Wildland/WUI Resolution for the 2016 Convention

Whereas,

The number of homes being built in the Wildland and WUI environments are increasing at a staggering rate across North America. In some areas, up to 35% of new homes are being built in areas in which a wildfire will expose both homes and IAFF firefighters to Wildland and WUI fires.

Whereas,

IAFF Firefighters are ever increasingly being tasked to respond to Wildfires, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fires, and Wildfire initiated conflagrations across the United States and Canada. Very little research has been done on the effectiveness of current response policies and training of structural firefighters operating in this environment. Standardization of training and response best practices needs to be developed and implemented to ensure safer operating practices.

Whereas,

Little research has been done on the exposure of Wildfire, WUI, and Wildfire initiated conflagrations on firefighters. Exposures from smoke, heat stress, psychological impacts as well as carcinogens from multiple exposure routes need to be researched. Wildland Firefighters are not equipped with SCBAs to prevent smoke exposures in the WUI environment.

Whereas,

Since 1985, the number of large wildfires in North America has increased fourfold relative to the previous 15 years. Multiple environmental factors have created a situation in which fires are not only becoming more frequent, but the intensities of these fires continues to increase. Each of the past 10 years have seen records set for both the frequency of wildfires and the intensity of wildfires. Traditional wildfire “seasons” are no longer the norm, we now see wildfires throughout the year in many parts of North America.

Whereas,

Wildfires in North America today are more likely to involve structures with the continued development into the wildland environment. IAFF firefighters traditionally operating as strictly structural firefighters are now being tasked with protecting these homes and their occupants during wildfires.

Whereas,

In many parts of North America, 80% of wildfires are within 2 miles of communities that IAFF firefighters protect.
Whereas,
The NWCG wildland firefighting training programs, including the crosswalk or gap classes, do not adequately relate to the structural firefighting rank system, nor do these programs address the inherent capabilities of IAFF structural firefighters already possessed for WUI fires. The NWCG programs do not address urban conflagration fires which are becoming more and more prevalent with climate change.

Whereas,
The IAFF is committed to ensuring the safety and proper training of its members as a priority; Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the IAFF will include the mission of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and Wildland firefighting as integral to the IAFF collective firefighting mission and consistent with the IAFF direction of the all-hazard structural firefighter concept; and be it further

RESOLVED, To better assist with the growing national wildfire problem, the IAFF will develop and work to implement a federally-accepted reimbursement process for which would allow properly trained all-hazard structural firefighters to respond, upon request nationally to major WUI/wildfire events and have their respective jurisdiction reimbursed for the cost; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the IAFF will develop an IAFF nationally recognized wildfire firefighting training program which will identify critical Wildland firefighting skills that structural firefighters need to be safe and effective in two situations: when making an initial attack on a WUI/Wildland fire in their jurisdiction, and when working with state and federal Wildland firefighter agencies; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the IAFF training program will be position based and will rightly provide training credit for the comprehensive skill sets and the experience of structural firefighters that live within all firefighter ranks; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the IAFF training program will be designed for and by all-hazard structural firefighters so to reduce, as much as possible, the redundancy of effort it takes to obtain the training, education and certification necessary to perform wildfire firefighting operations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the IAFF Lobby the National Wildland Coordinating Group (NWCG) and any other authority needed to ensure that the IAFF WUI/Wildfire firefighting training program is recognized as equaling the NWCG standards.

RESOLVED, That three cents per capita, will be allocated to the IAFF WUI/Wildland Firefighting training program development, implementation, and management beginning October 1st, 2016.
**Sponsors**
Austin Firefighters Association, Local 975  
Montana State Council of Professional Firefighters, Local A0025  
Round Rock Firefighters Association, Local 3082  
San Antonio Professional Firefighters Association, Local 624  
Cal Fire Local 2881  
South Carolina Professional Firefighters Association A0039  
Florida State Fire Service Association, Local S0020  
Oklahoma City Firefighters Local 157  
Professional Fire Fighters of Oklahoma A0035  
Alberta Fire Fighters Association C0003  
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Travis County ESD 4 Local 4848  
Washington State Council of Firefighters A0045