



## Congressional Fire Watch

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

JULY 2005

### Letter From the Editor

The Congressional Fire Watch is an independent research publication of Lambert, Edwards & Associates, in coordination with the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA), the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA) and other information providers. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide a clearinghouse for the various news items and statistics published on the fire service industry. Given the increasingly critical role the fire service industry has played since 9/11/01, particularly as it relates to the effectiveness of our nation's homeland security initiatives, this newsletter was specifically designed to be a working fact sheet for those individuals who are instrumental in deciding where taxpayer funding is best utilized.

First and foremost, the fire service industry is grounded in its commitment to both saving lives and preserving property. Structural damage resulting from fire cost our nation close to \$8.7 Billion in 2003, spread across close to 520,000 fires. While that number may seem too large to comprehend at first blush, consider that in 1983 our nation retained 1.1 Million career and volunteer firefighters, compared with 1.09 Million at present – a net decrease. During the same period, property damage costs skyrocketed by nearly 50%, a factor which indicates that many of our homes and businesses are less safe from the threat of fire today than they were 20+ years ago. With less and less resources to protect an ever-growing population from the threat of fire and the impending threat of terrorist attack, we are indeed at an inflection point. Our firefighters and the equipment they are supported by continue to remain our nation's first line of defense within the homeland and, at present, it is a line that is overburdened and under-funded, at best. In sum, it is our hope that the statistics and news items gleaned from this report will speak for themselves, helping to inform and guide the decision makers in making life saving decisions, both with their voice and with their financial backing of the fire service industry, going forward.

Together with the support of industry associations, the value of the CFW newsletter will be driven by expert experience and insight. Through the marriage of statistical fact and expert opinion, this newsletter has been designed to provide all of the necessary information to make educated decisions on the most critical of fire and homeland security-related questions.

A final note: on September 14th, FAMA and FEMSA will host an evening reception in Washington D.C. to discuss issues critical to the fire service industry. The discussion will touch on issues such as the evolving role of the first responder, the role of the fire service as it relates to the protection of the homeland from terrorist threat, as well as a discussion on congress' efforts to fund our fire service professionals where they are most in need, whether in terms of equipment, training or both. For those interested, we believe this event to be a rare opportunity to become better educated on the fire service industry and its role in the security of our homeland by some of the nation's leading fire and security experts.

All of the articles and statistics in this report are republished from various news sites, both public and private. All sourcing is noted in association with the article.

Thank you for your readership.

Noel R. Ryan III  
Director of Research, Editor  
Lambert, Edwards & Associates, Inc.



### Key Contributors To the Congressional Fire Watch – July 2005

#### Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA)

The Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA) is a non-profit trade association organized in 1946. Members of FAMA are committed to enhancing the quality of the fire apparatus industry and emergency service community through the manufacture and sale of safe, efficient fire apparatus and equipment.

#### Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA)

The Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA) represents over 160 companies that provide products and services to millions of fire and EMS professionals throughout the world. As the federal government institutes executive directives and legislative initiatives to better equip emergency service professionals, FEMSA is there.

### Key Upcoming Events

#### Day on the Hill Reception Sept. 14, 2005

FAMA and FEMSA will host an evening reception in conjunction with Day on the Hill on Sept. 14, 2005. FAMA and FEMSA members will have an opportunity to reconnect with congressional leaders to discuss the latest developments in the fire industry. Last year, over 160 individuals from Congress, DHS, industry associations and private industry attended the symposium.

