

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

National Volunteer Week is recognized during the 3rd week of April. In Illinois, over 70 percent of the fire service is made up of volunteer departments and firefighters. These men and women sacrifice time with their families and friends to train and respond to help members of their communities during emergencies. Departments across the state are struggling to keep their rosters full of dedicated individuals who are willing to answer the call. Ask yourself these questions: Do you have a desire to help someone? Do you have the desire to learn and answer the call when it comes in? Do you enjoy being a part of a family of brothers and sisters who have each other's backs? If you answered yes to any of these questions, consider reaching out to your local FD or district in your community and see if they are looking for volunteers. They will provide you with the equipment and training that you need to be ready when the call comes in. There is nothing more rewarding than being able to serve and protect the community that you call home. April is Stress Awareness Month, and our first responders find themselves in stressful situations, multiple times daily, then have to deal with stressful situations at home. According to the American Institute of Stress, long-term stress can prove to be more than just a mental issue. These issues can range from headaches to stomach disorders to depression – even very serious issues like stroke and heart disease can come as a result of stress.



Common reactions to a stressful event can include:

- Disbelief, shock and numbness
 - Feeling sad, frustrated and helpless
 - Difficulty concentrating and making decisions
 - Headaches, back pains and stomach problems
 - Smoking or the use of alcohol or drugs
- It's important to find healthy ways to cope with everyday stress that we deal with so we can live happy and healthy lives. It's important that when you set goals, the vision for healthy living is obtainable. Remember, this is all about personal growth and living a healthier life both physically and mentally.

The OSFM has put links on our website to resources that can help you stay healthy and active while finding ways to deal with stress or other mental issues. You find these resources here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/First-Responder-Resiliency-Mental-Health-Resources.aspx>

The OSFM is excited to announce that we have awarded \$2.5 million to 104 departments in the state through our Small Equipment Grant Program. We received 373 applications, requesting around \$8.4 million in funding for this grant period.

"Funding provided from our Small Equipment Grant Program is a huge benefit, especially to our rural volunteer departments in the state. These funds allow departments to purchase important equipment their firefighters/EMT's need to work more effectively and safely while protecting the lives and property of their

community members," said Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez.

Matt Perez
Illinois State Fire Marshal

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

From IFCA President John Kachanuk [21-22] Havana FD:



Well we are moving forward with our plans for our first combined conference in 2023. I would like to thank the executive boards of both the IFCA & IAFPD for their commitment and vision for the future. Together we can achieve more – our outreach for education, displays of equipment and creating an enhanced partnership will truly lead all of us into the future. We still have several items to address and overcome but I am confident that with the team working on this we will be successful and only build upon the relationship that has been created. We will continue to work towards providing the best in education for our Chiefs, Trustees and fire service professionals. If you have any questions or need my assistance, please feel free to reach out to me or our executive team. My direct email contact j.kachanuk@havanail.gov please never hesitate in contacting me.

From Jim Grady III IFCA – Executive Director:

We are in the final stages of preparation for our Annual IFCA Symposium which we will hold in May. The sessions this year cover a wide range of current topics along with an opportunity for the attending officers to meet with fellow officers to

Continued on page 17

Around the State

Continued from page 16

share information and have some great one on one discussions. As President John Kachanuk stated we will be working diligently towards the first combined conference in 2023, but I need to address this:

We The IFCA will still hold a Symposium, with one change – a move from May to October 2023. Same type of venue with continued opportunities for information sharing and meeting with fellow officers.

I echo President Johns comments regarding the combined conference and look forward to making this an outstanding event. I commend the actions and support of both boards. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of Cheri and Damon who have helped shepherd this along – Excellent! Our Annual IFCA 2022 Conference will be held in October in Peoria [16th-19th]. We will also be hosting a VCOC Symposium in January of 2023. More information on both events will be out over the next few months.

I would like to thank and recognize the efforts of Cheri and Kerrie these ladies are truly the seasoned veterans behind the scene making sure that the IAFPD run smoothly. The partnership we the IFCA has with the IAFPD is solid and only going to "get stronger".

