

# AROUND THE STATE



## A Word from our Fire Service Partners

**From the Editor:** The following column is intended to provide our readers an update on fire service activities from around the state.

### Office of the State Fire Marshal



In July 2017 the OSFM issued a notice to local municipal and government authorities regarding the applicability of the state-adopted *Life Safety Code*. In this memo Fire Marshal Perez clarified the role of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in matters related to fire safety inspections conducted within the State of Illinois and encouraged local fire departments/fire protection districts to be vigilant in pre-planning and identifying hazards in all buildings within their respective communities. Routine fire safety inspections not only ensure that buildings are safe, they also provide an opportunity to pre-plan and get familiar with the building so firefighters will know what to expect during an emergency. To facilitate local inspections, OSFM recognized the need for additional tools and training that could be used by fire service personnel across the state.

In an effort to help municipal fire departments and fire protection districts that do not have a fire inspection program, OSFM is developing an online instructional program that supplements existing knowledge for members of the Illinois fire service who do not have formal inspection training or certification for performing the inspections that are required by the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS 25). OSFM is also creating a sample inspection checklist that can be modified or tailored to fit the needs of the local fire department or fire protection district.

The online instruction program will provide a "Core Program" which will

discuss basic life safety topics such as means of egress, building construction, protection of hazards, fire protection systems, fire-rated construction, interior finish, as well as discussion on NFPA 101 *Life Safety Code* (2000) that is adopted by OSFM and should be referenced during these inspections. In addition to the Core Program there will be 13 occupancy-based programs that discuss the unique features of the various occupancies that a local authority may have within their jurisdiction, such as assembly occupancies, industrial occupancies, and mercantile occupancies.

The draft programs and checklist are completed and being reviewed by OSFM Staff. With an eye towards roll-out in 2018, OSFM is currently investigating the ideal platform for presenting this program on OSFM's website. In the future OSFM hopes to also provide live, interactive, web-based training for local fire service personnel. Stay tuned!!

Link to above-referenced memo:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/MunicipalityNoticeRegardingApplicabilityOfLifeSafetyCode.pdf>

**Matt Perez**  
State Fire Marshal

### Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Hello Fall, I am sure we are all ready for some cooler temperatures, raking leaf's and planning for the upcoming holidays. The IFCA – VCOC held their annual conference in September in Bloomington



and it was a big success. Great speakers and venues that will keep us returning to Bloomington for the next several years. Our Annual Conference was held in Peoria from October 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>. We had several excellent speakers along with recognition of scholarship recipients and thanking several members for their service to IFCA and the Fire Service of Illinois. We also transitioned the Presidency from Chief Jim Kreher to Chief John Christian. Chief Mark Pukniatis of Naperville FD is now our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Chief Greg Earle from Centralia FPD is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.

We will also have welcomed some new members to the board as well as several returning to continue representing the IFCA. Chief Mike Mavrogeorge is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Great Lakes Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

During the conference we will also voted on a few new amendments to the constitution along with establishing another directors position where the president will appoint a member of the VCOC team to represent the committee plus assist with several other assignments. The IFCA assessment team is ready to serve the members of the fire service with promotion testing, new hire interviews and consulting services. If you are currently using our services we thank you and we will continue to bring you a professional process. If you have not used our services please give us the opportunity to provide you with our services. We feel we will deliver you quality and professionalism in every aspect. Contact Dave Slivinski our Consulting Manager.

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The Blue-Ribbon Report Committee has just finished our updated survey under the guidance of Chief Al Yancey and Executive Director Cheri Brenneman. We had just over 400 responses to the survey which will give us a great foundation for addressing the fire service needs in Illinois. Our next step is gathering the data, assigning work teams to address the questions and comments. We will then be developing a new/updated report that will go to the Governor and all elected officials in 2018.

The Medal of Honor Committee will be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next May. More information will be out after the first of the year so please watch for announcements and if possible try to join us as we celebrate not on our anniversary, but the efforts of our Fire Service personnel plus remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The IFCA Education-Research Foundation continues to host a variety of Fire Officer Class and new Chief Officers programs. The Foundation also sponsors many scholarships every year, so please get the word to the members of your organization to apply for funding that will assist them with certifications and college funding.

The Illinois Fire Chiefs are holding the following events:

- **48th Annual Symposium,**  
East Peoria IL - May 16-18, 2018
- **9th Annual VCOC Conference,**  
Bloomington/Normal  
September 15-16, 2018
- **68th Annual Conference**  
Peoria IL - October 14-16, 2018

We are in the midst of updating our website [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org) and I am sure once we have completed this project you will find our site to be helpful and easy to use.

If you have any questions or need information please do not hesitate in contacting me or our IFCA office. [Jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:Jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org) 1-847-966-0732.

