

Resolution No.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: HEALTH & SAFETY

**Re: NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation
Program**

1 WHEREAS, the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality
2 Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP) is a
3 major improvement over what we have had in the
4 past, and the program has led to improvements and
5 fire fighter lives being saved; and

6 WHEREAS, NIOSH personnel do have some fire
7 service expertise, including fire fighting experience,
8 but they are not required to have fire fighting
9 expertise; and

10 WHEREAS, the mission of the FFFIPP is divided
11 between two teams: one to investigate cardiovascular
12 and medically-related fatalities and the other to
13 investigate traumatic fatalities. The FFFIPP
14 cardiovascular fatality team has the appropriate skills
15 and qualifications to analyze deaths resulting from
16 heart attacks and other medical conditions; and

17 WHEREAS, the FFFIPP traumatic fatality team is
18 based in Morgantown and it has limited resources
19 given the complex circumstances and varied
20 scenarios that result in traumatic firefighter deaths.
21 Some members of the traumatic fatality team have
22 fire service backgrounds or fire service training but
23 most of the members of the team come from an
24 occupational safety or occupational forensics
25 background. The traumatic fatality program's
26 products could be improved by more fire service
27 involvement in directing the work of the team and
28 through direct participation in the work of the team;

29 and

30 WHEREAS, the FFFIPP traumatic fatality team
31 needs to be enhanced to include fire service subject
32 matter experts (SMEs). These SMEs should be
33 involved at all levels of an investigation to include:
34 initial investigation and interview of witnesses,
35 examination of physical evidence, analysis and
36 review of findings, and development of the
37 investigation report; and

38 WHEREAS, the presence of fire service SMEs in
39 the NIOSH investigative effort would improve
40 communication between professional NIOSH
41 investigators and local fire department members,
42 provide context information for the NIOSH
43 investigators, and lend additional credibility to the
44 NIOSH team. The SMEs can “speak” the firefighter
45 language and act as a facilitative interpreter between
46 the parties; and

47 WHEREAS, NIOSH is attempting to increase
48 outreach to the fire service and make
49 recommendations, “more straightforward and
50 practical”; and

51 WHEREAS, for non-firefighter fatalities NIOSH
52 allows certain states (9) to conduct investigations on
53 its behalf as part of the Fatality Assessment and
54 Control Evaluation (FACE) Program; and

55 WHEREAS, other federal Agencies, e.g. OSHA,
56 offer courses in accident investigation to employers;
57 therefore be it

58 RESOLVED, That the IAFF propose and support
59 the mandate that every NIOSH FFFIPP traumatic
60 fatality team include at least two SMEs. One SME
61 being someone at the Chief’s rank and one SME

62 being at a rank below that of a Chief. These SMEs
63 should have experience on a department of a similar
64 size with similar characteristics (including region of
65 country) to the one being investigated. These SME's
66 should accompany NIOSH investigators to the
67 department where the fatality occurred; and be it
68 further

69 RESOLVED, That the IAFF propose and support
70 the mandate that every department being investigated
71 be allowed to respond to each NIOSH
72 recommendation in 250 words or less and that these
73 responses be placed in an appendix to the final
74 report; and be it further

75 RESOLVED, That the IAFF propose and support
76 the mandate that when developing recommendations
77 based on current literature that NIOSH primarily rely
78 upon “nationally recognized” documents and/or
79 books and/or information from national trade
80 journals and that if the source is an individual, as
81 opposed to a consensus opinion from an
82 organization, that NIOSH weigh this as a factor when
83 deciding to use it as a basis for a recommendation;
84 and be it further

85 RESOLVED, That the IAFF propose and support
86 the mandate that NIOSH investigate the effectiveness
87 of all active and passive fire protection in the
88 structure involved in the incident; and be it further

89 RESOLVED, That the IAff propose and support
90 the mandate that, the IAFF will select 2-4 volunteers
91 from every IAFF District (Total = 32-64) to act as a
92 pool of qualified SME's that NIOSH can select from.
93 Every effort should be made to insure a diverse
94 group of experts so that all types and sizes of

