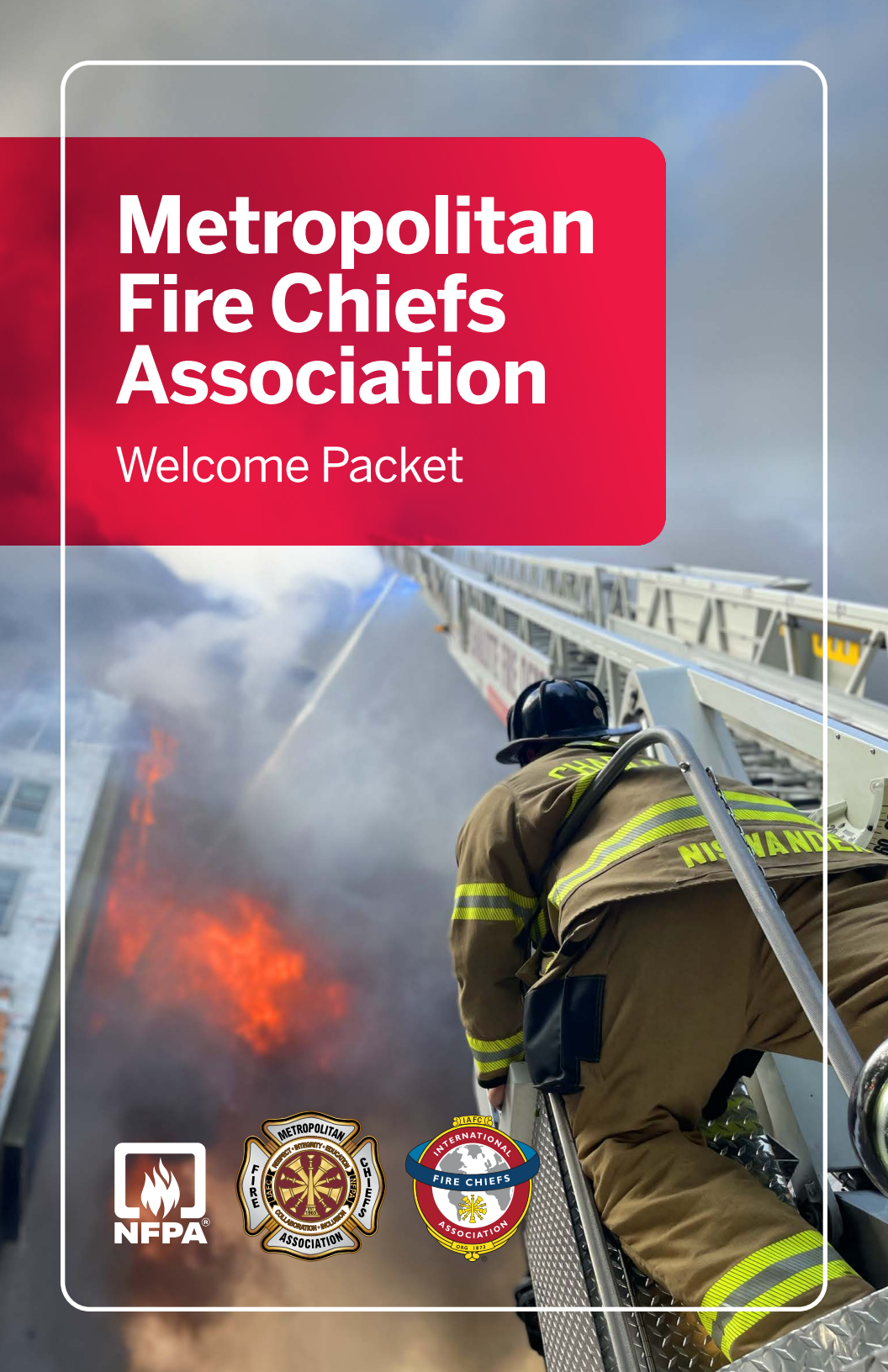


# Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association

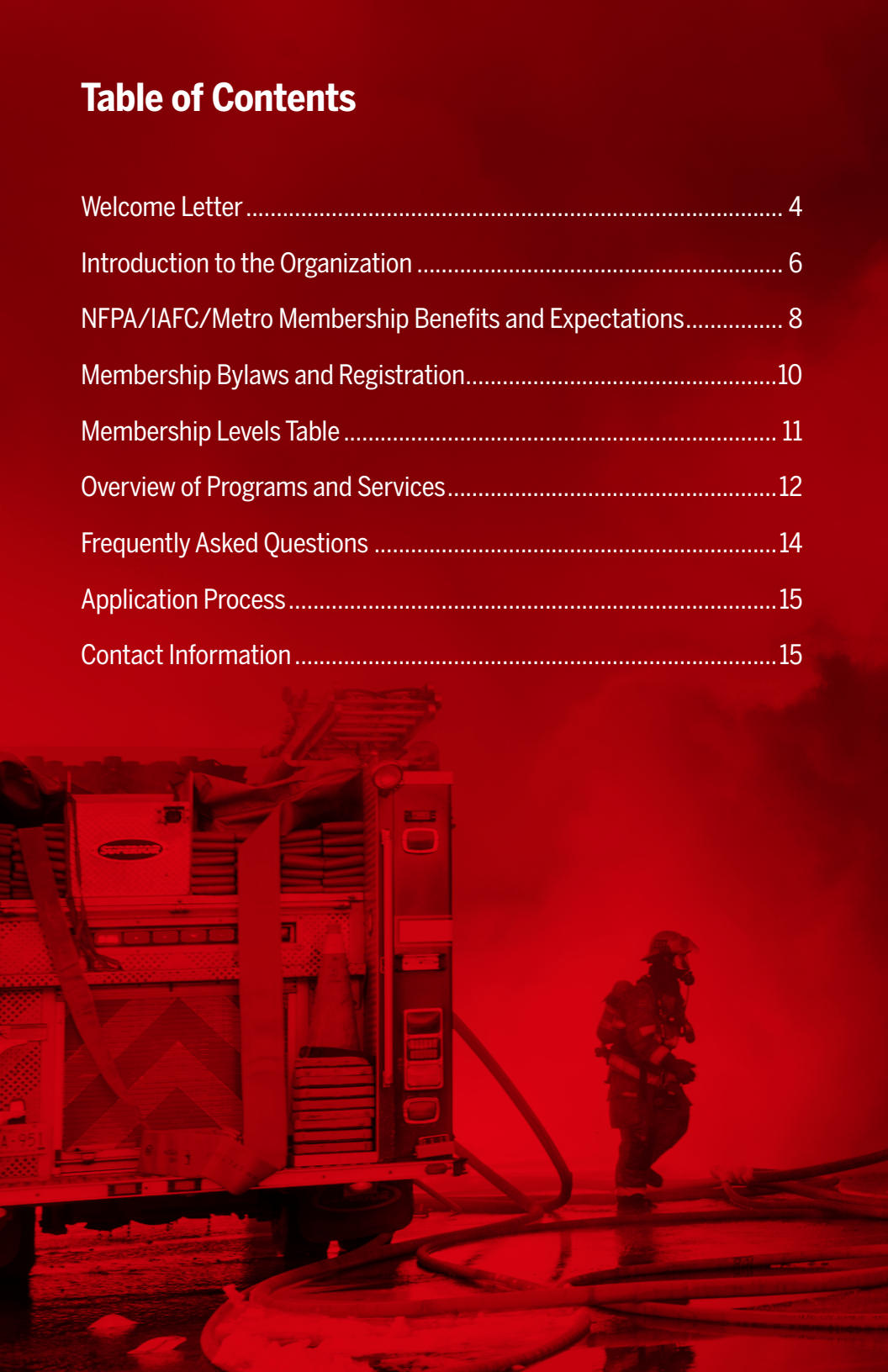
Welcome Packet





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# Dear Prospective Member,

Thank you for your interest in joining the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (the Metro Chiefs)!

Since 1965, the Metro Chiefs has proudly represented the world's leading fire and emergency service professionals, uniting leaders from metropolitan areas worldwide to address the unique challenges faced by large urban area departments.

Membership in the Metro Chiefs is exclusive to the highest-ranking uniform officers of jurisdictions that meet membership criteria as a Regular Member, Senior Member, International, or Affiliate Member (see [Membership Levels table](#)). Members are also required to belong to both the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®). These criteria ensure this network remains a cohesive, highly experienced group of leaders committed to advancing fire and life safety in metropolitan communities.

