

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About MSFCA

What is MSFCA?

The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) is a member-driven organization that provides valuable information and training to its members on a wide variety of technical, operational and policy-oriented topics. The organization is made up of more than 2,000 fire officers that represent nearly 500 departments statewide.

Why join MSFCA?

Joining MSFCA is an important step in a fire service member's career development path. By joining the state's premier organization for fire service leaders, you get the best and most useful information about issues of concern to firefighters and fire departments statewide.

Who should join MSFCA?

We encourage leaders and prospective leaders of all ranks to join, connect with other officers and take advantage of the many benefits of membership. Whether you're the chief of a large urban fire department or a line officer in a small rural department, MSFCA membership offers valuable training, learning and resource-sharing opportunities that fire service leaders can't get anywhere else.

I'm not a chief. Can I still join MSFCA?

Yes! MSFCA welcomes any fire service leaders to join and take advantage of all the membership benefits the organization has to offer. MSFCA is committed to developing the next generation of fire service leadership and encourages line officers interested in pursuing future leadership roles to join the organization.

How often does MSFCA meet?

The MSFCA annual conference takes place at a different location each year, rotating between Duluth, Rochester and St. Cloud. There are several training events that take place throughout the year, including a Fire Officers School each February in Alexandria. Committee meetings occur on variable schedules, which are set by the committees themselves. Check the MSFCA website or contact your regional director to learn more about meeting schedules.

How do I become a member?

There are two ways to join MSFCA. If you are a line officer, ask your chief to add your name to a membership application for your department. If you have a senior leadership position within your department, you can download and complete the membership application yourself as an active member. Dues are payable immediately after submitting your application and should be paid via check, money order or credit card in U.S. dollars. Depending on your departmental guidelines, fire departments may cover all or part of an individual's MSFCA dues. Check with your supervisor for details.

About my MSFCA membership

What are my membership benefits?

With your MSFCA membership, you get access to a wide array of services and benefits, including a subscription to *Minnesota Fire Chief* magazine, discounted attendance at the MSFCA conferences, technical support as part of the Responder Rehab Program and much more. Moreover, MSFCA members benefit from being part of the largest fire service leadership community in the state, with a wealth of resources and experiences that help all members become more effective leaders. Visit www.msfca.org for a full list of member benefits.

How do I renew my MSFCA membership?

Go to the MSFCA website, click on “general information” and then “membership.” Download and print the attached form, then mail it to our executive director with a check or credit card number. Alternatively, you can simply stop by the registration table at the annual conference to renew your membership. An electronic renewal process is currently under consideration.

What are the different membership options available?

There are three membership levels, each designed to coincide with specific roles in the fire service: active member, associate member, and sustaining member. The standard membership level is “active” and entitles one fire service leader in a single department to all membership benefits. Active members can add associate members within their department for just \$48 per person per year. Sustaining memberships are for vendors and affiliate organizations that do not qualify for other forms of membership.

About the annual conference

Where and when is the MSFCA annual conference being held?

The conference is held in three locations throughout the state. Because of the size of the conference, locations are limited to large cities with appropriate hotel and convention accommodations. This year’s conference is Oct. 17-19 in Rochester. The conference is always held on the third weekend of October (beginning Thursday and ending Saturday).

What happens at the MSFCA annual conference?

The MSFCA annual conference is the state’s premier fire service training, education and networking event. The conference features hands-on demonstrations and valuable workshops on a wide variety of public safety, policy, operations, management and practical topics, as well as social events and a memorial service honoring members of the association.

How do I attend MSFCA conferences? Do I need to be a MSFCA member?

It is not necessary to be a member to attend, but members do enjoy significant registration discounts. Visit www.msfca.org and click on “conference/training” for more information.

Do I get CPEs or training credits for attending the conference?

Some workshops offer continuing professional education credits. A complete conference schedule and agenda can be found in the member information packet or online at www.msfca.org.

About MSFCA committees

How do I join a MSFCA committee?

As a member-driven organization, committees are vital to helping MSFCA fulfill its mission. While it’s not a requirement, members are encouraged to join one or more leadership committees. A complete list of committees – including contact information for committee chairs – is included in the member information packet and online at www.msfca.org. Contact committee chairs directly for more information about serving on a committee that fits your expertise and interest.

How often do committees meet?

Most committees meet on a monthly or semi-monthly basis, depending on member availability and each committee’s individual workload. Contact committee chairs to find out how often each committee meets.

How long do committee appointments last?

While it is not a requirement for serving on a committee, we ask that members serve for at least one year on the committee(s) of their choice in order to maintain continuity and ongoing productivity.

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