



## **UFF Position Statement: Preparedness and Unified Response to Hostile Events**

### **Background**

The 2013 Metro/Urban Fire Forum Chiefs endorsed a position statement addressing Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Terrorist Events. This position paper addressed the emerging threat of terrorism and asymmetric warfare, specifically small unit “active shooter” and improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, as a major concern for the fire service. In 2014 the Metro/Urban Fire Forum Chiefs addressed a similar issue with a position statement on responding to incidents of Fire and Smoke as a Weapon. This position statement addressed the Role of the Fire Service, Types of Attacks, Necessary Training, Integrated Tactical Response Teams and much more.

Multi-level threats and hostile events including active shooter incidents use of IEDs, large vehicle ramming and the use of fire as a weapon have continued across the globe. An attack by radicals armed with weapons in public areas, such as schools, shopping malls, churches or any other locations where people congregate remains a real threat to a sense of security in daily lives.

Given the reality of what has become the new normal, it is incumbent on Metropolitan Fire Service leaders to once again take a leadership role. Inasmuch, leaders who responded to the 2016 Pulse Nightclub attack in Orlando, Florida requested and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) approved the development of a consensus standard to address the multiagency unified response to hostile events. The new standard is titled NFPA 3000; Standard for Preparedness and Unified Response to Hostile Events and is to include the necessary elements to assure safe, efficient, and effective response for all first responders including fire, EMS and law enforcement.

### **Action to Date**

NFPA 3000, *Standard for Preparedness and Unified Response to Hostile Events*, has been approved by the NFPA Standards Council and the project technical committee has been established. The project focus is on preparations, standardization of terminology, equipment, joint training, and guidance for unified response. The standard will not dictate local tactics but will provide necessary elements of a successful response to such an event. The project will also standardize much of the good work and solid recommendations that have been previously published, including the 2013 and 2014 UFF positions referenced above. This project has received wide support in the Fire, Law Enforcement, EMS, and emergency management communities and has retained representatives from several national and international organizations who are now serving on the project technical committee.

### **Metro/UFF Chiefs Action**

The Metro/Urban Fire Forum Chiefs support the work of the NFPA 3000 technical committee and endorse the development of this standard. The Metro/Urban Fire Forum Chiefs will continue taking an active leadership role in developing the knowledge and procedures necessary to fully prepare the fire, law enforcement, EMS and emergency management communities to respond and mitigate these events safely, efficiently and effectively.