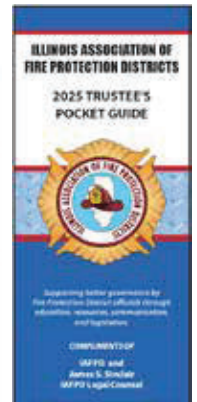
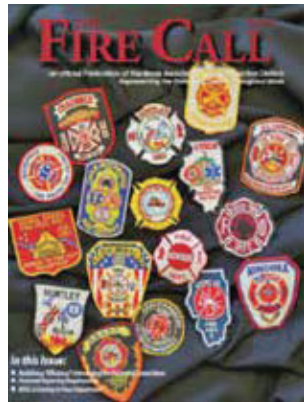


PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE



Tools You Can Use

By Damon Schuldt
Publications Committee Chair



On behalf of the Publications Committee, I am pleased to share a reminder on the important resources available to the membership and others representing fire protection districts.

All of the publications provided by the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts (IAFPD) have been updated. These include the 2025 Text of Laws Relating to Fire Protection Districts and State Fire Marshal (TOL), the Handbook for Trustees (2025 Edition), the 2026 Trustee's Pocket Guide the Calendar and Checklist of Annual Duties & Responsibilities are revised for the new year.

These printed materials provide vital information for Fire Protection Districts regarding the conduct of meetings, handle the business of the district, and formulate important decisions required

of fire protection district boards and trustees. You may notice the new editions are all in a blue color theme to identify them as the current editions of these publications.

TEXT OF LAWS

Below are a few of the sections that were updated in the new version of the Text of Laws:

- Amendments to the Fire Protection District Act such as the increase in the minimum requirement for sealed bidding in Section 11k for equipment from \$20,000 to \$50,000
- The addition of Section 22.1 regarding discontinuance of ambulance service and ambulance tax upon assumption of responsibility for ambulance service by a county
- The addition of Department of Insurance regulations regarding the

definition of salary for Article 4 of the Pension Code

- Inclusion of the Paid Leave for All Workers Act
- Inclusion of the Emergency Services District Act
- Further amendments to the Open Meetings Act regarding remote meeting attendance
- Addition of the First Responder Suicide Prevention Act and First Responder Mental Health Grant Program Act
- Addition of the Sprayed Fire-Resistant Material Applicator Act
- Addition of the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
- Other updates to the contents of statutes in the Text of Laws from the prior edition

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Publications Update

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The printing and shipping expenses have increased substantially, prompting a change in how we distribute the *Text of Laws* (TOL). As with previous editions, every member district is entitled to one free copy of the TOL. However, we have suspended the automatic distribution of copies to all member districts, recognizing that not all members may utilize this valuable publication equally. Instead, we are now providing copies to member districts upon request. This change was communicated with the annual dues renewals, along with a form to order copies of the newest edition. In addition, updated TOLs were available at our annual conference this past June and at our vendor booth at the recent Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference held in October.

Free copies that were not picked up at an IAFPD event or ordered with dues renewals will be available for pickup at 2026 IAFPD events and through your IAFPD area representative. We encourage all member districts to make use of their updated TOL. If you are not a member district or would like to purchase additional copies, please contact our office. We are happy to assist you in any way we can.

HANDBOOK FOR TRUSTEES

The Handbook for Trustees is also available for purchase through the Association office and provides guidance and explanation of the laws and requirements applicable to Fire Protection Districts, Fire Departments, Trustees, and Administrators in a clear and readable presentation.

TRUSTEES POCKET GUIDE

The updated Trustee's Pocket Guide is distributed without cost to the Fire District Trustees at training programs and Association events as it has been for many years.

About the Authors: **Damon Schuldt** spent the previous 41 years in the fire service and retired after over 30 years with a career department. He is currently a Trustee for a FPD in East Central Illinois and on the Board of Directors of the IAFPD, also serving as Chair of the Education Committee and the Publications Committee. For more information contact Damon at rescue14me@yahoo.com (NOTE: Mr. Jim Sinclair contributed to the content of this article)

CALENDAR AND CHECKLIST

The Calendar and Checklist of Annual Responsibilities provide a valuable "quick guide" throughout the year. Both the Pocket Guide and the Calendar & Checklist are updated annually. Many districts have the Calendar & Checklist available during monthly meetings as a reference and reminder.

THE FIRE CALL

Finally, a word about *The Fire Call* magazine. This quarterly publication is often deemed one of the greatest benefits of membership and consistently contains legal compliance information, legislative actions, statewide news and announcements on educational programs. While many associations have moved to electronic formats, our

members can expect this magazine in their mailbox in November (Fall), February (Winter), May (Spring) and July (Summer). The magazine is also available online a week before you receive the printed version.

I want to thank attorneys Jim Sinclair and Shawn Flaherty for all their work putting together the updates. Also, many thanks to the IAFPD Publications Committee consisting of Jim Sinclair, Paul Grezlak, Cheri Breneman and Karrie Beneky for their time, efforts and dedication to bring our members the upmost in reference materials and quarterly magazine. As always, thank you for your continued support of the IAFPD, stay safe and keep on reading our publications! ■

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For more information contact:

John Falduto, Managing Partner
jfalduto@sawyerfalduto.com
589 S. York Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
630.941.8560

www.sawyerfalduto.com