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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

November 16, 2010

Dear Fire Chief:

During the month of November, Explore Information Services, LLC, through a contract with the Federal Government, will be contacting you to update Missouri's fire department information contained in the National Fire Station Database. The survey will capture current information in an effort to maintain the database which provides a comprehensive overview of our country's fire service infrastructure and emergency response capabilities.

For more than six years this database has been a resource, supporting Federal and State agencies with situational awareness and critical infrastructure information in times of a national, state or regional emergency. Missouri data collected will also support various efforts of the State Fire Marshal's Office relating to the fire mutual aid system, fire incident data reporting, firefighter training, hazmat responses, wildland fire response, etc. In addition, the data collected supports initiatives of Missouri's Homeland Security Office.

In April 2007, the last Missouri survey effort resulted in a 73% response. Since the 2007 survey, data collection efforts have improved to include an online survey option.

I encourage all of you to assist in this important upcoming effort to capture accurate and up to date information pertaining to Missouri's fire service agencies. Information provided will ONLY be used by authorized entities.

If you would like to complete this survey electronically, a copy of the survey can be downloaded at www.nationalfirestation.com. In addition to the survey you will also be asked to provide your Primary (responding) boundaries for your station(s). If these boundaries are available as a digital GIS layer, please email the files to GIS@exploredata.com or send a copy on CD with the survey.

I appreciate your support of this effort and if you have any questions regarding the survey please contact Explore Information Services at 800-531-9125 (option 3) or contact Kathy Enga at Kathy.enga@exploredata.com or 651-405-4266.

Sincerely,

Randy L. Cole
Missouri State Fire Marshal