



## **2019 Urban Fire Forum Position Statement:**

### **Center for Homeland Defense and Security Submission**

#### **Overview**

The threats and challenges facing all of our public safety disciplines continue to become more complex, interconnected, and challenging for decision-makers. Traditional “how to training” is not enough to prepare our firefighters for these emerging challenges that require advanced knowledge of rapidly evolving technology and social trends, urban development, severe weather patterns, the changing workforce, the use of fire as a weapon, and more. Successfully leading through these challenges requires increasing levels of “education” that informs the fire profession and teaches tomorrow’s leaders the critical thinking skills to address the challenges their communities face and to develop new creative approaches, policies and strategies in collaboration with their public safety counterparts. One such opportunity for fire fighters is the Naval Post Graduate School.

#### **Action**

The Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association/Urban Fire Forum Chiefs encourage all fire departments to promote education programs and degrees among all levels of employees as they progress through their professional development. This education will help to insure the nation’s fire community has the critical thinking, analytical, collaborative, innovative, and leadership skills to be successful in the evolving complex environment in which firefighters operate today.