Our IFCA assessment team has expanded our delivery to include virtual assessments/testing? Dave Slivinski and his team is ready to serve the members of the fire service with promotion testing, new hire interviews and consulting services? 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 recognition for overall success. Our new virtual officer development/evaluation gives you an insight with future officers, and for volunteer departments the need to promote and cultivate officers is a priority. We feel we will deliver you quality and professionalism in every aspect. Contact Dave Slivinski our Consulting Manager. dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org

The IFCA Education-Research Foundation is delivering all levels of

classes directly related to The Fire Officer levels. Information will be available on our website. www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

Our **Chief Fire Officer program** (CFO) is currently undergoing a complete makeover to include all necessary updates. The new & enhanced program is being done as a partnership with IFSI where we will utilize their learning platform, plus set our program up for continued national recognition as well as submitting for pro-board approval-recognition. While we desire to start the CFO as soon as possible, the team does not want to start without a complete revamped program that has a professional and stable flow of information, education and requirements for certifications. This CFO program will be offered nationwide, so you can see the need for us to make sure all components are in place as to guarantee excellence in delivery. So, more information will be out regarding the next IFCA-CFO session.

The **IFCA Annual Golf Outing** which is geared towards scholarship support will be held on July 13, 2022 at Saint Andrews Country Club.

Our website is updated and maintained by Deputy Chief Paul Kinsella of the Frankfort FPD with assistance from Maureen Griseto, Chief John Buckley and me. Please look at our site to obtain information related to the IFCA and The IFCA Education Research Foundation. 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. If you have any questions or need information, please do not hesitate to contact me or our IFCA office - jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org 1-847-966-0732.

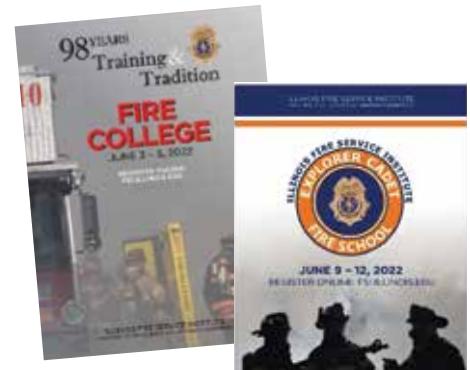
Illinois Fire Service Institute

The IFSI Team has been very busy. In mid-April, we wrapped up the Spring Fire Academy and welcomed forty-four new professionals to the Illinois fire service. We congratulate the class on their hard work and dedication while completing the seven-week resident program.



SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS:

Registration is open for the 2022 summer training events! We look forward to returning to the traditional four-day format for the Explorer Cadet Fire School and have modified our Annual Fire College to meet the scheduling needs of attendees. Online registration is strongly encouraged: fsi.illinois.edu.



FALL 2022 BASIC OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER (BOF) BLENDED TRAINING LOCATIONS ANNOUNCED:

IFSI recently released the four training locations for the late summer/early fall 2022 Basic Operations Firefighter (BOF) Blended delivery. Students will be able to complete this no cost training program in: Charleston, Carbondale, Cherry Valley, or Quincy. Complete program details are available at: fsi.illinois.edu.



Continued on page 18

Around the State

Continued from page 17

We continue to be grateful for the support of the Illinois fire service and our partners and affiliates in the fulfillment of our mission: *Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research.* #WEAREIFSI

Jim Keiken
Director

**Illinois Fire
Safety Alliance**
Burn Camp for Children
Scheduled for June



The dates for Illinois' camp for young burn survivors – Camp "I Am Me" – have been set. "Burn Camp" will take place June 19-25 and will continue to offer this life-changing event for young burn survivors at no-cost for approximately 70 campers. The Fire Apparatus Parade and Appreciation

Day events are scheduled for Wednesday, June 22nd and departments from across the entire state are encouraged to attend, participate, and have a blast with the campers! Visit www.IFSA.org for details and various volunteering opportunities!

Nominations Being Accepted for Fire Safety & Prevention Awards

Each year the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance presents awards for corporate responsibility, life safety, special recognition, as well as the coveted Wayne Luecht Memorial Award at the annual Fire Prevention Week Luncheon in October. If you know of a group or individual deserving of this recognition at one of the largest fire service gatherings in the state, please consider submitting a nomination. Nominations can be received at any time, but must be submitted no later than August 15th to be considered for this year. The nomination form can be

found at www.IFSA.org/programs/fpwl/nominate.

Support Those You Save!

For nearly 30 years, Boot Day for Burn Survivors has helped provide much needed support to those that have been affected by burn injuries. As a result of Illinois fire service support, the IFSA has expanded upon its signature program, Camp "I Am Me," and has further developed new support programs and events to help assist burn survivors of all ages!