**Jim Grady III**  
**Executive Director**

## Illinois Fire Safety Alliance

**Update to 30 Year Old Smoke Detector Act Will Help Reduce Fire Deaths in Illinois**



On August 18th, following an extended legislative and public affairs campaign led by the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance to increase awareness of the importance of working smoke alarms, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner signed HB 3773 into law. This bill updates the 30 year old Smoke Detector Act to reflect advances in technology and provides that over the next 5 years, forward, newly installed smoke alarms contain a self-contained, long-lasting battery. Since 1988, all dwelling units in Illinois have been required to have smoke alarms. Dwellings built since 1988 have been required to have them hardwired in the home, however older dwellings still have battery operated alarms.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, data maintained by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) showed that Illinois has experienced 76 fire deaths in 2017, second in the nation only to New York State. The passage of this legislation will make Illinois safer, and help prevent future fire injuries and deaths. According to the National Fire Protection Association, three of every five home fire deaths occur in buildings without working smoke alarms, and firefighters frequently encounter alarms with missing or disabled batteries. Alarms equipped with sealed-in, long-lasting batteries are virtually impossible to disable, allowing residents a better chance to escape in the event of a fire.

The IFSA, along with many others within the Illinois fire service, has been aggressively pushing for a more modern smoke alarm law for some time. Thanks to the concerted efforts of fire service officials, healthcare advocates, and the Illinois General Assembly (including Bill sponsors Rep. Kathleen Willis and State Senator Martin A. Sandoval), this law is now a reality.

**Philip Zaleski**  
**IFSA Executive Director**

## Illinois Fire Services Association

**CALL TO ACTION: Protect the Fire Prevention Fund**



As part of the Budget Implementation Act, SB42, \$10 MILLION is to be swept from the Fire Prevention Fund. This is 23.5% of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's budget. The IFSA calls on you to contact your state representatives and state senators to explain to them what the fire prevention fund is and why it is so important to the fire service in Illinois. Ask them to support the restoration of the \$10 million to the Fire Prevention Fund. Here are some facts to help you:

### **THE FIRE PREVENTION FUND IS NOT FUNDED BY TAX REVENUE**

Insurance Companies pay 1% of the gross fire, sprinkler leakage, riot, civil commotion, explosion and motor vehicle fire risk premium receipts from business done in the State of Illinois during the previous year into the Fire Prevention Fund.

### **THE FIRE PREVENTION FUND PROVIDES THE BUDGET FOR THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL AND ESSENTIAL FIRE SERVICE FUNDING THROUGH GRANTS AND LOANS**

12.5% of the fund operates the Illinois Fire Service Institute (our State Fire Academy) that trains firefighters across the state and conduct vital life safety research to better protect firefighters.

2.5 % of the fund operates the Cornerstone Training Program that provides no-cost training to firefighters across the state. This training is most used by volunteer firefighters, who make up 75% of the firefighters in Illinois, and financially distressed fire departments and fire protection districts. For a perspective on relative impact, the funding from the Fire Prevention Fund/Cornerstone Program at IFSI trained; 12,212 firefighters during FY 2014, 16,478 firefighters during FY2015, and 11,284 firefighters during FY2016. This is approximately 22% of the 62,000+ 1st responder/students trained by IFSI annually. During FY2016, IFSI trained fire departments in 100 of 102 counties

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and provided training to 921 of over 1,168 fire departments in Illinois.

10% of the fund provides funding to the Chicago Fire Department Fire Academy to train the largest fire department in Illinois.

\$125,000 of the fund provides funding to the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) to insure disaster response vehicles, so that they are able to respond statewide.

### THE FIRE PREVENTION FUND:

- Is critical to the OSFM and IFSI Mission of protecting lives and property
- Provides critical training to firefighters across the state
- Provides needed firefighting equipment, fire trucks, ambulances and brush trucks to fire departments in financial need

### This fund sweep has caused the Office of the State Fire Marshal to make the following adjustments for budget year FY2018:

Elimination of Senior Officer Leadership and Management Training (\$55,000)-901 fire department leaders from across the state have attended 35 classes since 2008 to receive leadership and management training. Attendees are mostly from volunteer fire departments who would not have received this training otherwise.

Elimination of Additional, Needed, Cornerstone Training above the mandated 2.5% of the fund (\$350,000) - This funding would have provided 270 more very needed firefighting skills classes, training another 7,000 firefighters across the state.

Elimination of the Explorer-Cadet Training Program (\$65,000) - Volunteer departments make up 75% of the fire departments in Illinois and volunteers are becoming harder to recruit. Explorer-Cadet organizations are prime recruiting grounds for the future volunteer firefighters of Illinois. Each year approximately 250 young adults attend the Illinois Fire Service Institute Explorer-Cadet Fire School on the grounds of the state fire academy to provide a full spectrum of training to these

explorer-cadets. Without this funding, the explorer-cadet fire school will be cancelled.

