

# 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 Valet Trash Raising Concerns Among the Fire Service Community



Door-side waste and recycling collection from apartments, also known as valet trash, has been offered to many residents in numerous different multifamily builds for years. Valet trash collection services allow residents of multifamily buildings to place trash cans in hallways where they are eventually collected and emptied by the trash collection service. There is no set frequency for collection. The practice eliminates the need for residents to carry trash bags or cans outside or to a garbage collection room. The concern with valet trash is unknown combustible and possibly highly dangerous and hazardous materials are now being stored in corridors or hallways.

The OSFM has voiced concerns over the lack of control over what is placed in these garbage containers, because most municipalities or fire protection districts have no control over what is being stored or used within the privacy of dwelling units that will use this service. The OSFM participates on the Technical Committees that prepare NFPA 1, Fire Code (adopted by many local authorities in Illinois) and NFPA 101, Life Safety Code (OSFM adopts the 2015 edition of this code) and is active on the ICC's Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) that is developing the International Fire Code (IFC). OSFM has been working closely with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) to keep language permitting this service out of NFPA 1, NFPA 101, and the IFC.

Multiple organizations were successful in keeping language permitting to this service out of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 and are currently working to keep it out of the IFC. The national IAFF as well as NASFM have submitted a letter to the FCAC opposing valet trash staging:

All organizations stand strongly against all fire code language which would allow this practice. The proposed text for valet trash services is in direct conflict with proven fire safety principles which have been in place for decades. The prohibition of combustible materials within the means of egress is a sacred, tried and true fire safety method to protect building occupants and firefighters alike. Allowing trash and refuse to be stored in exit access routes, exit corridors and/or hallways creates unnecessary fire safety risk, as well as additional firefighting hazards.

When opposing the action during NFPA votes, Catherine Stashak of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office stated: "Protecting the means of egress from obstructions and hazards is paramount to the mission of life safety principles." "NFPA 1 and 101 specifically prohibits the introduction of high hazards into, or travel through, an area with high hazards."

During the online 2020 NFPA Technical Meeting, members voted against the codes allowing valet trash collection services into NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. Voting for the IFC is still forthcoming.

**State Fire Marshal**

### Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Teamwork and partnerships are a key to success, and I feel strongly that the



IAFPD & IFCA are working well setting the future for the fire service with enhanced opportunities of partnerships. Sharing of ideas, subject matter experts and just talking through the needs of both associations is what we call the right thing to do. We are going to enhance our profile within the Volunteer – Combination section of our association. We have several new yet experienced Chiefs who have stepped up to carry the message forward. To that extent this is just another area with the IAFPD will be able to help us share information to the many volunteer / combination districts. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Conference in June and I hope that many of the IAFPD Chief Officers can attend the IFCA Symposium in May. Once again together as partners we achieve more.

**IFCA President Don Shoefflin  
[2020-2021] Harlem-Roscoe FPD**

Spring is here and the IFCA, IAFPD are in the process of finalizing plans for our gatherings of the Annual Symposium for the IFCA and the Annual IAFPD Conference. What can be said other than we are getting there – back to the opportunities to gather with social distance policies and recommendation in place, but we are going to get together. So much has been going on behind the scenes to secure locations, speakers and topics of concerns along with relevancy.

The IFCA Looks forward to our continued partnership with the IAFPD! Some appointments took place where we now have 2 Volunteer Combination Officer Committee Co-Chairs to help expand our VCOC base and get the word out.

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Chief Jason Parthun East Dundee FPD and Chief Matt Shrouts Grant Park FPD have hit the bricks running assisting Chairman Dave Weiss with not only expanding the ranks of the VCOC but with involvement and more offerings of classes, special interest events and general information. The Volunteer / Combination section of the IFCA can be the largest section but also become the most involved, so to that extent I am asking Trustees to talk with your Chief and Chief Officers about "getting involved" with the IFCA-VCOC. The more we share information and keep the doors of communications open the stronger we will all be. Here is Jason and Matts contact information please feel free to reach out to them or me. Jason Parthun [jparthun@edfire.com](mailto:jparthun@edfire.com) Matt Shrouts [MShrouts@grantparkfire.com](mailto:MShrouts@grantparkfire.com).