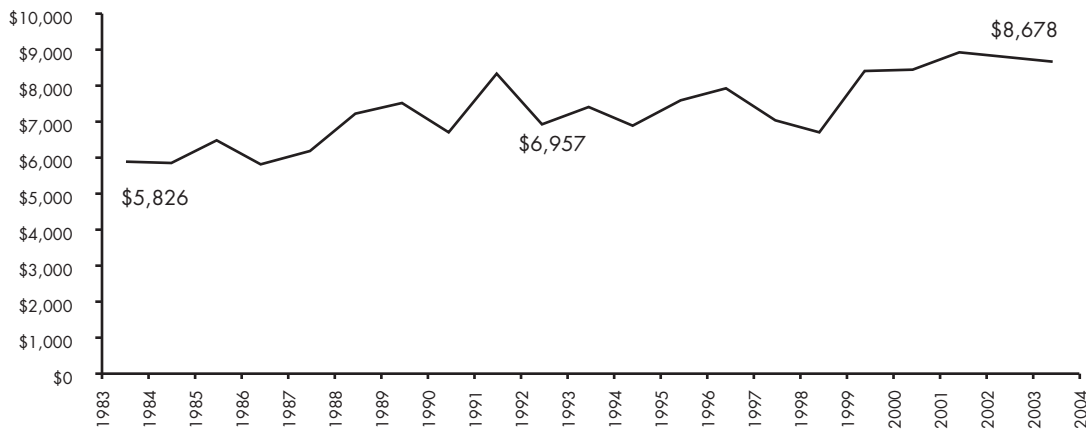
#### EVENT DETAILS

EVENT	FAMA/FEMSA GAC Evening Congressional Reception for all Congressional Representatives (Congressmen and Senators) and their staffers
DATE	Wednesday, September 14, 2005
VENUE	Rayburn House Office Building Independence Ave. & So. Capitol St., SW, Washington, DC Gold Room
TIME	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
OFFERING	Cocktails and buffet hors d'oeuvres
SPEAKERS	Congressman Curt Weldon (PA, R-7th)   Jeff Resch, President, Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA)   William "Giff" Swayne, President, Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA)
THEME	"Better Equipment, Better Training"
CONTACT	RSVP Required by August 19, 2005 Contact Karen Burnham, Executive Assistant to the FAMA and FEMSA Boards of Directors at (781) 334-2771, (781) 334-2911, or email <a href="mailto:info@femsa.org">info@femsa.org</a> or <a href="mailto:info@fama.org">info@fama.org</a> .



## Quick Facts

- Over the past five years, we have seen fire-related property damage increase (on average) 5.7% annually to \$8.7 billion, at the most recent tally.
- At present, fire related property damage is costing our nation **over \$23 million per day**.
- Over the past five years, the **\$3 billion emergency rescue industry** has served more than 30,000 fire departments nationwide averaging a staff of 35 firefighters per department.
- 54% of nation's fire trucks are 15 years old or more
  - >> 2004 NFPA Standard (Annex D) recommends units 15 years or older be replaced or put on reserve status.
- Conclusion: Old Equipment = More loss of life and increases in net property damage costs**



## With the advent of July 4th, a few thoughts on Fireworks (Source: NVFC and FEMA)...

- An estimated 23,200 fireworks fires in 2002 caused approximately \$35 million in property loss and almost 60 percent of those fires occur during the month of July around the Independence Day holiday, according to a new report from FEMA
- States that ban all consumer fireworks: Arizona, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island

## A Few Facts on our Firefighters (Source: NFPA)...

- Most of the career firefighters (74%) are in communities that protect 25,000 or more people.
- Most of the volunteer firefighters (93%) are in departments that protect fewer than 25,000 people, and more than half are located in small, rural departments protecting fewer than 2,500 people.
- Three-fifths to three-fourths of fire departments nationally do not have enough fire stations to meet response distance guidelines developed by the Rand Corporation and the Insurance Services Office.
- An estimated 492 fire stations are at least 40 years old, 625 have no backup power and 944 are not equipped for exhaust emission control.
- In 2003, a total of 105 firefighters were fatally injured while on duty. Of these, 25 were career, 58 were volunteer, and 22 were no-municipal (those not employed by local, public fire departments).
- In 2003, 78,750 firefighters were injured in the line of duty. 38,045 of these injuries occurred on the fireground.

*\*For Full Analysis, Please see Appendix*



### Section I: Congressional Spotlight: Christopher Cox and the First Responders Bill

Christopher Cox, author of the First Responders Bill, is the first Chairman of the **House Committee on Homeland Security**, with primary jurisdiction over the nation's third largest cabinet agency, the Department of Homeland Security. In addition, the committee has responsibility for government-wide homeland security policy and the most significant responsibility for homeland security policy of any House or Senate committee.

Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005 - (Sec. 3) is one of the most recent amendments to the Homeland Security Act of 2002. This amendment sets forth provisions governing Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funding for first responders pursuant to the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Urban Area Security Initiative, and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program. It makes eligible for a covered grant any State, region, or directly eligible tribe and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to require any State applying for a covered grant to submit a three-year State homeland security plan, to be developed in consultation with local governments and first responders.

### Section II: Congressional Calendar: Fire/Emergency Rescue Legislation on the Docket

#### Special report: Chiefs on the Hill – May 1, 2005 (Source: CFSI)

WASHINGTON, D.C. A big part of the CFSI Annual Dinner is what happens before the big night, when fire chiefs attend workshops and schedule meetings with their representatives in Congress. On Scene asked a few of them about their impressions.

CHIEF KEN BRISCOE OF CITY OF LENOIR (N.C.) Fire Department met with both of his senators and two members of Congress. CFSI day on the Hill "gives us a chance to plead our case. We had their undivided attention. This morning has been great because it opens the door to communication and rapport, which is really the biggest barrier the fire service has."

