

# 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 State Fire Marshal Honors National Fire Prevention Week



The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is honored National Fire Prevention Week 2019. Governor JB Pritzker proclaimed October 6<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup> as Fire Prevention Week in Illinois encouraging residents to learn, prepare and practice for emergencies. This year's theme was "Not Every Hero Wears A Cape. Plan and Practice your Escape." Fire Prevention Week is observed every year during the week of October 9<sup>th</sup> commemorating the 1871 Great Chicago Fire that killed more than 250 people and left 100,000 homeless. The fire burned over 2,000 acres and destroyed more than 17,000 structures.

Even today, with all the advances in technology, seconds can mean the difference between life and death in a fire emergency. OSFM is encouraging fire departments and first responders to engage in fire prevention and preparedness outreach to their local communities, not only during fire prevention week, but every opportunity that they have. Typically, fire prevention messages and outreach in local communities have been focused on elementary students. Adults, young adults and the elderly are groups that are often overlooked. Re-educating these groups can help to bring a focus back to fire safety, especially for college students who are starting to live on their own for the first time. This could mean the difference, for some, of escaping safely from a fire or tragedy occurring.

"Fire doesn't discriminate and can occur anywhere and anytime," says State Fire Marshal Matt Perez. "Holding a family meeting and coming up with a plan is vital to creating a fire safe home. Please encourage the residents in your communities to practice their plan by holding a fire drill at home. Make sure family members know two exits out of every room and where designated meeting spot is located outside of the home. Plan another drill in the year to serve as a reminder and refresher."

In 2018, Illinois fire departments responded to 32,480 fires, with 15,557 being residential fires. There were 118 fire related deaths reported statewide with 108 occurring due to residential fires making up 89 percent of deaths.

#### State Fire Marshal

### Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Well the leaves will be falling from the trees and the chore of raking them up is upon us. But, this is truly a great time of the year now that the AC is off!

I would like to open with a thank you to the IAFFD Team for their leadership, professionalism and personality. The IAFFD is truly a team of individuals that brings out the best in all of us, and I am honored to be a part of the team and the IAFFD association with the IFCA. 2020 will be a great year so enjoy the fall weather, prepare for the holidays and take time to relax – you have earned it.



This past September the IFCA-VCOC (Volunteer Combination Officer Committee) held their 10<sup>th</sup> gathering in Normal Illinois. Once again great presentations, excellent discussions and involvement by all attending.

Our VCOC Conference Committee is meeting to discuss some plans for 2020 to include a partnership of program delivery with the IAFFD – truly an idea that has merit and some great possibilities.

Our Annual Conference was held in Peoria from October 13<sup>th</sup> -16<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 Mark Pukniatis of Naperville FD to Chief Greg Earle from Centralia FPD. Chief Don Shovelin of the Harlem-Roscoe FPD moved into the 1<sup>st</sup> VP position and Chief John Kachanuk of the Havana FD is now our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.

#### ***IFCA Special Recognition:***

Chief Joe Henning of the Quincy FD was named the 2019 IFCA Chief of the Year. IFCA 2019 Chief Emeritus recipient's are; Chief James "Jay" Reardon, Chief Jeffrey Macko and Chief Rick Gallas. I would like to congratulate these Chief Officers for their dedication and a special thank you to the men and women who serve on the IFCA Board, foundation and Committees for their hard work and positive efforts. Over the past few months and gatherings I along with Presidents Earle and

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Shovelin have had the opportunity to meet with members of the IAFFPD Board and conference/Education committee discussing a way to enhance our partnership as well as delivery of sessions that benefit both Trustees and Fire Chiefs. I feel that in 2020 we will see these ideas and discussions put into action – a true team effort.

As we look at 2020, I hope to be able to assist with the weekend Trustee sessions. Over the past years the IAFFPD Team has been great with allowing me to participate not only as a long time IAFFPD supporter, but as director for the IFCA where we can discuss programs, ideas and possible solutions – if nothing less we are getting the word out on how we can all work together.