The Metro Chiefs is at the forefront of addressing some of the greatest challenges of our time. From managing the operational impacts of climate change to adapting to shifts in the built environment driven by new energy technologies, we are deeply committed to safeguarding the future of the fire service. Equally, we prioritize the health and wellness of our firefighters and actively pursue solutions for recruitment and retention in an evolving workforce.

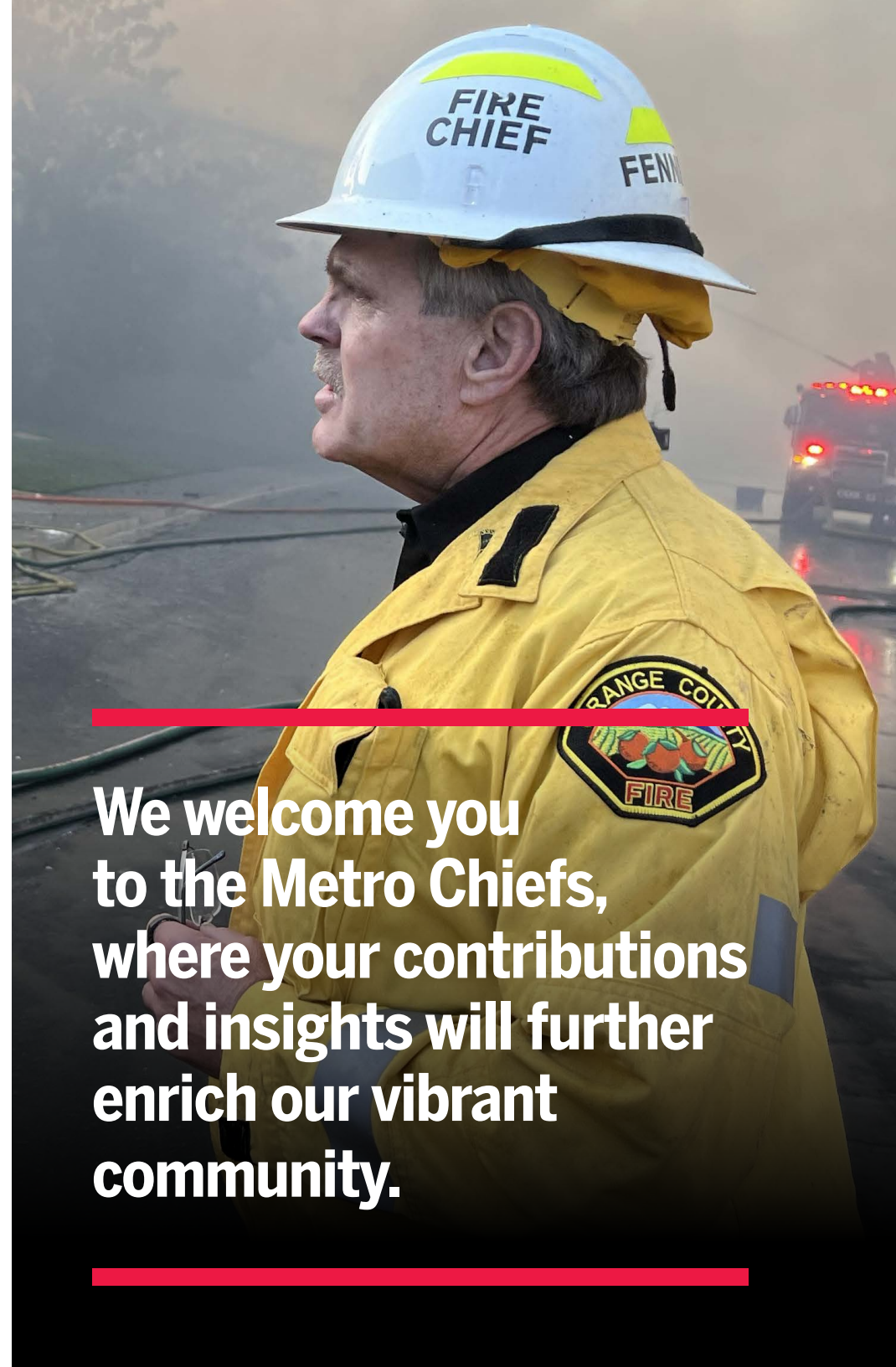
In partnership with the IAFC and NFPA, we work closely with industry-leading universities, research organizations, and training partners. Together, we drive innovation by applying the latest in science, technology, and data to the evolving needs of urban fire services, fostering safer and more resilient communities worldwide.

