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## International Association for Fire Safety Science

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The International Association for Fire Safety Science (IAFSS) recognizes the important and unique role of the National Research Institute of Fire and Disaster (NRIFD) in performing both fundamental and applied research for fire safety and disaster mitigation. As an international organization in the field of fire safety science, IAFSS is well aware of the excellent research that has been performed at NRIFD over the years and NRIFD's clear and substantial role in the efforts to mitigate the risks of fire and disaster not only within Japan but also internationally.

These research activities have an increasing importance in the face of ongoing problems in relation to fire, earthquakes, and the enhanced risks of incendiarism and terrorism. Loss or reduction of their current capabilities would hamper the ability of Japan to respond to and mitigate risks of fire and natural disaster. IAFSS urges substantive consideration of the important mission and role of NRIFD in any reorganization to all parties concerned.

Craig Beyler

Chairman

The International Association for Fire Safety Science