In The News

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Manhattan FPD** on the new fire station 81 Headquarters dedication ceremony and celebration on October 17th. This station represents so much more than a new building. It represents the continued support, trust, and partnership of the community they are proud to serve.

Chiefs Steve Malone (L), Bruce Boyle (R), with IAFPD President Damon Schuldt

Congratulations!

Congratulations and shout out to Chief Falaschetti of Beecher Fire Protection District as the recipient of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Fire Chief of the Year recognizing his dedication, professionalism and commitment.

NOW AVAILABLE ON DEMAND AT IAFPD.ORG

Self-Paced Online - Grants and Funding
Identifying and securing funding for fire service equipment, training, facilities, and operational needs

What You Will Learn:

- Identify potential federal, state, regional, and local funding opportunities.
- Develop a clear needs assessment and realistic project budget.
- Apply key AFG narrative scoring criteria to grant applications.
- Demonstrate financial need, cost-benefit, and operational impact.
- Develop measurable project outcomes that support firefighter and public safety.
- Identify regional, mutual-aid, and community funding opportunities.
- Avoid common grant-writing mistakes and strengthen funding proposals.

Small Equipment Grant Application Period
NOW OPEN

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the FY2027 Small Equipment Grant Program. This year, applicants will be eligible for up to $50,000 for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment.

Application Deadline is November 30, 2026!

A Hustle Worth Having

The International Association of Fire Chiefs recently launched A Hustle Worth Having, a national campaign designed to help more people – especially in the Gen Z population – see the purpose, connection and impact that come with serving as a volunteer firefighter. They invite your department to become a campaign ambassador and take advantage of the free, ready-to-customize resources available through the A Hustle Worth Having Ambassador Toolkit. The toolkit includes:

- Social media content
- Flyers, posters, and postcards
- Pictures, videos, and other campaign assets you can use

These materials can be used as-is or customized to support your department's local recruitment efforts, helping you reach prospective volunteers without having to create new content from scratch. Please access the resources, explore the campaign, and learn more at our website: https://hustleworthhaving.org.

IAFPD Foundation
Support That Makes a Great Gift!

IAFPD Commemorative Coin

The vision of the IAFPD Commemorative Coin is to honor, acknowledge and show appreciation to people who demonstrate dedication and commitment to the Illinois Fire Service and support the mission of IAFPD.

The IAFPD Coin Symbolizes...

Pride, Education, Service & Commitment

All proceeds on the sales of coins are donated to the
IAFPD Foundation Scholarship Program

$10/each

IAFPD Wooden Ornaments are FREE with a $50 donation or available for purchase at $10 each.

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Proud to provide investment advisory services to Illinois Fire Protection Districts and of our relationships with Illinois Firefighter and Police Pension funds for many years.

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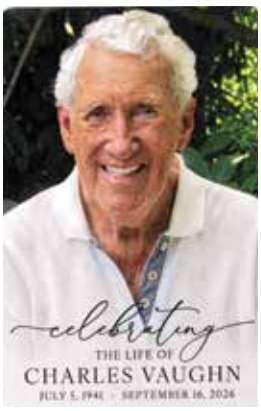
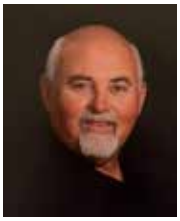
In Memory



It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of **Chuck Vaughn, IAFPD former lobbyist**, and an incredibly devoted friend and advocate for the Illinois fire service.

Chuck was hired in 1997 after the passing of IAFPD legend, Kenny Long, and provided 21 years of dedicated service to IAFPD and the Illinois fire service. His commitment, hard work, and enduring friendships made a lasting impact on our organization and the fire service. I have included a list of some of the notable accomplishments that he developed prior to his retirement in 2018.

Dominic Michael Vespa, 86, of Springfield, passed away at 2:36 pm, Sunday, August 9, 2026,He served as a Volunteer Fireman in Riverton Area Fire Protection District for over 65 years and retired from the Illinois Department of Transportation after 35 years of service. He served with the Army National Guard from 1962-1968. Dominic had many roles throughout his time at Riverton Fire. From Firefighter to holding the rank of Safety Officer, and even Chief. Most recently serving on the Fire District Board as a trustee. Dominic had 39 years of service as a nationally registered EMT and was recognized by NREMT in 2013 for 30 continuous years as an EMT.



Chief Jeff Mathre of Newark passed away on September 21, 2026. Chief Mathre dedicated more than 50 years of service to the citizens of the Newark Fire District beginning his service in 1971. Throughout his career, Jeff earned certificates as FF III, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Instructor FO I and Tech Rescue. He was a long-time member of MABAS 14, served as Vice President at the time of his passing.

Illinois Firefighter Fatality

Greg T. Witt (35)
Rutland Dundee Fire Protection District
December 19, 1990 - October 25, 2026