As we tackle these complex issues, we strive to embody our vision of being “A Place to Belong, Inspiring Success” and uphold our core values of Respect, Integrity, Inclusion, Collaboration, and Education. The diversity of our members enriches the organization and fosters effective, inclusive leadership.

As a Metro Chiefs member, you'll gain access to a robust network of peers dedicated to mutual support and the sharing of best practices. Both active and retired members often turn to this network for insights, solutions, and guidance, drawing on the experience of professionals across generations.

More than just an association, the Metro Chiefs is a collegial and collaborative forum for leaders of major urban fire departments worldwide. Our retired members continue as valued contributors, while spouses and partners form a supportive network that understands the demands of high-visibility leadership roles. At any Metro Chiefs gathering, you'll encounter a rich blend of expertise and camaraderie.

We welcome you to the Metro Chiefs, where your contributions and insights will further enrich our vibrant community. Thank you for your interest in joining a distinguished network of leaders dedicated to advancing global fire and life safety excellence.



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to the Metro Chiefs,  
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# Introduction to the Organization

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (the Metro Chiefs) was founded in 1965 to bring fire service professionals together to address the challenges of large city fire departments that were becoming increasingly complex.

Today, the Metro Chiefs bring together fire chiefs from all over the world, reflecting the global nature of fire and emergency service challenges. Metro members belong to both the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), and membership is exclusive to the single highest-ranking uniform officer (chief of department/commissioner) of jurisdictions with a minimum staffing of 350 fully paid career firefighters. International membership is available to jurisdictions outside the United States and Canada with populations greater than 750,000 residents.

The Metro Chiefs is a Member Section of both the IAFC and NFPA. The group works closely with our partners in the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), the International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF), the Mexico Fire Chiefs Association (MFCA), the National Fire Chiefs Council of the UK (NFCC), Organization of American Firefighters, and many other agencies and organizations to identify solutions and best practices for current and emerging fire and life safety challenges.

The Metro Chiefs also works with Factory Mutual (FM), Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Firefighter Safety Research Institute, the Fire Protection Research Foundation, and other researchers from top universities and organizations to identify and apply the latest science, technology, and data to current and long-term planning for metropolitan communities.

Emergency medical services continue to impact metropolitan fire departments, and new ideas and innovations are moving the fire service into new frontiers. The Metro Chiefs is a leader in the international fire service, serving as an educational resource for large-jurisdiction departments and providing valuable services to the fire service industry by sharing and promoting best practices for members to follow. Firefighter safety continues to be a primary focus for the Metro Chiefs to promote safe practices around the world.

The strength of the Metro Chiefs resides in the many dedicated members (both active and retired) from the largest fire departments in the world who come together to solve the most pressing issues facing our global fire service.



## NFPA/IAFC/Metro Membership Benefits and Expectations

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (the Metro Chiefs) is one of the most influential fire service organizations in the world by virtue of its members and global partnerships. The Metro Chiefs connects fire chiefs from major metropolitan fire departments that maintain dual membership with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Together, the Metro Chief members cultivate a dynamic exchange of knowledge that tackles major domestic and international policy challenges. The Metro Chiefs strength resides in our members who lead departments that collectively empower more than 150,000 firefighters to safeguard and serve nearly 150 million members of the public.

