SAFER R&R Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity Highlights

There is new guidance in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)](#) for the SAFER grant program for FY 2016 that applicants should be aware of:

1. The narrative of the application (pages 19-20 of the NOFO) is specific to the areas to be covered:
   a. Project description (30%)
      i. Describe the problems with recruiting volunteers in your area
      ii. Describe the implementation plan to address the problems
      iii. Describe how recruitment will impact department operational capabilities
      iv. Explain any regional impact
   b. Impact on daily operations (30%)
      i. Describe how your firefighters or community is at risk
      ii. Provide details on NFPA 1710/1720 compliance
   c. Financial need (30%)
      i. Provide additional details on operating budget to include breakdown of income and expenses
      ii. Describe budget shortfalls
      iii. Discuss what critical functions are affected without funding
   d. Cost benefit (10%)
      i. Describe the benefits to the department and the community

2. The priorities (NOFO pages 36-39) now have additional score weights:
   a. Staffing standards (NFPA 1710/1720)
   b. Percentage of volunteer membership
   c. Recruitment/retention plan
   d. Call volume
   e. Firefighter health measures (note that departments with NFPA 1582 physicals score HIGH, others MEDIUM)
   f. Training requirements (note that FFII and EMT score HIGH, FFI score MEDIUM)
   g. Recruitment and retention coordinator (note if you have one you score HIGH) (also note that this does not have to be a paid recruiter but can be someone in your department responsible for R&R)
   h. Evaluation plan (note that this is required for a HIGH score)
   i. Marketing plan (note that this is required for a HIGH score)

3. R&R activities have also been given priorities (HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW) (NOFO pages 44-50). This is the first time that FEMA has clearly spelled out priorities for items and the lists should be reviewed by applicants.