

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5479

To provide for the development of new firefighting technology, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

Mr. CAMP introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

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## A BILL

To provide for the development of new firefighting technology, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Firefighting Research  
5        and Coordination Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.**

7        (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8 of the Federal Fire Pre-  
8        vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207) is  
9        amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
2           section (f); and

3           (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(e) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part  
7           of, the program conducted under subsection (a), the  
8           Administrator, in consultation with the National In-  
9           stitute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-  
10          Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and  
11          Inter-Operability, national voluntary consensus  
12          standards development organizations, and other in-  
13          terested parties, shall—

14                 “(A) develop new, and utilize existing,  
15                 measurement techniques and testing methodolo-  
16                 gies for evaluating new firefighting tech-  
17                 nologies, including—

18                         “(i) personal protection equipment;

19                         “(ii) devices for advance warning of  
20                         extreme hazard;

21                         “(iii) equipment for enhanced vision;

22                         “(iv) devices to locate victims, fire-  
23                         fighters, and other rescue personnel in  
24                         above-ground and below-ground structures;

1           “(v) equipment and methods to pro-  
2           vide information for incident command, in-  
3           cluding the monitoring and reporting of in-  
4           dividual personnel welfare;

5           “(vi) equipment and methods for  
6           training, especially for virtual reality train-  
7           ing; and

8           “(vii) robotics and other remote-con-  
9           trolled devices;

10          “(B) evaluate the compatibility of new  
11          equipment and technology with existing fire-  
12          fighting technology; and

13          “(C) support the development of new vol-  
14          untary consensus standards through national  
15          voluntary consensus standards organizations for  
16          new firefighting technologies based on tech-  
17          niques and methodologies described in subpara-  
18          graph (A).

19          “(2) NEW EQUIPMENT MUST MEET STAND-  
20          ARDS.—For equipment for which applicable vol-  
21          untary consensus standards have been established,  
22          the Administrator shall, by regulation, require that  
23          equipment or systems purchased through the assist-  
24          ance program established by section 33 meet or ex-  
25          ceed applicable voluntary consensus standards.”.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
2 17 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
3 (15 U.S.C. 2216) is amended by adding at the end the  
4 following:

5 “(i) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—There  
6 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to  
7 carry out section 8(e) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2003.”.

8 **SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EMER-**  
9 **GENCY.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the Federal Fire  
11 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2209) is  
12 amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
14 section (c); and

15 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(b) MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, after  
19 consultation with the Director of the Federal Emer-  
20 gency Management Agency, shall provide technical  
21 assistance and training to State and local fire serv-  
22 ice officials to establish nationwide and State mutual  
23 aid systems for dealing with national emergencies  
24 that—

1           “(A) include threat assessment and equip-  
2           ment deployment strategies;

3           “(B) include means of collecting asset and  
4           resource information to provide accurate and  
5           timely data for regional deployment; and

6           “(C) are consistent with the Federal  
7           Emergency Management Agency’s Federal Re-  
8           sponse Plan.

9           “(2) MODEL MUTUAL AID PLANS.—The Admin-  
10          istrator, in consultation with the Director of the  
11          Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall de-  
12          velop and make available to State and local fire serv-  
13          ice officials model mutual aid plans for both intra-  
14          state and interstate assistance.”.

15          (b) REPORT ON STRATEGIC NEEDS.—Within 90 days  
16          after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator  
17          of the United States Fire Administration shall report to  
18          the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-  
19          portation and the House of Representatives Committee on  
20          Science on the need for a strategy concerning deployment  
21          of volunteers and emergency response personnel (as de-  
22          fined in section 6 of the Firefighters’ Safety Study Act  
23          (15 U.S.C. 2223e), including a national credentialing sys-  
24          tem, in the event of a national emergency.

1 (c) UPDATE OF FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN.—Within  
2 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Di-  
3 rector of the Federal Emergency Management Agency  
4 shall—

5 (1) revise that Agency’s Federal Response Plan  
6 to incorporate plans for responding to terrorist at-  
7 tacks, particularly in urban areas, including fire de-  
8 tection and suppression and related emergency serv-  
9 ices; and

10 (2) transmit a report to the Senate Committee  
11 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the  
12 House of Representatives Committee on Science de-  
13 scribing the action taken to comply with paragraph  
14 (1).

15 **SEC. 4. TRAINING.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal  
17 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.  
18 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in  
20 subparagraph (E);

21 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-  
22 paragraph (N); and

23 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-  
24 lowing:

25 “(F) strategies for building collapse rescue;

1           “(G) the use of technology in response to  
2 fires, including terrorist incidents and other na-  
3 tional emergencies;

4           “(H) response, tactics, and strategies for  
5 dealing with terrorist-caused national catas-  
6 trophes;

7           “(I) use of and familiarity with the Fed-  
8 eral Emergency Management Agency’s Federal  
9 Response Plan;

10          “(J) leadership and strategic skills, includ-  
11 ing integrated management systems operations  
12 and integrated response;

13          “(K) applying new technology and devel-  
14 oping strategies and tactics for fighting forest  
15 fires;

16          “(L) integrating terrorism response agen-  
17 cies into the national terrorism incident re-  
18 sponse system;

19          “(M) response tactics and strategies for  
20 fighting fires at United States ports, including  
21 fires on the water and aboard vessels; and”.

22          (b) CONSULTATION ON FIRE ACADEMY CLASSES.—  
23 The Superintendent of the National Fire Academy may  
24 consult with other Federal, State, and local agency offi-  
25 cials in developing curricula for classes at the Academy.

1           (c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS TO  
2 AVOID DUPLICATION.—The Administrator of the United  
3 States Fire Administration shall coordinate training pro-  
4 vided under section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention  
5 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) with the  
6 Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human  
7 Services, and the heads of other Federal agencies—

8                   (1) to ensure that such training does not dupli-  
9 cate existing courses available to fire service per-  
10 sonnel; and

11                   (2) to establish a mechanism for eliminating  
12 duplicative training programs.

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