As a member of the Metro Chiefs, you will have access to active and senior metro chiefs from around the world to share information and experiences and discuss common issues. Additionally, membership provides the following:

- Access to senior leadership from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), IAFC, NFPA, and IAFF.
- All benefits of IAFC membership: [iafc.org/membership/member-benefits](http://iafc.org/membership/member-benefits).
- All benefits of NFPA membership: [nfpa.org/Membership/Member-Benefits](http://nfpa.org/Membership/Member-Benefits).
- Timely information on federal legislative matters, which may affect the fire service, as well as your department.
- Opportunity to become a member of the Board as well as to work on special projects throughout the year.
- Eligibility to be invited to attend the NFPA Urban Fire Forum and represent the Metro on IAFC and NFPA committees and projects.
- Opportunity to work with our research and training partners to identify solutions and best practices for current and emerging fire and life safety challenges.
- Exposure of Metro Chiefs to newly emerging trends earlier than the general fire service through the annual Metro Chief conference, the Urban Fire Forum, and Metro Chief updates. This allows Metro Chief members the opportunity to consider large organizational impacts that might come with some of the solutions to challenges and to position our organizations to capitalize on opportunities.
- Ability to “surface” emerging issues to the Metro Chiefs Board, IAFC executive leadership, and their peers to create awareness and establish coalitions to address common problems.
- Interaction with top-tier public safety companies and their leadership, providing input on product offerings and service delivery.
- Shape the future of the codes and standards you use every day by voting at our technical meeting in conjunction with the [NFPA Conference & Expo](#)<sup>®</sup>. Voting privileges begin after 180 days of continuous membership.
- Partnership with the International Fire Service Journal of Leadership and Management (IFSJLM) Early Career Fire Service Research Scholar Award and Program.
- Opportunity to distribute email surveys and questionnaires to the entire membership of the Metro Chiefs on matters that are affecting your organization. The Metro Chiefs Executive Secretary limits email requests for information (e.g., surveys, questionnaires, etc.) to requests that are from the Metro Chief and for the Metro Chief or directly from and for one of the parent organizations (IAFC or NFPA). Further, the Metro Chiefs Annual Conference Sponsors at the Premier (\$25,000), Four Alarm (\$40,000), Elite (\$50,000), and higher levels are permitted to submit up to two requests to the Metro Chiefs Executive Secretary each year to distribute surveys, questionnaires, etc., to the full Metro Chief membership. The final decision to approve/disapprove all requests rests with the Metro Chief President.
- Ability to vote at Metro Chiefs business meetings. All Regular, Senior, and International Members of the Metro Chiefs are entitled to one vote on any question. Honorary and Affiliate members are not permitted to vote on any matter.
- Opportunity to attend the Metro Chiefs Annual Conference and meetings, which is a premier networking and professional development benefit. As a valued member of the Metro Chiefs, you can participate in annual gatherings designed to foster collaboration, professional growth, and strategic discussions on key issues facing metropolitan fire services. The Metro Chiefs Annual Conference, held at a location chosen by the membership, serves as the cornerstone of these gatherings, bringing members together for in-depth sessions, networking, and collaboration. In addition to this premier event, members convene during the IAFC Annual Conference in its host city, providing additional opportunities to engage with peers and industry leaders. These gatherings allow members to connect with other top global fire service leaders to share best practices and access the latest innovations and strategies shaping the future of fire and life safety. Conference dues and fees apply to all attendees, contributing to the high-quality programming and experiences provided. This benefit of membership is designed to ensure that Metro Chiefs remain at the forefront of industry advancements, equipped with the knowledge, resources, and connections necessary to lead effectively in our evolving field.
- Access to the Metro NFPA Xchange™ platform, which serves as a digital hub where the Metro Chiefs can come together to share knowledge, exchange ideas, ask questions, and discuss topics related to fire, electrical, and life safety, codes and standards, and best practices. It serves as a digital space where experts can collaborate, seek advice, offer solutions, and engage in discussions about the latest developments in their field. Xchange was developed with the belief that when people work together to share information, we can all create a safer world, faster.

# Membership Bylaws and Registration

## Membership Bylaws

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (the Metro Chiefs) membership shall be limited to members of the IAFC and NFPA who serve as the highest-ranking fire department officers of cities, counties, or local government fire protection districts having a minimum staffed strength of 350 fully paid career firefighters. Leadership titles vary for fire department top leaders (e.g., chief of the department, commissioner, director, superintendent, etc.); however, membership is limited to one member only of each eligible fire department, and that member must be the chief of the department or in a role of equal or greater responsibility.

