

The ONLY National Symposium for Leaders of Volunteer/Combination Departments

Conference Brochure

Symposium 2011 *in the* Sun

Sheraton Sand Key Resort, Clearwater, Florida

November 10 - 13, 2011



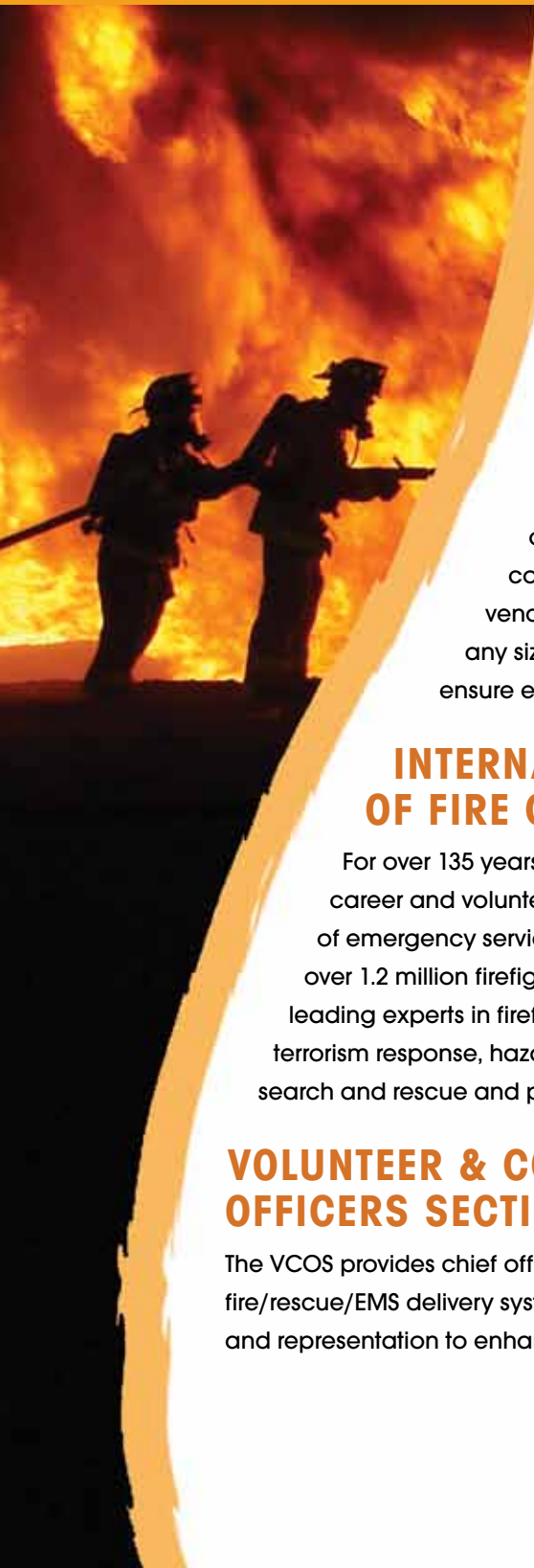
Leading Your Organization From The Inside Out

Special Information on Award Deadlines and Scholarship Opportunities Are Included

www.iafc.org/vcossymposium

November 10 – 13
Clearwater Beach, FL
Sheraton Sand Key Resort

Symposium 2011 in the Sun



ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The VCOS Symposium in the Sun is the **ONLY** national symposium devoted to the leaders of volunteer and combination departments.

The leadership education available at this symposium will help you address the unique needs of volunteer leadership in your department. The networking opportunities give you the chance to share ideas and solutions with colleagues from all over the country. The vendors attending can help departments of any size, giving you the tools and equipment to ensure everyone on your team comes home.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS (IAFC)

For over 135 years, the IAFC has provided leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers and managers of emergency services. The IAFC represents the leadership of over 1.2 million firefighters and our members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, emergency medical service, terrorism response, hazardous materials, natural disasters, search and rescue and public-safety legislation.

VOLUNTEER & COMBINATION OFFICERS SECTION (VCOS)

The VCOS provides chief officers who manage volunteers within the fire/rescue/EMS delivery system with information, education, services and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Exhibits Open

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Pre Conference Workshop: New Challenges To Come, Are You Prepared?

Make This Your Finest Hour

Faced with unprecedented economic challenges, fire service leaders have two choices: Embrace the opportunity of the moment and take the challenge head-on or be seized by hopelessness and despair. This program will focus on the role of the fire service officer as an agent of change. Paraphrasing the speech of Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill on the brink of Germany's invasion - We can make this our finest hour!

Rich Gasaway, Gasaway Consulting Group, LLC

Building a High Performance Fire & EMS Organization

The Fire Service has many challenges that it will need to confront in the near future. Is your organization ready to meet these challenges? This session will provide attendees with practical steps they can take to prepare for future challenges. No theory just practical solutions. Learn how to develop a high performance department that can not only survive but thrive in these ever changing times.

