



# Truman Fire Forum Report

August 16-18, 2022 | Independence, MO

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# Introduction

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman convened a gathering from every corner of American society in Washington, D.C. to address the nation's fire problem. President Truman was appalled by several high-life loss fires in hotels, as well as the thousands of smaller fires where Americans lost their lives and property was destroyed. The attendees at the national conference were charged with addressing the problems and developing solutions to reduce fire's impact on America.

While great strides in fire prevention have been achieved since then, America still has a fire problem. The U.S. Fire Administration reported 2,276 civilian home fire fatalities in 2022 (as reported by January 6, 2023). Some of these tragedies like the January 5th fire in Philadelphia, which killed 12 people, or the January 9th fire in the Bronx, which killed 17 people, made the national news. Others, like the thousands of fires President Truman referred to in 1947, did not. The sad reality is that fire has killed civilians daily in every state of our country and the District of Columbia in 2022. In fact, there was only one day in 2022 that the U.S. Fire Administration did not report a civilian home fire fatality.

Fire kills indiscriminately but more often than not, takes the lives of the young, the elderly, the socially disadvantaged, and firefighters. In every case, the deaths could have been prevented by simple, proven means. The complacency toward fire deaths can no longer be tolerated, and each fire death must serve as a call to action. Too many of our most vulnerable citizens and dedicated firefighters are being killed in preventable tragedies.

The fourth and final Truman Fire Forum convened in August of 2022 to mark the 75th anniversary of President Harry S. Truman's National Conference on Fire Prevention. The various strategies implemented since 1947 have significantly reduced deaths in all occupancies, except residences. Outreach efforts to reduce civilian home fire deaths are making a difference but fall short of saving more lives. The 2022 attendees provided recommendations on the next steps at the federal, state, and local levels; they also offered recommendations on the role of private enterprises and non-governmental organizations in community risk reduction efforts. And, perhaps most important of all, the attendees challenged each of us to take individual actions to carry President Truman's legacy forward for the next generation.

President Truman said in 1947, "We must use all our experience, knowledge, and organizational facilities to solve our fire problems." We are confident history will show that today's fire service and its public and private partners did everything possible to meet his mandate.

Sincerely,



Troy Markel  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

# Executive Summary

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) hosted the Truman Fire Forum from August 16 – 18, 2022, in Independence, MO. This was the fourth of the Truman Fire Forum-related meetings held as an extension of President Harry S. Truman’s National Conference on Fire Prevention in 1947.

Leaders from fire service organizations convened at the inaugural Truman Fire Forum in May 2019 to address America’s fire problem. They prioritized the recommendations into five main topics. At the December 2019 Truman Fire Forum, strategies for addressing those topics were refined. In February 2022, the Truman Fire Forum Working Group attendees re-examined the December 2019 recommendations and provided feedback on action items. These meetings culminated in this August 2022 meeting that further defined the roles of governmental agencies (federal, state, and local), non-governmental organizations, private enterprises, and individuals.

The U.S. Fire Administrator, Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, announced the 2022 U.S. Fire Administrator’s Summit on Fire Prevention and Control to convene the nation’s fire service leaders to discuss fire prevention and protection with federal officials. The Summit took place on October 11, 2022 and included presentations by the leading fire service researchers in a session entitled “State of Science.” The “State of Science” was live streamed to allow all interested parties, including members of the public, to hear firsthand about the emerging fire prevention and protection issues.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation thanks its partners and sponsors for their support of the Truman Fire Forum:

## Truman Fire Forum Partner and Event Sponsor



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## Grant Funding Provided By

FEMA’s Grant Program Directorate for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – Fire Prevention and Safety Grants



The small-group sessions in Independence focused on the five original priorities from May 2019 and discussed decision-making and Truman’s legacy. The general questions attendees answered included:

Topic #1

**Fire Department Operations:** What can be done to integrate fire prevention and public education into fire department operations?

Topic #2

**Science:** What can we do to improve fire prevention using data, research, and science?

Topic #3

**Modern Solutions:** How can we marry modern solutions to challenges and problems?

Topic #4

**Fire Prevention Efforts:** What new ways can we leverage fire Prevention safety efforts?

Topic #5

**Messaging:** How can we better communicate the fire prevention message?

Topic #6

**Decision-Making:** What improvements can we make to evaluate risk and make decisions?

Topic #7

**Truman’s Vision:** In what ways can President Truman’s vision be carried forward?

The overarching theme of the 2022 Truman Fire Forum, like President Truman’s initial conference, declares that the fire problem in America

must be addressed collaboratively by everyone from the highest-ranking federal agencies to individual civilians. The factor that would have the most effect on decreasing the likelihood of firefighter and civilian fatalities is to prevent the fire from happening in the first place. Like the other fire forums, the attendees of this Truman Fire Forum provided a roadmap to turn this theory into practice, with the result being lives saved.

This report outlines the recommendations for continuing President Truman's legacy of strategizing on fire prevention. The following key recommendations were discussed in multiple breakout sessions. The recommendations are not in order of priority.

1. Fire service members need to participate greater in community risk reduction.
2. The fire service should take a leadership role in working toward equity in housing to ensure citizens have both affordable and fire-safe housing.
3. All levels of government must increase enforcement and inspection of existing codes and standards for new construction, occupied structures, and vacant structures.
4. Coordinated collaboration from fire departments, governmental agencies, non-government organizations, and private enterprises is needed to address the challenges and solutions to the fire problem in America.
5. The goal of community risk reduction efforts must be long-term behavioral modification strategies through data collection and analysis, storytelling, consistent messaging, and individual accountability.
6. The National Congress of American Indians and the Native American Fire Chiefs' Association needs to be engaged in all efforts to make tribal communities fire safe.

This report provides recommendations on actions that can be taken today, as well as strategies that will need the whole of the fire service to work toward decreasing the number of lives impacted by preventable fires.

“ I am asking you and the members of your committees not to consider your work completed. Wherever possible I trust that all of you will continue to play an active role in supporting the programs which you helped our states and communities launch. We must carry forward the program of education to show our people the constant need for fire prevention in their homes, schools, factories and offices. ”

– **President Harry S. Truman**

*“Letter to the Federal Works Administrator  
in Response to a Report on Fire Prevention”*

– June 3, 1948

# Truman Fire Forum: History

## **The 17th Annual President Harry S. Truman Legacy Symposium and the President Truman Fire Forum (May 5-7, 2019)**

The President Harry S. Truman Legacy Symposium is an annual event hosted by the Harry S. Truman Little White House and the Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation. In 2019, the symposium's theme was "Truman's Legacy Toward Fire Prevention, Fire Safety, and Historic Preservation," centered around the 1947 President's Conference on Fire Prevention. The symposium included presentations and panel discussions on the following topics:

- President Truman's Legacy with Public Support and Legislation
- President Truman's Impact on Firefighting Services
- Future of President Truman's Legacy

Following the Symposium, the first Truman Fire Forum was held to strategize how to continue President Truman's legacy of fire prevention efforts. Attendees created *24 Strategies to Moving Forward* and then prioritized them. The top five strategies became the basis of future Truman Fire Forums. The five strategies were:

- 1.** Integrate fire prevention and public education into the regular operations of the fire department.
- 2.** Use data, research, and science as a basis for improving fire prevention.
- 3.** Marry modern solutions with modern challenges and problems.
- 4.** Find new ways to leverage fire prevention safety efforts.
- 5.** Tell the fire prevention story.

