

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 Illinois State Fire Marshal



As we begin 2024, I look back on my time so far as Illinois State Fire Marshal and truly feel blessed with this opportunity to serve. The OSFM is filled with a talented group of professionals who work hard to continue to fulfil the agencies mission of being dedicated to working with our partners and providing assistance to the fire service in the protection of life, property and environment through communication, inspection, certification and licensing. We look forward to continuing our commitment here at the OSFM of protecting life and property from fire and explosions through inspection, investigation, training, education, data processing and statistical fire reports in 2024. I want to wish everyone a happy, prosperous, and safe New Year. I look forward to meeting more of our fire service personnel and other leaders in our partner organizations.

I am excited to announce our new Deputy Director Allen Reyne. Chief Reyne comes to us with over 34 years of experience in the fire service. Before coming to the OSFM, Allen started as a volunteer in Godfrey while going to school and obtaining a paramedic license. He was hired full time in 1995 by Godfrey and came to the Springfield Fire Department in 1999. He became a Certified Fire Investigator through IAAI in 2001 and worked his way up through the ranks and becoming Fire Chief at the Springfield Fire Department in early 2018. He spent the last two years doing fire intelligence assigned to the Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center. Please join me in

welcoming Allen to the OSFM family! We have a few upcoming pyrotechnic/fireworks trainings for code officials.

- February 7th – Belleville
- March 13th- Naperville
- March 20th- Morton
- April 22nd- Moline

Please visit our website sfm.illinois.gov for more information about these upcoming classes and links to register. The OSFM continues our commitment to providing training and resources to our partners across the state. Also, be on the lookout for any upcoming Public-School Inspection and Youth Firesetter Intervention classes.

I want to stress the importance of making sure your FDMail account is up to date, and you are checking it regularly. This is one of our primary ways of direct communication with fire departments across the state. These eblasts provide grant announcements, OSFM hiring announcements, monthly newsletters, upcoming trainings, OSFM inspection reports conducted in your community, and so much more. If you are a Chief and have any issues with regards to this account, please reach out to the OSFM at 217.782-4542 for assistance.

The OSFM Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award nomination period is now open. Please provide a brief summary of how this person/department has shown extraordinary efforts in the furtherance of fire prevention and life safety. Nominations are due by March 1, 2024. You can find nomination forms on our website by visiting sfm.illinois.gov.

James A. Rivera.
Illinois State Fire Marshal

Illinois Fire Service Institute



This year is a very special one for IFSI as we celebrate our centennial year of operation. While the delivery of Fire College in 1925 officially marks our beginning, we will be recognizing our 100 years of training and traditions throughout 2024. Our efforts will include acknowledgment of our history, programs, staff, facilities, growth, partner relationships, and milestones. It truly will be an exciting year and engagement effort.



We encourage our stakeholders to follow us on all of our social media channels as we acknowledge our century of impact.

Save the Date for the 2024 Fire College where IFSI will deliver top quality training and host several centennial celebration activities: June 7-9, 2024.

ANNUAL EXPLORER CADET FIRE SCHOOL

We also encourage you to mark your calendars for another summer special event. IFSI is looking forward to welcoming

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back future members of the fire service in July. The 21st Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School is scheduled for July 18-21 in Champaign. Registration and program details will be available in early Spring.

NEW COURSE OFFERING



IFSI is pleased to announce the release of our newest training program, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). The Unmanned Aircraft Systems program provides knowledge, skills, and mission confidence to Federal Aviation Administration authorized remote pilots working in public safety roles. This includes personnel from Fire/EMS, Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, and other public safety agencies. The pilot delivery of sUAS is April 1-5.

In the pursuit of our mission accomplishment, IFSI will continue to listen, work with our fire service partners, and work tirelessly to meet the needs of firefighters and first responders in 2024.

