

On February 4 of this year the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs board hosted a Fire Summit in Columbia. The idea was to bring the officers of various regional and statewide organizations together to discuss topics that seem to be of interest to many in the fire service. The discussion resulted in consensus on moving forward on six topics. Rich Lehman, MAFC Executive Director, submitted the results as outlined below:

FIRE SUMMIT ISSUES FOR FURTHER WORK

There were six (6) issues that the participants in the Fire Summit felt needed to be and could be addressed now. These issues were arrived at by consensus.

While there are many more issues affecting Missouri's fire service and the general public adversely now and in the coming months most of them have a significant price tag attached. The summit participants knew that to attempt to address them in the current climate would be counter-productive. They are not of lesser importance but would be almost impossible to attain movement forward without state approval and monies. It is the hope of the participants that these issues will be able to be addressed in the near future and will be willing to bring them forward and/or assist in such endeavors.

Each of the issues has the following:

- Brief statement of the issue
- Some points to be considered (though definitely not all inclusive)
- Champion organization(s)
- Person(s) to contact
- Requested date for initial report to fire summit participants

While there are dates for reporting, it is not the proposal that all items will be finished, and some may not even be started. The dates are a method of receiving information as to whether some success had been or may be reached as well as a time for further discussion and potential changes in direction or effort.

Shortly after the majority of issues have been initially addressed by such as report another meeting may be called if more discussion or more action may be warranted.

The champions are asked to provide a synopsis of their report, in draft form, on or before the due date to all participants in the Fire Summit.

**FIRE SUMMIT
ISSUE #1
STATEWIDE FIRE TRAINING**

SYNOPSIS

Outside of MUFRTI the State of Missouri has little or no organized effort in training and training capabilities. While the State of Missouri struggles to fund even the most basic training needs for the fire service, especially in rural areas, there is a need for a more concerted effort to provide both basic training and provide certified/licensed training throughout Missouri.

GOALS:

- Review current efforts in licensing and certification for all levels and specialties in fire service training, including state efforts, as well as regional and local programs that could be utilized in a certification/licensing program
- Licensing/certification should be discussed with Champions of Issue #2 to insure “everyone is on the same page”
- Begin process for “recognized standards” for training/certification. Include this in discussions with Issue #2 Champions
- Certification/licensing programs should be voluntary in nature, but be open to any and all fire organizations
- Submit a proposal for a State Training Officers Association that would provide a focal point for training efforts and programs. Said Association should be affiliated with a statewide organization that they would be answerable to.

CHAMPIONS:

- **Greater St Louis Area Fire Chiefs**
- **St Louis Fire Dept.**
- **Individuals**
 - Chief Mark Thorp (mthorp@ci.clayton.mo.us)
 - Deputy Chief Mike Arras (arrasm@stlouiscity.com)

TIMELINE: May 1, 2011

**FIRE SUMMIT
ISSUE #2
MISSOURI FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING INSTITUTE**

SYNOPSIS

MUFRTI has been the statewide lead agency in training for Missouri' Fire Service for over 75 years. In recent years the Institute has seen a decline in revenue from the state and university for their stated goal of fire training.

The state has yet to fund HB 230 fully and, in recent years, the state legislature has seen fit to require bids on a variety of training endeavors sponsored by HB 230. Said funds are held by the Division of Fire Safety and they are required to promote the bidding process.

With the decline in real dollars flowing to MUFRTI from statewide sources, training for local and regional jurisdictions at the most basic level has suffered. In addition the needs of other jurisdictions in other areas have also suffered.

GOALS:

- Meet with MUFRTI to discuss funding & costs:
 - Funding including amount received from MU as well as a potential method(s) to increase said funding
 - Review costs for potential methods of reducing costs so as to make programs more available and accessible to those that are in significant need
- Review and discuss with MUFRTI and others the need for curriculum development as an integral part of service to all
- Licensing/certification should be discussed with Champions of Issue #1 to insure "everyone is on the same page"
- Begin process for "recognized standards" for training/certification. Include this in discussions with Issue #1 Champions

CHAMPIONS:

- **Queen City Fire Chiefs Association**
- **Individuals**
 - Chief David Hall (dhall@springfieldmo.gov)

TIMELINE: May 1, 2011

**FIRE SUMMIT
ISSUE #3
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY**

SYNOPSIS

After a significant push by the FFAM and other individuals in the late 60s' & early 70s' for a provision in state government to provide a focal point for fire service needs, the state passed a law instituting a State Fire Marshal.