This event was entered into the Congressional Record on May 23, 2019 ([Congressional Record Vol. 165, No. 87](#))

Additional information about the Symposium and the 2019 Truman Fire Forum can be found in the report listed in [Appendix B](#).

## **Truman Fire Forum Working Group (December 8-10, 2019)**

The December 2019 Truman Fire Forum Working Group meeting had two main goals: planning for two future meetings and identifying strategies for the top priorities from the May 2019 meeting. The findings from this meeting were to lay the foundation for the National Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium and the National Firefighter Life Safety Summit, both planned for 2020. However, these quinquennial meetings were postponed due to the pandemic. The National Fire Service Research Agenda Symposium was held virtually from February 15 through March 10, 2021. The link to the 2021 Research Agenda Report is available in [Appendix B](#). The National Firefighter Life Safety Summit was held September 19-21, 2022.

Attendees focused on the five priorities of the May 2019 Truman Fire Forum and created problem statements for each priority. The concept statements were then discussed in a framework of creating recommended strategies and providing guidance on actions the NFFF and other partners needed to do to address the problem statements. Additionally, the attendees advised the NFFF on the content and format of the National Fire Service Research Agenda.

The chart on the next page maps the priority identified in the May 2019 Truman Fire Forum with the problem statement from the December 2019 Truman Fire Forum Working Group. The link to the report from this meeting with the recommended strategies for each problem statement is in [Appendix B](#).

Truman Fire Forum Priorities (May 2019)	Truman Fire Forum Problem Statements (December 2019)
Integrate fire prevention and public education into the regular operations of the fire department.	Integrate fire prevention and public education into the regular operations of the fire department. Key tenets of this strategy include encouraging fire departments to value fire prevention equally with operations, starting fire prevention education at the recruit level, viewing fire as a failure in the system, and understanding that the fire chief is ultimately responsible for community risk reduction.
Use data, research, and science as a basis for improving fire prevention.	Use data, research, and science as a basis for improving fire prevention. Integrating data and research will give us the power to tell the story of why change is needed. Firefighters and fire officers are on the front lines of improving fire prevention efforts and it is critical that they know the value and importance of data – both locally and nationally. This strategy includes the proper funding of basic fire service research, including physiological, fire behavior, and others.
Marry modern solutions with modern challenges and problems.	Marry modern solutions with modern challenges and problems. Since the events of 1947, our nation has only grown more complex – both in our use and access to technology and in our people. Technology and interactive applications that didn't exist in 1947 now give us the power to reach the public in ways once unimaginable. With this, the diversity of our nation's generations and ethnic cultures has changed fire prevention and we must account for these complexities in developing our messages.
Find new ways to leverage fire prevention safety efforts.	Identify and act on creative strategies to increase fire prevention methods, such as encouraging government agencies, such as Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veteran Affairs, who provide 58% of new mortgages, to limit the mortgage funding to homes without sprinklers. Structure fires today burn at much hotter temperatures and spread with greater speed, endangering lives. The public can be made safer through the adoption and enforcement of model codes and standards that support life safety and include 24/7 fire protection through early detection and fire suppression sprinkler systems.
Tell the fire prevention story.	Tell the fire prevention story. Use professional marketing expertise to get our message out so that as many people as possible are aware of and understand the importance of fire prevention and community risk reduction.

### Truman Fire Forum Working Group (February 14-16, 2022)

The goal of the second Truman Fire Forum Working Group meeting was to examine the problem statements created at the December 2019 meeting. Through a series of questions, attendees provided insights on the five priorities from the May 2019 meeting. In addition to the five priorities, there were two additional breakout sessions. One group discussed evaluating risk and decision making. The final group discussed how to carry President Truman's legacy forward. The chart below maps the problem statements with considerations for recommendations from the February 2022 meeting.

“It is the responsibility of every state and local official, and every citizen, to aggressively support this national war against the growing menace of fire.”

– President Harry S. Truman

**Truman Fire Forum Working Group  
Problem Statements (December 2019)**

Integrate fire prevention and public education into the regular operations of the fire department. Key tenets of this strategy include encouraging fire departments to value fire prevention equally with operations, starting fire prevention education at the recruit level, viewing fire as a failure in the system, and understanding that the fire chief is ultimately responsible for community risk reduction.

**Truman Fire Forum Working Group  
Considerations (February 2022)**

1. Improve academy instructions and emphasis for CRR and fire prevention. (It isn't just about teaching stop-drop-and roll and smoke alarms.)
2. Rebrand CRR so that failure is considered with each fire.
3. Encourage and establish interaction with Fire Marshal's Office and operations.
4. Make changes to AFG and SAFER grant programs to promote the use of grants for CRR, risk reduction training, and risk reduction staffing.
5. Utilize fire investigation findings to identify fire prevention needs.
6. Add fire prevention to Firefighter I and II training programs.

**Truman Fire Forum Working Group  
Problem Statements (December 2019)**

Use data, research, and science as a basis for improving fire prevention. Integrating data and research will give us the power to tell the story of why change is needed. Firefighters and fire officers are on the front lines of improving fire prevention efforts and it is critical that they know the value and importance of data – both locally and nationally. This strategy includes the proper funding of basic fire service research, including physiological, fire behavior, and others.

**Truman Fire Forum Working Group  
Considerations (February 2022)**

1. Simplify the systems used for data collection.
2. We must understand why we are collecting the data. The purpose may be different for different people.
3. Convey the purpose in an impactful manner. It will not resonate if it is not relatable.
4. Adopt a common set of terms/definitions for consistency in captured data. (What is a fire? What is a response?)
5. Determine what data is a must-have and which data is nice to have.
6. Crosslink data platforms and use information sharing funding of basic fire service research, including physiological, fire behavior, and others.
7. Track civilian injuries and survivors.

**Truman Fire Forum Working Group  
Problem Statements (December 2019)**

Marry modern solutions with modern challenges and problems. Since the events of 1947, our nation has only grown more complex – both in our use and access to technology and in our people. Technology and interactive applications that didn't exist in 1947 now give us the power to reach the public in ways once unimaginable. With this, the diversity of our nation's generations and ethnic cultures has changed fire prevention and we must account for these complexities in developing our messages.

**Truman Fire Forum Working Group  
Considerations (February 2022)**

1. Use technology for enhanced monitoring and notification capabilities.
2. Use social media to enhance messaging to the public.
3. Integrate knowledge of how people learn into messaging.
4. Use communications teams to develop better marketing, universal messaging, multi-language marketing etc.
5. Address equity issues-not everyone has access to technology.
6. Build on door-to-door strategies in underserved populations.
7. Encourage that communities are part of the fire safety solution.

