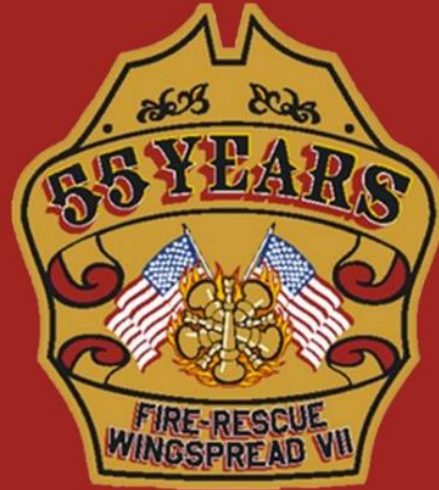


WINGSPREAD VII

STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL
SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UNITED STATES
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES



A WINGSPREAD CONFERENCE REPORT

The Official Wingspread VII Report Presentation

The
**Johnson
Foundation**



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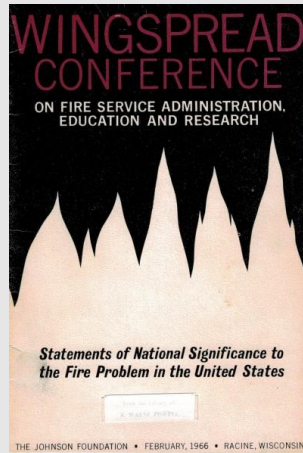
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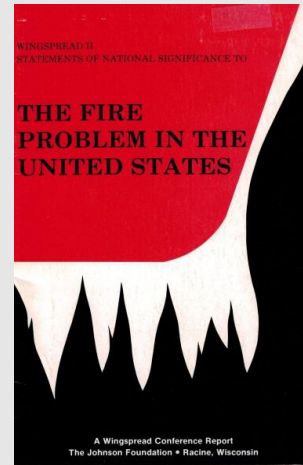
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The Johnson Foundation's mission statement is "To be a catalyst for positive and lasting change leading to healthier environments and communities."

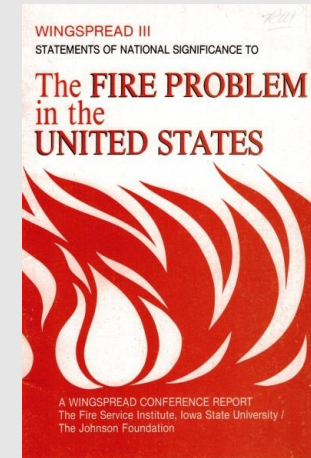
Previous Wingspread Conference Reports



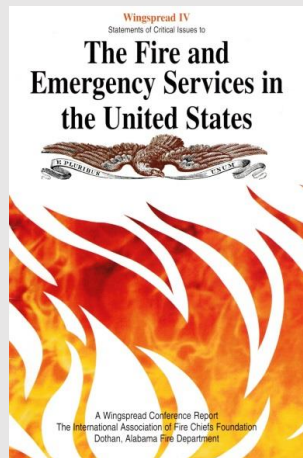
1966



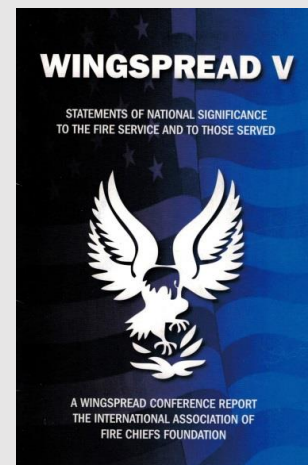
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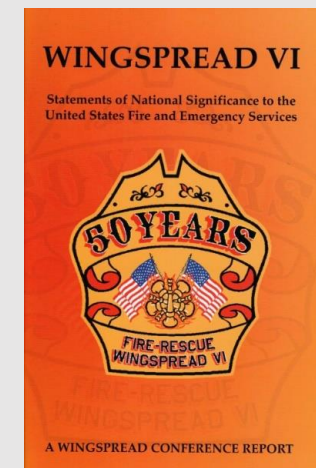
1986



1996



2006



2016



All of the previous Wingspread Reports
are available at the
National Fire Heritage Center website

[https://fireheritageusa.org/archives-
news/the-wingspread-conference-reports](https://fireheritageusa.org/archives-news/the-wingspread-conference-reports)



Chief Brunacini was the force that kept Wingspread going after the 1986 conference.

