**Revised and Amended**

**Resolution No. 15**

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health and Safety**

**Re: Study of Firefighters Exposed to Radio Frequency (RF)**

**Radiation from Cell Towers/Masts**

1 WHEREAS, fire stations across the United States

2 and Canada are being sought by wireless companies as

3 base stations for the antennas and towers for the

4 conduction of cell phone transmissions; and

5 WHEREAS, many firefighters who are living with

6 cell towers on or adjacent to their stations are paying a

7 substantial price in terms of physical and mental health.

8 As first responders and protectors of the general public,

9 it is crucial that firefighters are functioning at optimal

10 cognitive and physical capacity at all times; and

11 WHEREAS, the brain is the first organ to be

12 affected by RF radiation and symptoms manifest in a

13 multitude of neurological conditions including migraine

14 headaches, extreme fatigue, disorientation, slowed

15 reaction time, vertigo, vital memory loss and attention

16 deficit amidst life threatening emergencies; and

17 WHEREAS, most of the firefighters who are

18 experiencing symptoms can attribute the onset to the

19 first week(s) these towers/antennas were activated; and

20 WHEREAS, RF radiation is emitted by these

21 cellular antennas and RF radiation can penetrate every

22 living cell, including plants, animals and humans; and

23 WHEREAS, both the U. S. and Canadian

24 governments established regulatory limits for RF

25 radiation based on thermal (heat) measurements with

26 no regard for the adverse health effects from

27 non-thermal radiation which is proven to harm the

28 human brain and immune system; and

29 WHEREAS, the U. S. Environmental Protection

30 Agency stated in a July 16, 2002, letter, “Federal

31 health and safety agencies have not yet developed

32 policies concerning possible risk from long-term,

33 non-thermal exposures. The FCC’s exposure

34 guideline is considered protective of effects arising

35 from a thermal mechanism (RF radiation from cell

36 towers is non-thermal) but not from all possible

37 mechanisms. Therefore, the generalization by many

38 that the guidelines protecting human beings from

39 harm by any or all mechanisms is not justified”; and

40 WHEREAS, an Expert Panel Report requested

41 by the Royal Society of Canada prepared for Health

42 Canada (1999) stated that, “Exposure to RF fields at

43 intensities far less than levels required to produce

44 measurable heating can cause effects in cells and

45 tissues. These biological effects include alterations

46 in the activity of the enzyme ornithine decarboxylase,

47 in calcium regulation, and in the permeability of the

48 blood-brain barrier. Some of these biological effects

49 brought about by non-thermal exposure levels of RF

50 could potentially be associated with adverse health

51 effects”; and

52 WHEREAS, based on concerns over growing

53 scientific evidence of dangers from RF radiation, an

54 international conference was convened in Salzburg,

55 Austria, in the summer of 2000 where renowned

56 scientists declared the upper-most RF radiation

57 exposure limit from a tower-mast should be 1/10th of

58 1 microwatt (Note that 1/10th of 1 microwatt is 10,000

59 times lower than the uppermost limit allowed by the

60 U. S. or Canada.); and it should be noted this limit was

61 set because of study results showing brain wave

62 changes at 1/10th of 1 microwatt; and

63 WHEREAS, in a recently cleared paper by Dr.

64 Richard A. Albanese of the U. S. Air Force, a

65 highly recognized physician in the area of the impact of

66 radiation on the human body, Dr. Albanese states, “I

67 would ask a good faith effort in achieving as low

68 exposure rates as are possible within reasonable

69 financial constraints. Also I would fund targeted

70 studies using animal subjects and human groups living

71 or working in high radiation settings or heavy cellular

72 phone users, emphasizing disease causations. I urge

73 acceptance of the ideal that there should be no

74 unmonitored occupational or environmental exposures

75 whose associated disease rates are unknown.” (The

76 opinions expressed herein are those of Dr. Albanese,

77 and do not reflect the policies of the United States

78 Air Force.); and

79 WHEREAS, recently a study, not affiliated with

80 the wireless industry, was conducted of firefighters

81 exposed to RF radiation from cell towers/antennas

82 affixed to their stations. The study revealed brain

83 damage that can be differentiated from chemical

84 causation (such as inhalation of toxic smoke) suggesting

85 RF radiation as the cause of the brain damage found on

86 SPECT scans; and

87 WHEREAS, firefighters are the protectors of

88 people and property and should be protected under the

89 Precautionary Principle of Science and therefore, unless

90 radiation is proven safe and harmless, cellular

91 antennas should not be placed on or near fire stations;

92 therefore be it

93 RESOLVED, That the IAFF shall seek funding for an

94 initial U. S. and Canadian study with the highest scientific

95 merit and integrity, contrasting firefighters with residence

96 in stations with towers to firefighters without similar

97 exposure; and be it further

98 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the results of

99 the study, the IAFF will establish protective policy

100 measures with the health and safety of all firefighters

101 as the paramount objective; and be it further

102 RESOLVED, That the IAFF oppose the use of fire stations

103 as base stations for antennas and towers for the conduction

104 of cell phone transmissions until such installations are

105 proven not to be hazardous to the health of our members.

Submitted by: Local 3368, Carpinteria-Summerland, California

Cost Estimate: None

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Revised**

**CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted as Revised and Amended**