

# Fire Fighter Line-of-Duty Death and Injury Investigations and Prevention Programs

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Position on the NIOSH FFFIPP  
International Association of Fire Fighters

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Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine

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Director  
Department of Occupational Health and Safety

11-19-08



# The IAFF

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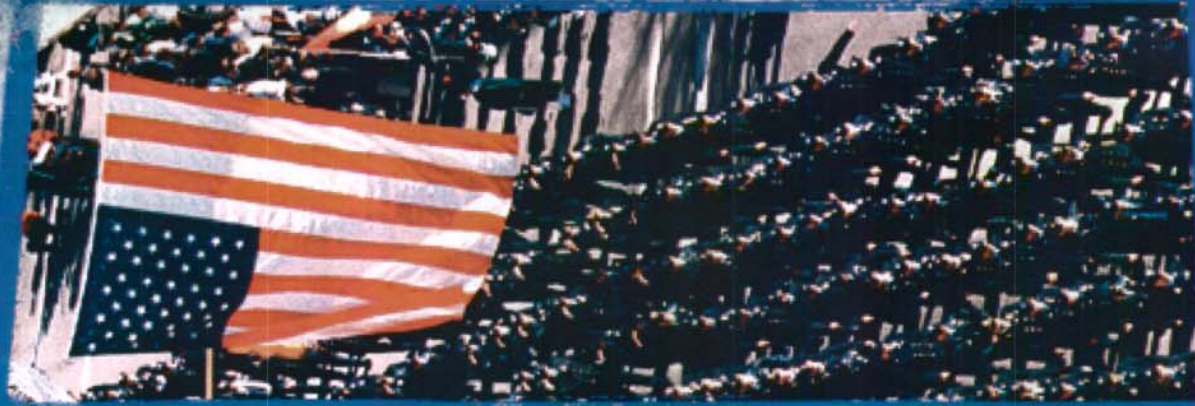
- Labor Union representing 292,000 Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Personnel
- 3,500 communities in the U.S. and Canada
- 3,100 Affiliates
- Members protect the lives and property of 85 percent of the Nation's population.



# NIOSH Program

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- In his FY '98 Budget, President Bill Clinton proposed that NIOSH examine ALL line of duty fatalities among the nation's fire fighters
- Continued authorization and appropriation by Congress



# NIOSH Program

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- Notification
  - IAFF immediately informs NIOSH of all line-of-duty deaths of IAFF members.
- Assistance
  - Investigations
  - PSOB



# Future Directions of FFFIPP

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- Stakeholder Meetings
  - Hold at Major Fire Service Events
- IAFF Conferences
- IAFC Conferences
- FDIC
- CFSI
- Schedule Early



# Future Directions of FFFIPP

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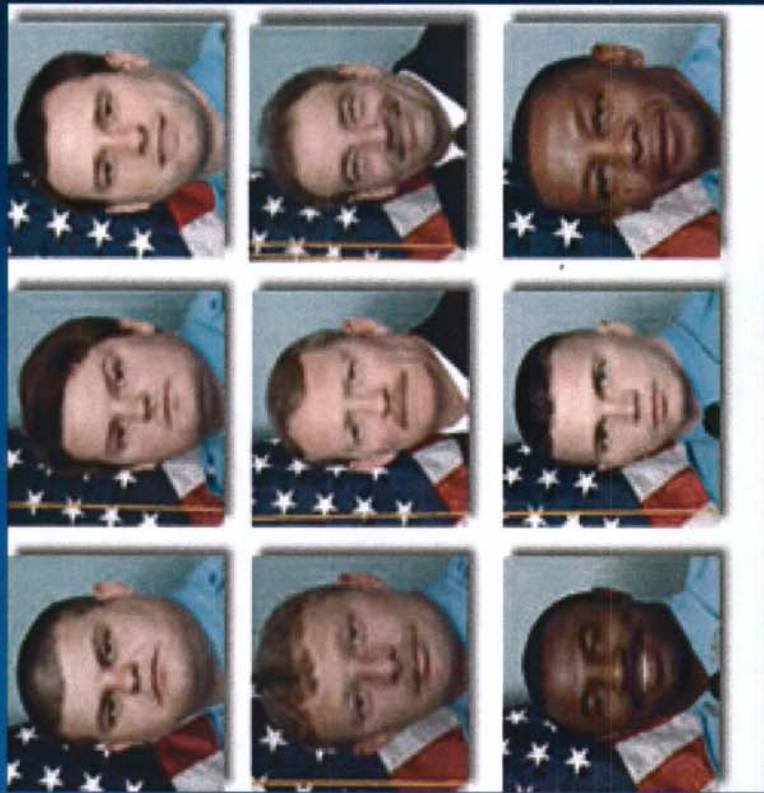
- Identify Event and Fallen Fire Fighter
  - Dishonor
  - Public Information
  - New IAFF process



# Future Directions of FFFIPP

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## Charleston Fire Department Super Sofa Store Fire



