

The NFPA Responder Forum

November 14, 2017 – Dr. Kerry Ramella, Public Safety Crisis Solutions LLC, recently attended the [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\) Responder Forum](#) conducted October 29 to November 1, 2017, in Quincy, Massachusetts.

Dr. Ramella received a three-year scholarship in 2017 and joined more than 100 attendees who met to advance the fire service. The Responder Forum is made up of forward-thinkers from thirteen top fire service organizations who commit to learning about technology, research, standards and people for their own professional development and to optimize public safety.

Firefighters, chiefs, fire marshals, inspectors, instructors, training directors, and arson investigators have to understand a wide range of emergency response issues today. The Responder Forum brings together diverse fire professionals from the following organizations to do just that: [International Association of Arson Investigators \(IAAI\)](#), [International Association of Black Professional Firefighters \(IABPF\)](#), [International Association of Fire](#)



RESPONDER FORUM

CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY,
RESEARCH AND STANDARDS

[Chiefs \(IAFC\)](#), [International Association of Fire Fighters \(IAFF\)](#), [International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services \(IWomen\)](#), [International Society of Fire Service Instructors \(ISFSI\)](#), [Metro Chiefs](#), [National Association of Hispanic](#)

[Firefighters \(NAHF\)](#), [National Association of State Fire Marshals \(NASFM\)](#), [NFPA Fire Service Section \(FSS\)](#), [National Volunteer Fire Council \(NVFC\)](#), [North American Fire Training Directors \(NAFTD\)](#) and the [United States Fire Administration \(USFA\)](#). Dr. Ramella was nominated to represent the IAFF.

Responder Forum participants have explored persistent fire concerns and emerging issues including data; smart technology; firefighter health and wellness; occupational exposure; energy storage systems; wood buildings; hostile events; civil unrest; natural disasters; and fire service cultural shifts. They worked on white papers, engaged in breakout discussions, spoke on panels, and connected with fire service innovators from 35 states, Canada and the United Kingdom.

NFPA President and CEO Jim Pauley told attendees, “Our challenges today may be different, but what is not different is that your community expects you to be there to protect them. The public needs and relies on all of you and your departments to protect them every single day – no matter what the risk, emergency, or new threat is.”

United States Fire Administrator Keith Bryant delivered the keynote address, and emphasized the role each attendee has in improving the fire service. He cited the need for leaders to realize “What you permit, you promote,” and told graduates that standing by silent while fire service members struggle with physical, behavioral, and occupational medical issues is not acceptable. The former Oklahoma fire chief and now the nation’s pre-eminent fire leader, Bryant’s message resonated with the advancing leaders.

The NFPA’s Responder Forum’s proactive, progressive formula has been applauded by participants, advisors, nominating organizations, speakers, and observers. The unique nature of the leadership and learning program brings together a cross-section of fire service representatives from different ethnic backgrounds, genders, geographic areas, and career levels – all working toward the goal of reducing loss in our world.

The Fire Service community will benefit from the wisdom and insight that Dr. Ramella will develop during her participation in the Responder Forum addressing issues concerning Behavioral Health in the fire service.

About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Founded in 1896, NFPA is a global, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freeaccess.