Community Sought

The West Routt Fire Protection District is working on the adoption of the 2003 IFC and is looking for an amendment that addresses access to a gated community. The fire chief is considering requiring the installation of an Opticom receiver at the gate.

If anyone has such an amendment or a policy concerning access to a gated community, the West Routt fire chief would greatly appreciate a copy. He can be reached directly at:

Bryan Rickman, Fire Chief
West Routt Fire Protection District
Tel: 970 276-3796
westrouttchief@netscape.net

Also, the Colorado State Fire Chiefs' Association is building an on-line library of example documents for the fire service at: <http://www.colofirechiefs.org/library.htm>. If you have developers guides, fire code amendments, fee schedules or anything else that you would like to contribute to the on-line library, these would be greatly appreciated. To do so, simply send them to the CSFCA Executive Director at paul@coloradofirechiefs.org as a Word or PDF document, and they will be posted.

Upcoming Workshops & Conferences

4th Annual Western Colorado All-Hazards Conference
March 26-30, 2007
Montrose, Colorado

Colorado Mitigation & Wildfire Conference
April 13-15, 2007
Pueblo, Colorado

Utilizing Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) in WMD
Apr 23-25, 2007
Berthoud FPD, Colorado

Colorado Emergency Services, Safety and Prevention Conference
April 25 -27, 2007
Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge, Colorado

Colorado Wildland Fire & Incident Management Academy
June 2-8, 2007
Alamosa, Colorado

Missouri Valley Association of Fire Chiefs 2007 Conference
July 18-20, 2007
Rapid City, SD

For more information on these workshops and conferences, including links to conference websites and registration information, visit the Training and Conferences Page on our website at: <http://www.colofirechiefs.org/trainingconf.htm>