### 50th IFCA SYMPOSIUM

May 12-14, 2021

**Par-A-Dice Hotel - East Peoria Illinois**  
**ON-LINE REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED**  
**[www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)**

Our Symposium is all set with a special recognition for our latest classes of Chief Fire Officers. These men and women have completed a 12-month journey at the highest level within the state and I congratulate them along with all who have taken on this challenge of continued excellence. We will publish the names and departments of those who will receive certification on our web site and within the IFCA Gong.

Our Symposium will have some very dynamic presentations and lively discussion that will start off with Karl Ottosen and Steve Dinolfo addressing issues of concern within our legal open forum, we will hear from President Shoeylin, Jason Parthun and Matt Shrouts as part of our opening/welcoming followed by Navy Seal Chad Williams who will set the stage for Chief Chris Garrison, presentation on Drones & Rescue Canines, COVID Task Force and a presentation by Interim Fire Administrator Hoover. We will also have updates from IFSI and OSFM. We will do everything we can to have a safe environment so that everyone is

comfortable with the gathering – but I stress we will gather to share information and visit!

The IFCA assessment team has expanded our delivery to include virtual assessments/testing? I could not be any prouder of our leaders Dave Slivinski who is taking our services to a new level of professionalism. His 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. You might think what can an assessment do for us or my volunteer department? You might be surprised as an assessment will help with a road map for continued success plus give well deserved pats on the back for overall success. 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 is delivering all levels of classes directly related to The Fire Officer levels. Information will 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)

Our website is updated and maintained by 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 Service Institute



It is a busy time of year for the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) as the Spring 2021 training season is now in full swing. On 1 March, we welcomed thirty-eight students representing twenty-three departments to the State Fire Academy. Over the course of seven weeks, the candidates will complete essential, hands-on training designed to give new firefighters the practical and cognitive skills needed to operate safely and effectively on the fireground. In addition to this resident Academy program, the IFSI team continues to deliver the Basic Operations Firefighter Blended (BOF) program at four regional training locations across the state. This blended training effort will wrap up in early May.

In the past month, we have also offered courses in the Engine Company Operations, Advanced Technician Firefighter (ATF), Smoke Divers, Truck Company Operations, Structural Collapse Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Officer, Leadership Development and Decision Making, Investigation and Prevention, and NIMS/ICS Programs. This list does not include the countless Cornerstone Program training opportunities available across the state.

We are busy! But, we remain focused on our efforts to provide top-quality and relevant training opportunities to all areas of the state.

### **SPECIAL EVENT UPDATE:**

#### **FIRE COLLEGE**

*Registration for the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire College opens April 15.*

The IFSI Annual Fire College offers four days of innovative and top-quality training for first responders. Since 1925, IFSI has delivered on our statutory commitment to provide affordable, essential skills training during an annual Fire College. Over these 97 years, the event has incorporated the addition of more advanced training opportunities utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and curriculum at the forefront of national training standards. Despite these progressive changes, year after year, one thing remains consistent. Fire College is truly an annual "homecoming" for IFSI students, instructors and staff, offering

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the opportunity for training, networking, and camaraderie with fellow members of the fire service. **It is an event unlike any other. The 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire College will be no exception to this standard.** IFSI has developed the 2021 program to offer a large selection of course topics, including new class options and the usage of new training props. Students can choose from 44 courses located at 3 training locations. IFSI has dispersed the training event across the state again this year to support potential student and department travel limitations and those unable to commit to weekday training. Regardless of course or training location selection, students will have access to the top fire service professionals in the industry. Our dedicated and talented Fire College instructor team will quickly engage, motivate, and inspire students to develop and refine their skills.

**We invite you to come "home" to Fire College in Champaign, Swansea, or Cherry Valley this June.**

## EXPLORER CADET FIRE SCHOOL

Due to University of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Explorer Cadet Fire School will be restricted to a one-day event, rather than the traditional four-day format. Additionally, students and chaperones will not be provided overnight lodging as part of the event.



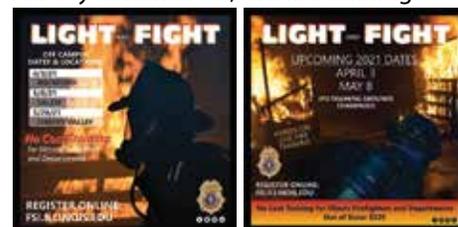
Despite this reality, a full day of challenging, safe and fun training will be provided utilizing the many Champaign props and resources. The event will offer the traditional skill level course options (Beginner and Advanced) and incorporate repetitive live fire training activities.

