



**STATEMENT OF POLICY
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
2011-2012**

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) is a national association founded in 1908 and dedicated to reducing the loss of life and property from fire, and to advancing the science and technology of the Fire and Emergency Services in Canada.

The membership of CAFC includes more than 1,000 Fire Chiefs and other fire officers. It represents the three major types of Fire Departments in Canada: full-time departments, volunteer departments and composite departments. Composite departments include both full-time and volunteer personnel. Volunteer and composite departments constitute the overwhelming majority of Fire Departments in Canada.

The membership of the Association is located in municipalities throughout all ten provinces and all three territories. The national Board of Directors is comprised of Fire Chiefs from every province and territory.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Policy proposals may originate with individual members of the Association; the Provincial or Territorial Associations of Fire Chiefs; or the CAFC Board of Directors. Regardless of the source from which a specific policy proposal emanates, it must be ratified by the delegates to an Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs prior to its inclusion in the *CAFC Statement of Policy*.

The process of policy ratification is democratic and transparent. Organizations to which particular policies are directed can be assured that these policies represent the views of the senior officers within the Fire Services in all parts of Canada.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The individual policies of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs are directed to a variety of audiences, as the Table of Contents for this document demonstrates. The Table of Contents also makes clear that the most significant of these audiences are the elected and appointed officials of the Government of Canada.

It is my hope that to whichever audience CAFC policies are directed, they will be recognized as important statements by the Fire Services in Canada. Overwhelmingly, these policies take positions on issues of public safety as well as particular needs of the Fire Services themselves. They all deserve serious attention and a commitment on the part of target audiences to do whatever possible to address these issues in a positive manner.

Fire Chief Rob Simonds, CFO
President, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

President	Fire Chief Rob Simonds, CFO, Hamilton Fire Services, Hamilton, Ontario
1 st Vice President	Fire Chief Stephen Gamble, CFO, Township of Langley, Langley, British Columbia
2 nd Vice President	Fire Chief Paul Boissonneault, County of Brant Fire Department, Paris, Ontario
Treasurer	Fire Chief Lee Grant, Oakville Fire Department, Oakville, Ontario
Secretary	Deputy Fire Chief Ken Stuebing, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, Winnipeg, Manitoba
IAFF Canadian Div.	Fire Chief John deHooze, CFO, Ottawa Fire Services, Ottawa, Ontario
Past President	Fire Chief Bruce Burrell, Calgary Fire Department, Calgary, Alberta

Board of Directors: Representing the Provincial and Territorial Associations

Alberta	Fire Chief Brian Cornforth, Lethbridge Fire Department
British Columbia	Fire Chief Len Garris, Surrey Fire Service
Manitoba	Deputy Fire Chief Garry Bell, Brandon Fire & Emergency Service
New Brunswick	Fire Chief Jody Price, Oromocto Fire Department
Newfoundland & Labrador	Fire Chief Vince MacKenzie, Grand Falls-Windsor Fire Department
Northwest Terr.	Fire Chief Ross Potter, Hay River Fire Department
Nova Scotia	Deputy Fire Chief Brent Denny, Cape Breton Regional Fire Service
Nunavut	Vacant
Ontario	Fire Chief Tim Beckett, Kitchener Fire Department
Prince Edward Island	Vacant
Quebec	Directeur Serge Tremblay, CFO, Sécurité incendie Montréal
Saskatchewan	Deputy Fire Chief Dan Heney, Prince Albert Fire & Emergency Services
Yukon	Fire Chief Jim Regimbal, CFO, Dawson City Fire Department

Board of Directors: Representing Other Fire Services Organizations

Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada	Deputy Fire Chief Blain Wiggins, Iqaluit Fire Department, Iqaluit, Nunavut
Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation	Fire Chief William Stewart, CFO, Toronto Fire Service, Toronto, Ontario

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Canadian Metro Chiefs	Fire Chief Ken Block, Edmonton Fire Rescue Service, Edmonton., Alberta
Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association	District Deputy Chief Dave Thomson, Norfolk County Fire Services, Waterford, Ontario
Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners	Fire Commissioner Trent West, Alberta Emergency Management, Edmonton, Alberta
Department of National Defence	Pierre Voisine, Canadian Forces Fire Marshal's Office, Ottawa, Ontario

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A. POLICIES DIRECTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

1. CHANCELLERY OF HONOURS

1.1 Order of Merit of the Fire Services
(Adopted at 2007 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

1.1.1 The Order of Merit of the Police Forces honours a career of exceptional service or distinctive merit displayed by the men and women of the Canadian Police Services, and recognizes their commitment to Canada. The primary focus is on exceptional merit, contributions to policing and community development.

1.1.2 The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police reviews all applications for the various grades of recognition under this program.

Recommended

1.1.3 .The Chancellery of Honours in the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General should institute the Order of Merit of the Fire Services following the same general terms and conditions that apply to the Order of Merit of the Police Services.

1.2 Requesting the Patronage of the Governor General
(Adopted at 2008 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

1.2.1 The Governor General, as Head of State, has shown a deep interest in supporting and encouraging significant Canadian organizations.

1.2.2 CAFC is an organization with members throughout Canada dedicated to protecting the lives and property of Canadians.

1.2.3 Canada's Fire Chiefs would be deeply privileged to have the Governor General as the patron of CAFC.

Recommended

1.2.4 The Governor General should be petitioned to favour the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs with her patronage.

1.3 Eligibility for Canadian Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal
(Adopted at 2008 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

1.3.1 Eligibility for the Canadian Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal is limited to Fire Services personnel with exemplary service of 20 years or more, including not less than 10 years in a high-risk suppression capacity.

1.3.2 Many Fire Services personnel have dedicated their careers to the protection of Canadians through such measures as fire prevention, fire-safe construction and maintenance of dwellings and other structures; and to the education of citizens in fire-related issues. Through their dedication and skill, countless injuries and fatalities have been avoided as have millions of dollars of property damage.

1.3.3 Many other Fire Services personnel have dedicated their careers to the preservation of lives and property through their support of firefighters by providing dispatch operations, mechanical support, training and other essential activities.

Recommended

1.3.4 The Chancellery of Honours should amend the eligibility requirements of the federal Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal to include all municipal, provincial and aboriginal Fire Services personnel having exemplary service of 20 years or longer.

1.4 Exemplary Service Medal: Industrial Firefighters
(Adopted at 2008 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

1.4.1 For many years, up to and including 2002, the Fire Services recognized its industrial members by including them for Exemplary Service Medals for their dedicated service.

1.4.2 The contributions from these volunteers in industry have not only saved many millions of dollars in damage to production facilities but have also saved countless lives and protected employees from work-related injuries.

1.4.3 Provinces and their Fire Marshals/Fire Commissioners look to fire response professionals from industry for advice and recommendations on all aspects of fire laws and regulations.

1.4.4 The training of the members of Industrial Fire Departments is comparable to that of the members of other Fire Departments. It also provides many Canadian communities with well-qualified and capable volunteer firefighters whom they could neither afford nor attract.

Recommended

1.4.5 The Honours and Medals Directorate expand its definition of “recognized fire services” to include fire-fighting personnel from Industrial Fire Departments.

2. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

2.1 Financial Support for the Fire Services
(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

2.1.1 Included in *Opportunities for All*, the pre-election platform document of the previous federal Liberal Government was a promise to “help Canadians make their urban and rural communities safe.”

