

U.S. Fire Administration

Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiatives

Vehicle crashes and being struck on the roadway continue to be a major cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities. To reduce them, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has developed the following programs and partnerships:

USFA's **Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative** was a project aimed to reduce the number of firefighters killed in vehicle crashes and from being struck on the roadway. Major National-level fire and emergency services associations as well as other organizations with expertise in emergency vehicle safety provided input on this effort that resulted in a comprehensive report detailing recommendations being developed.

As a follow-on to the Initiative, USFA initiated the following partnerships with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to reduce firefighter fatalities from emergency vehicle crashes.

- The IAFC created a Web- and computer-based educational program, **Guide to Model Policies and Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety**, targeted for fire service leadership.
- With the NVFC, the Web-based program, **Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations for Volunteer and Small Combination Emergency Service Organizations**, was created.
- The IAFF also developed a similar innovative program for career firefighters, **Improving Apparatus Response and Roadway Operations Safety for the Career Fire Service**. With support of the US Department of Justice (DOJ), this program is being expanded to cover all emergency responders, including law enforcement.

USFA completed a Study of Emergency Warning Lighting with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), which researched how to mitigate the disorientation of motorists caused by emergency warning lights. The findings of this study are detailed in the report – **Effects of Warning Lamp Color and Intensity on Driver Vision**.

A partnership with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), produced the **Emergency Vehicle Visibility and Conspicuity Study** to enhance emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety for firefighters, law enforcement officers, and other emergency responders.

Further information regarding these and other USFA efforts in Emergency Vehicle Safety may be found on the USFA Web site at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/research/safety/vehicle.shtm>.

Related initiatives on Roadway Operations Safety for emergency responders can be found at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/research/safety/roadway.shtm>.

