



Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

Report to the Western Fire Chiefs Association

This report is being submitted by the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association (NFCA) to the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) and will be presented in Tucson, Arizona at the WFCA President's Forum in March 2011.

The current Board of Directors for the NFCA consists of the following persons.

President – R. Stacey Giomi, Fire Chief, Carson City Fire Department
First Vice-President – John M. Myers, Fire Chief, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
Second Vice-President – Michael Brown, Fire Chief, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
Secretary/Treasurer – Jay Wittwer, Battalion Chief, North Las Vegas Fire Department
Past President – Steve Smith, Fire Chief (Ret), Clark County Fire Department
WFCA Representative – Doug Stevens, Fire Chief, Henderson Fire Department
Northeast Representative – Ross Rivera, Ely Fire Department
Northwest Representative – Gary Nielson, Division Chief (Ret), Reno Fire Department
Southern Representative – Ken Morgan, Deputy Chief, Clark County Fire Department
Executive Director – Ken Riddle, Deputy Fire Chief (Ret), Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

In 2010 the NFCA experienced several successes including the following:

- NFCA Membership – Membership increased by 9 percent in 2010 from 172 members in 2009 to currently 187 members. The increase is primarily from fire/EMS vendors from the FireShowsReno conference.
- SAFER Grant – Awarded in 2006 for the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters statewide with the goal of recruiting 105 volunteer firefighters in Nevada. Through the use of marketing materials promoting the National Volunteer Fire Councils 1-800-FIRE-LINE program. At the end of the last quarter there were over 139 volunteer firefighters recruited.
- FireShowsReno Conference – In its second year, the FireShowsReno conference was expanded to include a hazardous materials program in partnership with the Nevada State Emergency response Commission (SERC). Grant funding was provided to put the hazmat program on in conjunction with FireShowsReno. Total conference attendance was 1208 and consisted of 271 exhibitors and 937 conference attendees.
- Partnership with Nevada SERC – As mentioned above, this partnership allows the NFCA to support the Nevada fire service by providing hazardous materials training to first responders and the State's Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) members. Grant funding is provided to offset the conference costs and tuition and travel reimbursement is available to those that attend.
- Leadership Excellence Challenge (LEC) – Developed by the Northern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association (NNFCA) this program provides leadership guidance and mentoring. The purpose of the LEC is to intentionally develop

excellent public safety leadership through academic preparation, structured mentoring, peer evaluation, performance assessment, guided reading, and an individualized development prescription.

- IAFC Conferences in Nevada – In addition to the NFCA conference, the Nevada fire service hosts two IAFC conferences. In March each year the IAFC Wildland Urban Interface conference is held in Reno and in May, the IAFC EMS Section's Fire-Rescue Med conference is held in Las Vegas.
- Financial Outlook – The NFCA has increased revenues due to the FireShowsReno conference and is financially sound.
- Unique Services – The NFCA is able to conduct the FireShowsReno conference in partnership with the Fire Service Manufacturers and Vender Association (FSMVA). The conference program is developed in a manner that allows equal time for exhibitors and the educational component. The partnership benefits both Associations and each has input into the program and split all revenue in excess of expenses. The SAFER grant also allows the NFCA to recruit volunteer firefighters for volunteer departments through the marketing of the 1-800-FIRELINE number.
- Critical Issues Facing the NFCA Membership and NFCA – There are a few issues we are facing including the following:

Decreasing revenues – In state and local government resulting in decreased line and support staff as well as postponed capital purchases. The combination of the two in relation to increased growth and call volume may result in increased response times and more dependence on automatic or mutual aid from neighboring departments.

Staffing for volunteer fire/EMS agencies – Although the SAFER grant efforts have been successful, many volunteer departments are not adequately staffed.

NFCA Membership – Because of the current state of the economy members are not renewing their membership because of the annual dues.

Loss of Institutional Knowledge – Over the next 2 – 5 years many senior experienced chief officers in the State will be retiring. Concerns have been expressed over the potential lack of qualified and experienced replacement officers. The NNFC's LEC program is attempting to minimize the impact.

Status of Legislative Issues – Primary concerns will be over funding for local governments in face of the State's budget shortages. Collective bargaining issues are expected to be discussed as well as a consolidation item.

- WFCA and NFCA – The NFCA encourages its members and the Nevada fire service to use the FRGPO program and the Fire Service Bookstore and benefits from revenues received from purchases made in Nevada. The Nevada Daily Dispatch is also promoted throughout the Nevada fire service. One potential area to assist state fire chiefs associations is the development of a leadership and mentoring program similar to the NNFCA LEC program. Additionally there may be opportunities to support each other by having the WFCA participate with the FireShowsReno conference.