2.1.2 A recent survey of CAFC members asked them to rate the degree to which their communities had become safer over the past three years because of actions of the Government of Canada. The results are as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| • “Much safer” or “Somewhat safer” | 18.8% |
| • “No change” | 64.6% |
| • “Somewhat less safe” or “Much less safe” | 13.3% |
| • “Unsure” | 3.5% |

2.1.3 Canada’s Fire Chiefs are totally qualified to make judgements on safety issues within their communities.

2.1.4 Many of Canada’s rural and remote communities are particularly in need of financial support for their Fire Services requirements. This is especially true within many First Nation’s communities across Canada.

Recommended

2.1.5 The Government of Canada should be financially responsible for ensuring that all rural and remote Canadian communities are able to provide basic fire protection services to the Nation’s communities across Canada.

2.2 Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Fire Services Personnel

(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble:

2.2.1 Volunteer Fire Services personnel are responsible for protecting the lives and property of a significant percentage of Canadians.

2.2.2 When volunteers provide these services, it can be at significant peril to themselves. In addition, many volunteer firefighters and their chiefs experience financial hardship in terms of lost employment time.

Recommended

2.2.3 Volunteer firefighters who have performed at least 200 hours of service in a taxation year, and have a letter from their Department attesting to that fact, should be allowed to deduct \$3,000.00 from their taxable income from any source.

2.2.4 The 200 hours of annual service should include time spent in carrying out related duties and in achieving and maintaining a minimum level of training to established and recognized standards.

2.3 Sprinklers in Existing Non-Residential and High-Rise Residential Buildings

(Adopted at 2004 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

2.3.1 The important and positive role of automatic sprinkler systems in the suppression of fires is not open to question.

2.3.2 The majority of existing non-residential buildings and existing high-rise residential buildings are not equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.

2.3.3 The owners of such buildings who would be otherwise favourably disposed to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems are dissuaded from doing so by the cost of such installation.

2.3.4 CAFC recognizes that it would be impractical to require that all existing non-residential buildings and all existing high-rise residential buildings be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.

Recommended

- 2.3.5** Finance Canada should amend the federal tax regime as required to encourage the owners of existing non-residential buildings and existing high-rise residential buildings to install automatic sprinkler systems.

2.4 Sprinklers in Residential Structures other than Existing High-Rise Residential Buildings

(Adopted at 2004 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 2.4.1** The important and positive role of automatic sprinkler systems in the suppression of fires is not open to question.
- 2.4.2** During the period of record levels of new housing starts in 2003 and 2004, no federal provisions were in place to require that all new low-rise housing be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.
- 2.4.3** The owners of existing low-rise residential buildings who would be otherwise favourably disposed to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems are dissuaded from doing so by the cost of such installation.

Recommended

- 2.4.4** The National Research Council should amend the National Building Code to require that all new low-rise housing be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems
- 2.4.5** The National Research Council should amend the National Building Code to require that all existing low-rise residential structures be required to be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.
- 2.4.6** Finance Canada should amend the Income Tax Act to permit the owners of low-rise residential structures to partially deduct from their payable taxes the costs of equipping their residences with required automatic sprinkler systems

2.5 Tax Credits for Employers of Volunteer Firefighters

(Adopted at 2002 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 2.5.1** The Fire Services in Canada rely on firefighters who volunteer their services to protect lives and property in their communities.

2.5.2 The time these volunteers spend providing such services can cause financial hardships and inconvenience to employers who depend on these same people to operate their businesses.

Recommended

2.5.3 The federal Minister of Finance should provide an employer a \$500.00 tax credit for each employee who is actively serving as a volunteer firefighter or officer. “Employer” shall include self-employed individuals.

3. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

3.1 Arson Prevention Program: Children
(Adopted at 2001 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

3.1.1 The arson prevention program for children, known as TAPP-C, has greatly enhanced the ability to manage the young fire-starter problem.

3.1.2 The current TAPP-C initiatives are isolated to municipal and provincial jurisdictions.

3.1.3 The vision of reducing fire and injury should be a national goal.

Recommended

3.1.4 Health Canada should promote the TAPP-C program as a nationally recognized program.

3.1.5 The Government of Canada should provide funding to deliver the program.

3.2 Candle Safety
(Adopted at 2002 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

3.2.1 An increasing number of serious fires causing injuries and death have occurred as a result of the improper and careless use of candles.

3.2.2 Municipal Fire Departments rely on the Government of Canada and provincial/territorial governments to enact required safety regulations that will permit them to address their responsibility for the delivery of effective and efficient public safety and property protection education and fire suppression programs and activities.

3.2.3 Therefore, the federal and provincial/territorial governments have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate regulations are in place to deal with the manufacture, importation and sale of candles.

Recommended

3.2.4 The Government of Canada and the Governments of the provinces/territories should form a working partnership to establish a project team including representatives from the community, governments, businesses and, in particular, relevant manufacturers to address the issue of candle safety.

3.3 Control of Ignition Sources

(Adopted at 2001 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

3.3.1 There is significant evidence to prove that many children's injuries and deaths are directly related to the accessibility of ignition sources, such as matches and lighters.

3.3.2 The most common problems with children's access to ignition sources are parents and other adults leaving matches and lighters within the reach of children.

Recommended

3.3.3 The sale of matches and lighters to minors should be banned.

3.3.4 The ability to invoke criminal charges against adults who allow children uncontrolled access to matches and lighters should be included in legislation.

3.4 Listing of Smoke Detectors

(Adopted at 2000 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

3.4.1 The need for a review of the methods of testing smoke alarms became apparent during the early months of the year 2000.

3.4.2 Many of the materials used in the construction of houses/dwelling units, and furnishings materials in homes have changed since the initial testing methods were introduced.

3.4.3 It is common knowledge that the majority of lives lost in residential fires are a direct result of the toxic fumes created by the materials used in construction and home furnishings.

Recommended

3.4.4 Underwriters Laboratories of Canada should advise its sub-committee responsible for the listing of smoke and heat detectors and alarms of CAFC's support for review of the existing testing criteria to determine their adequacy to detect smoke and heat from construction materials and furnishings found in today's homes.

3.4.5 The National Research Council should also undertake a review of these existing testing criteria.

3.5 Stovetop Fires

(Adopted at 2005 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

3.5.1 Stovetop fires continue to be one of the major causes of residential fires.

3.5.2 Stovetop fires are often caused by poor fire-safety behaviour such as in-attention, over-use of alcohol, etc.

3.5.3 Technology is available to prevent stovetop fires through temperature limit controls on stovetop elements.

Recommended

3.5.4 All applicable regulations be changed to require temperature limit controls or other suitable measures on stovetops to prevent ignition of cooking materials.

3.5.5 CAFC should work in partnership with Health Canada and other organizations on this initiative.

3.6 Available Technology for Reducing Fire Loss and Personal Injury from Stovetop Cooking Fires

(Adopted at 2011 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

3.6.1 Cooking equipment is one of the leading causes of residential fires and home injuries in Canada. Electric ranges are the leading type of cooking equipment involved in these fires.

3.6.2 Kitchen fires due to cooking oil or grease igniting into flames cause the fastest-spreading and most destructive type of residential fires and are one of the chief causes of home fire injuries.

3.6.3 Unattended cooking and combustibles too close to the cooking surface, such as towels, paper products, etc. are major contributing factors to stovetop fires.

3.6.4 Education and code enforcement alone have not yielded the desired results when it comes to eliminating cooking fires.

3.6.5 Tested affordable technology for electric coil ranges now exists to reduce drastically the number of these fires and burned food incidents by reducing the high-end temperature at which burners operate with no applicable difference in cooking time or quality.