Jim Keiken
Director

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Since 1983, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Educational and Research Foundation has funded scholarships to Firefighters and Fire Officers throughout Illinois. These scholarships are awarded to those members of the fire service pursuing education at the college level, fire officer training or other fire service training. The program awarded seven scholarships in that first year totaling \$4,400. Since then, the IFCA Foundation has provided nearly 3000 scholarships valued at over \$2,100,000. The application period for 2024 is now open and runs through March 15th. Check out www.illinoisfirechiefs.org for more



information. Scholarship awards are planned to be announced in May of 2024. To support these scholarships, the Foundation conducts a number of fundraisers, including blood drives, fishing and clay pigeon tournaments and, of course, the near famous golf outing (scheduled for July 10th in Bloomingdale). In addition, many scholarships are sponsored in the memory of a loved one or to recognize the accomplishments of a

fire service member. If you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship, contact Maureen at 847-966-0732.

Another pillar of the IFC Foundation is the fire officer and firefighter safety classes. The Instructor and Training Program Manager classes are focused on providing the fire officer with the tools needed to effectively provide training

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CAMP I AM ME

ILLINOIS FIRE SAFETY ALLIANCE

WHO WE ARE

Camp I Am Me by the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to serve and support burn survivors as well as to reduce fires and burn injuries through public education and awareness campaigns.

- 🔥 Empowering and supporting burn survivors residing in through a wide range of yearly programs and events.
- 🔥 Educating citizens, public agencies, and other organizations about fire safety and burn prevention.
- 🔥 Engaging with giving volunteers and generous donors to support the Camp I Am Me mission.

Burn survivor support programs include a one-week Summer Camp, Scholarships, Peer & Young Adult Support Groups, Family Days and other events held in non-judgmental environments where survivors can be themselves and with others who share similar life experiences.

Camp I Am Me brings fire safety public awareness and education programs to fire departments, hospitals, schools, child development centers, and children and adults throughout the state.



Visit campiamme.org to learn more!

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to the fire service's membership. Other classes are designed to give the fire officer the needed skills to function as a company officer or on-scene commander. The Chief Fire Officer Program is the premiere Fire Service Administrator program in Illinois, providing the Chief Officer the education needed to effectively run a Fire District. This is a very intensive program that takes more than 13 months to complete and is recognized throughout the Country.

As always, if we can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to contact me, or Maureen, at the IFCA office info@illinoisfirechiefs.org.

John Buckley
Executive Director, IFCA

IL Fire Inspectors Association

As we move into 2024, the IFIA swore in a new board in December, in Oak Lawn.



Left-right: Dan Medina, Scott McBride, David Wheeler, Jason Staidl, Michael Rons

The 2024 Fire and Life Safety Conference will be held at the Par-a-Dice hotel in East Peoria on March 20-22. There will be a "pre-conference" the afternoon of March 19th, which is free to IFIA members. The early bird cost of the full conference is only \$350. You can sign up now on our website. A full program with course descriptions and speaker bios is now posted on our website.

The IFIA offers Fire Inspector 1 and 2, and Public Fire and Life Safety classes. Check the website for details. If you have a financial need, **please note that scholarships are available!** You can fill out an

application, that is on our website, now!

Membership renewals for the 2024 have been sent out. If you are an organization that cannot submit an invoice until the new year, now is the time to renew. Please include all of the personnel you would like listed. We know that many have changed positions or retired, so we will use the list of names you provide to supersede anything we now have.

On February 21st, we will be partnering with sprinkler fitters local 281 and the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative, to run a free morning class. It will be regarding the new 2024 fire sprinkler contractor licensing act requirements.

The Board has developed way for companies to become a sponsor of the IFIA. These are good for a calendar year. The details for the various levels are listed below.

Our awards program is a year-round program. Throughout the year we accept

nominations for anyone who is deserving recognition for going above and beyond. It is also possible to nominate civilians or businesses. Check out our webpage for the different awards and their descriptions.

Upcoming events:

- Virtual mini-seminar – January 26
Summary of the Fire Alarm Requirements in NFPA 72 and the I-Codes
- Fire sprinkler contractor licensing act requirements seminar – February 21st, Sprinkler fitter's local 281 training center in Alsip
- IFIA Annual Fire and Life Safety Conference – March 19 – 22, 2024
- Public Fire and Life Safety Educator, Huntley – April 8-10 and 15-16
- Inspector 2 - Romeoville, Thursdays Sept 5 – Oct 3

Robert Morris
Executive Director, IFIA ■

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