Did you know that 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. [dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

The IFCA Education-Research Foundation continues to host a variety of Fire Officer Class and new Chief Officers programs. Information is available on our website. [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

If you are interested in IFCA apparel and or novelties, please look at Eagle Engraving web-site and go to the at the top of the page Chief Corner for IFCA items. [www.eagle-engraving.com](http://www.eagle-engraving.com)

The Illinois Fire Chiefs are holding the following events in 2020:

### 50<sup>th</sup> Annual IFCA Symposium

May 13-15, 2020 - Para-Dice Hotel East Peoria Illinois

### VCOC 11th – 2020 Annual Conference

Dates & location to be announced

### IFCA 70th Annual Conference

October 11–14, 2020 - Peoria

The National Fallen Firefighter Stair Climb\*

Sunday October 11, 2019 @ 10:00am

\*Location: Peoria Civic Center

Our website operates under the guidance of Maureen Griseto, Chief John Buckley and Chief Larry Moran. Please look at our site to obtain information related to the IFCA and The IFCA Education Research Foundation. [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

Every month the IFCA sends out a monthly news Hot-Sheet, if you as a Trustee would like a copy please ask your Chief as he/she should be receiving from our IFCA Area Representatives or send me a note and we will make sure you are kept informed. [Jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:Jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org) 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 Want to Make a Difference in Young Survivors' Lives at 2020's Camp I Am Me?

The IFSA's signature program, Camp "I Am Me," provides a special and unforgettable one-week camp experience for children and teenagers who have experienced injuries from burns. 2020's camp will represent the 30th anniversary of Illinois' camp for young burn survivors and the IFSA is looking for compassionate and enthusiastic volunteers to help during the entire week of camp – in the cabins, at the various activities, and having just as great of an experience as each of the 60+ campers!

The IFSA's burn camp provides the setting for child burn survivors to share their common experiences while being able to play and not feel self-conscious about their scars. The benefits to the campers – physical, psychological, and emotional, all begin with the tremendous volunteer staff during this one special week of the year.

Though the 2020 dates have not been set yet, Camp "I Am Me" has historically started the third Sunday of June and concludes the following Saturday. The program takes place at the YMCA Camp Duncan in Ingleside, located in northern Lake County. New volunteers must be 21 years of age at the time of camp to



participate, must be able to stay the entire week at camp, and participate in camp's Staff Professional Development Day, which will take place on Saturday, March 7th in Rolling Meadows. For additional details and to complete the Request to Volunteer Form, visit [www.ifsa.org/get-involved](http://www.ifsa.org/get-involved).

### OSF Saint Anthony Receives CareBoxes for Burn Injury Patients, Families

The Burn Unit at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford was recently the recipient of the first sets of IFSA CareBoxes. Early this year, the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance launched its CareBox initiative, a program to help provide a small bit of comfort to those going through trying times in the hospital. CareBoxes consist of all the essential toiletries in addition to child and adult activity books, story books, pads of paper, pens and crayons, and fleece blankets. The boxes, which are assembled by volunteers, will eventually be distributed to patients and families of those being treated for burn injuries at Burn Units across Illinois.

The opportunity for corporate or community groups to set up a "build date" and volunteer assembling the CareBoxes makes for a great teambuilding activity and also makes a direct impact on those injured by burns. Unfortunately, there are a great deal of burn-related injuries in Illinois, therefore the need for additional CareBoxes is very high at this point.

To learn more about the IFSA's CareBox Program and how to support this new initiative, visit [www.ifsa.org/carebox](http://www.ifsa.org/carebox).

**Philip Zaleski**  
IFSA Executive Director

### Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals

The Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals (IFSAP) organization continues to provide educational opportunities and networking to its members every year. We successfully completed our annual conference in April with almost one-third of our members in attendance. Networking for administrative professionals in the fire service continues



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to be a key element to our success. I encourage all Chiefs to allow their admin staff to attend the training provided by our organization and hope that the information brought back with them will assist them in their positions, making them even more valuable to your organizations. I would also like to see more members at our monthly board meetings if possible. If one of our meetings is near your location, please encourage your admin to come join us. If there are specific topics or areas of training you would like provided by IFSAP to your admin professionals, please email me and let me know.