Since that time this position grew from one of investigating fires for origin and cause throughout the state to significant inspections of specific occupancies as well as licensing, certification and inspection of several types of businesses, operating systems and fire training.

These additions, most by newly enacted laws, had allowed the Fire Marshal to grow into the Division of Fire Safety. All additions were laudable goals and needs. In recent years, the decrease in funding has led to a critical juncture in these areas as monies are no longer available to provide all services at even a minimal level.

GOALS:

- Meet with the Fire Marshal to discuss:
 - A way forward to stop decreased funding
 - The need for prioritization of specific operations
 - The potential to reduce or eliminate actual training provided directly by DFS
 - Insure continued licensing/certification of programs and individuals as a critical part needed by the fire service
 - Provide final input on voluntary credentialing to meet federal needs
- Form a plan to stop the placement of DFS under a different agency (Highway Patrol) in the event that it looks as if it may occur

CHAMPIONS:

- **Missouri Association of Career Fire Protection Districts**
- **Individuals:**
 - Chief Mike Marlo (chief marlo@hotmail.com)

TIMELINE: May 1, 2011

**FIRE SUMMIT
ISSUE #4
STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID**

SYNOPSIS

In the early 1990s' the State of Missouri passed a law allowing for statewide mutual aid. The year after this event the Missouri Association Fire Chiefs met with the State Fire Marshal and SEMA and formulated a statewide Mutual Aid Program. The program was a completely voluntary program with individual Chiefs and fire organizations mapping out departmental resources for deployment. The program was very successful.

After Hurricane Katrina the IAFC requested that states review their capabilities in intra and potential interstate mutual aid response. They provided expertise and a small grant to state chief's organizations that did this review. The Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs did this review.

From this review came the Missouri Systems Concept for Operational Planning for Emergencies (MOSCOPE). The plan is overseen by the MAFC but operated by the DFS. The DFS has a full time coordinator to operate this plan. The plan is reviewed as needed by a committee appointed by MAFC.

While still very successful certain issues are now requiring a review that will include possible changes in process as well as potential response.

GOALS:

- Review current response parameters for non-federally declared disasters
 - Include current mutual aid coordinator in this process
 - Potential overuse of asset deployment creating burnout for departments/districts and their elected officials
- Insure credentialing in issue #3 is addressed for intrastate response and provide initial discussion as to how this may be utilized within MOSCOPE
- Review funding with a specific discussion as to how MOSCOPE may move forward to begin a potential funding process for intrastate response to state disasters
- Review potential additions to MOSCOPE that would utilize current fire service/DFS operation for:
 - Fire investigation
 - EMS, including transport services

CHAMPIONS:

- **Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs**
- **Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts**
 - Chief Greg Brown (gb2400@yahoo.com)

TIMELINE: May 1, 2011

**FIRE SUMMIT
ISSUE #5
HOMELAND SECURITY**

SYNOPSIS

With the fire service playing such a significant role in disaster response, it is incumbent that the fire service provides significant input into various operations that may impact the fire service within state government.

In recent years' state focus in these areas rests more and more with the Office of Homeland Security. Recently, the leaders of the fire service in Missouri seem to be getting passed over for input during various discussions and decisions at the state level.

GOALS:

- Review current make up of various committees that impact Homeland Security at the state and regional levels
- Review current funding for Regions and UASI from federal monies
- Provide report on state radio interoperability and insure fire service input
- Provide for discussion of Regional Issues by statewide group (i.e. Special Operations)

CHAMPIONS:

- **Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs**
 - Chief James Sebree (jsebree@nixafire.org)

TIMELINE: May 1, 2011

**FIRE SUMMIT
ISSUE #6
SOVERIGN IMMUNITY**

SYNOPSIS

In recent years immunity from civil lawsuits for fire and EMS services in the state has been drastically reduced. This has caused increased costs to all governmental agencies to attempt to protect the taxpayers from damages occurring from lawsuits.

Insurance when available has increased in cost dramatically, and even then, in some cases, that coverage has not been adequate for the resultant damages inflicted. There may be issues that are so blatant that damages should be paid, but the current climate allows for significantly greater potential for nuisance suits and significant damages over and above what should typically be considered appropriate.

GOALS:

- Provide a new sovereign immunity bill to be introduced as legislation for the 2012 legislative year
- Provide a bill that will protect EMS quality assurance programs from discovery during a lawsuit for the 2012 legislative year

CHAMPIONS:

- **Western Missouri Fire Chiefs**
 - Chief Steve Holle (sholle@beltonfire.org)

TIMELINE: September 1, 2011