3.6.6 High-end heat regulation technology currently available can reduce the amount of energy used by a range by as much as 50 per cent.

Recommended

3.6.7 The CAFC supports cooking “fire prevention” technology and further supports a modification of provincial/territorial and federal agency regulations to allow new fire safety technology to be utilized and will promote it by whatever means necessary in order to reduce or eliminate stovetop cooking fires.

3.7 Upholstered and Stuffed Articles Act

(Adopted at 2000 Annual General Meeting)

3.7.1 The inclusion of fire-retarding materials and compounds into manufactured articles such as, but not limited to, upholstered and stuffed furniture, mattresses, pillows and toys will make an impact on public fire safety.

3.7.2 Amendments to the Upholstered and Stuffed Articles Act to include these articles is necessary to enhance public safety in Canada through establishment of new test and approval criteria with respect to flammability and fire resistance to flame spread and smoke development.

3.7.3 Textiles (clothing, bedding, draperies, furniture, carpets, mattresses and upholstered items) are among some of the products that are subject to safety assurance tests by Health Canada's Product Safety Laboratory, as well to the Upholstered and Stuffed Articles Act, which is monitored by the Technical Safety Standards Authority.

3.7.4 An example could be set by adopting California Standards #s TB-117 and TB-133 which evaluate components as well as assembly and labelling requirements. These standards specify tests to measure the resistance of components of upholstered furniture to ignition by small open flame sources and cigarettes; and, resistance of finished items of upholstered furniture to ignition by cigarettes.

Recommended

3.7.5 The Government of Canada should enact appropriate changes to the Upholstered and Stuffed Articles Act to measure the resistance of components of upholstered furniture to ignition by small open flame sources and cigarettes; and, resistance of finished items of upholstered furniture to ignition by cigarettes.

3.8 Regulation of Hydroponics Equipment Sales

(Adopted at 2007 Annual General Meeting)

3.8.1 Residential marijuana grow operations pose many public safety threats, including fire and electrocution to Canadians.

3.8.2 Hydroponics equipment is commonly used in residential marijuana grow operations.

Recommended

3.8.3 Legislation is required to restrict the sale of hydroponics equipment to ensure that: such equipment can be sold only through licensed retailers; and purchasers of such equipment have a valid electrical permit.

3.9 Federal Medical Marijuana Access Regulations
(Adopted at 2011 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

3.9.1 According to Health Canada statistics, posted January 8, 2010, there are 4,884 persons across Canada holding an Authorization to Possess under the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations.

3.9.2 Persons authorized under the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations are informed they must abide by all applicable federal, provincial, territorial and municipal legislation and regulations, including by-laws governing zoning, fire and life safety, at the time of authorization and/or re-licensing.

Recommended

3.9.3 The Marijuana Access Program should be suspended until a process that verifies compliance with all local regulations for the health and safety of first responders is developed and implemented.

3.10 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Addictions
(Adopted at 2011 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

3.10.1 There is a need to heighten awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) and addictions that are occurring in the Fire Service. Promoting education with respect to these two conditions is an important component of heightening awareness.

3.10.2 There is a need for financial assistance for Fire Service personnel suffering from PTSD and addictions.

Recommended

3.10.3 The Government of Canada should examine (a) the issue of PTSD and addictions being suffered by Canadian Fire Service personnel and (b) the creation of a Federal Financial Assistance Fund to be available for Fire Service personnel in need of treatment services.

4. DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

4.1 Flag Protocol – Line of Duty Death (Adopted at 2001 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 4.1.1** Firefighters risk their lives as part of their job on a regular basis to provide fire protection to the citizens of Canada.
- 4.1.2** Firefighters who die in the line of duty deserve appropriate recognition for making the supreme sacrifice.
- 4.1.3** It is recognized that an appropriate sign of respect for a line of duty death of a firefighter is to lower the Canadian flag.

Recommended

- 4.1.4** The Government of Canada should establish a protocol to lower the Canadian flag at all of its buildings in a municipality in recognition of a firefighter in that municipality who dies in the line of duty.

5. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Employment Insurance Contributions by Volunteer Firefighters (Adopted at 1999 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 5.1.1** A ruling by Revenue Canada for the town of Fort Erie, Ontario indicated that volunteer firefighters should be assessed Employment Insurance.
- 5.1.2** A ruling by the Tax Court of Canada in Kamloops, British Columbia, June 4, 1999 stated that volunteer firefighters are “excluded from insurable employment by paragraph 7(e) of the Regulations” and therefore not subject to Employment Insurance.
- 5.1.3** These two contradictory rulings have created confusion.
- 5.1.4** Volunteer firefighters give freely of their time for the betterment of their communities.
- 5.1.5** The cost of Employment Insurance is also a cost to the municipalities.

Recommended

5.1.6 The Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development should clarify in writing that volunteer firefighters are excluded from insurable earnings and, as such, are not required to pay Employment Insurance.

6. DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

6.1 Adequate Funding of First Nations Fire Departments

(Adopted at 2007 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

6.1.1 Section 36 of the Constitution Act, 1982 provides that the Government of Canada and the Provincial Governments are committed to:

- promoting equal opportunities for the well-being of all Canadians;
- furthering economic development to reduce disparities in opportunities; and
- providing essential public services of reasonable quality to all Canadians.

6.1.2 The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is required to financially support First Nations in providing community services, including Fire Services, comparable to the service generally available in non-native communities of similar size and circumstance.

6.1.3 The Department has not undertaken a comprehensive review of its existing policies to ensure that First Nations Fire Departments are financially supported at comparable levels available to similar non-native communities.

Recommended

6.1.4 The efforts of the Assembly of First Nations and the National Chief should be supported as they seek to ensure that First Nations' Fire Departments funding, under the Department's policy guidelines, is comparable to that of similar non-native communities and that such funding meets the safety needs of First Nations that have grown in population and infrastructure.

7. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

7.1 Development and Securing of the 700 MHz Bandwidth

(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

7.1.1 The public safety agencies of Canada (of which the membership of CAFC is an active participant) are continuously under pressure from the business telecommunications world for radio frequencies/bandwidths within most areas of the spectrum.

7.1.2 The public safety agencies of Canada need to ensure a frequency/bandwidth for the future that makes available the needed space for all the Public Safety Agencies across the country while reducing the confusion at present caused by the lack of nation-wide uniformity

7.1.3 There is a frequency/.bandwidth that has preciously been reserved for use by the public safety agencies.

7.1.4 There is a major concern for the many different operational ranges being used across Canada by all the public safety agencies.

Recommended

7.1.5 Industry Canada is encouraged to further develop and secure the 700 MHz bandwidth previously reserved for the future use of the Public Safety Agencies of Canada.

7.2 Industry Canada Radio (Adopted at 1999 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

7.2.1 Industry Canada is conducting seminars disclosing a process to reduce band widths for emergency service radio frequencies.

7.2.2 Volunteer fire services are totally dependent upon voice page notification to respond to fire-related emergencies.

7.2.3 The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs is the appropriate body to represent senior officers in Canada's Fire Services on national issues related to fire safety and the delivery of fire protection services.

Recommended

- 7.2.4 The CAFC Board of Directors should research the Industry Canada Radio Frequencies initiatives to determine the full impact the Industry Canada programs will have on the Fire Services.
- 7.2.5 CAFC should provide the appropriate representation and appear before Industry Canada, provincial and federal elected members with the final positions of the Fire Services regarding radio frequencies.
- 7.2.6 The CAFC should report the final determinations to the respective members within the Association.