### **Truman Fire Forum Working Group Problem Statements (December 2019)**

Identify and act on creative strategies to increase fire prevention methods, such as encouraging government agencies, such as Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veteran Affairs, who provide 58% of new mortgages, to limit the mortgage funding to homes without sprinklers. Structure fires today burn at much hotter temperatures and spread with greater speed, endangering lives. The public can be made safer through the adoption and enforcement of model codes and standards that support life safety and include 24/7 fire protection through early detection and fire suppression sprinkler systems.

### **Truman Fire Forum Working Group Considerations (February 2022)**

1. Increase awareness of current national campaigns such as Close Before You Doze, Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem, Everyone Goes Home, USFA resources, Vision 20/20 resources, etc.
2. Use successful state models such as Michigan's use of technology to report incidents in real-time.
3. Push for universal adoption and enforcement of codes and standards.
4. Use visionaries and influencers to leverage resources.
5. Engage with the housing authorities to make affordable and safe housing.
6. Fire prevention needs to be part of school curriculum nationwide.
7. Better educate internal and external partners in communities.

### **Truman Fire Forum Working Group Problem Statements (December 2019)**

Tell the fire prevention story. Use professional marketing expertise to get our message out so that as many people as possible are aware of and understand the importance of fire prevention and community risk reduction.

### **Truman Fire Forum Working Group Considerations (February 2022)**

1. Determine what "lock step" looks like, e.g., use Fire Prevention Week to present a unified message. Consider a weekly broadcast addressing current trends and ensure it is timely. Use wildland stories and provide messaging about both negative and positive outcomes (i.e., fire and hope).
2. Determine local CRR needs.
  - a. Use apps to reach citizens and report incidents but recognize that this only focuses on aspects of fear, not hope. Provide a message of hope to impact change.
  - b. For departments without public affairs resources, provide tools for easy messaging.
  - c. Determine what messaging is best for education systems.
  - d. Make an agenda for messaging for the year, perhaps using something like Canva to make it easy for departments to personalize. (Build on USFA's Monthly Messaging Campaign.)
3. Wildland related:
  - a. Increase the understanding of wildfire behavior through exposure models.
  - b. Link climate change to changing needs and abilities of the fire service
4. Include fire prevention messaging in utility bills.
5. Need a national standard for communicating emergency response in communities.



6. Consider tax incentives, rebate, utility incentives for homes with fire sprinklers.
  - a. Consider Property Assessed Clean Energy financing to support fire sprinklers.
  - b. Consider exterior sprinklers in CA to protect homes from wildland fires.
  - c. Consider carbon credits.
7. Determine what would change the home builders' minds.

**Group #6:** Evaluating Risk and Making Decisions: "Armoring" fire officers with the best possible applied risk calculation skills training. *(Note: This topic will be used at the Firefighter Life Safety Summit.)*

1. Train officers on pre-loaded templates, leadership training, and training on how to increase positive group dynamics.  
What types of model training programs are being used today? What subject matters should be included? (Keeping in mind that this needs to be scalable for different fire departments.)
2. Train firefighters on evaluating risk and making decisions in the built environment/WUI interface.

**Group #7:** How do we continue to carry forward the legacy of Truman's vision

1. Change the mindset that prevention is second class within a fire department.
2. Encourage community investment in their own fire life safety.
3. Raise awareness and solutions to today's fire problems in the framework of current events, such as climate change and the effects of climate change issues (such as drought) on firefighting and fire safety.



Roof of Kirby Bowling Alley in Independence, Missouri after a fire. This photo was sent to Senator Harry S. Truman by the owner of the bowling alley, Jim Kirby, who was seeking Senator Truman's help in getting material to rebuild the bowling alley. December 1944



This is a photograph of Wayne Fellows (second from the left) demonstrating the fire suppression equipment to the personnel of the Truman Library. Others pictured are unidentified. October 10, 1958



A picture of a fire equipment demonstration for the Harry S. Truman Library employees. People in the photo are unidentified. October 10, 1958

# Truman Fire Forum: August 2022

## Presentations

Ms. Vickie Pritchett, Vice President and Executive Officer of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), served as the moderator for the Truman Fire Forum. Ms. Pritchett welcomed attendees to the meeting and provided an overview of the three-day event. Ms. Pritchett's enthusiasm for community risk reduction framed the day's presentations and set the motivation for the breakout session work.

## Welcome

NFFF Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors Bill Webb began the morning by welcoming attendees on behalf of NFFF Chairman of the Board Troy Markel and NFFF Executive Director Ron Siarnicki. Mr. Webb used the analogy of a water bucket to demonstrate the need to pass information to the next generation. "The outcomes of this meeting will help keep firefighters out of harm's way in the future and build a fire-safe America," he said.

Mr. Zachary Walker, Independence's City Manager, and Fire Chief Douglas Short of the City of Independence Fire Department welcomed attendees to Independence. Chief Short provided a brief history of the department and thanked the Independence 76 Fire Company for providing a 1928 American La France engine for display in the general session meeting room. In addition, the Independence 76 Fire Company displayed historical artifacts to provide attendees with a historical perspective dating back to the first organized fire protection in Independence community in 1843.

## Keynote: From Past to Current and Future

U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell highlighted the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) commitment to the core functions symbolized in the four stars of their logo representing data, technology, research, and training. Dr. Moore-Merrell also noted that one aspect of Truman's Legacy was the 1974 legislation creating the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).



## The Harry S. Truman Independence 76 Fire Company

Attendees at the Truman Fire Forum were provided with a rare glimpse into the Independence Fire Department and its relationship with President Harry S. Truman through the generosity of the Harry S. Truman Independence 76 Fire Company. IFD Fire Chief Doug Short linked the Fire Company, a chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA for short), with NFFF event planners. The result was an impressive display of antique apparatus serving Independence during President Truman's life in Independence and Washington, memorabilia from the 1920s to 1980s and insight into the president's friendships with people who became Independence's most influential leaders.

Richard Webb, a retired IFD captain and chapter president for the Fire Company, along with several chapter members, rolled out the red carpet for attendees. The display included the chapter's meticulously restored 1928 American LaFrance pumper, which was used as the backdrop for the forum, it's recently completed 1960 Seagrave, and several tables of historical IFD memorabilia.

President Webb and members of the chapter were on hand during breaks to answer questions, and graciously opened the doors of their museum to all who were interested. The museum, in the basement of retired IFD Station 1 and the former city garage, houses a collection of IFD apparatus from each era of the IFD's motorized history, with a recently returned 1952 Seagrave aerial as their latest restoration project.

The Fire Company hopes to one day obtain access to the former fire station's engine room and living quarters, currently occupied by the U. S. Park Service as the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site Visitor Center. Plans are in the works for a new visitor center to be built nearby.

Chief Short's support and the chapter's generous loan of time, apparatus, and knowledge provided the attendees with a tangible link to President Harry S. Truman, his love of Independence, and his concern for fire safety.

Dr. Moore-Merrell discussed the fire problem in America, specifically in the wildland-urban interface, and the need for more training for structural firefighters to respond to fires in the interface. She referenced a December 2021 NFPA needs assessment study citing that 87% of the fire departments in the study reported they perform firefighting in the wildland or wildland-urban interface. This needs assessment link can be found in [Appendix B: Resources](#).