CHIEF RAYMOND A. GODIN OF TURNER FALLS (Mass.) Fire Department said: "It's very important for those elected to know that we, as a group, are very intent on getting our agenda through with them. They need to hear from people out in the weeds. With (so many) Massachusetts chiefs showing up, we think that sends a message to our people in Congress, but also to other state groups. It says we think it's important enough to be here."

CHIEF WILLIAM P. SCOBLE OF WESTWOOD Fire Department (Mass.) and vice president of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, said his experience on the Hill was productive. "We're getting very good access to our congressman and senators ... and they've been very supportive. We come in with a short agenda and don't tie them up. They know our issues ... and they're not happy when they hear about all the roadblocks at the state level."

CHIEF KEN BOUVIER OF MONSANTO FIRE COMPANY, LULING (La.), and president of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians said: "We see the CFSI as a great opportunity to represent EMS issues. It's very respected. We've attended some great workshops and what it is, I think, is bringing people together all in one place to network. If not for this day, there'd be a whole lot of traveling."

COMMISSIONER EDWARD J. CREAN JR. OF HAUPPAUGE FIRE DISTRICT (N.Y.), a former chief, said one thing's clear about CFSI day on the Hill: "I think the people of Washington know we're here. You really can't miss us. This method has been very successful. We were here today and yesterday meeting with people in Congress. They've been very receptive."



**Speaker Hastert's Floor Statement on of the First Responders Bill – May 12, 2005** (Source: [Speaker.house.gov](http://Speaker.house.gov)) (Washington D.C.) Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL) today made the following statement on the passage of H.R. 1544 the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act:

*"Just yesterday we saw the important role that first responders play in keeping our nation safe. I want to commend Police Chief Terrance Gainer and the U.S. Capitol Police for a quick, professional response that protected the Members of the House of Representatives, our employees as well as the Capitol visitors.*

*"This legislation cuts the red tape and streamlines the grant system so that desperately needed preparedness funds can get to communities without delay on the part of the federal government. In exchange, it establishes measurable goals so that local authorities can achieve a baseline of security for their communities. And, because we all know how much can be done working together, this bill encourages states, localities and communities to pool their resources and apply jointly for these grants. Such regional cooperation can ensure a tighter net while incurring less cost.*

*"H.R. 1544 will make the homeland security grant program more effective. It fulfills the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, which cautioned in its report last year that Congress should not use terrorism preparedness dollars as "a pork barrel." And most important, this legislation will get first responders the money they need to do their jobs.*

### Section III: ER Industry and Homeland Security: The First Responder

**Fire Fighters Receive Funding From Dept Of Homeland Security – March 9, 2005** (Source: IAFF)

WASHINGTON, DC – The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the labor union for professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel across the U.S. and Canada, as part of their "Project HEROES" (Homeland Emergency Response Operational and Equipment Systems) initiative, has received a federal government contract by the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) with funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to rapidly develop, prototype and field test structural fire fighting PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) with enhanced chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) protective qualities to account for today's new threats.

Fire fighters currently do not wear structural fire fighting PPE that can protect them in an environment where there has been a release of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agents.

The IAFF has constructed a project team consisting of leading fire service organizations and major academia. The team consists of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Total Fire Group/Morning Pride Manufacturing, a leading fire service ensemble manufacturer, the National Personal Protection Technology Laboratory of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), International Personnel Protection, and two academic partners – the University of Massachusetts and the University of Arkansas.

"Fire Departments do not have the resources to provide multiple garments for each responder, so one multi-purpose suit will offer the best way for fire fighters to ensure they're protected against any hazard," says Harold Schaitberger, General President of the International Association of Fire Fighters. "The Project HEROES prototype will be revolutionary because it will offer the highest level of protection without the burden of extra weight, loss of mobility and added stress, so our fire fighters can do their job."



### National Incident Management System

Developed by the Secretary of Homeland Security at the request of the President, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management. The NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity.

The benefits of the NIMS system will be significant:

- | Standardized organizational structures, processes and procedures
- | Standards for planning, training and exercising, and personnel qualification standards
- | Equipment acquisition and certification standards
- | Interoperable communications processes, procedures and systems
- | Information management systems
- | Supporting technologies – voice and data communications systems, information systems, data display systems and specialized technologies

### Section IV: “In the Community”: Community Relations and The Impact of The Fire/Emergency Rescue

#### NVFC Releases Volunteer Cost Savings Study / Calculator

WASHINGTON, DC – On September 10, 2004, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Foundation officially released its Cost Savings Study and Calculator at the National Associations of Towns and Townships conference in Washington, DC. The study, which was conducted by the Public Safety and Environmental Protection Institute at St. Joseph’s University with the assistance of VFIS, found that it would cost American taxpayers \$37.2 billion annually if we had to replace all volunteer firefighters nationwide with career staffing.