7.3 Changes in the 150 MHz Bandwidth
(Adopted at 2007 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 7.3.1 Industry Canada has embarked on a proposed change to radio frequencies 150 MHz bandwidth.
- 7.3.2 CAFC has filed a submission with Industry Canada describing the seriousness of this issue for emergency services.
- 7.3.3 This issue must be dealt with at the highest level and with strong conviction.

Recommended

- 7.3.4 The federal government should retain and protect the 150 MHz portion of the spectrum for its use by emergency services.
- 7.3.5 The introduction of MURS devices in the 150 MHz bandwidth, or any other bandwidth used by emergency services, for the Canadian markets should be prohibited.
- 7.3.6 Industry Canada should suspend the process of re-allocating frequencies until such time as full consultations with stakeholders have taken place.

7.4 Standard for Nation-Wide Paging Alert System(s)
(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

7.4.1 Notification of firefighters by pagers, by a paging system, or by an operations center for emergencies is a vital part of quick responses by firefighters and can lead to a preferred favourable outcome for each emergency situation.

7.4.2 Well-equipped regionalized dispatching locations with modern equipment and dependable backup systems capabilities; highly trained dispatchers; standardized operations with backup audio recording/records management/computerization; and inter-agency link up capabilities are all keys to quality dispatching operations in all emergencies throughout Canada.

7.4.3 There is a need to develop and/or adopt standards for which such dispatching locations must operate for the benefit of all invested parties.

7.4.4 It is recognized that without standards, communication operational breakdowns and/or terrorist acts are capable of quickly resulting in chaotic situations.

Recommended

7.4.5 The Minister of Industry should ensure that appropriate government departments develop and/or adopt standards for paging alert systems; and for establishment and maintenance of national infrastructure for use by the Fire Services in Canada that meet applicable standards as a public safety paging system.

7.5 Use of Cell Phones to Report an Emergency
(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

7.5.1 The proliferation of cell phones and their use has resulted in well intended, but often inaccurate and unnecessary requests for emergency services including fire, police and ambulance.

7.5.2 Emergency services resources are often depleted needlessly in response to perceived emergencies resulting from the non-verified belief of the cell phone user that an actual emergency exists.

Recommended

- 7.5.3** The regulatory authorities should be approached to ensure that cell phone users understand the correct method of determining and reporting an emergency incident.

8. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

8.1 Public Agents Fire Arms Regulations
(Adopted at 2002 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

8.1.1 Municipal Fire Departments are recognized in providing water rescue and safety across Canada.

8.1.2 Line Launchers are used by Fire Department personnel for the deployment of rope-lines across waterways to affect rescues.

8.1.3 Some makes and models of Line Launchers are deemed to be firearms under the federal Firearms Act and are required to be registered.

8.1.4 Organizations or persons in possession of firearms are required under the federal Firearms Act to obtain a Firearm Possession and Acquisition and/or Firearm Licence/Firearm Business Licence. Public service agencies are exempt from these provisions but must obtain a Public Agency Identification Number.

8.1.5 A municipal Fire Department is deemed not to be a “Public Service Agency” under the definitions set out in the Public Agents Firearms Regulations and is, as a result, unable to obtain a Public Agency Identification Number.

8.1.6 A Public Agency Identification Number would be more cost effective to municipal Fire Departments with rescue tools deemed to be firearms under the federal Firearms Act.

Recommended

- 8.1.7** The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada should ensure that municipal Fire Departments be added to the definitions within the Public Agents Firearms Regulations

9. NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

9.1 Analog and Digital Portable Radio Reception in Multi-Storey and Certain Other Construction Types

(Adopted at 2001 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.1.1 The use of analog and digital portable radios in multi-storey and certain other construction types is a critical element of effective and safe emergency operations.

9.1.2 The operations of portable radios can be severely and negatively affected by certain building materials and constructions up to the point that receiving and sending transmissions becomes impossible.

9.1.3 Recent emergency events in New York City have tragically emphasized the need for reliable radio communications in large structures.

9.1.4 There is technology available that can be incorporated into both existing and new multi-storey and other large constructions.

Recommended

9.1.5 The National Building Code's standards should be amended to ensure development of radio systems, be they active or passive, to aid in the propagation of effective and reliable radio communications throughout multi-storey and other large constructions.

9.2 Direct Alarm Monitoring

(Adopted at 2001 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.2.1 It is essential that Fire Departments be alerted in as short a time as possible to respond to a signal of a potential emergency.

9.2.2 The fire alarm monitoring industry should review its current practices to ensure that fire alarms are properly reported to Fire Departments in an expedient manner.

9.2.3 The Fire Services are aware of incidents in which there have been significant delays in the time between alarm monitoring companies receiving the signal of an alarm and the time of their reporting the signal to the Fire Department dispatch centre.

9.2.4 Fire Departments currently not participating in electronic direct-to-the-Fire Department alarm monitoring should be able to provide this service in their municipalities.

Recommended

9.2.5 The National Fire Code should be amended to require electronic direct-to-the-Fire Department monitoring of fire alarms in those buildings identified in Article 3.2.4.17 of the National Building Code.

9.3 Elevator Markings & Training
(Adopted at 2001 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.3.1 There are pending changes in the requirements for elevator markings.

9.3.2 The use of red and yellow helmets as markers on elevators has been a standard understood by firefighters for many years.

9.3.3 There are elevators being installed having “Phase II Emergency In-Car Operation” features that may not comply with the Provincial Building Code requirements for firefighters’ elevators and may not include a helmet marker outside the car yet still contain instructions and controls for firefighter use.

9.3.4 The codes and regulations for elevators have changed since retrofit regulations were introduced.

9.3.5 A change of elevator markings without a comprehensive training process for fire fighters and fire prevention officers could be considered a health and safety risk.

9.3.6 The Technical Standards and Safety Authority has agreed to continue with the current use of red and yellow helmets on elevators for the immediate future.

Recommended

9.3.7 The use of red and yellow helmets as markers on elevators should be continued.

9.3.8 If a change of elevator markings is to be implemented, it should not come into force until a comprehensive training process for firefighters and fire prevention officers has been undertaken.

9.4 National Building Code/Fire Code Consolidation
(Adopted at 1999 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.4.1 The National Research Council is reviewing consolidation of the National Building Code and the National Fire Code.

9.4.2 The building industry and building officials have a substantial presence on the review committee.

9.4.3 There is no similar representation on the review committee from the Fire Services.

Recommended

9.4.4 The National Research Council should secure permanent representation for the Fire Services on all National Building Code and/or National Fire Code committees.

9.5 National Farm Building Code
(Adopted at 2007 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.5.1 The National Farm Building Code may not adequately address fire safety risks associated with large-scale floriculture/horticulture greenhouse/factory farming operations due to factors such as size, combustible loading, fuel-fired appliances, unrestricted fire spread, ignition sources and non-farm uses.

Recommended

9.5.2 The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes should identify the National Farm Building Code as a high priority item for review in the current code development cycle in respect to fire safety in large-scale greenhouse complexes and factory farms.

9.6 National Building Code
(Adopted at 2007 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.6.1 A priority of the National Building Code should be a commitment to the safety of both the Canadian public and emergency first responders. Automatic sprinkler systems have an important role to play in contributing to that safety.

Recommended

9.6.2 The current code development cycle should include the following three requirements:

- sprinklering of all Part 3 residential properties;
- sprinklering of all Part 9 residential properties, including single-family dwellings; and
- a minimum fire performance rating on all floors in Part 9 residential construction including single-family dwellings, unless protected by a residential fire sprinkler system.