**Upcoming Events** – Please see our website for information and registration to all of our scheduled events!

### Illinois Cannabis Workplace Compliance Training – November 7, 2019

Training will take place at the Darien-Woodridge FPD, Darien, IL – Please save the Date for important information about recently approved cannabis in Illinois and the impact on your workplace. Presented by Illinois Public Risk Fund and Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

### 2019 Annual Luncheon – December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Please save the date and join us at the Annual Awards Luncheon that will take place at the Belvedere Banquets on December 12. Registration and payment information is located on the IFSAP Website. The IFSAP board hopes to see you all there!

IFSAP would also like to thank everyone who has helped make our blanket fundraiser a huge success over the past four years. If you have not seen any of the custom knit blankets out there, please take a look at our website for additional information and how you too can get them before the holidays this year for your organization (minimum order required). Proceeds from the sales benefit the IFSAP Education Fund and assist the organization in keeping the cost of training programs down. I guarantee you won't find a better quality, personalized knit blanket for that price.

Thank you for your time. It is my honor and privilege to serve as the President of

IFSAP organization and to be working with the current Board members. The IFSAP organization strives to continue to enhance our members' knowledge and skills in the fire industry. Please be sure to refer to our website [www.ifsap.org](http://www.ifsap.org) to contact any member of our board or feel free to reach out to me personally for assistance or feedback you may want to provide.

**Laura Haiden - IFSAP President**  
**Glenside Fire Protection District**  
**lhaiden@glensidefire.org**  
**(630) 668-5323**

### Illinois Fire Inspectors Association

We had several people attend the NFPA conference in Texas.

Many good classes were seen and some of those sessions will be brought back to Illinois for our conference in March. Prior to the conference, the International Fire Marshals Association recognized the IFIA for 20 years of membership.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is seeking unique stories about the impact fire and life safety codes have on the fire service and the public across the United States. These stories will be used for a new documentary series produced in partnership with First Arriving. If you have work experiences related to fire and life safety codes that could help others you can send them to the link so they can help others. <https://www.firstarriving.com/documentary-experience-submission/>

We congratulate Ed Dunne on his retirement at the Orland Fire District in July after 20+ years of service to the District, an active member with IFIA Fire and Life Safety committee and Past President of IFIA. While he is leaving Orland, we will still see him with his affiliation at Evergreen Park. Good luck, Ed.

Our annual Fire Prevention luncheon was moved up a month to September, due to the activities that most fire departments have in October. D/C Dan Turner was recognized with a Chief's award, as were three children, one adult, and one corporation.



As a reminder, the IFIA has a link on the website to "ask an expert". If you have an unusual or difficult question that you might like some advice on, try this out. While the answer is completely "unofficial" and is the opinions of those on the code committee, it may help with your question. One recent NW suburban fire department utilized this service and responded - "Thank you for the information. This is the first time I used the "ask an expert" feature on the IFIA website, and it has been extremely helpful!"

Tom Lia has resigned from the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (NIFSAB) after 20 years of service. Tom has been relentless in his belief and pursuit of fire sprinklers. Prior to NIFSAB he was with the Orland Fire Protection District. It was in that capacity that he served on the IFIA Board and served as its President. While at NIFSAB his support of the IFIA was very evident. Good luck on your new ventures, Tom. Filling Tom's position will be Erik Hoffer. Erik is well familiar with the sprinkler industry, and has worked at NIFSAB for two years.

Public Act 101-0210, is now a law enforced by the Department of Agriculture, and requires that kennels have a fire alarm or sprinkler system if they don't have someone onsite at all times when dogs/cats are there. A fire inspector is not required to inspect, but may do so "during the course of performing routine inspections".



The Illinois chapter of the NFSA is sponsoring two classes. The first is for those that own or maintain buildings. This class is free to them. This class quickly filled up when offered two years ago in Addison. The second class is on NFPA 25. It is being offered in Northbrook and Champaign. This is free to the AHJ. For additional information contact the Bob Tinucci, the Illinois NFSA representative at [tinucci@nfsa.org](mailto:tinucci@nfsa.org).