She encouraged the fire service to review the June 2022 USFA report, "Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): A Look at Issues and Resolutions." This link can also be found in [Appendix B: Resources](#).

Another priority for the U.S. Fire Administration is the need to have accurate data concerning firefighter suicide. USFA is legislatively responsible for annually providing a report to Congress on firefighter suicide, but the data is severely limited. USFA is developing the database and infrastructure to be able to better support the behavioral health of firefighters.

The collaborative efforts of the USFA were highlighted in her presentation, including working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate to support efforts related to research needs.

The Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative was a major focus of her presentation. This initiative offers monthly topics for the whole of the fire service to promote within their communities providing key messages and social media graphics. Consistent messaging from all organizations and fire departments will reinforce that month's theme. For more information, sign up for Fire is Everyone's Fight notifications on [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

She also discussed the challenges of having the public pay attention to fire safety. The first phase, she said, is complacency. People think it won't happen to them, which provides a false sense of security. Then there is indifference to listening to fire safety messages or concerning themselves with other people's safety. These consistent messages of the Fire and Life Safety Communications Initiative may help break down some of these barriers and contribute to the public changing their behavior.

She closed her remarks by commenting on the 75th anniversary of Truman's 1947 report and answering the question, "So, what happens next?" One answer is that USFA will host an invitation-only Presidential Summit on Fire Prevention and Control on October 11-12. This meeting is in the legislation framing the U.S. Fire Administration. The conference will focus on the topics that are the priorities for the fire service and the nation to address the fire problem in America.

## Impacted by Fire

Mr. Robert Miracle is currently the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Mr. Miracle was formerly with the City of Charleston, South Carolina, and was the Deputy Chief Financial Officer when nine firefighters died in the Sofa Super Store fire on June 17, 2007.

### Fire is Everyone's Fight: First Fridays

The U.S. Fire Administration has selected monthly themes related to community risk reduction to have a concentrated effort on a specific topic. For Example, September 2022 was focused on raising awareness and knowledge about home fire sprinklers. To receive updates on Fire is Everyone's Fight: First Fridays, register here: <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/contact/fief/>

“So the stars are aligned for us to come together and do something significant. So that in 75 years, hopefully, the fire service points back to this effort and says, “Yeah, that changed the game for the fire service. This is our hope.”

– Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell

Mr. Miracle spoke of the impact of the fire on the city as a whole and personally. He noted that staff from his financial office in Charleston often interacted with firefighters, so he and others personally knew the firefighters who died. He said that even though he and other city workers were not in the “firefighting family,” they were still part of the family. “We still feel a part of you all,” he said, “We all felt the loss.”

He advised the fire service member attendees to bring other city workers to these types of events to build a better understanding of the role of the fire department in a community.

Mr. Miracle shared his story hoping attendees can learn from the tragic deaths of Firefighter Brandon Thompson, Engineer Brad Baity, Captain Louis Mulkey, Engineer Mark Kelsey, Captain Mike Benke, Captain William Hutchinson, Firefighter Melvin Champaign, Assistant Engineer Michael French, and Firefighter James “Earl” Drayton.

Maryland State Fire Marshal Brian Geraci shared his experience related to the January 19, 2015, tragic fire that killed Don and Sandra Pyle and their grandchildren Lexi Boone (8 years old), Charlotte Boone (8 years old), Katie Boone (7 years old), and Wes Boone (6 years old).

“Fire doesn’t discriminate.”

– MD Fire Marshal Brian Geraci

The cause of the fire was a faulty electrical outlet igniting a dried-out Christmas tree in the Pyle’s unsprinklered 16,000-foot mansion in Annapolis, MD. Fire Marshal Geraci spoke about how out of this tragedy, fire sprinkler legislation was passed, and that legislation now saves 100 lives a year. “I think of them every day and the sacrifice they made,” he said.

Fire Marshal Geraci also spoke of a fire in Chesapeake Beach, MD, on April 3, 2019, which resulted in the death of Wendy Welch and her 13-year-old granddaughter Stephanie Link in a sprinklered townhouse. The cause of the fire was officially undetermined, but the most probable cause was discarded smoking material in the mulch area outside of the townhouse that ignited and spread to the unprotected crawlspace under the occupancy. As a result of this tragedy, the complex property owners, the Town of Chesapeake Beach, and the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department collaborated on a project to retrofit the entire complex with automatic fire sprinklers in the crawlspace under the townhouses and apartments in the community and replace combustible landscaping mulch with non-combustible landscaping stone.

NFSA President Chief Shane Ray completed the Impacted by Fire component of the general session by challenging the attendees to influence the organizations that will make a difference in combating the fire problem in America during their breakout sessions. He said, “We will risk our lives to save others, but we won’t take an organizational risk that will upset others.”

“Go forward. Challenge the status quo. No more “this is how it is or has been.” Use all your experiences, knowledge, and discernment.”

– Chief Shane Ray

“The numbers are growing in the wrong direction,” Chief Ray said, noting that 37,207 people have died in buildings unprotected by sprinklers since 2010, and 75 people have died in buildings protected by sprinklers in that same time frame. He expressed concern that the fire service has become complacent with these numbers. “Make sure you have used that courage within you to combat that complacency,” he advised attendees.

Chief Ray highlighted two findings of the 1947 Truman Report, which are still relevant today. First, departments need to integrate fire prevention, public education, and code enforcement into the operations of a fire department – not a separate entity. Second, Chief Ray said we must use data, research, and science to influence policy decisions related to the fire problem in America.

Chief Ray ended his remarks with the confidence that the attendees and the organizations they represent will make a difference and have the courage to combat complacency.

## NIOSH Firefighter Research Agenda, Initiatives, and Solutions

Dr. Emily Haas and Dr. Susan Moore from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory were the next speakers. They spoke about three major topics: interface solutions; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and occupational cancer.

Dr. Moore noted the dual challenges of wildland firefighters working in the built environment and structural firefighters working in the wildland-urban interface. Different strategies and tactics are needed due to the potential exposure to different hazards. Together with the University of California at Berkeley, NIOSH conducted health and well-being surveys to study worker exposures. Working with the University of Arizona and the University of Miami, NIOSH is also studying biomarkers to understand how and what chemicals are getting into wildland firefighter's bodies. NIOSH research is also seeking to understand the health hazards related to wildland firefighters and the use of respirators.

Dr. Haas briefed attendees on several projects related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the fire service including personal protective equipment (PPE) equity studies. NIOSH is working to establish a National Strategy for Equitable PPE Protections for all U.S. workers to identify and mitigate inequities related to PPE use, availability, accessibility, acceptability, and knowledge. Falling within the scope of this National Strategy are numerous projects, including one aimed at ensuring that structural firefighters are equitably protected by their turnout gear. A lack of data currently limits the industry's ability to establish use-based retirement criteria. Instead, the current retirement criteria for turnout gear considers visual inspections with a maximum service life of 10 years. NIOSH is leading a robust study to fill this data gap by determining those factors that impact the protections and service life of turnout gear. Dr. Haas also informed attendees of two crowdsourcing projects NIOSH is sponsoring to address the fit of protective clothing and filtering facepiece respirators to ensure adequate protection.