9.7 Sprinklers in Existing Non-Residential and High-Rise Residential Buildings
(Adopted at 2004 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.7.1 The important and positive role of automatic sprinkler systems in the suppression of fires is not open to question.

9.7.2 The majority of existing non-residential buildings and existing high-rise residential buildings are not equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.

9.7.3 The owners of such buildings who would be otherwise favourably disposed to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems are dissuaded from doing so by the cost of such installation.

9.7.4 CAFC recognizes that it would be impractical to require that all existing non-residential buildings and all existing high-rise residential buildings be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.

Recommended

9.7.5 Finance Canada should amend the federal tax regime as required to encourage the owners of existing non-residential buildings and existing high-rise residential buildings to install automatic sprinkler systems.

9.8 Sprinklers in Residential Structures other than Existing High-Rise Residential Buildings

(Adopted at 2004 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.8.1 The important and positive role of automatic sprinkler systems in the suppression of fires is not open to question.

9.8.2 During the period of record levels of new housing starts in 2003 and 2004, no federal provisions were in place to require that all new low-rise housing be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.

9.8.3 The owners of existing low-rise residential buildings who would be otherwise favourably disposed to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems are dissuaded from doing so by the cost of such installation.

Recommended

9.8.4 The National Research Council should amend the National Building Code to require that all new low-rise housing be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems

9.8.5 The National Research Council should amend the National Building Code to require that all existing low-rise residential structures be required to be equipped with automatic sprinkler systems.

9.8.6 Finance Canada should amend the Income Tax Act to permit the owners of low-rise residential structures to partially deduct from their payable taxes the costs of equipping their residences with required automatic sprinkler systems.

9.9 National Building Code and Fire Code

(Adopted at 2006 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.9.1 In 1996, a Task Force convened by the National Research Council confirmed that “the scope of the National Fire Code covered the life safety of both the normal occupants of buildings as well as emergency first response personnel, in particular firefighters, present during a fire or explosion.”

9.9.2 The 2005 edition of the National Building and Fire Code has excluded the protection of first responders from the core requirements and functional statements of the Code.

9.9.3 CAFC is concerned that modern construction standards might not adequately consider the protection of first responders during fire ground operations.

Recommended

9.9.4 The Canadian Codes Centre and the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes is urged to require that the protection of first responders is added as a core requirement to the National Building Code and the National Fire Code of Canada.

9.10 Engineered Structural Floor Assemblies
(Adopted at 2009 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

9.10.1 The design and construction of new residences has changed over the last number of years to include materials which are not considered conventional wood.

9.10.2 These new materials include engineered structural floor assemblies made of laminated materials, which create a faster burn time of approximately seven minutes from the time the fire penetrates the floor assembly to the time it has failed.

9.10.3 Often, by the time emergency responders arrive, the floor has failed and offensive rescue operations cannot be initiated.

9.10.4 The Manitoba Building Code provides a one-hour fire resistance rating between a dwelling and attached garage, in response to a tragedy.

9.10.5 Installing fire guards with one-hour fire resistance rating to the underside of engineered structural floor assemblies will enhance occupant safety, as well as provide emergency responders with an extended time period for which to initiate an offensive response.

Recommended

9.10.6 The National Building Code and the National Fire Code should be amended to make it mandatory that a fireguard with a fire resistance rating be installed to the underside of engineered structural floor assemblies.

10. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

10.1 Safe Use of Consumer Fireworks (Adopted at 2005 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

10.1.1 “Consumer fireworks” are generally defined as including “:fireworks showers, fountains, golden rain, lawn lights, pinwheels, Roman candles, volcanoes and sparklers.” They are dangerous and a major cause of fires.

Recommended

10.1.2 If a complete ban is not implemented, the Federal Explosives Regulatory Division should adopt a multi-faceted approach to the safe use of fireworks to include: options for more stringent restrictions in harmony with continued public education, enforcement and cost recovery

10.2 Fireworks Handling (Adopted at 1999 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

10.2.1 Natural Resources Canada does not require placards on any vehicle carrying 25 kilograms or less of fireworks.

10.2.2 Twenty-five kilograms of fireworks could amount to 50 per cent dynamite.

10.2.3 Twelve-and-a-half kilograms of dynamite could be a serious threat to the public and to emergency services personnel.

Recommended

10.2.4 The Government of Canada should require mandatory placards for all carriers that transport fireworks.

10.3 Importations of Fireworks
(Adopted at 2005 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

10.3.1 The misuse and abuse of fireworks continues to cause significant property damage and personal injury. Unnecessary costs to taxpayers also result.

10.3.2 All fireworks sold at wholesale and retail in Canada are imported.

Recommended

10.3.3 Canada should develop strategies to ban the importation of consumer fireworks

11. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

11.1 Additional CBRNE Equipment Funding
(Adopted at 2004 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.1.1 The 2004 report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence called upon the federal government to provide four additional years of funding (\$5 million per year) for the purchase of CBRNE equipment.

11.1.2 A 2004 survey of the CAFC membership revealed that 69.5 per cent of respondents believe little or no progress has been made by the federal government since September 11, 2001 to strengthen the ability of the Fire Services to respond to CBRNE incidents.

11.1.3 The same 2004 survey of the CAFC membership showed that 68.9 per cent of responding members believe the additional funding proposed by the Standing Senate Committee is inadequate.

Recommended

11.1.4 The federal government should embrace the Standing Senate Committee's recommendation that four additional years of funding for the purchase of CBRNE equipment should be provided.

11.1.5 The federal government should also increase annual funding for this purpose to \$10 million per year

11.2 CBRNE Equipment and Training
(Adopted at 2002 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.2.1 The Fire Services in Canada are in significant need of the equipment and training required to respond safely and effectively to chemical, biological, radiation, nuclear and explosives incidents.

11.2.2 The intelligence communities in Canada and throughout the world have indicated that the possibility of future CBRNE incidents should not be dismissed.

11.2.3 The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs has worked diligently to convince Public Safety (PS) that the Fire Services, through the national Association, should be involved in the development of standards for CBRNE equipment and training.

11.2.4 PS has indicated clearly that it is only willing to deal with provincial government organizations on issues related to the provision of CBRNE equipment and training

Recommended

11.2.5 All Provincial and Territorial Associations of Fire Chiefs should contact the Emergency Measures organization in their Province or Territory to ensure that these organizations impress upon PS the critical importance of a standardized approach to the development of standardized equipment and training to respond to CBRNE incidents.

11.2.6 Provincial and Territorial Emergency Measures organizations should also be requested to inform PS that the best approach to ensuring standardized equipment and training across Canada is to use CAFC as the preferred coordinating body.

11.3 Critical Infrastructure Protection
(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.3.1 The December 2001 federal budget allocated significant funds to Canada's Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OC�PEP). One of the stated purposes of those funds was to "improve the ability to protect Canada's critical infrastructure – such as water and energy utilities and transportation and communications systems."

11.3.2 Results of the 2003 CAFC pre-budget survey revealed that 83 per cent of respondents felt that little or no progress had been made since 2001 to improve the protection of critical infrastructure in their communities.

Recommended

11.3.3 The Minister of Public Safety Canada should be informed of the lack of progress that has been made to improve the protection of critical infrastructure at the community level.

11.3.4 The Minister of Public Safety Canada should become committed to ensuring that the percentage of CAFC survey respondents believing that little or no progress has been made to protect critical infrastructure be placed on a permanent downward track.

