



## **COMMON THEMES**

### **FINANCIAL**

- Budget and revenue issues – numerous solutions (or not!)
- Retirement system adjustments and retirement benefit cuts
- Action Item (has been added to WFCFA Strategic planning process) – develop research data for use by members. Engage with IAFC and potentially IAFF and National Fire Academy on project. Also consider using MPA students for research.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

- Novelty lighters
- Fire Safe Cigarettes
- Residential Sprinklers – fight far from over
  - Push communities to adopt code as soon as possible
  - Model language as a Division (Mike Brown on barrier language for water purveyors and Ray Bizal resource for model language)
- Presumptive cancer legislation
- Fireworks legislation
- Wildland Interface – NFPA as resource

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- Membership levels stable
- Representation from all aspects of membership
- Active Sections

### **COMMUNICATION**

- Intra-state mutual aid planning
- Cooperative meetings and forums to address specific issues (financial, code, legislation)
- Strategic planning process
- Use of technology to communicate with members

### **COMMON ISSUES FROM LAST YEAR**

- Wildland Firefighting and reimbursement
  - Federal vs. State vs. Local

## **UNIQUE ISSUES**

- Ambulance licensing, inter-facility transports, private ambulance companies competing for fire service revenue streams
- EMS – who has authority to provide service?
- “Ready Set Go” is a big topic
- Annexation issues with fire districts
- Reimbursement for fire suppression activities
- Force Protection is not a problem in Montana

## **SOLUTIONS AND IDEAS**

- Conducted a financial issues and solutions summit
- Volunteer initiatives – use for support services (non firefighting positions)
- Creation of for-profit healthcare business
- Business partnerships – 1-800 Board Up, “Safe T Element” and others
- Membership drives and adding new sections
- Working with training organizations to provide insurance for events in exchange for membership
- State Chiefs and Building Code Officials – conduct regular meetings
- Two day forum for voting officials and fire officials to discuss issues
- Gaming permits
- Bring in new members at no cost for smaller departments

## **WASHINGTON**

- o Fire Safe Cigarettes
- o Novelty Lighters
- o Regional Haz Mat Teams
- o Annexation issues with fire districts
- o Volunteer initiatives – use for support services (non firefighting positions)
- o Strategic business alliances
- o For profit healthcare business
- o Membership status quo

## **ALASKA**

- o Two conferences annually – primary way to reach out to membership
- o Support of Guard and Reserve
- o Novelty Lighters
- o State-wide capital grant program
- o Residential Sprinklers
- o Retirement system adjustment
- o Fire Safe Cigarettes
- o Rural Chiefs representation in organization
- o Two day forum for voting officials and fire officials to discuss issues
- o Membership restructuring – life membership
- o Gaming permits



## UTAH

- Chief Nalder – taking job in Washington state
- Ambulance licensing, inter-facility transports, private ambulance companies competing for fire service revenue streams
- Just completed Intra-state mutual aid plan
- Bureau of EMS location – attempt to move agencies
- Residential sprinklers
- Quarterly meetings, January is the big one
- Will work with bordering states on Leadership Conference in June

## ARIZONA

- Focus on education as form of legislative effort
- Money is the biggest issue in the state
- Conduct a financial issues and solutions summit
- Working closely with state training organizations
- Numerous special event benefits
- State-wide mutual aid exercise
- Worked with Professional Firefighters to develop white paper on interaction and working together
- Supporting education programs that are in danger of losing funding (ASU)
- Business partnerships – “800 Board Up”
- Fireworks legislation – attempting to pass minimum standard for consumer fireworks
- Membership drive – membership up 200+. Added new sections including training group in exchange for insurance for training events.

## **CALIFORNIA**

- Conducted planning session – budget main issue
- Proposition that allows Governor to declare state of emergency for funding
  - EMS – who has authority to provide service
  - Will conduct an economic summit instead of traditional legislative days
- A lot of agencies that have not been reimburse for fire suppression activities
- Series of propositions coming up to deal with budget issues in state
  - Temporary taxes, shifts, protections
  - Alternative is \$14 billion in debt vs. \$9 billion in debt
- Effort to increase participation with membership through electronic mediums
- Residential Sprinklers
- “Ready Set Go” is a big topic
- Active Sections – have north and south divisions in most
  - New Emergency Managers Section
- Cal Chiefs and Building Code Officials – regular meetings for years
- Legislative issues for certification requirements for sprinkler instalers
- Novelty lighters
- Membership is slightly down but not significant
- Annual Conference in September in Riverside, CA

## **HAWAII**

- Strategic plan development
- Not an ISO state but working to align
- Intra-state mutual aid planning effort – resource movement issues
- No state fire marshal’s office – shared responsibilities through State Fire Council
- Novelty lighters – did not pass but want help to try again
- Consumer fireworks legislation
- Budget issues – proposed legislation would affect health benefits for retirees
- Annual Conference in November 19-21, Big Island (Hawaii)



## **MONTANA**

- Force protection is not a problem!
- Updating strategic plan
- Updating organizational structure including section development and broad position alignment (to fit IAFC model)
- Fire Alliances (organizations) exist in state and dilute association efforts – new structure will attempt to address this
- Mutual aid done very well, have solid wireless interoperable communications system.
- Built good relationships with NRCG and Association of Counties, State Foresters
- Not a lot of legislative issues or concerns
- Not significantly impacted by economic downturn
- Only 300 career FFs in the state but having issues with labor/management issues
- Residential Sprinkler issues is just starting to hit but probably won't be on the legislative agenda until 2011
- Annual conference in September in Helena.

## **NEVADA**

- Legislative issues
  - Safe Cigarettes
  - Novelty Lighters
  - Seatbelt bill
  - Pool barrier bill
  - Presumptive cancer bill – added four new types
  - Supported workers comp coverage for volunteers over age 50 bill
- PERS is hurting – public safety side is facing funding issues
- State is in the worst financial shape it has ever been and shortfall is the largest percentage in the country – need record tax increase and record service cut.
- State mutual aid plan was created by the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association
- Membership drive – vendor sponsored physical mailing resulted in a 75 member increase
- Received Safer Grant
- Annual conference is in October in Reno – larger conference through partnerships

## **OREGON**

- New website
- Conference – significant increase in vendor participation
- Chiefs forum – web-based blog
- Financially strong and healthy
- Legislative
  - Fire Safe Cigarettes
  - Cancer Presumption signed April 8
  - Novelty lighters will become law June 2
  - Residential Sprinklers – building coalition for support
- Best practices
  - Stratification matrix
  - Class “A” Uniforms
  - Reflective Vest
- Re-chartered all committee charters
- Developing Safety Officers Section
- OWIN – Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network progress
- Funding issues with department of forestry – fire protection
- Firefighter layoffs
- EMAC system improvements
- Prevention Inspection training standards
- ISO issues

## **IDAHO**

- Updated strategic plan in January
- Intra-state mutual aid project – grant
- Majority of income from annual meeting and dues
- Generate revenue from proceeds from firefighter license plate program that funds grant program
- Three bills affecting the residential sprinkler issue
- Hazardous materials legislation that allows to recuperate costs
- Residential Sprinklers vs. Homebuilders
- Annual conference is in May in Idaho Falls