Twenty-one Health and Safety Advocacy Organizations Partner to Prevent Injury & Fire from Fireworks  
NVFC E-update (June 21, 2005)

The NVFC, along with twenty other health and fire safety advocacy organizations, have come together to urge consumers not to use fireworks, including sparklers, this Independence Day holiday because of the injuries and damage they cause.

“Every year consumer fireworks injure and maim our children,” said James M. Shannon, president and CEO of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which along with the American Academy of Pediatrics, founded the alliance of health and safety organizations three years ago. “Consumer fireworks are a significant public safety concern shared by doctors, nurses, other health care professionals, and members of the fire service.”



### Section V: Review of New/Upcoming Events In The Fire Protection Industry

#### Fire Caucus Leaders Guide House Resolution In Support Of Fire Service Safety Initiatives To Quick Passage Congressional Fire Services Institute (June 21, 2005)

On the day of the national fire service stand down, the U.S. House of Representatives demonstrated its support of the joint initiatives by the national fire organizations and the United States Fire Administration to reduce firefighter deaths by unanimously approving a concurrent resolution to make firefighter safety a top priority, nationally. H.Con.Res. 180, sponsored by Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD), was placed on the legislative fast track thanks to House Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (NY), along with Representatives Curt Weldon (PA), Rob Andrews (NJ), Benny Thompson (MS) and Darlene Hooley (OR).

"We recognize that there are many risks inherent to being a firefighter, but that does not mean that we should ever accept the loss of a firefighter's life," said Congressman Hoyer. "This resolution affirms Congress's support of the efforts of the national fire organizations and U.S. Fire Administration in addressing the safety and protection of our nation's first responders. We will continue to work with them to provide the necessary tools and training to ensure that 'Everyone Goes Home.'"

#### Excerpt from "Fire departments nationwide to 'stand down' for firefighter safety" announcement (June 16, 2005) Jennifer Ashley, IAFC Director of Communications

As of May 1, 50 firefighters had died in the line of duty in the United States – that is 10 more than at that time last year. Since May 1, that number has risen to 58. In addition, the National Fire Protection Association cites more than 78,000 firefighter injuries annually. Firefighter injury and death rates have remained relatively constant over the past several years, despite monumental improvements in technology and equipment.

#### President Bush Submits Fiscal Year 2006 Budget (February 7, 2005)

The following is language included in the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2006 for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program:

"The Assistance to Firefighters Grants program would provide \$500 million in competitive grants to fire departments and emergency medical providers. These funds would pay for vehicles, equipment, and training that these responders need to better protect the public, especially from potential terrorist attacks and other mass casualty events. The Administration will continue its efforts to remove bureaucratic obstacles to the participation of large fire departments in this program."

The figure of \$500 million is the same amount that the President proposed for fiscal years 2004 and 2005. The budget proposal for the Department of Homeland Security can be obtained from the **Office of Management and Budget (OMB)**.

#### USFA Initiates Emergency Vehicle Safety Partnerships with National Fire Groups to Reduce Firefighter Fatalities (September 21, 2004)

WASHINGTON, DC. - The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has initiated partnerships with three leading fire service membership organizations to reduce the number of firefighters killed while responding to or returning from the emergency scene. The partnerships, through the United States Fire Administration (USFA), have been established with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC).



In the last ten years, over 225 firefighters have been killed in the line of duty while responding to or returning from emergencies. Deaths during this type of duty are typically only second to deaths on the emergency scene in the number of firefighters killed. In 2003, more firefighters lost their lives while responding or returning than were killed by non medically-related causes on the fire scene. Most of these deaths occurred in vehicle crashes. This outreach project to the fire service regarding vehicle safety will address issues such as seatbelt use, intersection safety, fire apparatus and emergency vehicles safety design, driver selection and training, policies involving alcohol and driving, and implementation of alternative response programs.

Further information about these partnership initiatives as well as other USFA efforts in emergency vehicle safety may be found on the USFA Web site at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/inside-usfa/research/vehicle.shtm>.