Complete event details are available on the IFSI website: [fsi.illinois.edu](http://fsi.illinois.edu).

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Five more no cost Light and Fight training dates are available this spring.

Classes are available in Champaign, Rockford, and Salem. All locations offer a full day of hands-on, live fire training.



## NEW COURSES – INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

On 25 February, IFSI delivered a training demonstration of two new courses for the Illinois Terrorism Taskforce (ITTF) Focus Group for Training and Education Policy Development. IFSI provided a comprehensive overview of the Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) - Basic and School Safety and Violent Event Incident Management (SSSVEIM) courses for attendees. The courses are now available for delivery as part of the Incident Management Program. Contact IFSI Assistant Director, JP Moore at [jpmoore1@](mailto:jpmoore1@)

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[illinois.edu](http://illinois.edu) for more information. We continue to be grateful for your support in the fulfillment of our mission.

**Jill Sauer, Director of Marketing and Public Relations**

### IL Fire Safety Alliance

#### Illinois' Camp for Young Burn Survivors Returns



The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance is moving forward with the planning of this year's Camp "I Am Me." The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Burn Camp" will provide a special and unforgettable one-week experience for children and teenagers who have experienced injuries from burns. Through the generosity of donors, supporters, sponsors, and volunteers, the IFSA continues to offer this unique, week-long experience at no cost to campers! Everything is covered!

2021's camp is scheduled for June 20-26. As a result of the restrictions that will be in place this year, some of the traditional activities which invite supporters and volunteers to participate, like the Fire Apparatus Parade, Appreciation Day, and Fun Fair, will unfortunately not be taking place.

Planning information and any changes that may occur along the way between now and June will be provided to fire departments and volunteers and will be disseminated via the IFSA website, newsletter, and social media pages.

#### New Educational Initiative – IFSA "Safety Series"

The IFSA Series is a public education initiative aimed to inform Illinois residents on a variety of fire safety and burn prevention topics through live broadcasts. The IFSA has collaborated with some of the largest fire departments in Illinois to bring important, life-saving information to those of all ages. Topics will include smoke alarms, bonfires/firepits/grilling, scald prevention, older adults, cooking safely, and home heating/holidays.

Safety information will be provided from fire safety experts from Chicago FD, Countryside FPD, Joliet Fire Department,

Naperville FD, Rockford FD, and Springfield FD. All six sessions, which will take place over the course of the year, will be made available at no cost through Facebook Live on the IFSA's page. Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts are encouraged to share these events with their residents to help reduce events with their residents to help reduce burn-related injuries and incidents.

Information can be found at [www.IFSA.org/safetyseries](http://www.IFSA.org/safetyseries).

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

### IL Fire Inspectors Association



Our first virtual conference was at the end of March and went very well. With the exception of Monday having over 90 people in attendance, the other four days each had over 70. It is interesting to note that due to the virtual format we had attendees from six states. The feedback we have heard were that the speakers were great, and many enjoyed the virtual format.

In mid-summer we will begin the process of planning for the 2022 conference. Ideally, we'd like to do an in-person format, as we believe there is much to be learned by being together. If anyone has ideas regarding conference topics or speakers for next year, please let our office know.

In April we will again begin monthly virtual mini-seminars. April's will be on Amusement Rides and Tents, and May's will be on Fire Alarm Plan review. Registration will be available soon on our website.

In June we will be offering a Fire Inspector 2 class in New Lenox, so if you are in need of that class make sure you let the office know, as there will be attendance caps due to distancing concerns.