Tim Holman, Fire Chief, German Township (OH) Fire & EMS

Interfacing with our Customers

This session discusses managing internally while keeping your organization in your customer's mind.

Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief (Ret.), District of Columbia (DC) Fire & EMS

The Early Signs of Trouble: Recognizing issues in a volunteer/combination fire department

Many of the complex and sometimes, catastrophic issues we face leading volunteer and combination fire departments start as seemingly isolated and harmless events. This program will discuss identifying these issues and taking corrective action to avoid unnecessary conflict and deterioration of service. The old adage rings true, "An ounce of prevention goes a long way."

Eddie Buchanan, Division Chief, Hanover (VA) Fire & EMS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Exhibits Open

8:00 am - 12:45 pm

Opening General Session

Opening Keynote

Dr. Denis Onieal, NFA Superintendent

VCOS 500...Start to Finish

Hear corporate ideas that can be utilized by fire service leaders. Learn how to build your team, have the best equipment and resources, and most importantly, build team synergy so that at the end of the day the community wins!

*Vicki Pritchett, Associate Director, Pleasant View (TN)
Volunteer Fire Dept*

Increasing Collaboration

Teamwork is learned, not born. Learn essential elements that will guarantee top performance for every team in your organization.

Howard Cross, President, Howard Cross & Associates

FEMA Grant R&R

Recruitment and Retention continues to be our challenge. FEMA wants you to apply. A roundtable of successful SAFER/Recruitment & Retention winners will help you understand the process.

PIERCE FIELD TRIP

Come see the great changes and enhancements made to the Pierce Bradenton Manufacturing Facility. The plant has been expanded and improvements to the assembly process have been made. Don't miss this unique opportunity to tour of this impressive facility. Bus transportation and lunch provided. Attendees will be contacted to make reservations.

1:00 pm

Vendor Roundtable/Showcase

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011

7:00 am – 2:00 pm

Exhibits Open

8:00 am - 9:30 am

101: Leading the Transition in Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments - Part 1

To meet the needs of an evolving fire service, the VCOS decided to bring its previously published Red Ribbon Report to life in the form of a traveling education seminar.

*Ron Cheves, Fire Chief, Idlewild (NC) Volunteer Fire Department,
Dan Eggleston, Albemarle (VA) County Department of
Fire Rescue*

102: Preserving the Future of the Volunteer Fire Service

This class will be an overview of the VCOS Volunteer Summit that will carry the volunteer and combination fire service into the future.

*Kurt Latipow, Fire Service Coordinator, Washoe (NV) County
Fire Suppression*

103: Building and Sustaining a Resilient Training Program

Presenters will demonstrate how their organization transitioned from a Volunteer Based Training System to one that is truly reflective of a Combination System. We will present ideas and concepts to assist your department in moving training initiatives forward.

*Duane Dodwell, Deputy Chief, Fairfax (VA) Fire Department;
Shawn Stokes, Fire Chief, Dunn Loring (VA) Volunteer Fire Department*

10:00 am - 11:30 am

201: May Day for Mental Health

This presentation deals with addressing mental health challenges in the Fire Service and the lack of “tools” to deal with these challenges. The National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation’s (NFFF) Life Safety Initiative #13 states that “Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.” Are we, as a service, really addressing this initiative?

Pat Kenney, Assistant to the Executive Director, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

202: Do It Different

This interactive session will review the vast amounts of information available on the overall community fire protection, building components, such as light-weight engineered products, upholstered furniture, etc. Supporting the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s Everyone Goes Home Program is a commitment by all national fire service organizations and this program will focus on some of the Life Safety Initiatives.

Shane Ray, Fire Chief, Pleasant View (TN) Volunteer Fire Department

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011

10:00 am - 11:30 am

203: Planned and Comprehensive Training is the Answer

This presentation charts a course for establishing a comprehensive training system that addresses a needs analysis with planning, evaluations and reflection.

John M. Buckman, III, Fire Chief, German (IN) Township Volunteer Fire Department

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

201: May Day for Mental Health

See description above.

102: Preserving the Future of the Volunteer Fire Service

See description above.

103: Building and Sustaining a Resilient Training Program

See description above.

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

101: Leading the Transition in Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments - Part 2

See description above.

202: Do It Different

See description above.

203: Planned and Comprehensive Training is the Answer

See description above.

8:00 pm

Networking Night Event

**THANK YOU
TO OUR 2011
SPONSORS:**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2011

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Fireside Chat

Be a part of this fireside chat as high profile issues confronting the fire service are discussed. Tap into the wisdom of seasoned veterans and ask questions in this interactive conversation.

Alan Brunacini, Fire Chief (Ret.) Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department, John M. Buckman, III, German (IN) Township Fire Department, Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief (Ret.) District of Columbia (DC) Fire & EMS

**Closing Session Doing More With Nothing:
A Time For Leadership!**

Fire Departments all around the country are being asked to do more with less. Reductions in budgets, staffing, volunteer recruitment and time challenge us all, regardless of our location or department type. This forces fire chiefs to make decisions where there seem to be no right answers. But when the times are tough and the way is unclear, it is time for leaders to lead! This session will explore the way through these challenges, while staying true to the values that make us proud to be a part of the fire service. We can get through this while staying true to who we are as a fire service, and without placing our people at unnecessary risk.

