

An Experimental Fire Service Model Program For Information and Technology Transfer

I. The Background

In these stringent economic times there is increasing pressure on every public service to improve performance and become more cost effective. The fire service has not escaped this pressure and it may actually be one of the organizations most frequently singled out for criticism.

In the last decade progressive elements of the fire service have begun to overcome the image of a nonproductive agency mired in traditionalism. Out of this period has come a variety of research, innovative concepts, technology and techniques that deserve wider consideration and practice.

II. The Problem

There is currently no centralized means for collecting, evaluating, and disseminating the many successful performance-improving and cost-effective developments in the fire service. The last decade has produced numerous successful efforts in fire service planning, management, and operations, which could and should be utilized by other fire departments but which receive limited or no dissemination. How can a concerned chief or local administrator find out about successful new techniques? Where can he find time to sift through the hundreds of variations of fire service practices? How can he know which ones actually work? And how can he become aware of superior programs that have not been publicized?

III. The Objective

The objective of this project is to identify fire service programs that through the experience of implementation have proved productive, efficient, and cost effective. When any of these also meet the criterion of transferability to other departments or jurisdictions they will become a U.S. Fire Administration Model Program.

IV. Methods and Procedures

The International Federation of Fire Chiefs Foundation proposes to:

1. Publicize the purpose of the Fire Service Model Program by means of (a) direct mail to the constituencies of the Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations; (b) releases to the fire media; (c) invitations to the major public service organizations.
2. Establish criteria for candidate projects for the fire service model program.
3. Establish screening mechanisms for entries.
4. Establish a National Board, ten (10) members representing recognized authorities in the fire service, city management, research and development, education and training, and elected officials. (Items 2, 3, & 4 above will be done in consultation with the U.S. Fire Administration.)
5. Solicit, collect, log and acknowledge submission of candidate items for consideration.
6. Administer the activities under IV above.