Elimination of other Firefighter Training Programs (\$230,000) - Over the past 5 years, the Illinois Fire Service Institute has averaged 527 firefighters attending Summer Fire College; 118 firefighters attending Illinois Firefighters Association Weekend in the fall; and 262 firefighters attending Winter Fire School in January. This funding would have covered lodging costs at the Illinois Fire Service Institute during these programs. Volunteer and full-time firefighters from financially distressed fire departments cannot afford lodging.

Elimination of the Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program (\$3,000,000) 188 zero to low interest loans to 163 financially distressed fire departments (some fire departments have received more than 1) since the program started for fire trucks, ambulances, and brush trucks for a total of \$33.2 million.

Elimination of the Fire Station Revolving Loan Program (\$2,000,000) This program would have provided zero to low interest loans to fire departments for the purpose of making critically needed safety renovations.

Decrease in Small Equipment Grant Program (\$800,000) - Since 2007, 638 fire departments have received a maximum of \$26,000 grants for needed firefighting equipment for a total of \$11, 224, 00.00. Program was decreased \$800,000 due to the fund sweep.

Elimination of needed State Fire Museum Repairs (\$1,000,000) - The state fire museum at the state fairgrounds is in an extreme state of disrepair. This funding would have provided for badly needed repairs.

**Please contact your legislators and ask them to support the restoration of the \$10M swept from the fire prevention fund providing service to your firefighters**

**Chief Mike Mavrogeorge, Chairman  
IL Fire Services Association**

## Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals



I feel very honored and blessed to be the President of IFSAP and be working with the current Board. It has been a busy few months with lots of exciting things going on. The Board has been working very diligently to provide classes, finalize the ESP Program and put together the programs and special activities for the conference. Many Board Members not only volunteer their time at meetings, but most of them volunteer to be on a committee and help at various IFCA events. For this I want to say, "thank you."

### 2017 Annual Conference Recap

The conference took place in Bloomington-Normal on September 13 – 15. The conference kicked off with the Weary Traveler on Wednesday night. Members were given a fun icebreaker game to help them get to know each other or get to know each other just a little better.

The speakers were all very energetic, inspirational and outstanding speakers. Thursday morning started with Michele Gay presenting "A Parent's Perspective." Michele lost her daughter, Josephine in the Sandy Hook tragedy. She travels across the country sharing her powerful message of inspiration and school safety education. Allison Barrett from Lauterbach & Amen presented "Create Powerful Presentations" and the Jeopardy Game Show. There were two groups that were chosen for the game show and answered several questions in listed categories. They were cheered on by the whole crowd.

On Friday morning, we heard from Colleen Murphy from the Illinois Peer Support Team. Colleen gave us insight to the personality traits linked between behavioral health and the firefighter's job. Rita Emmett gave a dynamic presentation on "Strategies to Prevent Burnout." She is quite a humorous story teller. She told us to get out of our own way and start having fun today! Everyone seemed to love her and left feeling energized.

I was told by the speakers that they were inspired by our organization and felt privileged to be a speaker for our group.

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## Congratulations to Deerfield-Bannockburn FPD for protecting new homes with fire sprinklers



(left to right) Jeff Hansen, Kim Barkemeyer and Phil Bettiker of the Deerfield-Bannockburn FPD Board of Trustees and Fire Marshal Brian McCarthy, Deputy Chief Ray Larson and Fire Chief Ian Kazian of the Deerfield-Bannockburn FPD.

To provide improved minimum standards for fire and building safety to citizens, visitors and firefighters in the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District, **Fire Chief Ian Kazian, Deputy Chief Ray Larson and Fire Marshal Brian McCarthy working closely with the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District Board of Trustees**, have adopted the 2012 International Fire Code, and NFPA 101: Life Safety Code 2016 Edition that include provisions for fire sprinklers in new single-family homes, according to the NFPA 13D standard, and new townhomes. In addition, all new multifamily occupancies must also be protected by fire sprinklers.

Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District is one of more than 100 Illinois jurisdictions that follow fire sprinkler recommendations from FEMA's America Burning report and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives.

By having fire sprinkler provisions in the model codes, the district receives full points and credits from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule, which reduces insurance rates for all residents. It also ensures all residents receive the maximum insurance premiums from the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.

Congratulations to the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District for making fire sprinklers the district's front-line defense against fires, thereby protecting residents and responding firefighters to reduce injuries, deaths and property damage. The district is committed to providing fire- and life-safety protection for the community now and into the future.