Dr. Haas also discussed the potential for data modernization in public safety using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index as a case example, merged with emergency response call data, to measure how external stresses can impact not only the health of a community but also those who respond to emergencies. The results of this research can be used to assist firefighters and other first responders by incorporating social vulnerability factors into their community-based interventions, training, and emergency response planning. The research also shows that responders who are deployed to areas of higher vulnerability can be disproportionately affected by health risks.

Dr. Moore then previewed the National Firefighter Registry which will be launched later this year. Firefighters will provide information through a secure website that will be matched with cancer diagnosis information from cancer registries. This will allow for a better understanding of occupational cancer in the fire service. Fire departments are also encouraged to participate in the registry to track exposure patterns. The data-rich registry will provide researchers with valuable information to improve efforts related to preventing firefighter occupational cancer.

**Disclaimer:** The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mention of a company or product name does not constitute endorsement by NIOSH.

## Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem

Ms. Lorraine Carli, Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), delivered an informative presentation on the NFPA's Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem. The system is a comprehensive framework of eight interdependent components essential to minimize risk and prevent loss, injuries, and death from fire, electrical, and other hazards. The Ecosystem provided the attendees with a structure to refer to as they answered the question of "Who should take action?" to address the five critical strategies delivered by the 2019 Truman Fire Forum.



Photo courtesy of [nfpa.org/Ecosystem](http://nfpa.org/Ecosystem).

[Appendix B](#) provides a link to resources for the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem.

### **Keynote: Protecting My Family’s Future and Paying Tribute to the Past**

Captain Rob Feeny is an advocate for Common Voices and the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors. Captain Feeny shared his first-hand account of The Station Nightclub fire in 2003 and how he has turned tragedy into purpose. A standing ovation followed his presentation for the courage, grace, and inspiration he displayed.

On February 20, 2003, Captain Feeny went to a concert at The Station Nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, with his fiancé Ms. Donna Mitchell, and three of their friends. The pyrotechnics caused the soundproofing material to catch fire during the concert. Captain Feeny suffered severe burns and internal injuries and was in an induced coma for 12 days. When he came out of his coma, he was told his fiancé had been buried that morning. He also found out Ms. Mitchell’s best friend, Ms. Mary Baker, died in the fire. A few months later, another of their friends, Ms. Pam Grudauria, died. Ms. Grudauria was the 100th victim of The Station Nightclub fire. Their third friend, Ms. Kathy Sullivan Pelchat, survived with severe burns.

As part of his recovery, he attended the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors’ World Burn Conference in 2003. Captain Feeny decided to become an advocate for fire sprinkler legislation, especially for high-risk occupancies such as nightclubs, to prevent another tragedy like he survived. Captain Feeny was instrumental in advocating for nightclubs to be retrofitted with fire sprinklers in Chattanooga, TN, by testifying before the city council. Captain Feeny also testified on Capitol Hill for legislation to make it easier for small businesses to retrofit for automatic fire sprinkler systems. That bill passed in February 2018. He has continued his advocacy work nationwide for Common Voices and the Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors.

Although Captain Feeney hasn't stopped his advocacy work, he has added another title to his name. He joined the Onset, Massachusetts Fire Department in 2015 and is now the Assistant Fire Prevention Officer and a Captain.

[Appendix B](#) includes a link to a recent National Fire Sprinkler Magazine article Captain Feeney wrote about his recovery and advocacy. The article also tells the story of how he sleeps better at night, knowing his new home with his wife was retrofitted with a fire sprinkler system thanks to the National Fire Sprinkler Association and other friends.

## Closing Remarks

Chief Douglas Short of the Independence Fire Department provided some context for President Truman's most popular quote, "The buck stops here."

"On more than one occasion, President Truman referred to his desk sign in his public statements," noted Chief Short. President Truman referenced his famous quote in his farewell address in January 1953. President Truman said, "The President, whoever he is, has to decide. He can't pass the buck to anybody. No one else can do the deciding for him. That's his job." Chief Short said, "To truly build on Truman's legacy, everywhere Truman says, it's his job, and the buck stops here, we should have that same goal with fire prevention efforts. We should be willing to not only just put our recommendations on paper, but we need to advocate, legislate, and do everything we can to build on that legacy. That's where the buck needs to stop. With us."

The final speaker of the Truman Fire Forum was NFFF Executive Director Chief Ron Siarnicki, who reinforced that preventing the preventable deaths of civilians and firefighters is a top priority for the fire service and the NFFF. He commented on how the NFFF sees first-hand the devastation and permanent effects fire has on families after a loss of life. He also extended his gratitude to the non-fire service attendees who shared their experiences, offering a different perspective.

## Breakout Session Overview

NFFF Fire Programs Director John Tippett presented attendees with the seven breakout session topics as they relate to the Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem and the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. Over the course of two days, attendees attended breakout sessions on three different topics. Breakout session groups #1-5 were based on priorities set at the 2019 Truman Fire Forum, while breakout session group #7 focused on carrying Truman's legacy forward. Attendees of breakout session #6 discussed decision making in preparation for the National Firefighter Life Safety Summit.

On the final day of the Truman Fire Forum, facilitators presented a summary of breakout sessions. Further details about the recommendations are provided in the following few pages. As many of the recommendations from the breakout sessions were similar, this report presents recommendations based on the aggregate recommendations for the federal government, state government, local government, nongovernmental organizations, private enterprises, and individuals.

There were a few themes that emerged from multiple breakout groups, including:

1. Fire service members need to participate greater in community risk reduction.
2. The fire service should take a leadership role in working toward equity in housing to ensure citizens have both affordable and fire-safe housing.
3. All levels of government must increase enforcement and inspection of existing codes and standards for new construction, occupied structures, and vacant structures.
4. Coordinated collaboration from fire departments, governmental agencies, non-government organizations, and private enterprises is needed to address the challenges and solutions to the fire problem in America.
5. The goal of community risk reduction efforts must be long-term behavioral modification through data collection and analysis, storytelling, consistent messaging, and individual accountability.
6. The National Congress of American Indians and the Native American Fire Chiefs' Association needs to be engaged in all efforts to make tribal communities fire safe.