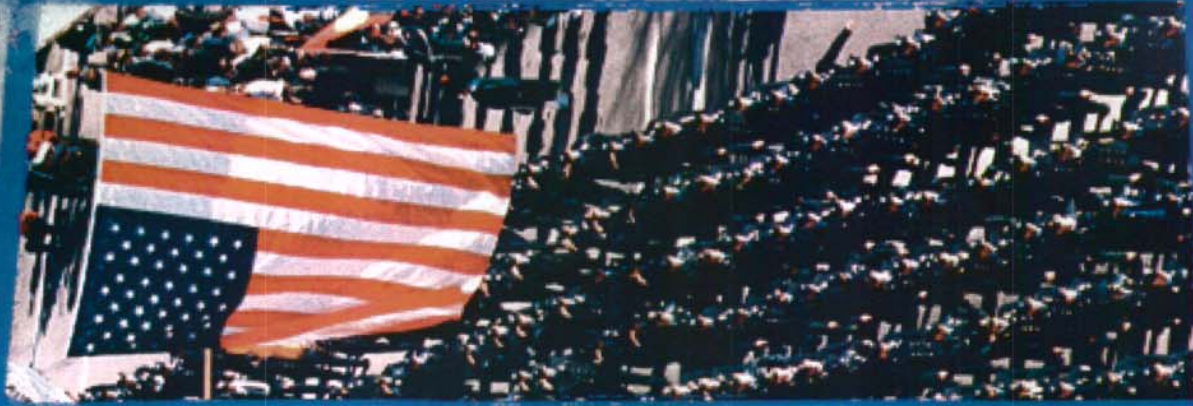
Top row, from left: Brandon Thompson, Rodney "Brad" Baity, and Louis Mulkey  
Middle row, from left: Mike Weisley, Mike Beate, and Larry Hutchinson  
Bottom row, from left: Melvin Champaign, Michael French, and James Drayton.



# Future Directions of FFFIPP

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- NO reduction in Investigations!
  - No event is the same!
- Follow-up Investigations
  - Significant Impact
  - Implementation of ALL Recommendations
- Large/Significant Event Investigations
  - Charleston, SC

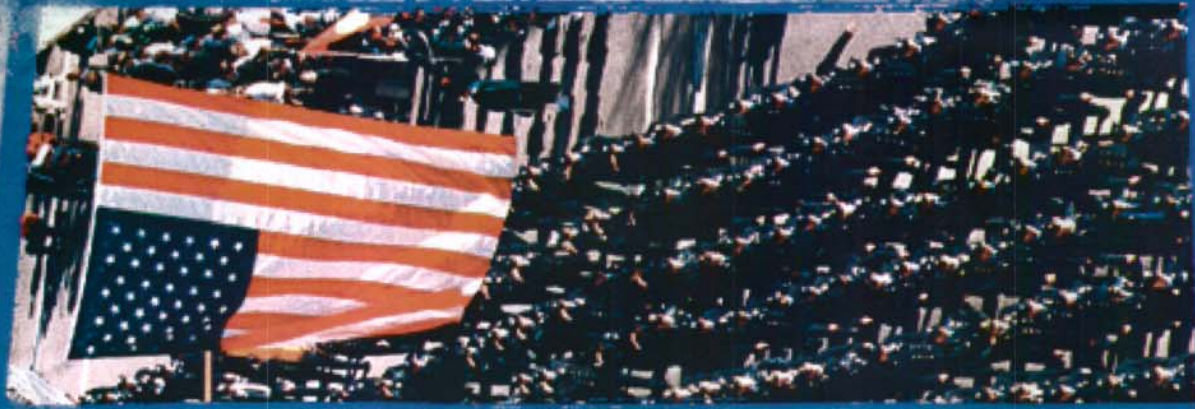




# Future Directions of FFFIPP

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- Dissemination
  - Log all fatalities/investigations
- None
- Pending
- Complete
- Follow-up



# Future Directions of FFFIPP

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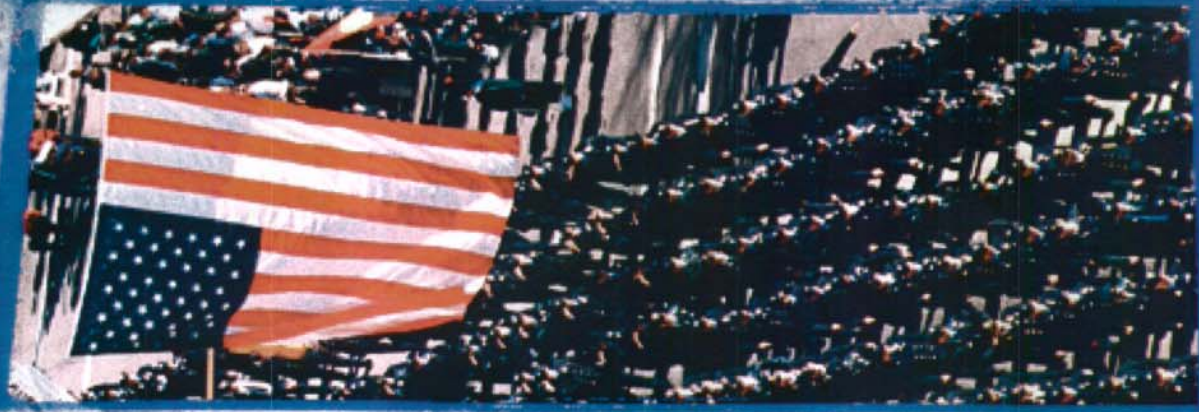
- Outreach
  - Support of NIOSH efforts, but coordinate with other NIOSH participation (DSR, DSHEFS, NPPTL)
  - Blast emails and web work



# Future Directions of FFFIPP

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- Research
  - Partner with other federal departments/agencies
    - DHS (FEMA, USFA)
    - NIST
    - IAB
    - DOT (NTSB)
    - DOL



# Future Directions of FFFIPP

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- Program Evaluation
  - Request an IOM – National Academies Review
  - No Reinventing Wheel
    - Example of W-F Initiative
    - Partner for Outside Funding
  - Follow-up Investigations
  - Make Specific Recommendations to OSHA and DHS