Further, unless otherwise noted in these bylaws, the Metro Chief member must also be a member in good standing of the NFPA and the IAFC. Cities, counties, or local government fire protection districts that acquire membership under the aforementioned criteria, and after acquiring membership drop below the minimum membership requirements, will retain membership only as long as that member remains with the department. If a Regular Member moves to a department that does not meet the aforementioned criteria, that member will lose the status of a Regular Member. However, as a former Regular Member, that member would be eligible to apply for Senior Member status.

In addition, members of other associations or organizations may be recognized as Affiliate Member Associations or Organizations upon recommendation by the Metro Chief President and approval of the membership.

## Membership Registration

The Metro Chiefs shall consist of Regular, Senior, International, Affiliate, and Honorary Members as defined in the table at right.



## Membership Levels

Definition of Role	Membership Rights	Voting Rights	Able to Hold Officer Position	Dues
<b>REGULAR MEMBERSHIP</b>				
Active chiefs of departments	Full	Yes	Yes. Only Regular Members are eligible to be elected as officers of the Metro Chiefs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay Metro Regular Member dues</li> <li>• Pay NFPA member dues</li> <li>• Pay IAFC member dues</li> </ul>
<b>SENIOR MEMBERSHIP</b>				
Retired and/or former members who have served as Regular Members	Full	Yes	Eligible to serve on the Executive Board in the senior board member position only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay Metro dues set at 50% of Regular Member dues</li> <li>• Not required to be dues-paying members of the IAFC or NFPA</li> </ul>
<b>INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP</b>				
Active chiefs of departments outside Canada and the United States that protect a jurisdictional population greater than 750,000	Full	Yes	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay Metro Regular Member dues</li> <li>• Not required to be dues-paying members of the IAFC or NFPA</li> <li>• To encourage international membership, the Executive Board may waive the membership criteria and may waive a portion of the membership dues but may not reduce the dues below 50% of the Regular Member dues.</li> </ul>
<b>AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP</b>				
An association or organizational membership granted to the governing officer (e.g., president, chair, etc.) or his or her designee of an approved association or organization	None	No	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No membership fees.</li> <li>• Each person is required to pay all conference fees unless excused by the Metro Chiefs President.</li> <li>• In addition to the governing officer of the association or organization, up to nine additional members of the association or organization may attend and participate in conference activities.</li> <li>• The maximum number of affiliate member attendees is 20, including spouses/partners.</li> </ul>
<b>HONORARY MEMBERSHIP</b>				
Persons with background and/or expertise in areas of fire prevention, fire suppression, or other related disciplines who warrant such recognition as determined by the President	None	No	No	None

# Overview of Programs and Services

## Networking and Collaboration

- **Metro NFPA Xchange™:** A digital hub for members to share knowledge, exchange ideas, ask questions, and discuss fire, electrical, and life safety topics, codes, standards, and best practices.
- **Annual Conference:** A premier event for networking, professional development, and in-depth discussions on key issues, held at a member-approved location.
- **International and Partner Events:** Engagement in global conferences and meetings with partners like IAFC, NFPA, and other allied organizations for cross-regional collaboration.

## Leadership and Development Opportunities

- **Board Membership and Special Projects:** Opportunity to serve on the Metro Chiefs Board or work on special projects throughout the year, including leadership roles.
- **NFPA Urban Fire Forum Invitations:** Exclusive invitations to attend this high-level event and represent the Metro Chiefs on various committees and projects.
- **Early Career Fire Service Research Scholar Award:** Partnership with the International Fire Service Journal of Leadership and Management (IFSJLM) to support emerging fire service leaders.

## Educational Resources and Research Partnerships

- **Research Collaborations:** Partnership with institutions such as FM, UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute, and the Fire Protection Research Foundation to leverage the latest science, technology, and data.
- **Access to Senior Leadership Insights:** Direct access to leaders from USFA, IAFC, NFPA, IAFF, and others to discuss emerging trends and industry challenges.
- **Monthly Newsletters and Legislative Updates:** Timely updates on federal legislative matters impacting fire services, as well as Metro Chief activities and emerging trends.