### Congratulations to the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District Board of Trustees:

- President Phil Bettiker
- Secretary Jeff Hansen
- Treasurer Kim Barkemeyer

For more information go to:



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Thursday nights' dinner was followed by the Windy City Dueling Pianos. Their performance brought fun and tremendous energy into the room.

At the end of the day on Friday, the raffle tickets were drawn. Congratulations to all those that purchased tickets and won prizes. The raffle raised \$1,070. Many thanks to our conference sponsors and donors.

I want to thank the conference committee for their hard work in putting together a fantastic conference: Brendaliz Del Valle, Britta Eggebrect, Janice Gumprecht, Sue Huiner, Colleen Kolber, Jacque McLaughlin, Courtney Sasiadek, Sharon Sznalski and Kristin Wexell.

### Executive Support Program

The Executive Support Program (ESP) class started on September 6. There are 11 members participating in the ESP class. These participants are committed to becoming better trained and more effective in their roles as support personnel to their departments. This class will give them the opportunity to network and train together. I would like to encourage them to build friendships that continue throughout their career. Their last class will be November 28 with their graduation taking place at the Annual Awards Luncheon on December 15.

### 2017 Annual Luncheon and Graduation

Please join us at the 10th Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday, December 15, 2017 to be held at Belvedere Events & Banquets, 1170 West Devon Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL. There will be a cash bar beginning at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will begin at 12:00 p.m. We will present the 2017 Administrative Professional of the Year award along with the Executive Support Program Graduation and Membership Anniversary Pins. The cost for the luncheon is \$40 per person. The registration deadline is November 22, 2017. Payments must be received by December 1, 2017.

For more information on IFSAP visit our website at [www.ifsap.org](http://www.ifsap.org).

### Fire Inspectors Association

After a long wait, the State Fire Marshal now has rules in place for requiring recertification for Fire Inspector 1. The system is similar to what the fire investigators have used for several years successfully. At this point Fire Inspector 1 will need 100 points every four years. If you were certified at the time of the rules, you will need your hours in 2021. Anyone certified after the rules were in place will have their recertification date as four year from the date of certification.

Our annual Combined Conference in March in East Peoria is getting close. The committee met and selected the remaining speakers for the program. Once dates and times are confirmed, we will have additional information on the topics and speakers.

We already have tremendous Wednesday and Thursday keynote speakers. Wednesday morning will be Gordon Graham. Thursday morning keynotes will be Frank DeAngelis and Michelle Gay. While the names may not be familiar their stories are. They will be talking about the horrific school tragedies of Columbine High School and Sandy Hook School and the recovery process that follows. Frank was the principal of Columbine High School at the time of the shootings there and will chronicle the events of that day and the ones following. Michelle lost her daughter Josephine at Sandy Hook School. Michele co-founded Safe and Sound Schools as a national resource for school safety. She will share personal experiences and professional perspective on reunifying a school community in the aftermath of crisis. Thursday is a day that school administrators would be very interested in. Make sure you pass this information on to them. One day registrations are available for only \$175.

Due to the success of this year's pre-conference, we are doing that once again. On Tuesday afternoon we will have Meri-K Appy for a full afternoon of information. For non-IFIA members that is only an additional \$25



Register now for our Combined Conference on March 21 – 23, 2018 on our website at [www.illinoisfireinspectors.org](http://www.illinoisfireinspectors.org)

Registrations for hotel rooms can be made by calling 1-800-547-0711 and referencing code 0321FIR. They can also be made by going to <http://www.paradicecasino.com/groups> and typing in 0321FIR.

The summer month kept us busy. We partnered with the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board to have crowd of over 100 attend an NFPA 25 Summit in July. In August, the IFIA staffed the fire safety tent at the Illinois State Fair. In September, we hosted a full day seminar on Solar Panels. Approximately 70 people attended this event. Our annual golf outing was held in August, and once again we partnered with the Illinois Automatic Fire Alarm Association.

Our Annual Awards luncheon will be held on October 27th. This is the time when we recognize those individuals who have gone above and beyond for prevention and education activities.

The State Fire Marshal is hosting more public school inspection classes in order to gain local fire departments to inspect their schools. For any department looking to inspect schools, they should contact the OSFM.

A Fire Inspector II class will be at the New Lenox FPD in November. For registration, go to our website at [www.illinoisfireinspectors.org](http://www.illinoisfireinspectors.org)

Upcoming events – additional information is available on our website at [www.illinoisfireinspectors.org](http://www.illinoisfireinspectors.org):

- November - Fire Inspector 2 course
- November 17 - Mini seminar on multiple short topics, and membership meeting
- December 15 - Holiday luncheon
- April/May PFLSE course

**Robert Morris**  
**Executive Director**