

World Fire Congress

Communities of Practice Final Report — Executive Summary

Reporting Period: May 2024 – April 2026 | Prepared for Chief Phil Garrigan, President, National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) |

Submitted ahead of the 2026 World Fire Congress, United Kingdom

In May 2024, the inaugural World Fire Congress convened delegates from 56 nations in Washington, D.C., establishing six Communities of Practice (CoPs) to advance shared, cross-border solutions to fire-service challenges. Over the following eighteen months, 273 participants across these CoPs — fire-service leaders, researchers, and allied experts — produced the findings and recommendations summarized below, offered as a foundation for the 2026 Congress in the United Kingdom.

Six Communities of Practice — Headline Recommendations

CoP SE <i>Stakeholder Engagement</i>	Develop a secure online platform for members to submit, browse, and access WFC event information.
CoP SFR <i>Structure Fire & Response</i>	Establish regional working groups, translation services, and a globally accessible information repository.
CoP FRET <i>Fire Risks of Emerging Technology</i>	Continue addressing Li-ion battery hazards; monitor self-driving vehicles, AI, and advanced materials as next-wave threats.
CoP HWS <i>Firefighter Health, Wellness & Safety</i>	Formalize a standing international HWS network under the WFC, with a coordinated global research agenda.
CoP FET <i>Firefighter Education & Training</i>	Develop a comprehensive Fire Service Training Standards Survey; expand discussion of AI and immersive learning.
CoP CCI <i>Climate Change Impacts</i>	Institutionalize climate change as a standing agenda item; fund cross-border training and multi-hazard preparedness.

Five Cross-Cutting Themes

- Shared infrastructure for global knowledge exchange — a single, secure online platform
- Translation services and multilingual access — written, oral, and real-time
- Regional working groups within each CoP to address time-zone constraints
- Cross-sector engagement — public health, occupational health, primary care, labor, and industry
- Standing focus on emerging technology and climate change as horizontal topics across all CoPs

Recommendation to WFC Convenors

The CoP program needs improved infrastructure to realize its full potential ahead of 2026 and beyond: a globally accessible information repository, translation services, dedicated coordination staff, and clearer integration between in-person WFC events and the CoPs' year-round work. Each CoP report in the full volume offers specific guidance for how that infrastructure should be designed.

The full Communities of Practice Final Report — including detailed findings, national participation, and complete recommendations for each of the six CoPs — accompanies this summary.