11.4 National Fire Advisor

(Adopted at 2006 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.4.1 The size and technical complexity of events facing the Fire Services have changed significantly. Densely populated urban areas come into direct contact with the forces of nature (Katrina); trains and trucks regularly transport hazardous materials through most Canadian municipalities; and words such as “Avian Flu” have entered our vocabulary. All are signs to the Fire Services that the range of responses that Canadians are expecting of them will continue to expand.

11.4.2 There is a need for the Fire Services to coordinate and standardize their approaches to training and equipment to the greatest extent possible. Faced with major emergencies in the future, it will be imperative for the Fire Services to work collaboratively and inclusively with the Provinces and Territories. The National Fire Advisor could make an important contribution by ensuring a strategic coordinated approach to planning.

Recommended

11.4.3 The Government of Canada should be committed to establishing the Office of the National Fire Advisor and locating it within Public Safety Canada.

11.4.4 The functions of the National Fire Advisor should include:

- a) national coordinator for the Fire Services for emergency preparedness (CBRNE, USAR etc.)
- b) responsibility for national fire training standards, fire prevention and education; coordinating body for provincial; and territorial fire prevention activities. Developing strategies on a national level for fire prevention in Canada;
- c) responsibility for coordinating a national response by the Fire Services to emergencies, both within Canada and internationally;
- d) serve as a national link for the provincial and territorial Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners;
- e) ensure that national fire-related statistics are compiled and distributed in a timely and standardized manner;
- f) responsibility for ensuring that fire safety practices in federal government buildings are in accordance with generally accepted practices in the Fire Services; and
- g) responsibility for liaising with other federal Departments and Agencies (including the military) on fire-related and emergency preparedness and response issues.

11.5 Establishment of a National Incident Management System

(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.5.1 Through the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College, there currently exist educational programs that instruct emergency responders how to manage emergency incidents effectively.

11.5.2 The safety of responders and the general public is a major priority for all levels of government in Canada.

11.5.3 There is a lack of a coordinated Incident Management System for the use of all first responder agencies.

11.5.4 The Canadian Fire Services continue to increase their role and participation in national programs and response initiatives. They are an integral agency for homeland protection and security.

11.5.5 A single Incident Management System would allow for integration and interoperability between first responder agencies.

Recommended

- 11.5.6** The Government of Canada should establish a National Incident Management System.
- 11.5.7** The Government should provide training in such a system to first responder agencies, under the current format used by the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College.
- 11.5.8** The Minister responsible for the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College should consult with the first responder agencies in the development of a standard program of instruction that will be applicable to all jurisdictions in Canada.

11.6 Establishment of Self-Sufficient Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Teams
(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 11.6.1** The Government of Canada has identified the need to establish strategically placed Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) Teams.
- 11.6.2** The ability of these teams to be self-sustaining when deployed to assist at disasters throughout the nation is critical.
- 11.6.3** There is a desire that the deployment of HUSAR Teams will not place an additional burden upon communities already dealing with a disaster.

Recommended

- 11.6.4** The Minister of Public Safety Canada should ensure that sufficient funding is made available so that strategically-placed HUSAR Teams, be self-sustaining upon deployment for an initial period of not less than 72 hours.
- 11.6.5** This federal funding should be provided on an ongoing basis to ensure sustainability and ability to deploy effectively those HUSAR Teams that have been strategically identified.

11.7 Fundamental Role of Government
(Adopted at 2004 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 11.7.1** The federal Throne Speech of February 2004 stated that “there is no role more fundamental for government than the protection of its citizens.”

11.7.2 A 2004 survey of the CAFC membership revealed that 68.1 per cent of respondents believe that little or no progress had been made by the federal government to address this role over the period since September 11, 2001. While 31.3 per cent of members feel that some progress has been made, only 0.6 per cent regard the level of progress made as significant.

11.7.3 Measures that would improve protection of the citizens of Canada have been identified by the Fire Services. They include, for example:

- The ability of the Fire Services to respond to CBRNE incidents should be strongly supported by the federal government.
- The federal government should improve its capacity to protect critical infrastructure.
- The Government of Canada has a responsibility to financially support training for Fire Services personnel.
- The Government of Canada should be financially responsible for ensuring that all rural and remote Canadian communities are able to provide basic fire protection services.

Recommended

11.7.4 The Minister of Public Safety Canada should assume a leadership role in ensuring that protection of all Canadian citizens, including those living in Aboriginal communities, become a true priority of the Government of Canada.

11.8 Handheld Communications Devices (Adopted at 2004 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.8.1 The 2004 report of the Standing Senate Committee in National Security and Defence called upon the federal government to share the costs of equipping the entire first responder community nationwide with handheld communications devices. The Standing Senate Committee recommended the federal share should be at least one-third of the total cost.

11.8.2 Fire Services personnel are recognized to be the emergency responders likely to arrive first at the scene of an incident. As a result, they often begin to address the incident before other emergency services are on the scene. Thus, Fire Services personnel have to communicate with one another; with their command posts; and with the other emergency services. That explains why 82.8 per cent of CAFC members responding to a 2004 survey favour being provided with handheld communications devices.

Recommended

- 11.8.3** The federal government is urged to share the costs of equipping the entire first responder community nationwide with handheld communications devices.
- 11.8.4** The federal government should assume half the total cost to ensure that the concept of shared cost not be prohibitive to provinces and municipalities.

11.9 Joint Emergency Preparedness Program Grants

(Adopted at 2002 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 11.9.1** The federal government is responsible for grants for emergency planning and equipment through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP).
- 11.9.2** The funding formula for these grants has not been revised for many years.
- 11.9.3** All jurisdictions are being encouraged, and in some areas are being mandated, to establish formal emergency plans and to review testing procedures.

Recommended

- 11.9.4** The Department of Public Safety should increase funding grants and reduce funding limitations through the JEPP process.

11.10 Financial Support for Canadian Fire Service

(Adopted at 2010 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 11.10.1** The stated purpose of the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) is “to ensure a reasonably uniform emergency response to all types of emergencies from coast to coast.”
- 11.10.2** JEPP funding by Public Safety Canada is so inadequate that this stated purpose cannot be achieved.
- 11.10.3** A survey of CAFC members conducted in mid-2010 showed that 98.1 per cent of respondents believe that the Government of Canada has a financial role to play in ensuring that all Canadians have the right to a basic level of protection against fire and other perils.

11.10.4 In September 2009, the Minister of Public Safety stated that ‘No job is more important than protecting the lives and safety of Canadians.’

11.10.5 The cost of ensuring that local fire departments are equipped with firefighting apparatus that permit them to protect the lives and safety of Canadians without needlessly exposing firefighting personnel to risk has become unaffordable in many municipalities.

Recommended

11.10.6 The Minister of Public Safety should assign a high level of priority to the Department and the CAFC striking a working group to ensure that Canadian municipalities have the financial resources to ensure that their citizens have a basic level of protection against fire and other perils.

11.11 Urban Terrorism

(Adopted at 2000 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.11.1 The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs is the representative body for the senior officers within the Canadian Fire Services for most matters associated with public safety and the delivery of fire protection and emergency services in Canada.

11.11.2 Individual Fire Departments are customarily the first responders on the scene of disasters affecting their communities. They are mandated to manage and mitigate these disasters.

11.11.3 There has been a disturbing increase in the number and severity of terrorist acts throughout the world, including in North America. Canada is no less vulnerable to these acts.

11.11.4 The means used by individuals and groups set upon terrorist acts include biological agents, chemical agents and weapons of mass destruction.

11.11.5 The targets of individuals and groups intent upon terrorist acts include governments, organizations, businesses and the general population located in urban centers of all scales.

