



# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release:

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## WINTER PARK FIRE-RESCUE RECEIVES 2009 SAFETY PERFORMANCE AWARD

**WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner (October 15, 2009)** – On September 4, 2009, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) awarded Winter Park Fire-Rescue Chief, James E. White, and the Fire-Rescue Department, the **Garry Briese IAFC Safety Performance Award**, sponsored by Salamander Technologies.

The Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department (WPFDR) successfully designed, developed and implemented a safer ambulance patient compartment for America's firefighters. Beginning with a basic goal to improve safety, the Winter Park team presented their Ambulance Safety Initiative (ASI) to designers and vehicle manufacturers who helped commence the movement toward safer ambulance designs. The ASI incorporates dramatically improved personal restraint systems for paramedics and patients. Because it is crucial for paramedics to have access to various equipment and controls, the new design reconfigured critical elements. Seated and belted paramedics now have the ability to remain safe while they treat their patients.

The IAFC represents the leadership of over 1.2 million firefighters and emergency responders. IAFC members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, emergency medical services, terrorism response, hazardous materials spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety legislation. The Safety, Health and Survival Section was established in 2005 to provide a specific component within the IAFC to concentrate on policies and issues relating to the health and safety of firefighters.

For more information regarding the IAFC, please visit [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org).

For more information regarding the WPFDR, please visit the city's official Web site at [www.cityofwinterpark.org](http://www.cityofwinterpark.org).

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