"BRUNO PULLED THE FIRE SERVICE TO COME ALONG AS HARD AS ANYONE HAS EVER TRIED TO PULL US ALONG. HE WAS AN INNOVATOR, VISIONARY, DREAMER AND CONSULATE NOTE TAKER. HE WAS THE ULTIMATE STORYTELLER. HE COULD RELATE TO THE LITTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS THE BIG FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND TO THE VOLUNTEER, CAREER, LABOR, FIRE CHIEF, OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER AND THE CHALLENGES OF EACH. HE INFLUENCED THE FIRE SERVICE ACROSS THE SPECTRUM"



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STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Twelve *Statements of Significance* were developed. In addition to these statements, background information was compiled in support of each *Statement of Significance*. The report is the product of the efforts and collaboration of all involved.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ONE

The American fire and emergency services need to constantly and consistently strive to treat all members and the general population with respect and dignity.

Our nation continues to experience difficult and turbulent social times, due to perceived and real unfair treatment. The United States fire and emergency services must recognize and embrace equity, fairness, diversity, inclusion, and belonging for all.

Discrimination, harassment, and hazing of any type cannot be tolerated inside any fire or emergency services organization. While there have been exemplary efforts by some organizations to eliminate these negative behaviors; there is much work still necessary to resolve this issue. To retain the public's trust, we must prove that **respect and dignity** towards all customers, members, and stakeholders, both *external and internal*, is not optional! The principles of respect and dignity form the basis of this document and must be incorporated into all facets of our profession.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE TWO

Fire departments should be agents of change and a part of the national critical infrastructure that will help solve America's fire problem at the community level.

Despite many advances since Wingspread I in 1966, unfriendly fire remains a scourge within our society. Approximately 100 firefighters are killed in the line of duty annually. The ravages of structural fires claimed over 3,700 civilian lives and injured over 16,000 people along with an estimated \$14.8 billion loss in property damage in 2019. The United States fire and emergency services must focus on this appalling problem. Technology is available that can eliminate these horrible losses using automatic fire protection systems, such as residential fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors. To accomplish the core mission of preventing harm, fire and emergency service organizations must be the transformational change agents to ensure that the available technology are implemented to resolve this solvable societal problem. All levels of government must consider their fire and emergency services departments as **critical infrastructure, thereby providing all of the necessary resources to reach the mission of preventing harm in the community.**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE THREE

Wildland fires are a continuing and growing problem in the United States and globally which must be solved by using all resources and technologies available.

Our nation continues to experience devastating wildland fires that result in the horrific loss of civilian and firefighter lives, property, and natural resources. The United States fire and emergency services must be better supported and equipped to prevent, contain, and suppress wildland fires. Fire departments rely on local, state, tribal, and federal assets to complete the mission of extinguishing all types of fires. There is an overwhelming need to increase the support, technology, research, best practices, and resources to complete this mission. Improvements by providing additional personnel, apparatus, equipment, aviation, and ground support resources are desperately needed to continue to engage in fighting campaign wildfires. Wildland fire is a global problem. The United States fire and emergency services must use the lessons shared by the global community and likewise share our lessons and solutions.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOUR

Fire and emergency services should be recognized as part of the national critical infrastructure.