## Member Services and Support

- **Email Surveys and Information Requests:** Members can survey the full Metro Chief membership on issues relevant to their departments.
- **Distribution of Information for Research and Development:** Conference sponsors at select levels can request information distribution to the full membership for feedback and industry insight.
- **Voting Rights for Members:** Voting privileges for Regular, Senior, and International Members on all organizational matters.



- **Spouse and Partner Support Network:** A community that understands the unique demands on fire service leaders' families, offering supportive gatherings and resources.

## IAFC/NFPA/Metro Chiefs Membership Benefits

- **IAFC and NFPA Dual Membership Benefits:** Full benefits from IAFC and NFPA memberships, including access to resources, training, and industry updates.
- **Professional Advocacy and Policy Influence:** The Metro Chiefs role in promoting fire service interests at the federal level and representing members' voices within top industry organizations.
- **Strategic Access to Public Safety Industry Leaders:** Engagement with senior representatives from top-tier public safety companies, allowing input on product offerings and safety solutions.

## Member Classes and Privileges

- **Regular, Senior, and International Memberships:** Specific benefits and voting rights per membership class, tailored to their roles and contributions.
- **Affiliate and Honorary Memberships:** Access to conference participation for affiliate organization representatives, fostering broad, inclusive perspectives on fire safety.
- **Membership Renewal and Verification:** Annual verification based on criteria such as career staffing and jurisdiction population, ensuring eligibility standards.

## Application and Membership Process

- **Application and Eligibility Verification:** Initial verification of eligibility, IAFC and NFPA membership, and jurisdiction qualifications.
- **Access to Metro Chiefs Application Resources:** Online resources and support available for membership applications and renewals, as well as guidance on fulfilling the association's membership criteria.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who is eligible to become a Metro Chief member?**

**A:** Candidates must be a current member of both the IAFC and NFPA and be the highest-ranking chief officer of a fire department with a staff of more than 350 fully paid career firefighters.

**Q: When was the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association founded?**

**A:** It was formed as a committee in 1965 at a meeting held during the IAFC convention in Miami, Florida.

**Q: How many members are in the Metro Chiefs?**

**A:** The Metro Chiefs started out with 64 fire departments in 1966 and has grown to more than 300 as of 2023.

**Q: What are the advantages of the Metro Chiefs being part of both the NFPA and IAFC?**

**A:** This arrangement allows access and participation within both organizations and a refined focus on meeting the needs of our members. If a member needs assistance on a particular issue or idea, they have access to more than 300 active and retired members from both NFPA and IAFC who can offer prompt feedback and insight.

**Q: For how long can I be a member of the Metro Chiefs?**

**A:** We have many retired members who continue to contribute and be valuable resources to the organization. Among our members we have past, present, and future leaders of our fire and emergency services industry, including former FEMA directors, U.S. Fire Administrators, IAFC presidents, IAFC past presidents, and a host of the top leaders in our industry.

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## Application Process

- 1 Complete the Metro Chiefs [membership application](#).
- 2 Verify eligibility by member class.
- 3 Verify career staffing status.
- 4 Verify population served.
- 5 Confirm IAFC membership and payment of IAFC Metro Section dues.
- 6 Confirm NFPA membership and payment of [NFPA Membership dues](#).
- 7 Submit Metro Chiefs membership application using the link at the bottom of the application form in Step 1.

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## Contact Information

**Metro Chiefs Executive Secretary/NFPA**

Otto Drozd III, Fire Chief (ret.)  
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[odrozd@nfpa.org](mailto:odrozd@nfpa.org)

**IAFC Staff Liaison**

Ken LaSala  
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[klasala@iafc.org](mailto:klasala@iafc.org)

## Helpful Websites

[Metropolitan Fire Chief Association/NFPA](#)

[nfpa.org/membership/member-sections/metropolitan-fire-chiefs-association](https://nfpa.org/membership/member-sections/metropolitan-fire-chiefs-association)

[Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association/IAFC](#)

[iafc.org/about-iafc/board-of-directors/metropolitan-fire-chiefs-association](https://iafc.org/about-iafc/board-of-directors/metropolitan-fire-chiefs-association)

[Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association/Conference](#)

[metrofirechiefs.net](https://metrofirechiefs.net)

[Metro Chiefs Official YouTube Channel](#)

[youtube.com/@TheMetroChiefs](https://youtube.com/@TheMetroChiefs)



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