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# Alaska Fire Chiefs Association

Strategic Platform 2012

Draft #2 with AFCA work session comments: February 2012

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THE MISSION OF THE ALASKA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION IS

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*to serve Alaskans by influencing fire and emergency service programs and legislation; advancement of fire and emergency services professionals; and providing for the safety and wellbeing of firefighters and their communities.*

## **Alaska Fire Chief Association's Core Values**

- ◆Honesty, integrity, compassion
- ◆Ethical and professional behavior
- ◆Safety of all firefighters
- ◆Timely, efficient and responsive fire service
- ◆Adequate funding to deliver service to our communities
- ◆Standards for training, operations and conduct
- ◆Safe communities
- ◆Knowledge and information sharing between members
- ◆Chief officer development
- ◆Monitor changes in emergency service/response statutes and legislation
- ◆Lobby for legislation that supports fire service activities
- ◆Support new advancements to fire safety, efficient firefighting and firefighter safety and injury prevention
- ◆Maintain and promote the history of the association and our members

## **Purpose of the Plan**

The purpose of this plan is to provide a strategic foundation for the

association's growth and direction over the next 2 years.

## **7 Key Areas of Focus for 2012-2014**

- **Firefighter health, safety and injury prevention.**
  
- **Provide statewide leadership in advancing beneficial fire service legislation and funding for the fire service.**
  
- **Professionalism, the defining standard for all rural and urban fire chiefs.**
  
- **Seek and foster strategic partnerships that promote the values of the fire service in Alaska**
  
- **Improve life safety standards in our communities**
  
- **Membership retention, outreach and internal communications**
  
- **Adopt organizational best management practices**

## **Firefighter health, safety and injury prevention.**

- Pledge to have no Alaskan firefighter fatalities in 2012-2014.
- Support continued funding and the mission of the Alaska Fire Standards Council
- Adopt, participate and implement national firefighter safety programs
- Share near miss and lessons learned between chiefs
- Provide input into EMT training requirements to the State of Alaska
- Share training plans, operating guidelines, training resources between departments
- Seek new innovative ways for remote fire service training delivery
- Support US Fire Service Administration training program participation

## **Provide statewide leadership in advancing beneficial fire and emergency service legislation and funding for the fire service.**

- Maintain a unified high profile platform for fire service issues in Alaska.
- Align AFCA legislative initiatives with the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Western Fire Chiefs Association political agendas
- Seek beneficial collaborative legislative initiatives with Alaska Firefighters Association and the Alaska Professional Association of Firefighters
- Develop talking points and key messages on high profile fire service issues to coordinate one unified voice from the AFCA
- Support stable funding for the Alaska Fire Marshals Office, Alaska Fire Standards Council, US Fire Administration and fire service grant programs

## **Professionalism, the defining standard of all rural and urban fire chiefs.**

- Act as the primary fire service information/knowledge clearing house and professional support network for Fire Chiefs across Alaska.
- Foster education and information sharing between Chiefs on fire service equipment, technology deployment and best management practices.
- Mentor new Fire Chiefs and Chief Officers through professional development opportunities and collaborative partnerships.
- Strengthen relationships between Chiefs.
- Develop an knowledge transfer pathway to support Rural Chiefs

## **Seek and foster strategic partnerships that promote the values of the fire service in Alaska.**

- Improve communication with emergency medical services departments and search and rescue departments
- Improve coordination and communication with law enforcement, dispatch, emergency medical service providers
- Foster relationships with local elected officials and the Alaska Legislature.
- Seek new partnerships with organizations with shared interests.
- Create strategic outreach opportunities with local media.

## **Improve life safety standards in our communities**

- Provide active and constructive participation in National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) and International Code Council (ICC) working groups, code changes
- Support IAFC and the Western Fire Chiefs Association initiatives in relation to ISO revisions
- Support interoperative communications in urban and rural communities that do not place the fiscal burden on the local fire department to raise funds to participate
- Support fire service and building code legislation that minimize life loss and property damage from natural hazards and fire
- Support long -term funding of local fire departments
- Support funding for the Alaska Fire Marshal's Office

## **Promote Membership Retention and Internal Communications**

- Provide a value added experience for all members.
- Develop and improve outreach to rural fire officers.
- Provide monthly outreach via email to all members and the monthly teleconference.
- Seek a benchmark goal of 75% membership for Alaskan Fire Chiefs by 2014.
- Welcome outreach to new Fire Chiefs by AFCA within 2 months of appointment into position.
- Assign a AFCA mentor to each new Fire Chief.
- Celebrate and recognize the successes of members, while providing support to members in times of difficulty.
- Seek membership educational and training discounts with higher education organizations for professional certifications and university degrees.

## **Adopt Organizational Best Practices**

- Ensure the long-term financial stability of the association.
- Create a solid revenue stream for the association.
- Define expectations and responsibilities of board members and committees.
- Require the board of directors to act in a transparent, engaged active action oriented manner.
- Develop a 5 year association business plan
- Establish 1 year work plans/areas of focus for the board.
- Establish a social media policy

Photo Credits: (Final draft will have more photos)

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