



Eastern Division International Association of Fire Chiefs

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New Jersey September 2025 EDIAFC Post FRI Conference Report

Subject: Fire Service Priorities: FRI 2025 Highlights + Critical Member Updates

IAFC Fire-Rescue International (FRI) 2025 [August 10-13, 2025] Advancing the Fire Service Together

- Cutting-edge training & leadership development
 - Exhibits on next-generation fire apparatus and technology
 - Policy and advocacy sessions shaping the fire service
 - Networking with leaders worldwide
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High-Priority Fire Service Issues:

- Firefighter Cancer Registry (NIOSH/CDC)
Firefighters face 9% higher cancer diagnoses and 14% higher cancer-related deaths compared to the general U.S. population.

Take action today:
Join the Cancer Registry → <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/registry/index.html>
 - Fire Apparatus Costs & Delivery: Rising costs and delays are straining departments. IAFC is advocating for solutions.
 - NFIRS → NERIS Transition: NFIRS sunsets on 12/31/2025. NERIS begins 1/1/2026. Departments are encouraged to engage proactively to avoid transition issues. Learn more: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/sunset/>
 - Building Codes & Standards: The IAFC continues to fight for effective building codes that protect firefighters and communities. Political groups, in the name of housing affordability, are attempting to diminish codes and standards. **Five horn fire chiefs must combat these head-on and be front and center, not leaving it to their fire prevention personnel.**
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Legislative & Policy Priorities (IAFC + FLSS + NJFEMSI)

<https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/legislative-issues/>

- FIRE & SAFER Grants: Restore funding to \$750M each.
- USFA Funding: Support \$95M for NERIS & National Fire Academy.

- FirstNet: Remove 2027 sunset to preserve firefighter communications.
 - Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Standards: Pass legislation to reduce deadly fires.
 - Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act: Extend PSOB benefits to families of firefighters who die from occupational cancer.
 - EMS Priorities: Extend Medicare Add-On Payments, reimburse “treat in place,” expand CP/MIH grants, and ensure fire-based EMS providers are counted.
 - Second Stairway Requirement: IAFC’s Fire & Life Safety Section supports keeping two stairways in R-2 residential structures above three stories. Read IAFC Position Paper:
<https://www.iafc.org/about-iafc/positions/position/reducing-stairs-in-residential-buildings-higher-than-three-stories>
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New Jersey Fire & EMS Institute

<https://njfemsi.org/>

- Opposition to NJ’s “One Way Out” Bill (<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/A4972>) A4972: With NJFEMSI, IAFC opposes allowing single stairwells in six-story R-2 residences. Read NJFEMSI Letter: [NJFEMSI Bill Opposition Letter](#)

Fire service leaders are being asked to reach out to their political representatives in opposition of Bill A4972. <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>

- Recruitment and Retention Grant submitted.
 - In the process of scheduling a legislative session day with the state legislature to network with New Jersey’s political leaders and introduce them to the NJFEMSI.
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