



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Chief Eddie Phillips, TFCA Treasurer/Statewide Program Coordinator

423-802-7794

ephillips801@gmail.com

TENNESSEE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION RECEIVES SAFER GRANT *Grant Will Assist Communities in Recruiting and Retaining Volunteer Firefighters*

February 10, 2022 | Chantilly, VA – The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) proudly announces its receipt of a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Recruitment and Retention grant, phase II, from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$778,826 over two years. The TFCA will partner with the Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS) team of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to assist communities in achieving a viable and sustainable volunteer firefighting workforce.

Through the grant, a statewide volunteer firefighter media campaign will be implemented, including social media and radio ads, a recruitment video/PSA, and a revamped statewide campaign website. In addition, fifteen county department groups will be selected to receive further assistance, such as customized recruitment materials, a targeted recruitment/retention plan based on geographic information systems data, and more. During the first quarter of 2022, an application period will open for the fifteen interested county departments to apply for the extra support. To help improve volunteer firefighter retention, online training and in-person leadership workshops will be conducted throughout Tennessee and open to all departments to participate.

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

emergencies when needed. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter in Tennessee, please email yws@iafc.org for more information.

For more information about the TFCA, visit www.tnfirechiefs.com. For or more information about the IAFC's Volunteer Workforce Solutions program, visit www.iafc.org/VolunteerWorkforceSolutions.

About the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (TFCA)

The Tennessee Fire Chief's Association (TFCA) was founded in 1969 as a non-profit organization to improve the fire service in Tennessee. The TFCA provides leadership to career and volunteer Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The TN Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) also encourages the professional advancement of the fire service to ensure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire and natural or man-made disasters. More information about the TFCA is located at <http://www.tnfirechiefs.com>.

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 spills, 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 www.iafc.org.