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**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2022 6:57 PM  
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**Subject:** Big City Fire Annual event synopsis

Hello Sir,

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Jamar L. Sullivan

Chicago Fire Department

District Chief

**Synopsis from the Big City Fire Annual event in New York City, NY – September 14-15, 2022**

District Chief Jamar L. Sullivan and Deputy District Chief Curtis Hudson

The purpose of the Big City Fire Think Tank (BCF) is to connect representatives from the largest fire departments in the United States in order to discuss shared issues and concerns that are not addressed by other groups and associations. The BCF focuses on the large departments because they represent a significant number of career personnel and are the recipients of a substantial portion of DHS Preparedness Grants funding. The BCF's collective knowledge can influence the development or refinement of requirements for technology or knowledge products in a manner that supports DHS goals for meeting the ever-changing needs of the Nation's emergency responders. In addition, many of these fire departments have specialty staff that allow them to.

We discussed the following items that we compiled from our on-line meetings:

- NFIRS requirements input
- Turnout gear/PFAS management
- New technology in Class B foam
- Incident type definitions

- Energy related emergency response guidance
- Energy emergency team organizations/cache guidance
- Immersive training (AR/VR) requirements/FFI

We prioritized these and other issues, developed subgroups, and rules of engagement for our future efforts. Next steps will be to assign subgroups to the issues we prioritize to work on now and to organize a leadership structure in the group.

On day two we started the day working on the paper that had been developed regarding the safety requirements for SCBA's. This project started during the pandemic and was mostly conducted via on-line meetings. We reviewed the report, and we are now sending it for a tech review and hopefully publishing. I will attach a copy with this document.

We spent the remainder of our time discussing the common issues that we have with Lithium-ion battery power. We discussed the problems presented with the extinguishment of cars, buses, storage tanks and storage banks. We agreed that we need to present working material from our groups that challenge the middle producers and manufacturers to develop safety measures that would allow us to ensure first responder safety when responding to incidents involving Lithium-ion battery fires. If we can present these to our department's leadership and encouraging them to form a unified response to the industry, we believe that we can inspire action from the industry. Safety managers from Tesla addressed the group and gave us a good idea of what their future for expansion looks like and answered questions from the group regarding the safety of their products. We also heard some extensive presentations from some of our peers that are leading the way on awareness of this problem.

We plan to move the meeting to different locations in the future. We are hosting next year's Homeland Security Conference and I plan to nominate Chicago as a site to host our next in-person meeting. I plan to work with the group for the foreseeable future to make sure the Chicago has an active role in helping to drive solutions to these problems. I also plan to bring in some of our own subject matter experts when needed.