Eddie Buchanan, Division Chief, Hanover (VA) Fire & EMS



AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS



VCOS knows there are lots of individuals, departments and programs out there that deserve special recognition for the impact they have in the fire service. This is your opportunity to submit entries for any of the following awards to be presented at the 2011 Symposium in the Sun.

AWARDS

John M. Buckman III Leadership Award

Sponsored by Provident Insurance and VCOS

This award recognizes a chief officer of a volunteer or combination department who stands out on the local and/or regional level as a true professional who has demonstrated leadership, integrity and outstanding moral values within the fire service. Must be an IAFC member.

Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations Achievement Award

Sponsored by VFIS and VCOS

This award recognizes emergency service organizations which have experienced no accidents for a one-year period. The organization must have at least one member who is an IAFC member and must also demonstrate a functioning vehicle safety program.

Retention and Recruitment Award

Sponsored by VFIS and VCOS

This award recognizes success and excellence in the retention and recruitment of emergency service organization members. The program will distinguish the application of state-of-the-art management activities and personnel initiatives that result in the increase and retention of members. The individual submitting the entry must be a member in good standing of the IAFC and the program must have been in place for one full year.

Training Officer Award

Sponsored by TargetSafety

This award, open to fire chiefs, training officers and others whose focus is on fire service education, recognizes those who make a difference in the community by demonstrated dedication to the safety of their department. The award winner will receive conference registration to FRI 2011, roundtrip airfare to the event and a three-night stay at a conference hotel. Must be an IAFC member.

TO ENTER send go to www.vcos.org/awards and complete the nomination form(s) by August 1, 2011.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships to Fire Rescue International (FRI)

VCOS will award two \$1,500 scholarships to attend Fire-Rescue International. This scholarship program was developed to promote leadership through learning among volunteer and combination officers. Scholarships will be awarded based on the applicant's description of how the department or the attendee will benefit from FRI attendance. Applicants for the scholarships must be members of the IAFC and VCOS.

Scholarships to Symposium in the Sun

VCOS will award two \$1,500 scholarships to attend Symposium in the Sun. This scholarship program was developed to assist IAFC/VCOS members who would benefit by the first-class educational training offered at Symposium but cannot afford to attend. Scholarships will be awarded based on the applicant's description of how the department or the attendee will benefit from attendance at Symposium in the Sun. Applicants for the scholarships must be members of the IAFC and the VCOS.

Emerging Leader Scholarship to Symposium in the Sun

The Gasaway Consulting Group is sponsoring a \$1,500 scholarship to assist with registration and travel expenses to Symposium in the Sun. This program is designed to assist in the development of an up-and-coming leader of a volunteer or combination fire department.

**For more details
visit www.vcos.org/awards**

REGISTER NOW!

www.iafc.org/VCOSsymposium

HOW TO REGISTER

ONLINE: www.iafc.org/VCOSsymposium

BY FAX: 708-486-0739

BY MAIL: VCOS Symposium

c/o CompuSystems, Inc.
P.O. Box 614
Brookfield, IL 60513

QUESTIONS?

Email: vcos@compusystems.com

Phone: Toll-free (U.S. and Canada)
866-486-0739 or 708-486-0739

REGISTRATION PRICES

PRECONFERENCE REGISTRATION - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

	Register by Aug. 1	Register by Sept. 15	Beginning Sept. 16
Member & Non-member	\$90	\$115	\$125

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION - FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11-13

	Register by Aug. 1	Register by Sept. 15	Beginning Sept. 16
IAFC member	\$290	\$340	\$375
Non-member (Join now!)	\$385	\$425	\$460

HOTEL INFORMATION

**The Sheraton Sand Key Resort –
(Headquarters)**

1160 Gulf Boulevard

Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

Reservations: 727-595-1611

Rate: \$178/night plus tax (November 6-14)

**Marriott Suites Clearwater
Beach on Sand Key (Overflow)**

1201 Gulf Boulevard

Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

Phone: 727-593-6104

Group name: VCOS Symposium in the Sun

Rate: \$184/night plus tax (November 4-12)

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Association Travel Concepts (ATC) has been selected as the official travel agency for the VCOS 2011 Symposium. As the official agency, ATC has negotiated discounted airfares and car rental rates that are lower than those available to the public.

When making reservations with ATC, please indicate you're attending the VCOS 2011 Symposium in the Sun conference.

TO BOOK TRAVEL:

Phone: 800-458-9383

Email: atc@atcmeetings.com

Online: www.atcmeetings.com



All IAFC programs are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations or auxiliary aids, please notify us of your needs in advance by calling 703.537.4801.



Symposium in the 2011 Sun



International Association of Fire Chiefs
4025 Fair Ridge Drive
Fairfax, VA 22033-2868

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REGISTER NOW!
www.iafc.org/VCOSSymposium