

Why Support the Foundation?

DURING CHALLENGING ECONOMIC times, every organization needs to take a close look at money coming in and money going out and determine what areas are critical to their survival. “By any measure, this downturn represents by far, the deepest global recession since the Great Depression,” the International Monetary Fund declared in March.

As the IMF also observed in March, recoveries that follow a recession caused by a major financial meltdown are typically slower than a recession caused by some other means—quite unsettling observations. Why, then, would any organization continue to give to a foundation when they could just as easily justify their normal contribution as something that ‘we just can’t do this year’?

Several reasons come to mind:

- They have the money and can afford to do so.
- They like the work that the organization does and want to support them.
- They see some indirect benefit from the work the organizations does. For example, support of a cancer institute may be seen as an indirect benefit if some day I should be diagnosed with cancer and my contributions have been directed at helping to find a cure.
- They need another tax break.
- They feel a sense of community obligation.

The many good companies that support this Foundation have enabled us to continue sharing our mission of “*Promoting secure and safe openings that enhance life safety.*” They have given us the financial support that allows us to reach out to the fire official community, building code officials, school administrators and health care officials all in the name of promoting awareness for safer openings.

Is it easy to offer financial support above and beyond what the Door and Hardware Institute normally asks for on a yearly basis? I would offer that this type of support is not always easy, but it is justified in the eyes of a contributor when they see the benefit that it brings.


And, we are seeing these benefits today. The state of California will begin enforcement of the fire

By Bill Johnson, *Managing Director,*
Foundation for the Advancement of Life Safety and Security

door inspection on August 1st. The city of Denver has already begun the inspection of high-rise apartment buildings. AHJs who attended our training session in Maine are beginning to require inspections of fire-rated openings in their local jurisdictions. And, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the American Society of Health Care Engineering have partnered with the Foundation to share important educational material.

These good companies (and individuals) that support DHI have gone above and beyond by continuing to support the Foundation. These companies are largely responsible for the Foundation’s success by enabling us to continue to provide education and create awareness for important changes—changes that fire and code officials need to be made aware of so that these changes can be enforced. This education and awareness is creating results.

These results will also be shared with these companies’ representatives in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. It is important that these elected officials, who are making important legislative decisions on fire and school safety issues, are aware of the on-going commitment by these companies. It is a commitment that not only needs to be recognized by this industry, but by our elected officials who should be proud of these companies that reside within their district and state.

These economic times have made our tasks challenging. With our contributors’ support and the Foundation board’s attention to detail in overseeing expenses and program implementation, we will continue to deliver results that promote secure and safe openings that enhance life safety. That is why we need you to support this Foundation. 

Please visit:

www.lifesafetysecurity.org for a list of contributors.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTmid8CUTUo> for a Foundation video clip which highlights the need for your continued interest and support in the Foundation’s work.

<http://www.lifesafetysecurity.org/FoundContribute.htm> and click on ‘Make a Donation’ or by sending an email to bjohnson@lifesafetysecurity.org to offer financial support.