Topic	Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives	Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem Components
<p>Topic #1: Fire Department Operations: What can be done to integrate fire prevention and public education into fire department operations?</p> <p>Facilitation Team: Chief Tom Jenkins and Firefighter Josh Sutherland</p>	<p>#1: Culture Change #14: Public Information #15: Code Enforcement and Sprinklers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and Use of Current Codes</li> <li>• Skilled Workforce</li> <li>• Code Compliance</li> <li>• Preparedness and Emergency Response</li> <li>• Informed Public</li> </ul>
<p>Topic #2: Science: What can we do to improve fire prevention using data, research, and science?</p> <p>Facilitation Team: Chief John Oates and Captain David Santos</p>	<p>#1: Culture Change #7: Research Agenda #8: Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and Use of Current Codes</li> <li>• Investment in Safety</li> <li>• Code Compliance</li> <li>• Skilled Workforce</li> <li>• Preparedness and Emergency Response</li> </ul>
<p>Topic #3: Modern Solutions: How can we marry modern solutions to challenges and problems?</p> <p>Facilitation Team: Chief Nick Perkins and District Chief Lindsay Judah</p>	<p>#7: Research Agenda #8: Technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in Safety</li> <li>• Development and Use of Current Codes</li> <li>• Skilled Workforce</li> <li>• Preparedness and Emergency Response</li> </ul>
<p>Topic #4: Fire Prevention Efforts: What new ways can we leverage fire prevention safety efforts?</p> <p>Facilitation Team: Ms. Vickie Pritchett and Captain Chris Fleming</p>	<p>#1: Culture Change #5: Training and Certification #15: Code Enforcement and Sprinklers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and Use of Current Codes</li> <li>• Investment in Safety</li> <li>• Government Responsibility</li> <li>• Code Compliance</li> <li>• Preparedness and Emergency Response</li> <li>• Informed Public</li> </ul>
<p>Topic #5: Messaging: How can we better communicate the fire prevention message?</p> <p>Facilitation Team: State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier and Ms. Michaela Campbell</p>	<p>#1: Culture Change #14: Public Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in Safety</li> <li>• Skilled Workforce</li> <li>• Preparedness and Emergency Response</li> <li>• Informed Public</li> </ul>
<p>Topic #6: Decision-Making: What improvements can we make to evaluate risk and make decisions?</p> <p>Facilitation Team: Chief Devon Wells and Ms. Angela White</p>	<p>#1: Culture Change #3: Risk Management #4: Empowerment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government Responsibility</li> <li>• Development and Use of Current Codes</li> <li>• Skilled Workforce</li> <li>• Preparedness and Emergency Response</li> </ul>
<p>Topic #7: Truman's Vision: In what ways can President Truman's vision be carried forward?</p> <p>Facilitation Team: Chief Trisha Wolford and Fire Specialist David Blenman</p>	<p>All Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives</p>	<p>All components of the Fire &amp; Life Safety Ecosystem</p>



# Recommendations

*Note: These recommendations are not in order of priority.*

## Federal Government Recommendations

### U.S. Fire Administration

- For USFA to collaborate more effectively with other federal agencies, it should be on the same level as law enforcement and other agencies within the federal government.
- Ensure that federal and state emergency funding requirements include data collection and NFIRS reporting.
- Using events like tornadoes and hurricanes as examples, work with national media to increase attention to the fire problem in America.
- Establish best practices for fire departments related to community risk reduction, including innovative storytelling.
- NFIRS should be updated to collect more information about community risk reduction.
- Maintain the monthly community risk reduction message program and provide the monthly topics for the upcoming year every December.
- Provide fire departments with real-time data, including data related to CRR.
- Establish an easy-to-search, easy-to-access clearinghouse of fire prevention success stories and safety resources to assist agencies in finding best practices, sample programs, and templates.
- Research how to engage underserved populations to develop a national campaign for CRR efforts.
- Assess the adoption and enforcement of codes and standards across jurisdictions to determine best practices.
- The National Fire Academy should expand its online and in-person community risk reduction training programs.
- All National Fire Academy operations training should include a community risk reduction component.
- In-person National Fire Academy students should have access to printed materials they can take home.

### AFG/SAFER Grant Criteria

- Fund CRR positions in fire departments as part of the AFG/SAFER grant criteria.
- AFG/SAFER awardees should be required to have a CRR program.
- Ensure that a portion of the funds granted through AFG/SAFER is used for CRR programs.
- CRR programs should be scored higher than they are currently.
- Reduce the match requirement for CRR programs.

### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Create and disseminate a CRR training video or other awareness material for recipients of benefits granted through federal governments.

### U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Housing supported by the government must be affordable and fire safe.
- Ensure federal housing is inspected annually and increase enforcement of codes and standards.
- Federal housing assistance should include CRR public awareness campaign.

- All federally funded housing and building developments should meet and surpass fire protection standards.
- Federally supported mortgages should be linked with fire protection, including residential sprinklers.

## **U.S. Department of Labor**

- Mandate fire prevention training in workplace safety training requirements through the Occupational and Safety Health Administration.

## **State Government Recommendations**

### **State Boards of Education**

- Modify state curriculum to expand CRR knowledge to a tiered approach to have specific messages for students in kindergarten through college. The curriculum should include fire prevention and other age-specific messages, such as distracted driving awareness programs.
- Use a research-based curriculum, like UL's Xplorlabs, in middle school to incorporate fire safety messages in the science and math curriculum.

### **State Fire Marshals**

- Disseminate the U.S. Fire Administration's monthly CRR topics.
- Encourage collaboration between like-minded organizations to engage state legislators in support of sprinkler and smoke alarm legislation.
- Work with Vision 20/20 to increase awareness of CRR programs in fire departments.
- Share data with other states so that similar-sized communities can compare fire and life safety information.
- Promote consistency in building code implementation, enforcement, and fire and life safety messages.
- Collaborate with the National Governors Association to raise awareness of fire and life safety priorities.

### **Other State Recommendations**

- Increase fire prevention content in minimum standard training requirements for firefighters.
- A link should be established between state-funded assistance programs and CRR programs.
- State fire training agencies should increase CRR certification requirements.
- Adopt federal government data standardization and do not modify data fields, as is the case in many agencies.
- Incentives and funding should be tied to the adoption of codes and standards by state officials.
- Fire service organizations should educate state officials on the dangers of removing sprinkler provisions from adopted codes and standards.
- Legislate a fire safety education class before a home is purchased or leased, similar to how boating licenses require a safety class.
- Legislate to protect short-term vacation rentals and college apartments from fire.

## **Local Government Recommendations**

### **Fire Departments**

- Develop and distribute CRR materials tailored to the community's demographics.
- Publish the CRR plan on the fire department's website and social media platforms.
- Light-duty members or community emergency response teams (CERT) should be engaged to assist in CRR programs.

- The promotion process should include a requirement for CRR involvement.
- Share successful CRR stories with local media and the fire department's social media.
- CRR should be the first module in firefighter training academies.
- Collaborate with local government officials on citywide CRR efforts involving officials related to schools, older adult facilities, and public housing.
- Increase interaction between fire prevention personnel and operations personnel.
- Using storytelling methods, demonstrate to the general public how prevention methods could avert or prevent tragedies.
- Fire departments should educate all city/county employees about the value of CRR programs.
- CRR should be significantly incorporated into the firefighter's role and job performance requirements.
- The fire department members are responsible for ensuring CRR-related data is captured, but leadership needs to know how to use CRR-related data.
- Train firefighters on residential and commercial sprinkler usage and its importance.

