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**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE**

NEWS RELEASE

84th Annual Illinois Fire College Planned

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (February 29, 2008) – The University of Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has scheduled its 84th Annual Fire College for Thursday, May 29 through Sunday, June 1, 2008. The annual weekend training event is IFSI's premier training event, led by the top professionals in the industry.

Registration will begin on March 31. Students are encouraged to register online through IFSI's web site to increase their chances of getting the classes they want. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis; however, any registrations received before March 31 will be returned unprocessed.

Thirty-two different classes are being offered this year at Fire College, including 23 hands-on classes. More than 80 percent of the classes are limited enrollment. Students registering on-site may have fewer class choices. Unlike past years, there will not be on-site registration nor check-in on Wednesday night prior to the start of Fire College.

Classes are available as 12-hour classes offered on Thursday and Friday and/or Saturday and Sunday. Most are repeated. There are also three 24-hour classes being offered.

More than 1,000 Illinois firefighters and emergency personnel are expected to register for this year's Fire College. Training is held at the Institute's Champaign training ground and other locations throughout the community.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute is the statutory fire academy for the state of Illinois. In addition to training provided at the Champaign campus, the Institute offers online classes and conducts and sponsors training throughout the state at Regional Training Centers and local fire stations. The mission of the Illinois Fire Service Institute is to help firefighters do their work through training, education, information and research.

Complete details about Fire College can be found at IFSI's web site at www.fsi.uiuc.edu. The 2008 brochure is now posted online at <http://www.fsi.uiuc.edu/documents/flyers/fire%20college/2008.pdf>

Students can also contact Terri Hopper at (217) 244-7131 or by email at hopper@fsi.uiuc.edu.