95 departments are represented; and be it further
96 RESOLVED, That the IAFF propose and support
97 a mandate that NIOSH allow states to conduct
98 “NIOSH approved” investigations in the same
99 manner that NIOSH allows certain states to conduct
100 FACE investigations; and be it further

101 RESOLVED, That the IAFF propose and support
102 the mandate that NIOSH should develop training
103 programs, similar to those developed by the NTSB &
104 OSHA to train these SME’s in firefighting related
105 accident investigation, utilizing the FACE
106 methodology, as well as fire investigation. This
107 would insure that team members will be able to
108 combine their work experience with the skills needed
109 to identify the direct and indirect cause of fire
110 fatalities in order to identify methods to prevent them
111 in the future.

Submitted by: Local 718, Boston, MA

Cost Estimate: Minimal

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

Resolution No.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: HEALTH & SAFETY

Re: Diesel Regeneration Safety Committee

1 WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act issued by the EPA
2 requires all diesel powered trucks to have a diesel
3 particulate filters/urea after treatment device with on-
4 board cleaning (regeneration); and

5 WHEREAS, this process forces a diesel truck to
6 operate at high idle in order to increase the exhaust
7 temperature so as to burn off all toxic gases that build
8 in the exhaust; and

9 WHEREAS, this regeneration phase exposes our
10 members, and the public, to the burn off gases
11 (carbon monoxide, etc.) while on scene; and

12 WHEREAS, this regeneration phase can reduce
13 the output horsepower of the apparatus at any time.
14 This could be disastrous to an engine company
15 supplying water for an interior attack, thus creating a
16 life safety issue. It would also compromise our
17 response time to incident or affect patient transport;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, according to manufacturer's
20 recommendations, this regeneration phase should
21 take place while the apparatus is traveling at least 40
22 mph for several miles. Most urban fire departments
23 do not find this situation occurring very often;
24 therefore be it .

25 RESOLVED, That the IAFF create a committee
26 to look into the safety concerns regarding this
27 regeneration phase; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That if this IAFF committee finds
29 that there are safety concerns related to the

30 regeneration phase, that the IAFF shall then petition
31 the EPA to have all fire apparatus exempt from this
32 standard.

Submitted by: Florida Professional Firefighters,
Local 1375, Hollywood FL
Local 587, Miami, FL
Local 1560, Boca Raton, FL

Cost Estimate: 2 cents

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:
CONVENTION ACTION:

Resolution No.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: HEALTH & SAFETY

Re: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Funding Resolution

1 WHEREAS, one of the primary concerns of the
2 International Association of Fire Fighters is
3 protecting its members from the dangers that fire
4 fighters face everyday; and

5 WHEREAS, nearly every major improvement in
6 fire fighting safety over the last century has been
7 driven by our great union; and

8 WHEREAS, the most important piece of
9 equipment protecting fire fighters is the Self
10 Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA); and

11 WHEREAS, the SCBA's currently used by fire
12 fighters are cumbersome, heavy, and causes
13 tremendous physical stress; and

14 WHEREAS, the IAFF has spent a great deal of
15 time and effort to spur the redesign of the SCBA into
16 a light weight, ergonomic, and low profile design that
17 utilizes pressure vessel technology; and

18 WHEREAS, the utilization of the new "Flat
19 Pack" SCBA's will improve fire fighter safety and
20 allow us to perform our duties at a much higher level,
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the IAFF pursue federal
23 funding to help fire departments purchase the
24 pressure vessel SCBAs, which will likely be the
25 most significant improvement to fire fighter safety in
26 decades and could greatly improve the performance
27 of fire fighters; and be it further;

28 RESOLVED, That the IAFF attempt to secure a

29 funding mechanism that is separate from the FIRE
30 Act or provides additional funding to that Act.

Submitted by: Local 858, Denver, CO

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: