

## **Indiana Fire Chiefs Association Encourages Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention with FEMA-funded Campaign**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2020 -- INDIANAPOLIS -- Indiana fire departments need volunteers of all skill levels and abilities to provide emergency response to their communities. To help, the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA), in partnership with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has launched a new campaign to encourage volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention.

Supported by Volunteer Workforce Solutions, its mission is to help Indiana's fire departments achieve a viable and sustainable volunteer firefighter workforce. The program is funded by a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant awarded to the IFCA by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

Eleven Indiana fire department groups have been selected to participate in the two and a half year program and receive additional support. They are:

- Burlington Volunteer Fire Department (Carroll County)
- Fire Department of Liberty Township (Hendricks County)
- Lafayette Township Volunteer Fire Department (Madison County)
- Lakes of the Four Seasons Volunteer Fire Force Inc. (Lake County)
- Lowell Volunteer Fire Department (Lake County)
- Madison Township Fire Department (St. Joseph County)
- Posey Township Clay County Volunteer Fire Department Inc. (Clay County)
- Van Buren Township Volunteer Fire Department (Clay County)
- Vanderburgh County, Suburban Fire Chief's Association (Vanderburgh County)
- Versailles Fire Rescue (Ripley County)
- Vincennes Township Fire District (Knox County)

The departments will use geographic information systems (GIS) to take an in-depth look at their communities, and will use the demographic, cultural and economic data gathered to create targeted recruitment and retention plans specific to their communities.

The program outcomes and recruitment efforts will benefit all Indiana fire departments. A series of online and in-person trainings aimed at improving retention will be offered to all departments statewide, and a statewide media campaign focusing on the need for volunteer firefighters will also be conducted throughout Indiana to support the program.

Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience, and one of the best ways someone can make a difference in their community. The skills and knowledge gained as a volunteer firefighter are invaluable and have a positive and lasting impact on others' lives. Local fire departments need volunteers of all skill levels and abilities who are willing and able to respond to emergencies when needed.

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***About the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA)***

The Indiana Fire Chiefs Association promotes excellence in the fire and emergency services by providing a forum for networking, information sharing, cooperative opportunities, and a unified voice for our diverse membership and partners through educational, legislative and technical means. Learn more at [indfirechiefs.org](http://indfirechiefs.org).

***About the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)***

The IAFC represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders worldwide. IAFC members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, EMS, terrorism response, hazmat incidents, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public-safety legislation. Since 1873, the IAFC has provided a forum for its members to exchange ideas, develop professionally, and uncover the latest products and services available to first responders. Learn more at [iafc.org](http://iafc.org).