11.11.6 The consequences of terrorist acts are frequently catastrophic and of national consequence.

11.11.7 The Government of Canada is committed to provide a maximum of four people within 48 hours of a terrorist act. In the meantime, local Fire Services will be responsible for addressing the most urgent and difficult effects of the terrorist event – potentially exposing rescue workers to life-threatening and unfamiliar hazards.

Recommended

11.11.8 The Government of Canada should provide funding and support to the Canadian Fire Services in respect of planning, preparation, training and acquisition of capital assets and equipment to assist with preparation and response to acts of terrorism.

11.12 Urban Search and Rescue Teams
(Adopted at 2000 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.12.1 There is a need for rapid, adequate response to catastrophic events, both man-made and natural.

11.12.2 These events are presently beyond the capability of local emergency responders to manage.

11.12.3 There is an international Urban Search and Rescue System in place. Canada is not currently a participant in that System, but should be.

Recommended

11.12.4 The Government of Canada should fund the establishment and operation of a number of internationally accredited Urban Search and Rescue teams across Canada

11.13 Improving Public Safety Voice Communications Interoperability
(Adopted at 2009 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

11.13.1 The safety, security and prosperity of Canadians, including police officers, firefighters, paramedics and other emergency medical services providers depends upon effective voice communications between public safety agencies.

11.13.2 There must be a coordinated national partnership between all levels of government to ensure the timely provision of sufficient and consolidated radio spectrum, support for the key interoperability issues of governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training and exercises, usage and interconnection of infrastructure.

11.13.3 International studies and Canadian public safety responder experience show that the lack of adequate voice communications interoperability increases the economic impact of emergency incidents, the number of associated casualties, the severity of injuries and the number of lives lost.

11.13.4 The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has submitted numerous resolutions (07-2002, 08-2003, 09-2003, 04-2004 and 05-2005) calling upon the Government of Canada to take action to improve public safety voice communications interoperability.

11.13.5 In January 2005, the Government of Canada, through Public Safety Canada and Industry Canada, committed to put together a team by the end of October 2005 mandated to create a national strategy that will enable the implementation of a fully interoperable voice communications environment in Canada in ten years.

11.13.6 Public Safety Canada has yet to create a National Strategy.

11.13.7 In support of a national strategy CACP, CAFC and EMSCC have consolidated efforts to address the critical requirement to improve voice communications interoperability by establishing and participating in the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) supporting over 100,000 public safety personnel as the “One Vision – One Voice” of public safety agencies.

11.13.8 Over the past year, CITIG had held regional voice communications interoperability forums and a national interoperability workshop with over 170 leaders from across Canada and the United States in attendance.

11.13.9 Numerous reports, studies, workshops, and each of the regional forums, and the national workshop have indicated an immediate requirement for the Government of Canada to provide national vision, leadership and funding to improve public safety voice communications interoperability.

Recommended

11.13.10 The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and the Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada request that the Government of Canada recognize the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group as the national representative of public safety personnel whose mandate it is to improve public safety voice communications interoperability.

- 11.13.11** The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and the Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada request the Government of Canada, through Public Safety Canada, to fully support the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group within the federal government in developing a national strategy.
- 11.13.12** The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and the Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada request the Government of Canada commit financial, policy and other human resources in Public Safety Canada in partnership with the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group to provide vision and leadership as required to accomplish voice communications interoperability between public safety agencies in Canada.

12. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

12.1 Funding for Training of Airport Incident Response

(Adopted at 2010 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 12.1.1** Regional and local airports are integral to the Canadian economy.
- 12.1.2** Local governments provide fire protection and rescue services to airports
- 12.1.3** Aircraft and airport firefighting require training not normally associated with local fire departments.

Recommended

- 12.1.4** Transport Canada is requested to provide advise and financial assistance to help with the training necessary to prepare firefighters responding to both on- and off-land and water airport incidents.

12.2 Removal of Identifying Safety Marks from Railway Tank Cars

(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

- 12.2.1** The placarding, stenciling and marking of railway tank cars carrying dangerous goods is of vital importance to emergency responders during a transportation incident in identifying the materials involved and the associated hazards to life, the environment and property.

12.2.2 The U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are seriously considering removal of such placarding, stenciling and markings for security reasons.

12.2.3 Organized terrorist activity is not based on spur-of-the-moment targeting decisions but rather on extensive in-depth planning, research and preparation.

12.2.4 There are many other ways for terrorists, during their operational planning, to target tank cars that are carrying Dangerous Goods which could cause great harm if released with criminal intent, notably the shape of the tank car, its origination and destination points, company markings, shipping papers, shipment routing and insider information.

12.2.5 Most Fire Departments, especially small and rural Departments that are mostly volunteer, still rely on visual placards, stencils and markings for their safety and for the protection of their citizens.

12.2.6 In transportation accidents, the train crew may be incapacitated, the train consists may be inaccessible or destroyed, and Fire Officers cannot be assured that the exact contents of a particular tank car are known without the appropriate placards, stencils and markings.

12.2.7 The probability of a dangerous goods incident in the normal course of commerce is considerable while the probability of a terrorist incident where the perpetrator uses dangerous goods as the main ingredient is low.

12.2.8 The International Association of Fire Chiefs strongly supports the existing placarding system and opposes the termination or diminution of this system, in whole or in part, until such time as a replacement system has been demonstrated to be effective, made available to the Fire Services at minimal cost, and the Fire Services have been fully trained in its use.

12.2.9 Railway tank cars originating in the U.S. regularly find their way to Canada.

12.2.10 The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs fully supports the position taken by the International Association of Fire Chiefs on the matter of placarding, stenciling and marking.

Recommended:

12.2.11 The present system of placarding, stenciling and marking of railway tank cars carrying dangerous goods should be retained.

12.3 Electrically-powered Mopeds
(Adopted at 2008 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

12.3.1 Electrically-powered mopeds are regularly stored and charged indoors.

12.3.2 Incidents of electrically-charged mopeds igniting while being charged have been reported.

12.3.3 Charging systems on electrically-powered mopeds have not been approved by a certified body accredited by the Standards Council of Canada.

Recommended

12.3.4 Transport Canada is urged to take appropriate steps to protect the consuming public from the dangers posed by electrically-powered mopeds.

12.4 Manufacturer Direct Purchasing – SCBA and Components
(Adopted at 2011 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

12.4.1 Funding for fire/emergency services is continually being challenged and reduced.

12.4.2 Management and firefighters are continually looking for tools and equipment that enhance the safety of first responders, while maintaining compliance with the numerous federal, provincial/territorial and municipal laws and regulations, which increase both operational and capital costs.

12.4.3 It is known that product costs rise greatly from the time of original manufacturing and distribution. Other high safety-related industries, such as aviation, use direct purchasing of products from manufacturers, enabling them to save up to 40 per cent of their previous costs for the same products.

Recommended

12.4.4 Transport Canada should authorize and certify individual components of self-contained breathing apparatus, enabling emergency first services providers to purchase air cylinders directly from the manufacturers of them, while remaining compliant with applicable legislation and regulations.

B. POLICIES DIRECTED TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

13. ADVERTISING STANDARDS COUNCIL

13.1 Elimination of Fires and Flames in Advertising

(Adopted at 2005 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

13.1.1 Public fire safety education and awareness for school children, work groups and the public-at-large provide excellent exposure to the risks of fire and injuries.

13.1.2 The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs works tirelessly through its member Fire Chiefs to promote safety in the workplace, homes and schools.