## Appendix 1: Recently Published Statistics - Fire Protection Industry (June 2005)

### Exhibit 1: The Impact of Fire: Loss of Life, Loss of Property...On The Rise

Year	Fires	Civilian Deaths	Civilian Injuries	Property Damage (\$MM)	Property Damage Y/Y Growth Rate	Fire Loss Per Day (\$MM)
2003	519,500	3,385	15,600	\$8,678	-0.7%	\$23.8
2002	519,000	2,775	15,600	\$8,742	-1.5%	\$24.0
2001	521,500	3,220	17,225	\$8,874	4.4%	\$24.3
2000	505,500	3,535	19,600	\$8,501	0.1%	\$23.3
1999	523,000	3,040	18,525	\$8,490	26.4%	\$23.3
1998	517,500	3,420	19,425	\$6,717	-5.2%	\$18.4
1997	552,000	3,510	20,375	\$7,087	-10.7%	\$19.4
1996	578,500	4,220	21,875	\$7,933	4.1%	\$21.7
1995	573,500	3,985	21,725	\$7,620	11.0%	\$20.9
1994	614,000	3,590	23,125	\$6,867	-7.3%	\$18.8
1993	621,500	3,980	26,550	\$7,406	6.5%	\$20.3
1992	637,500	3,940	24,325	\$6,957	-16.4%	\$19.1
1991	640,500	3,765	24,975	\$8,320	23.9%	\$22.8
1990	624,000	4,400	24,075	\$6,713	-10.7%	\$18.4
1989	688,000	4,655	24,025	\$7,518	4.6%	\$20.6
1988	745,000	5,280	26,275	\$7,188	15.5%	\$19.7
1987	758,000	4,880	23,815	\$6,226	6.7%	\$17.1
1986	800,000	4,985	22,750	\$5,837	-9.3%	\$16.0
1985	859,500	5,265	23,350	\$6,437	9.3%	\$17.6
1984	848,000	4,525	23,025	\$5,891	1.1%	\$16.1
1983	868,500	5,090	26,150	\$5,826	1.7%	\$16.0
Average (Trailing 5 Years)				\$8,657	5.7%	\$23.7
Average (Trailing 10 Years)				\$7,951	2.1%	\$22
Average (Trailing 20 Years)				\$7,400	2.6%	\$20



## Exhibit 2: Population/Housing Continue to Grow, While Growth Of Fire Dept Remains Stagnant

Year	Population	Population %	Housing	Housing %	Fire Dept	Fire Dept %	Fire Dept	Fire Dept %
2003	1,096,900	-1%	296,850	2%	800,050	-2%	30,542	1%
2002	1,108,250	3%	291,650	-1%	816,600	4%	30,310	1%
2001	1,078,300	1%	293,600	2%	784,700	1%	30,020	-1%
2000	1,064,150	0%	286,800	2%	777,350	-1%	30,339	0%
1999	1,065,150	-2%	279,900	1%	785,250	-2%	30,436	-2%
1998	1,082,500	0%	278,300	1%	804,200	0%	31,114	1%
1997	1,079,050	0%	275,700	4%	803,350	-1%	30,665	-3%
1996	1,081,800	-2%	266,300	2%	815,500	-3%	31,503	1%
1995	1,098,850	2%	260,850	-2%	838,000	4%	31,197	2%
1994	1,073,600	2%	265,700	2%	807,900	2%	30,495	0%
1993	1,055,050	0%	259,650	3%	795,400	-1%	30,528	0%
1992	1,058,300	2%	253,000	-3%	805,300	4%	30,562	0%
1991	1,033,600	1%	261,800	3%	771,800	0%	30,587	1%
1990	1,025,650	0%	253,000	1%	772,650	0%	30,391	1%
1989	1,020,700	-2%	250,600	-1%	770,100	-2%	30,135	0%
1988	1,040,750	-2%	252,500	4%	788,250	-3%	30,245	2%
1987	1,060,000	1%	243,200	2%	816,800	1%	29,741	0%
1986	1,045,950	-3%	237,750	0%	808,200	-4%	29,840	6%
1985	1,077,950	-5%	238,500	3%	839,450	-6%	28,204	0%
1984	1,129,350	2%	231,600	2%	897,750	1%	28,260	0%
1983	1,111,200	NA	226,600	NA	884,600	NA	28,227	NA
Average		-0.05%		1.38%		-0.46%		0.41%

## Exhibit 3: ...How Can We Have Population and Housing Growth Without a Net-Increase in First Responders? It's not Enough of A Priority.

Year	Total Housing Starts	Total Houses Sold	US Census Total Housing Units	Growth Rate Per Decade Total Housing Units
2000	1,568,600	877,000	115,904,641	13%
1990	1,192,600	534,000	102,262,201	16%
1980	1,292,200	545,000	88,410,627	NA

Source: National Association of Home Builders, US Census, Lambert Edwards, National Association of Realtors