If you have liability concerns about a smoke alarm installation program, see

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the following report from the Network for Public Health Law. It states that there have been no reported cases in the United States which held nonprofit organizations, including Fire Departments, liable for damages as a result of smoke alarm installation. The full report is available from the Network for Public Health Law at [https://www.networkforphl.org/\\_asset/4cttgz/Report\\_Smoke-Alarm-Installation-Liability-7-3-19.pdf](https://www.networkforphl.org/_asset/4cttgz/Report_Smoke-Alarm-Installation-Liability-7-3-19.pdf)

See the link for the NFPA Great Lakes Regional Safety Summit coming up in November. It is being held in Valparaiso, Indiana. It is free to attend, and lunch or dinner is included. The summit is being offered on two separate days to accommodate schedules. Friday will be a more in-depth version of Thursday. Attendees are encouraged to attend one or both days if desired. See the following link for additional information: <https://traumaburn.org/programs/educationprevention/professional-training/great-lakes-regional-safety-summit>

Did You Know Seminar is held prior to our November meeting. This is where multiple speakers will present an overview of a topic for 15 – 20 minutes. If you would like additional follow up, they will be there after the talk for you.

Our annual Fire and Life Safety Conference will be held March 18 – 20, 2020 in East Peoria. Put this in the budget now. Our keynote is Burt Clark, PhD, on the American Fire Culture in 21<sup>st</sup> Century. On Thursday we have Tom Polera to talk about a community education training program for active shooter events. Our pre-conference – which is free to IFIA members, will be on Community Risk Reduction, and the presentation will be by Beverly Walker.

Registration will be on the website very soon, but you can begin to reserve your room now through the methods below. Room Reservations for the conference can be made by calling 1-800-547-0711 and referencing code 0317FIA.

**Check the website for the following upcoming events:**

- November 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 – FLSE at Evanston

- October 25 – Mini seminar on Lithium batteries and meeting
- November 22 Did You Know Mini seminar and meeting
- December 20 Holiday luncheon
- March 18 – 20, 2020, with the pre-conference on the 17th, for our annual Fire and Life Safety conference in East Peoria.

**Robert Morris**  
**Executive Director, IFIA**

### MABAS

MABAS has concluded a very busy summer season. The extraordinary flooding along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers tested the resources of MABAS from late May to early August. MABAS responded to 58 separate mission taskings from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency at 21 locations in downstate Illinois. Over 150 firefighters from 31 out of the 69 MABAS Divisions, along with the Illinois Task Force 1 USAR Team, provided aid of some type. This included Swiftwater Rescue Boat Teams, Water Rescue Boat Teams, EMS Ambulance support, Incident Command, generator/light towers, decontamination vehicles, tent shelter systems and other support. Teams provided flood rescue services, emergency medical evacuations and delivery of vital supplies to residents in isolated regions due to the flood waters. With the support of many local fire agencies, MABAS was able to meet every tasking over an extended period of response time. We are now working to recover the costs responding departments incurred from the State and FEMA. Thanks



to all who responded and supported this successful response.

The MABAS Staff is now busy preparing for the 2020 MABAS Command and Dispatchers Summit to be held February 24 through February 28, 2020 in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. We are working on preparing an interesting and topical list of speakers for the 5-day event. We encourage everyone to attend the Summit and watch for the registration announcement soon.

### Illinois Fire Service Institute

The IFSI has NO COST TRAINING LEADING TO CERTIFICATION



Registration for the Winter 2020 Basic Operations Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Blended program is now open and held at statewide training locations.

The 18-week training program begins on Jan. 4, 2020. Students can complete the 9 weekend practical sessions in Swansea, Washington, or Cherry Valley. The training is funded by the Office of the State Fire Marshal through an appropriation of agency funds for the purpose of supporting basic firefighter certification. This program has a flexible scheduled offering blended training with Online instructor supported coursework and hands-on, live fire instruction at training sites across the state.

In October, the IFSI proudly dedicated a new fire engine added to their fleet and made possible by an AGF Grant. ■

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Illinois Fire Inspectors Association | 2020 Annual  
**Fire and Life Safety Conference**  
March 18-20, 2020  
Par+A+Dice Hotel | East Peoria, Illinois