



## *Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs*

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### **Resolution of the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs Urging Federal Regulation and Safety Standards for Refrigerated Shipping Containers**

**WHEREAS**, refrigerated shipping containers, commonly known as “reefer containers,” are widely used throughout the United States for the transport and storage of perishable goods; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently no comprehensive federal regulations governing the contents, refrigerants, internal systems, or safety protocols associated with refrigerated containers; and

**WHEREAS**, the absence of standardized federal safety regulations and mandatory labeling requirements creates significant hazards for first responders, port workers, emergency managers, and the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, reefer containers may contain pressurized, unregulated gases, compromised electrical or refrigeration systems, and oxygen-deficient or toxic atmospheres capable of causing sudden explosions or deadly conditions without warning; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of transparency regarding container contents and hazards severely impedes the ability of emergency personnel to safely and effectively mitigate incidents involving refrigerated containers; and

**WHEREAS**, the line-of-duty death of Battalion Chief Chris Eddy underscores the grave and immediate dangers posed by unregulated refrigerated containers and highlights the urgent need for federal action to protect those who risk their lives in emergency response; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of uniform federal standards would significantly improve responder safety, incident mitigation, and public protection across all U.S. ports, transportation corridors, and communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs formally urges the United States Congress and appropriate federal agencies to sponsor, support, and enact legislation that:

1. **Establishes federal safety standards for refrigerated containers**, including mandatory labeling of all contents, refrigerants, and identifiable hazards;
2. **Creates a national registry or tracking system** for refrigerated containers entering and transiting U.S. ports to ensure transparency, accountability, and situational awareness;
3. **Mandates training and awareness programs** for first responders, port authorities, emergency managers, and related personnel on the hazards and safe handling of refrigerated container incidents;
4. **Implements accountability and compliance measures** for manufacturers, shippers, container owners, and operators to ensure adherence to safety, reporting, and disclosure requirements;
5. **Directs the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Coast Guard** to jointly develop, enforce, and oversee inspection, certification, and compliance requirements for refrigerated containers; and
6. **Allocates federal funding** to support local and regional emergency response agencies with specialized equipment, training, and resources necessary to safely respond to refrigerated container incidents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs recognizes the sacrifice of Battalion Chief Chris Eddy and affirms that meaningful federal regulation of refrigerated containers is essential to preventing similar tragedies and safeguarding the lives of first responders and the public.

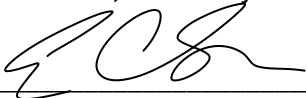
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other relevant federal stakeholders for consideration and action.

**Adopted by Unanimous Vote of the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs on February 20, 2026 at Owensboro, KY.**



Steve Kyle

President, Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs



Eric Colson

Secretary, Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

