

## **An Important Message from the NYSAFChiefs:**

***Due to the New York State budget crisis the Governor's 2010-11 Executive Budget Proposal (via Budget Bills A.9713/S.6613 Interagency Task Force Eliminations) will eliminate from the Office of Fire Prevention and Control the Fire Safety Advisory Board, the Arson Board and the Fire fighting and Code Enforcement Standards and Education Commission.***

The Fire Safety Advisory Board provides advice and assistance to the Secretary of State and the State Fire Administrator on a wide range of fire protection issues. The Board provides a means all members of the Fire Service to provide input to the Executive branch of state government. The Board has served as a sounding board and provided guidance to the Office of Fire Prevention and Control for new initiatives, particularly new or revised fire training programs. The Board has reviewed and provided advice on pending legislation so that the Secretary of State and the State Fire Administrator are cognizant of relevant issues in the event they are requested to comment.

The Arson Board provides advice and assistance to the Secretary of State and the State Fire Administrator on arson problems in the state. The Board routinely reviews laws and revisions governing arson statutes, arson control plans and local initiatives. The Board makes recommendations concerning training and certification requirements for fire investigators. The board also serves as a focal point for investigators, prosecutors and the insurance industry to recognize trends in arson. These activities not only assist in keeping firefighter's safe, but also in lowering property and tax base loss in these difficult economic times.

The Firefighting and Code Enforcement Personnel Standards and Education Commission recommends training standards to the Governor. The Commission has developed a firefighter training standard for New York State that exceeds the National Fire Protection Association's firefighter standard. The Commission instituted the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) as part of the firefighter standard, the first instance in the country of CPAT being mandatory statewide. The Commission has also developed advanced in-service training standards for fire officer, fire instructor, fire investigator, safety officer, hazardous materials technician and rescue technician. Without this board, training standards will be left to the Office of Fire Prevention and Control alone, we will lose any voice in standard development for training.

The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs strongly opposes the elimination of the Fire Safety Advisory Board, the Arson Board and the Fire Fighting and Code Enforcement Personnel Standards and Education Commission. The critical need for the Boards and Commission are obvious for the protection of the public and the Fire Service. Neither the Secretary of State nor the State Fire Administrator have called for meetings of the Boards and Commission in over a year due to the ongoing budget crisis. Because of the New York State budget crisis the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs is recommending that Board and Commission members not be reimbursed for any expenses

incurred in the performance of their duties. This would negate the need to eliminate the Boards and Commission.

***The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs is requesting all its members to contact the Governor, their State Senator and Assembly person and request that these Boards and Commission not be eliminated.***