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**Fire Corps
NAFTD Report**

By Sarah Lee, Fire Corps Director

Message from the Director

Dear NAFTD Representatives:

I would like to extend my appreciation to Fire Corps National Advisory Committee representative Dave Wall and the NAFTD organization for your support and dedication to the Fire Corps cause. We would like to take this opportunity to update you about a few recent accomplishments and current initiatives which are outlined in this report. There are numerous exciting tasks ahead, and I look forward to continue working with your organization to expand Fire Corps efforts at the national, state, and local levels, helping fire departments nationwide to do more with increasingly limited resources.

Please feel free to contact me at slee@firecorps.org or 202-887-4809 if you have questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your support.

Sarah Lee
Director

Mission

Fire Corps is a federally-funded, grassroots effort to connect community members with their local fire/EMS department. Launched in December 2004, Fire Corps is one of five programs under the Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps initiative. It is administered on a national level by the NVFC, in partnership with other national fire service organizations that make up the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee. Fire Corps is also supported by the U.S. Fire Administration and is funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Citizen Corps.

Fire Corps increases the capacity of volunteer, career, and combination fire and EMS departments by engaging the talents and skills of community volunteers in non-emergency roles such as fire safety and prevention education, administrative work, fundraising, vehicle maintenance, or whatever the department needs. This frees up department members to focus on training and emergency response, as well as increases the services the department can offer. In return, community members gain a better understanding of the fire and emergency services and become better prepared to handle their own emergencies as well as those of their neighbors.

Current Statistics

To date, there are 1,022 registered programs with 15,237 active and engaged community volunteers in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. There are also 39 Fire Corps State Advocates covering 30 states.

Recent Highlights

Grassroots Forums

Fire Corps hosted four regional roundtable events in order to identify best practices, challenges, effective retention and recruitment practices, and recommendations and feedback from the grassroots level. Fire Corps will release a synopsis and a final report of the information gathered through the four events. The data gathered from these events will help identify future Fire Corps activities and resources and will be available to local Fire Corps programs to allow them to learn and benefit from the experience of others. The final report will be posted on the Fire Corps web site.

Smoke Alarm Donation Program

Fire Corps partnered with First Alert to establish a smoke alarm donation program for registered Fire Corps programs. First Alert renewed their partnership again in 2010 to donate up to 1,000 smoke alarms.

Recruitment and Retention Guide

Fire Corps recently released the *Recruitment and Retention Guide: Understanding Volunteerism Today and for the Future*, which will help fire and emergency service departments understand volunteerism and provides ideas and suggestions for retaining and recruiting volunteers for Fire Corps programs.

State Advocate Network

The Fire Corps State Advocate Network is designed to assist local fire/EMS departments who are establishing or implementing a Fire Corps program. The purpose of the Network is to harness the energy of the Fire Corps program at the local and state level by sharing resources and information to make local, state, and national Fire Corps efforts better and stronger. State Advocates serve as the point of contact for departments and Fire Corps programs within their assigned geographic areas.

If you are interested in becoming a Fire Corps State Advocate, contact the Fire Corps national office at info@firecorps.org or 888-FC-INFO1 (324-6361).

USFA Outreach

On March 20, the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy began introducing its students to the Fire Corps program in an effort to encourage them to get citizen volunteers involved in their fire department to perform non-emergency tasks. Students are presented with a letter from Fire Administrator Kelvin Cochran and a Fire Corps brochure. In the letter, Cochran describes the diverse responsibilities of fire departments and how Fire Corps can "hold some exciting solutions to current and future challenges facing our nation's fire services."

Current and Future Initiatives

1-800-FIRE-LINE

1-800-FIRE-LINE is a national campaign to help retain and recruit both emergency and non-emergency volunteers in the fire and emergency medical services. The Fire Corps web site includes a section on 1-800-FIRE-LINE that contains information for departments and state associations who would like to implement or market the line in their state, as well as a section for prospective volunteers.

Award of Excellence

The International Fire Service Training Association is the official sponsor of the Fire Corps Award of Excellence. This award annually honors a Fire Corps program whose remarkable achievements in the fire and emergency services and the community exemplify outstanding performance. The 2009 Award was presented to members of the Mesa Volunteer Corps (AZ) during the annual Fire Corps National Advisory Committee Meeting last October.

Fire Corps Academy

Fire Corps is creating standardized training for local Fire Corps teams through an exciting initiative called the Fire Corps Academy. In 2010, Fire Corps will develop three workshops designed for both in-person and web-based delivery methods. This training will be expanded upon in 2011 with the addition of three additional workshops and supplemental resources. A training committee to help develop and pilot the curriculum will be established using Fire Corps National Advisory Committee representatives in addition to State Advocates.

Speakers Bureau

The Fire Corps Speakers Bureau is a coordinated effort to distribute Fire Corps information, goals, and needs through personal interaction with key audiences. Fire Corps is currently creating training, identifying speakers, and establishing venues to present the program.

Rehab Guide

Fire Corps, in partnership with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, will develop a guide designed to assist departments in implementing a rehab program utilizing their Fire Corps and/or CERT team and will include best practices.

State Advocate Summit

Fire Corps will host a national State Advocate Summit in which Advocates will come together to share ideas and best practices, network, and participate in training including topics such as marketing and promotion, volunteer management, and more. The Summit will be held later this fall.