### **Recommendations for local government agencies working in collaboration with fire departments**

- Ensure that codes and standards are adopted and enforced, including supporting incentives and local grant funding for sprinkler installation.
- CRR programs should be integrated into local grants and housing assistance programs.
- The fire department and the building department should work together on fire risk assessment strategies.
- Educate local businesses about fire codes and financial incentives for installing fire protection systems and other prevention methods.
- Incorporate UL's XplorLabs into schools' science and math curricula to embed fire and life safety topics.
- Assess the risks associated with fire and life safety in your community to develop a holistic approach to prevention methods.
- Partner with HOAs, condo associations, etc., to assist with enforcement and adoption of policies affecting fire and life safety.
- Create a fire safety rating system similar to food safety and Yelp ratings and display a decal on restaurant and business doors.

### **Non-Government Organization Recommendations (i.e., nonprofit organizations, National Association of Homebuilders, National Association of Realtors, short-term rental companies, religious institutions, veterans' organizations, hospitals, community organizations, etc.)**

- Develop CRR models for departments to reference during accreditation with the Center for Public Safety Excellence.
- Create a CRR membership section similar to other national fire service organizations' membership sections.
- Engage IAFF, IAFC, and NVFC in a joint initiative focused on CRR.
- Update job performance requirements (JPR) for professional qualification standards to include CRR.
- Research the challenges of firefighters being engaged in CRR to create solutions to change this.
- Fire departments should work with charitable, religious, and fraternal organizations to increase community CRR efforts, including focusing on underserved populations.

- Better understand the impact of fire and life loss in communities by tracking data related to this loss.
- Develop relationships with traditional and non-traditional stakeholder groups to help increase awareness of fire prevention messages.
- Develop fire safety effective practices for homeless encampments.
- Include fire and life safety members on the International City/County Management Association board.
- Engage architecture associations in a better understanding of fire and life safety considerations.
- Hotel association members could work with national fire service organizations to raise awareness of fire and life safety issues.

### **Private Enterprise Recommendations**

- Records management system companies should have standardized data requirements for CRR information and be required to share the data with a centralized entity to identify CRR patterns and trends.
- To improve the reliability of entered data records management system, companies should simplify the user interface and provide universal software to share information across multiple platforms. The data should be available to researchers and organizations working on CRR efforts.
- The Insurance Services Office (ISO) should prioritize CRR in its scoring criteria.
- For-profit sprinkler companies should partner with UL or NFSA to increase public education.
- CRR technology and equipment manufacturers should partner with fire departments to test new products.
- Create monthly CRR messages to be disseminated through Amazon-related products like Ring and Alexa. (Note: These monthly CRR messages could be the same as those created by the U.S. Fire Administration.)
- Fire service curriculum publishers (i.e., IFSTA, Jones and Bartlett, etc.) should include fire prevention in the first chapters of their textbooks.
- The plumbing unions and associations need more training and knowledge about sprinklers, especially retrofitting residential sprinkler systems.
- In the same way that public service messages are included in a plot whenever suicide or eating disorders are addressed, the entertainment industry should incorporate public service messages when fire-related topics are addressed, particularly when fire sprinklers are involved.
- Fire sprinkler stakeholders should be transparent about the cost of retrofitting for sprinklers.
- Create an annual national trade conference focusing on CRR.
- Behavioral change research is needed to understand how the public can be motivated to take action on fire prevention.
- Engage marketing companies to create public safety announcements related to UL's Fire Safety Research Institute's Close Before You Doze and the USFA's monthly message.
- Promote CRR messages through major sports franchises.
- A percentage of a fee from homeowners insurance companies could go toward the fire department's staffing of CRR programs.
- Create a traveling CRR firefighter program similar to traveling nurses' programs.

### **Individual Recommendations**

- Understand how individual responsibility fits into social responsibility.

- Get involved in CRR through Fire is Everyone's Fight<sup>®</sup>.
- Promote UL's Fire Safety Research Institute's "Close Before You Doze" on social media platforms.
- Firefighters need to be advocates for fire and life safety efforts.
- Conduct home fire safety drills and encourage friends and family to do the same by posting your drill on social media platforms.

## Decision Making Recommendations

- Create a training program for incident risk assessment and management.
  - The program needs to reach all levels of firefighters and be scalable for different-sized departments.
  - Create a basic program and add modules for other types of hazards depending on the specific community risks.
  - The program should be video-based with supplemental written information.
- Develop a Wildland-Urban Interface situational awareness and risk management training program for structural firefighters.
  - Work with wildland training partners to include some of their training in structural firefighting training.
  - The program needs to reach all levels of firefighters and be scalable for different-sized departments.
- For training purposes, compile information from USFA, NIOSH, NFFF, and other fire service organizations about line-of-duty deaths into a searchable database.
- Remove the barriers to using research-based risk evaluation and decision-making methodology by studying firefighter behavior modification strategies.
- In collaboration with NFFF, NIOSH should develop videos and other training materials based on recent line-of-duty death investigations.
  - Videos should tell the story of the incident(s) from personal storytelling, including testimonials from family members, firefighters, and other affected people.
  - The videos should be detailed but not scientific, and a link to additional resources would be included.
  - Viewers should get the whole perspective of all fire department ranks in the videos.
  - Videos should be formatted consistently, so students become accustomed to the STAR method (Situation, Tasks, Actions, Results, etc.)

# Appendix A: Attendees

## **Dean Cull**

Deputy Chief/ Fire Marshal  
Southern Platte Fire Prot. Dist.

## **Brian Geraci**

State Fire Marshal  
Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal

## **Chad Akin**

Assistant Fire Chief  
Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County (CA)

## **Bobby Apodaca**

Board Member  
National Volunteer Fire Council

## **Jeremy Ayers**

Firefighter  
Travis County Pflugerville Fire Dept. (TX)

## **David Blenman**

Community Risk Reduction Manager  
Baltimore County Fire Dept. (MD)

## **John M. Buckman III**

President  
German Township Fire Department (IN)

## **Matt Bulloc**

Fire Inspector  
Independence Fire Department (MO)

## **Michaela Campbell**

Director of Government Affairs  
CFSI

## **Lorraine Carli**

VP of Outreach and Advocacy  
NFFPA

## **Sean Carroll**

Director of Government Relations  
NFFF

## **Kevin Cooney**

Fire Chief  
South Windsor Fire Dept. (CT)

## **Timothy Cowan**

Deputy Fire Chief  
Dewitt Fire District (NY)

## **Teresa Ann Crisman**

Public Affairs Officer II PIO/CRR  
OSFM Maryland State Fire Marshal Office

## **Stacey Deckert**

Marketing Manager  
Cintas Fire Protection

## **Michael Ditamore**

Assistant Chief, Fire Prevention Division  
Independence Fire Department (MO)

## **John Dixon**

Fire Inspector/Fire Investigator  
Independence Fire Department (MO)

## **Rob Feeney**

Captain, Onset Fire Department (MA)  
Common Voices

## **Yvonne Feijoo**

FI / EMS QM  
Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Fire Rescue  
and Emergency Services (FL)

## **Karl Fippinger**

Vice President, Fire and Disaster Mitigation  
International Code Council

## **Chris Fleming**

Operations Captain  
Wichita Fire Department (KS)

## **Robert Frazier**

Fire Inspector  
Independence Fire Department (MO)

## **John Granby**

NFFF and FRCE

## **Emily Haas**

Research Health Scientist  
CDC/NIOSH/NPPTL

# Appendix A: Attendees *(continued)*

## **Thomas Harbour**

Wildland Fire Consultant  
NFFF

## **Rich Higgins**

Fire Chief  
City of Ames (IA)

## **Lance Hogg**

Vice President  
Cintas Fire Protection

## **Charles Hood**

Fire Chief  
San Antonio Fire Department

## **Kepra Jack**

COO  
HeartFit For Duty

## **Sara Jahnke**

Director & Senior Scientist  
NDRI USA, Inc.

