POSITION PAPER 7

Subject: **Fireworks**
Date: **February 22, 1990**
Amended: **September 14, 2016**

Purpose Statement:

One of the primary objectives of the fire service is the protection of lives and properties from the consequences of fire and fire related actions.

During 2015, the State of Washington had 240 fireworks related fires and 241 fireworks related injuries that were reported to the Washington State Fire Marshals' office. This is a continuing trend showing an increase in fires (and subsequent injuries) over the past several years. In contrast to this trend, some areas in the State have seen substantial reductions in fires and injuries by banning fireworks sales and use (such as the City of Spokane initiated in 1993).

Recommendation:

The Association's position on fireworks is that efforts be made to fully restrict the sale and use of consumer fireworks in favor of public displays performed by professionals. In order to accomplish this over a period of time, we recommend the following:

- The Association endorses the limitation of sales of legal consumer fireworks to persons 18 years of age or older.
- The Association endorses the limitation of sales and discharges of legal consumer fireworks to a twelve (12) hour period on Independence Day only.
- The Association endorses the removal of illegal fireworks from the State, prohibiting the mail order delivery of illegal fireworks within the State of Washington, and the enforcement of the state fireworks laws.
- The Association endorses legislation, state or local, that limits or bans the sale or use of consumer fireworks except for legal public displays.

- The Association will cooperatively work with other agencies and associations to develop educational, prevention, and safety materials used to reduce risk, prevent injuries, and help citizens safely enjoy the use of legal consumer fireworks.

- The Association endorses the establishment of a dedicated State-funding source to assist with mitigation, enforcement, and education regarding fireworks that support our position.

- The Association appreciates the significant role that federally recognized Indian tribes play in fireworks policy throughout the state and encourages collaboration and cooperation to assist and support the tribes as it relates to fireworks safety through federal fireworks laws and regulations that apply on tribal lands.

- The Association supports the removal of the one year waiting period on local jurisdictions to implement changes on local fireworks ordinances to include emergency bans of fireworks.