



# St. Louis Park

## MINNESOTA

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## News Release

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## St. Louis Park Fire Chief named 2009 Fire Officer of the Year

St. Louis Park, Minn. – The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) has named St. Louis Park Fire Chief Luke Stemmer its 2009 Officer of the Year for all cities statewide with a population of more than 2,000 people.

Stemmer has been a part of the fire service for more than 30 years, and after climbing through the ranks of St. Louis Park’s fire department, he became chief in 2001. The MSFCA is made up of more than 2,000 chief fire officers that represent nearly 600 departments in Minnesota.

Stemmer was nominated for the venerated award based on his leadership of the St. Louis Park Fire Department as well as his regional and statewide leadership related to the fire service and emergency management. Also noted in his nomination was the incredible compassion for which he is known to show residents faced with tragedy.

Beyond the city limits, though, Stemmer has worked tirelessly to advance regional collaboration, preparedness and education. Some of the activities he’s been involved with include: mentoring children and people within the fire service; previous chairman of the Southwest Mutual Aid Association; instrumental leader and designer for creating the “auto aid” system with neighboring fire departments; served as a union president prior to his

management position; chairman of the State Code Committee; and a member of many other city, state and national organizations and committees.

“Luke is tremendous firefighter,” said St. Louis Park City Manager Tom Harmening. “But Luke’s ability to lead, motivate and make a difference in people’s lives extends far beyond emergency situations. He’s an asset to the city, the community and the entire state. We’re very excited to see him receive this much-deserved honor.”

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