

Independence Fire Safe Council (IFSC)

Governance Structure

Vision

Create a wildland fire safe community in Independence

Mission

The IFSC is a volunteer community-based committee organized to support the community of Independence and the Independence Fire Protection District in:

- Promoting awareness of fire safe practices by providing information, education and resources to the community
- Reducing property loss due to wildland fires and their aftermath
- Facilitating homeowner assessments to assist in creating defensible spaces
- Enhancing the effectiveness of wildland firefighting efforts
- Preserving healthy wildland habitat and native plant communities
- Seeking grants and other funds to aid in community fire safe projects and fire prevention awareness activities
- Facilitating interagency coordination, fire protection, and fire safety projects
- Assisting in creation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Structure

The IFSC is a separate volunteer committee functioning under the governance of the Independence Fire Protection District. The Independence Volunteer Fire Department Chief provides direction and guidance to the IFSC and functions as its representative to the Fire Commissioners. The Fire Commission will provide consent and input consistent with its role and responsibilities to the Independence Volunteer Fire Department.

An Executive Committee is charged with record keeping, seeking funding for community projects through grant applications, planning events and projects that foster a fire wise community, providing educational materials and programs for residents, creating partnerships with agencies and individuals to further the mission of the IFSC, and updating the Fire Commission on IFSC activities. The Executive Committee will also facilitate the community-wide fire safe council meetings and create working groups for designated IFSC projects. The Executive Committee is composed of five officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and 2 additional officers from the community. The term of each officer is 2 years.

The specific tasks of each officer are as follows, the Chair sets the agenda and runs the business meeting, the Vice-Chair fills in for the Chair or Secretary in their absence, the Secretary/Treasurer records & archives the minutes and collaborates

with the Fire Commissioner's Secretary to manage the funds & accounts and reports activities to the membership.

The members of the Executive Committee will be appointed by the Fire Chief. Anyone interested in serving on the Executive Committee will submit a letter of interest to the Independence Volunteer Fire Department Chief. The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly, and more frequently if needed. Anyone from the community may attend meetings.

Community-wide fire safe council meetings will be conducted twice per year or more as needed. The meetings will be facilitated by the Executive Committee. Meetings will provide an opportunity to collect community input on issues of concern regarding a fire safe community, to provide education on fire safe practices and to report on Executive Committee activities.

This document may be amended at any time by the Executive Committee of the Independence Fire Safe Council.