Fire and emergency services continue to have an expanding mission beyond fire protection. Our oath of office, value, and viability depend on answering all requests for service, including non-traditional tasks. Meeting these community demands requires collaborative relationships, additional resources, and the recognition of fire and emergency services organizations as part of the **national critical infrastructure**.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FIVE

There is a salient need to provide expanded non-emergent medical care in local communities. Fire and emergency services continue to be overburdened by low acuity (minor) medical calls that could be resolved through the application of programs, such as community paramedicine and/or mobile integrated health care.

The fire and emergency services is uniquely positioned to work with a broad range of health care providers, and key stakeholders, to deliver out-of-hospital services. The ever-expanding scope of the fire and emergency services mission will require additional resources, including staffing, training, equipment, and funding.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SIX

To meet the increasing demands on fire and emergency services, additional funding will need to be provided at the federal level.

The fire and emergency services rely on support from all federal fire, emergency medical, emergency management, and homeland security agencies and programs. The work produced by all of our federal partners is nothing short of remarkable under challenging conditions. The United States Fire Administration and National Fire Academy budgets have not kept pace with the needs of our nation. To accomplish our basic mission, there needs to be additional federal investments that reflect our status as part of America's **critical infrastructure**. The Assistance to Firefighters Grants and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response should be aligned under the United States Fire Administration with funding equal to the Office of Justice Programs within the Department of Justice.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SEVEN

The capability to recruit, retain, and train a qualified and diverse workforce has become an increasingly difficult task, requiring additional resources.

Fire and emergency services requires capable, effective, and trusted personnel to meet the expanding needs and changing demographics of our communities. To sustain effective and safe operations, recruitment and retention of a qualified workforce is paramount. Maintaining proper staffing has become a difficult and expensive process. Additional resources, data, and research are required to overcome these challenges.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE EIGHT

There is a considerable need for new educational programs to be created at the executive and leadership levels.

Effective executive operational and administrative leadership of America's fire and emergency services is a highly specialized and complicated process.

Therefore, expanding the available advanced educational opportunities at the highest organizational levels are important to the long-term success of the industry. New educational programs must be designed and developed to focus on exceeding the scope of the traditional fire and emergency services training doctrine. Model executive educational curriculum guidelines should blend the best of business administration and public administration programs with executive leadership from military training programs for our top executives. This effort must include broad based critical decision-making skills that must be embraced and injected into all aspects of the fire and emergency services training effort.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE NINE

All public safety and allied agencies should use the National Incident Management System.

The Incident Command System (ICS) was developed in the early 1970s. ICS has proven to be mission critical to efficiently, effectively, and safely resolve emergency and non-emergency events. Many fire and emergency services organizations have embraced the use and application of ICS. Some public safety agencies (e.g., public health, transportation, and law enforcement) have failed to fully implement ICS. There is an overwhelming need for public safety organizations to utilize all components of the Incident Command System, which includes the proper application of the unified command process.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE TEN

Fire and emergency services must continue independent rigorous research on all areas of operations and administration, to emphasize fire fighter health (physical and mental) and safety.

Fire and emergency services must continue supporting and facilitating rigorous research to provide the necessary data to support informed, empirically validated decisions in all aspects of fire and emergency services. This national effort should be standards driven, non-proprietary, and results should be applicable and easily accessible. Defense industry research and development presents significant opportunities for technology transfer to fire and emergency services.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ELEVEN

Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology (SMART) needs to be incorporated into fire and emergency services to provide safer more effective and efficient operations.

As reported in Wingspread VI, most fire and emergency services lack real-time, useful, and accurate information that leverages interoperable technology. SMART, in conjunction with size-up and critical incident factors, must be easily accessible to help ensure safe, effective, and efficient operations.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE TWELVE

Elected officials at all levels of government and the public they serve, need to have appropriate information on funding necessary to match the fire and emergency services community expectations.

Fire and emergency services must be classified as **national critical infrastructure**. There is an ongoing requirement to properly fund and maintain staffing, facilities, technologies, apparatus, equipment, and programs. In most communities, funding sources are insufficient to ensure the safe, effective, and efficient delivery of the range of services expected by constituents.

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FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES



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Today!

