

AFGE FIREFIGHTERS COUNCIL

Serving Federal Firefighters through Knowledge and Strength



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AFGE FIREFIGHTER COUNCIL'S 2011 SEMINAR A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Over 100 firefighters, Chiefs, Program Managers, Local Presidents and others attended the 2011 AFGE Firefighter Council Seminar, March 14-17th at the Maritime Institute, Linthicum, MD. They listened to experts from agencies and from AFGE on issues ranging from the complexities of medical standards as a qualification for employment as a federal firefighter to the importance of risk assessments and the value of fire department accreditation.

National President John Gage opened the Seminar with a rousing statement of how the fire and emergency services must work toward building "Unity in the Community" if we are to survive the serious and incredible attacks on federal employees and on unions. [Watch Opening](#) This was followed by a Special Awards presentation. [Special Awards Part 1](#) The Council recognized three men—Joe O'Hagan, Billy Shelton and Benny Egler - who gave much of their careers to insuring that the fire and emergency services profession is an effective, forceful and united group. [Special Awards, Part II](#)

Speakers and panels filled the next three days from dawn til dusk and in the evening, the attendees gathered for socializing. The comment from one participant says it all: "From my vantage point, it was a tremendous success. I was truly impressed by the caliber of this event. I was also impressed with the quality of the handouts -- the handbooks, case law, etc. are EXCELLENT references that I know I will use often."

This was the first Seminar held since 2002 and already, requests have been made to hold another one in the next couple of years. In the meantime, the Council would like to share as much of the materials from the Seminar as is possible with those who were not able to attend. (The continuing resolution made it difficult for many to get travel and/or funding approval).

Go to the Council's [Store](#) on the web to order items from the Seminar which are now available. This includes the very nice briefcases with the AFGE Firefighters logo; watches with the logo on the face and the 3-Volume set of Firefighter Manuals.

[Click here](#) to go to the Program for the Seminar and from there, you will be able to click on available power point and paper presentations that you can download as you like.

The entire Seminar was videotaped and it is hoped that one or more sessions can be featured on the web each month.

If you would like more information about this Seminar or the materials available, contact your Regional Liaison.