POSITION PAPER 4

Subject: **Stable Funding for Fire Departments**
Date: **May 4, 1989**
Amended:

Purpose Statement

Stable funding for fire departments is essential to the provision of adequate fire and life safety services. Current trends and continuing escalation of demands for these services, create a need to establish a long-term stable funding source for fire department fire and life safety services that will consistently fund these services to assure continuity and quality.

Recommendation

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

1. The Association supports the establishment of a funding base that can be reliably used to fund fire departments in Washington State.

2. The Association supports efforts to allow a greater degree of local flexibility (local control) in funding and program delivery levels through legislation, such as increasing the availability of special levies to a multi-year period.

3. The Association supports the establishment of a uniform formula for compensating fire departments for protection tax-exempt and state properties.

4. The Association will oppose any effort to require an increase in service level (not within fire departments statutory authority to deliver) without a commensurate increase in funding.

5. The Association will monitor legislation and work to protect fire department funding authority where necessary.

6. The Association will monitor tax reform movements and work to protect fire department authority where necessary.

7. The Association will watch for attempts to place additional requirements on fire departments and work to maintain adequate revenue for fire departments as necessary