



NPSTC

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council

Press Release

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Chief Charles Werner Receives Richard DeMello Award 2008

Each year, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) presents an award to one public safety communications person who has demonstrated the highest levels of personal and professional conduct and performance in the local, state, and national public safety communications arena. NPSTC's Governing Board is pleased to present the 2008 Richard DeMello award, named to honor the achievements of DeMello, one of the founding fathers of NPSTC, to Chief Charles Werner, Fire Chief of the Charlottesville, Virginia, Fire Department. Former DeMello Award winner Chief Harlin McEwen presented the award saying, "Charles has worked long and hard on behalf of the public safety community and is extremely worthy of the honor this award conveys."

Chief Werner, a 30-year veteran, was also honored by his peers in August when he received the Fire Chief Magazine 2008 Career Fire Chief of the Year. He is a three-time recipient of the Virginia Governors Award for Fire Service Excellence and has received the Virginia Fire Chiefs President's Award, the Virginia Piedmont Technology Council Spotlight Award, the International Association of Fire Chiefs President's Award, and two Life Saving Awards.

"Chief Werner's dedication to public safety on the national scene is as impressive as his service to his local community," says Ralph Haller, NPSTC Chair. "He is well-known throughout the fire and emergency services nationwide for his expertise in communications, technology, grants and leadership, serving on the Virginia Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee for many years." He is the Chair of the Department of Homeland Security's SAFECOM Executive Committee, is Chair of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Technology Council, and most recently, chaired the Digital Project Working Group, which investigated the possibility of unintelligible audio of digital systems in loud noise environments.

Chief Werner is a nationally published author with over 70 published articles. He serves on the editorial advisory boards for Firehouse Magazine, Firehouse.com, Urgent Communications (formerly Mobile Radio Technology), and Virginia Fire and Rescue Magazine. Chief Werner has provided testimony before Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), serving as a recognized authority on public safety communications on many panels. He serves on NPSTC's Governing Board as an Alternate representing IAFC.

NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials | American Radio Relay League | Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies | Association of Public Safety Communications Officials | Forestry Conservation Communications Association | International Association of Chiefs of Police | International Associate of Emergency Managers | International Association of Fire Chiefs | International Municipal Signal Association | National Association of State Chief Information Officers | National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials | National Association of State Foresters | National Association of State Technology Directors | National Sheriffs' Association | National Emergency Number Association