## **Tom Jenkins**

Fire Chief  
City of Rogers Fire Department (AR)

## **Lindsay Judah**

District Chief  
St. Pete Beach Fire Rescue (FL)

## **Steve Kerber**

Executive Director  
UL's Fire Safety Research Institute

## **Glenda Knisely**

Fire Inspector  
Independence Fire Department (MO)

## **Gary Krichbaum**

Program Manager  
First Responder Center of Excellence

## **Kevin Kuntz**

Vice President and Chief Engineer  
Verisk/ISO

## **Derrick Llewellyn**

Captain of CRR-Fire Division  
Central Jackson County Fire Protection District (MO)

## **Ed Mann**

Director of Training and Education  
Provident

## **Jessica (Gaby) Manzo**

Fire Inspector  
Central Fire of Santa Cruz County (CA)

## **Caitlin McGuire**

Consultant  
NFFF

## **Robert Miracle**

Deputy Chief Financial Officer  
Mecklenburg County (SC)

## **Chief Ernest Mitchell**

Board Member & FRCE Chair  
NFFF

## **Susan Moore**

Associate Director for Science  
NIOSH NPPTL

## **Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell**

United States Fire Administrator  
United States Fire Administration

## **Mike Morgan**

Director  
Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control

## **Ross Mulkerrin**

Development Manager  
NFFF

## **Teresa Ann Neal**

Fire Program Specialist  
U.S. Fire Administration

## **John Oates**

CEO  
International Public Safety Data Institute

# Appendix A: Attendees *(continued)*

## **Nicholas Perkins**

Chief  
TCESD#2, Pflugerville Fire Dept. (TX)

## **Mike Pritchard**

Branch Chief - NFP - Prevention and Information Services  
U.S. Fire Administration

## **Vickie Pritchett**

Vice President/Executive Officer  
National Fire Sprinkler Association

## **Shane Ray**

President  
National Fire Sprinkler Association

## **Terri Reid**

Captain  
Baltimore County Fire Dept. (MD)

## **Nate Richardson**

Fire Chief  
Sugar Creek Fire (MO)

## **David Santos**

Captain  
Colton Fire Dept. (CA)

## **Maggie Scaletty**

COO  
WHP Trainingtowers

## **Dennis Schoen, Jr.**

Captain - Fire Code Official  
Sunland Park Fire Department (NM)

## **Kevin Sehlmeier**

Michigan State Fire Marshal

## **Douglas Short**

Fire Chief  
Independence Fire Dept. (MO)

## **Chief Ron Siarnicki**

Executive Director  
NFFF

## **Brent Smith**

Battalion Chief  
Lubbock Fire Rescue(TX)

## **Dr. Denise Smith**

Director First Responder Health and Safety Lab  
Skidmore College



Photo courtesy of Chief John M. Buckman III



# Appendix A: Attendees *(continued)*

## **Josh Southerland**

Firefighter  
Westfield Fire Dept. (IN)

## **Bobby Sperry**

Fire Chief/Fire Marshal  
West Peculiar Fire Protection District (MO)

## **Victor Stagnaro**

Managing Director  
NFFF

## **Adam Thiel**

Fire Commissioner  
Philadelphia Fire Dept.

## **Amy Tippett**

Consultant  
NFFF

## **John Tippett**

Fire Programs Director  
NFFF

## **George Turvill**

Fire Inspector  
Independence Fire Dept. (MO)

## **Joseph Walters**

Executive Officer  
Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal

## **Mark Wassom**

Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal  
Olathe Fire Dept. (KS)

## **Bill Webb**

Executive Director  
Congressional Fire Services Institute

## **Devon Wells**

Past President  
ISFSI

## **Angela White**

Fire Service Education Director  
Wisconsin Technical College System

## **Trisha Wolford**

Fire Chief  
Anne Arundel County Fire Dept. (MD)

## **Jahaira Zaragoza**

Fire Prevention  
Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County (CA)

“ Sprinklers have existed since 1947. What if the legislation had been passed then? How many lives would have been saved? ”

– Truman Fire Forum Attendee

“ Similar to how there was some initial resistance to physicals being a requirement for SAFER grants, adding CRR programs to grant criteria for AFG would highly encourage prevention efforts. ”

– Truman Fire Forum Attendee

“ Fire chiefs need to be the biggest advocate for fire prevention efforts. ”

– Truman Fire Forum Attendee

“ In the '70s, people commonly believed that they wouldn't use smoke alarms but adapted over time. The same is going on now with sprinklers. ”

– Truman Fire Forum Attendee

“ Data is how we get what the public needs and what fire departments need to keep the public safe. ”

– Truman Fire Forum Attendee

# Appendix B: Resources

This QR code provides access to the resources mentioned in this report.



## National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

- The 17th Annual President Harry S. Truman Legacy Symposium and the President Truman Fire Forum Report (May 2019) <https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-Truman-Report-FINAL-022120.pdf>
- Truman Fire Forum Working Group Report (December 2019) <https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/truman-working-group-report-december-2019-FINAL.pdf>
- The Truman Fire Forum Working Group Meeting Report (February 2022) <https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/truman-working-group-report-december-2019-FINAL.pdf>
- 2021 Research Agenda Report <http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/research-agenda-symposium-4-report.pdf>

## National Fire Protection Association

- NFPA Fire Loss Reports <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Fire-loss-in-the-United-States>
- NFPA Training and Certification as part of the Fifth Needs Assessment <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/Emergency-responders/Needs-Assessment/osfifthneedsassessmentTrainingCertification.ashx>
- Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem <https://www.nfpa.org/Ecosystem>

## National Fire Sprinkler Association

- “Protecting My Family’s Future and Paying Tribute to the Past” by Rob Feeney from January/February 2021 National Fire Sprinkler Magazine <https://fireadvocates.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Feeney.pdf>

## US Fire Administration

- Home Fire Fatalities in the News: Information on home fire fatalities is compiled from media reports and is available on a searchable database. <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/civilian-fatalities/>
- Wildland Urban Interface: A Look at Issues and Resolutions <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/stories/wui-report/index.html>

# Appendix C: 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

- 1.** Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
- 2.** Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
- 3.** Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
- 4.** All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
- 5.** Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
- 6.** Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
- 7.** Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
- 8.** Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
- 9.** Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
- 10.** Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
- 11.** National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
- 12.** National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
- 13.** Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
- 14.** Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
- 15.** Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
- 16.** Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

Our mission is to honor America's fallen fire heroes; support their families, colleagues, and organizations; and work to reduce preventable firefighter death and injury.



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