POSITION PAPER 3

Subject: **Code Enforcement**
Date: **May 4, 1989**
Amended:

Purpose Statement

Code enforcement is recognized as an integral part of the mission of the fire service. The development, adoption, and enforcement of appropriate codes is an important part of assuring that the communities we protect are assured of a reasonable safe living and working environment. The fire service is usually the first agency called to assist, when the lack of adequate code enforcement allows a hazardous situation or injury to occur.

Recommendation

The Association's position on code issues consists of the following points:

1. The Association endorses the Uniform Codes, as published by the ICBO and WFCA and adopted by the State of Washington as the State Building Code Act (RCW 19.27)

   The Uniform Codes are consensus codes, and the development process has been effective in assuring that appropriate changes are made as technology and additional knowledge make such changes necessary.

2. The Association endorses the concept of adoption the State Building Code as a minimum standard, and imposing that minimum standard upon all political subdivisions of the state.

   The Uniform Codes are developed with the expectation and understanding that more restrictive requirements may be necessary in a specific jurisdiction. The Association will resist any attempt to adopt the State Building Code as a maximum code. The Association will support the right of the political subdivisions to adopt stand-alone ordinances that are more restrictive than the State Building Code, to deal with local conditions.

3. The Association endorses the development of a comprehensive system of code enforcement within the State of Washington that will ensure that any building

construction, use, or other activity regulated by the codes are in compliance with appropriate regulations.

Code development and adoption are ineffective unless qualified personnel are able to enforce what has been adopted. The Association will support action to establish certification for code enforcement personnel, and criteria for inspection frequency. The Association will carefully evaluate proposals that would extend code enforcement authority to fire districts. The Association will also carefully evaluate all proposals that would limit the code enforcement authority of Cities and Counties that lack adequate resources for providing a comprehensive code enforcement program.