We are joining forces with other Illinois Fire Service organization to attempt to stop a bill that seeks to allow the grouping of firework tubes with a total of 500 grams of pyrotechnic mix in it to be made available for general public use in Illinois. This amount is the highest allowed by the Federal Government before being considered a "commercial grade." This video link shows the device, that will shoot sparks for over five minutes, without

the ability to stop it. <https://youtu.be/v7ewvOefL7Q>

Vision 20/20 has developed Discovery, a new free online CRR Data Hub tool that embraces the progressive mindset that data brings to the fire service. It is located at <https://strategicfire.org/discovery>

Discovery's easy-to-use and intuitive interface provides a means to graphically explore service areas at multiple levels, from a national perspective down to the station level. This is possible through the use of census tracts, and the tool provides basic detail to organizations that have previously been unable to examine their data because of limited resources, knowledge or skills. This is instrumental in developing a Community Risk Assessment, the first step in Community Risk Reduction. Discovery Data Hub provides you with the tools you need for insights into the risks in your community, including demographics, fire and EMS incidents, heart disease, stroke and more. Developed with an AFG Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, this is an invaluable resource for any department looking to write grants, develop a Community Risk Assessment or Community Risk Reduction Plan.

For your educators, the NFPA has come out with the 2020 Educational Messaging Desk Reference [HERE](#). For ease of use, the 2020 edition includes hyperlinks from the Table of Contents to specific chapters within the document. In addition to updated messages throughout (indicated by the word NEW), the 2020 edition includes:

There are new chapters on pet fire safety and youth firesetters, as well as new sections on Carbon Monoxide – boating and marinas; Home Fire Escape - people who are deaf or have hearing loss, use a mobility device and are blind or have low vision; Fire Safety Away from Home - peer-to-peer hospitality, motor home, camper and recreation vehicle safety, safety in places of public assembly, car fire safety; Cooking - microwave ovens, gas grills; Electrical- pools, hot tubs, and spas, equipment safety, marine and boating safety; Candle - how to burn a candle, candles for religious/ceremonial use in homes; Outdoor burning – campfire safety, fire pit safety, recreational fire use; Flammable and Combustible Liquid and

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Gases – propane gas safety, propane appliance maintenance, gel fuel safety; and Battery Safety – 9-volt batteries, battery disposal.

A sign with the following text was spotted in another State: "This store is open to all members of the public who want to shop, dine and drink here. The store is not open to anyone with an ulterior motive for entering, such as code enforcement. Collier County and its Code Enforcement Officers are hereby place on written notice that they may not enter upon the interior or exterior of these premises without a warrant issued by a Court of law. All such entries shall be deemed a trespass. The "premises" for purposes of the Notice, includes the exterior of the building. So if you are a County Code enforcement officer and are reading this Notice without a warrant, you likely have already engaged in an illegal and unconstitutional search."

There is also a bill in California that could impact inspectors if it passes. It basically says without a warrant they would be unable to inspect. Prior to encountering something like this you may want to get you legal team's understanding of your right to inspect.

May 3-5, 10 & 11 – Fire and Life Safety Educator class – Plainfield

May 21 – Fire Alarm Plan Review

June 3, 10, 17, 24 July 1 – Fire Inspector 2, New Lenox

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

### MABAS

As the COVID 19 Pandemic continues, so does the response MABAS, and the MABAS Divisions, have been providing. Since March 2020, each of the 69 MABAS Divisions has provided some form of support in the battle against the virus. The most common request of assistance is the delivery and set-up of shelter tents at hospitals and correctional facilities for virus testing and treatment. These tasks are winding down as the State moves into vaccine distribution and the calls for assistance in this area ramp up. The strength of the statewide fire service mutual aid network really shows in it's ability to adapt to this new threat and is something we all should be proud of.

Unfortunately, the pandemic meant that MABAS had to cancel its 2021 Command and Dispatchers Summit last February. The 9-1-1 Dispatchers were

especially hard hit by the cancellation as the Summit is one of the few training opportunities available to the rank-and-file dispatchers who are a vital component of our emergency preparedness. We are looking forward to resuming the 2022 MABAS Command and Dispatchers Summit next February and to resuming support of statewide and local response exercises that have had to be curtailed due to pandemic restrictions.

The Illinois Terrorism Task Force is evaluating proposals from various state and local agencies for funding out of the Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Homeland Security and Urban Area Security Grant programs. These grants are the lifeblood of MABAS's ability to support and maintain the training and equipment that is in place to respond to all hazards. Unfortunately, the amount of funds available in these grants have been shrinking dramatically over the past few years. Also, additional rules under the grant program require funding of programs that are not necessarily related to the all hazards response capability of MABAS. Should this trend continue in the future, alternative means of funding will have to be found to continue to support the MABAS capability.

Thank you for your support of MABAS and we hope everyone has a safe and productive summer season. ■



[www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org) for more information

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