13.1.3 These efforts have been trivialized recently by a television commercial in which an office worker with wrists on fire (to depict a burning, painful sensation) finds comfort in using a popular brand of painkiller.

13.1.4 The metaphorical use of fire to express pain is both unnecessary and dangerously suggestive to youth or unstable adults who may attempt to duplicate the television “special effect” with dangerous or fatal results.

13.1.5 Sensationalism in advertising, such as inappropriate media portrayal of fire being used as comic relief, is unnecessary and sends a counterproductive message to the general public.

Recommended

13.1.6 The appropriate agencies should promptly remove the advertisement in question.

13.1.7 These appropriate agencies should take steps to prevent the airing of future advertisements depicting similar misuse of fires or flames.

14. CANADIAN COUNCIL OF FIRE MARSHALS AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

14.1 Security Systems; Monitored Smoke Alarms (Adopted at 2009 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

14.1.1 A smoke alarm is a combined smoke detector and audible alarm device designed to sound an alarm within the room or suite in which it is located upon the detection of smoke within that room or suite.

14.1.2 Some security alarm companies have been using smoke alarms as an alarm initiating device to call out the local Fire Department.

14.1.3 Heat detectors are designed to send a signal to a control unit which, in turn, may initiate a Fire Department response.

Recommended

14.1.4 CAFC and the Canadian Council of Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners should establish a joint working group to explore the issues and solutions surrounding smoke alarms connected to security systems being used as alarm initiating devices.

15. CANADIAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION

15.1 Reducing Hot Water Scalds (Adopted at 1999 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

15.1.1 Seventy-five per cent of all children treated for burns at Children's Hospitals throughout Canada have suffered scalding.

15.1.2 Scald burns are the most painful injury that a child might encounter.

Recommended

15.1.3 A workable solution for the prevention of scalding to children from domestic water fixtures should be sought.

16. UNDERWRITERS' LABORATORIES CANADA

16.1 Change to ULC Standard CAN/ULC-S531

(Adopted at 2007 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

16.1.1 Smoke alarms have been extremely effective in reducing the number of fire fatalities in Canada

16.1.2 Nuisance alarms are a major deterrent to smoke alarm effectiveness and their general acceptance by the public in that they can cause the alarms to be deactivated by the occupants

16.1.3 ULC writes the standard CAN/ULC-S531, to which all smoke alarms installed in Canada must apply.

Recommended

16.1.4 ULC should require that all smoke alarms certified to CAN/ULC-S531 must require a mandatory hush feature for product certification.

17. FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

17.1 Banning Sale of Consumer Fireworks

(Adopted at 2005 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

17.1.1 "Consumer fireworks" are generally defined as including "fireworks showers, fountains, golden rain, lawn lights, pinwheels, Roman candles, volcanoes and sparklers."

17.1.2 Many Canadian municipalities have enacted By-laws to partially or totally ban the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

17.1.3 Banning the sale and use of consumer fireworks should be regarded by all municipalities as an important part of the fire prevention responsibilities of their Fire Department

Recommended

17.1.4 Every municipality in Canada should have in place a By-law banning the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

17.2 Development/Funding of a Computerized Network
(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

17.2.1 The Fire Services throughout Canada are both providers and users of many different types of emergency services agencies and programs.

17.2.2 Many of the other emergency services providers communicate by the use of a network of computerized technology capability.

17.2.3 The age of computer technology is growing vastly and, in some cases, is quickly passing by the Fire Services.

17.2.4 There is a recognized and growing need for the Fire Services to establish a minimal computerized technology network and to develop its implementation to help support the requirements of information exchanges, research requirements, records management, etc. for today's Fire Services.

17.2.5 Without this development., there will continue to be a more rapidly growing lack of this much needed technology service, which is presently and would continue to seriously encumber the progressive modern requirements of the Fire Services.

Recommended

17.2.6 The Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators should urge the appropriate federal Minister to provide minimal computer technology to the Canadian Fire Services by developing and funding a national computerized network including one computer for each Fire Department in Canada

17.3 Development/Implementation of a National Integrated Records Management System

(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

17.3.1 The Canadian Fire Services recognize the value of improved and modernized systems of records management for Fire Departments across Canada and the vital need for such reporting requirements and statistical gatherings to reflect accurately the status of the nation's fire losses, prevention activities and intelligence sharing.

17.3.2 Methods presently being used are falling short of the needed future requirements of all interested parties.

17.3.3 The development of such a system would help meet the legislative requirements of the entire Fire Services.

17.3.4 There would be an ability to further utilize an integrated records management system for future issues that would greatly benefit the intended usage of such gathered information.

Recommended

17.3.5 The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators, the Provincial/Territorial Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners, and the appropriate federal Minister should develop and implement an integrated records management system for the use of the Canadian Fire Services.

17.4 Minimal Training Standards
(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

17.4.1 The Fire Services in Canada are constantly required to provide services (either by residents, the law or insurance standards) that require more in-depth training and retraining because of educational and safety issues.

17.4.2 Education and training at present in the Fire Services are of varying degrees and in some cases is non-existent.

17.4.3 A minimal set of training standards on a national basis would create an equal training standard for all firefighters in the areas of education and safety issues.

17.4.4 Without such minimal standards being developed, the present day situation will continue to fall far short of the needed standards to meet today's growing requirements for the Fire Services and would allow for the many different levels of local training to remain in place across the nation without any protective controlling measures.

Recommended

17.4.5 The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and the Office of the Premier of each Province/Territory should recommend the development and adoption of minimum training standards for Canadian firefighters.

17.5 National Insurance Coverage for Volunteer Firefighters and Officers
(Adopted at 2003 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

17.5.1 CAFC recognizes the value of volunteer firefighters and their officers within the various communities of Canada. They need to be protected by life and disability insurance equal to, or better than, Workers Compensation for their volunteer commitment. It should be recognized that there are wide and varying degrees of insurance coverage across Canada at present including, in some cases, no coverage.

17.5.2 Volunteer firefighters and their officers provide continuous protection to their residents and to the properties within their municipalities.

17.5.3 To help protect and clear up the many different life and disability insurance issues at present for the volunteers and to ensure that, in the case of injuries or accidents that volunteers and their families would have some coverage a minimal level of life and disability insurance could be ensured nation-wide to cover volunteers.

Recommended

17.5.4 The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators, the Premier of each Province/Territory and the Office of the Prime Minister should encourage and support legislation that will provide a minimal level of life and disability insurance coverage to their volunteer firefighters and officers. This coverage should be comparable to that provided by municipalities and major employers in Canada.

18. *INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS*

18.1 Disposal of SCBA Cylinders
(Adopted at 1999 Annual General Meeting)

Preamble

18.1.1 The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) requires that Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) cylinders meet the minimum requirement of the U.S. Department of Transport (DOT).

18.1.2 The DOT has stated that any composite cylinder marked with the DOT exception number that is older than 15 years be removed from service.

18.1.3 The 15-year life span is neither based on any integrity testing of existing cylinders nor takes into account that, regardless of the amount of usage, cylinders still meet hydrostatic testing every three years.

18.1.4 Transport Canada adopts U.S. Department of Transport requirements in this area.

Recommended

18.1.5 The International Association of Fire Chiefs should request the U.S. Department of Transport to proceed with the laboratory testing of composite SCBA cylinders to prove that the existing 15-year life span of cylinders can be substantiated. If such substantiation cannot be demonstrated, the life of composite cylinders should be extended in three-year increments with continued use being dependent on hydrostatic testing.

18.1.6 A timely response by the DOT on this matter is sought.