Join members of the Illinois fire service by signing up, schedule dates and locations, grow community support, and enjoy your event while shaking your boots! Information on the IFSA's Boot Days can be found at www.IFSA.org/bootday.

Philip Zaleski
Executive Director

Continued on page 19

COMPASS INSURANCE

**LIKE THOSE WE SERVE
ON-CALL 24/7**

(309) 962-6111

SERVICE BY FIREFIGHTERS, FOR FIREFIGHTERS

GREG STEFFEN
FIREFIGHTER II
FIRST RESPONDER

MYRON MUNYON
FIREFIGHTER III
RETIRED CHIEF

DAVE FULTON
BASIC OPS
FIREFIGHTER

Around the State

Continued from page 18

IL Fire Inspectors Association

Once again, it is a sad duty to announce that another member of the IFIA have passed away. Jim Plunket died on March 12th. Jim worked in fire service for over 30 years, including 17 years as a Lombard firefighter and paramedic. He retired in 1996 went on to serve as their Public Education Coordinator...a role he was extraordinarily passionate about. He was a volunteer at the Belmont Fire District, and was a trustee at the Darien/Woodridge Fire Department.

In its infancy, Jim was extremely active with the juvenile firesetters program in the State. He was also extremely visible with the fire services exhibit at the State Fair. Often, he would volunteer to work it for its full duration. His passion for fire safety will be missed.

Following a two-year absence, we are again starting to meet in person. March's Fire and Life Safety Conference was our first conference in three years. We did not know what to expect, but were excited with over 100 attendees and 23 exhibitors at our exhibitor showcase. The sessions were well received, and the keynote address by retired Chief Pat Kenny was powerful and moving.

We will regroup in June to start thinking about the 2023 conference. If you have any ideas on topics or speakers, make sure you email them to our office.

For those looking for a Fire Inspectors 2 class, one will be held in Huntley on Fridays, beginning May 6. A fire Inspector 1 class will be held in Glenside in August. Registration information for both classes is on our website.

The IFIA is looking for instructors for the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Fire Inspector 1 and 2 certification classes. If you have an interest in teaching these classes, submit a resume to our Office at ifiafire@illinoisfireinspectors.org.

On an average, the IFIA presents two Fire Inspector I classes and one Fire Inspector II class per year. These classes rotate around the Chicago metropolitan



area. Each class is five days long, eight hours each day. An instructor typically teaches only one day, and they are paid for their instruction time.

The minimum requirements to instruct OSFM Fire Inspector I are:

- OSFM Instructor I certification
- OSFM Fire Inspector I or OSFM Fire Prevention Officer 1
- Preferred certifications: OSFM Basic Fire Prevention Officer

The minimum requirements to instruct OSFM Fire Inspector II are:

- OSFM Instructor I certification
- OSFM Fire Inspector II

Preferred certifications:

- OSFM Advanced Fire Prevention Officer

In lieu of the above qualifications, you can be considered a Subject Matter Expert. In order to do so, you will need to submit your resume of qualifications and a cover letter. Your cover letter will need to provide an explanation of why your experience is equal to, or exceeds, the above requirements.

If you have any questions, you can email us at ifiafire@illinoisFireInspectors.org

For those who have not yet seen the news story about a major fire in an elementary school in Richmond, Va., where the fire alarm system did not transmit a signal to the monitoring company, please follow this link <https://tinyurl.com/2badv22e>

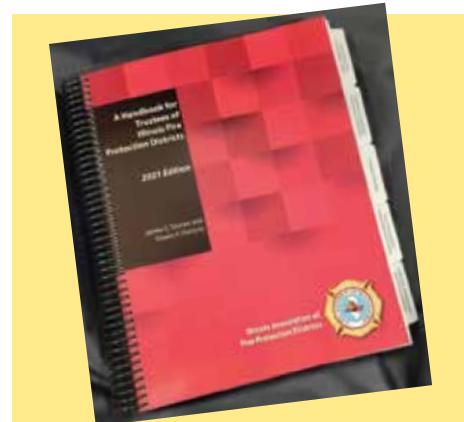
The Illinois Fire & Smoke Damper Inspection Act became effective January 1st, 2022. The Illinois [Fire and Smoke Damper Inspection Act](#) requires HVAC fire dampers and smoke dampers to be inspected/tested by individuals that are certified by the International Certification Board (ICB) and accredited to comply with ISO 17024 by ANSI or another nationally recognized certifying body accredited to comply with ISO 17024. ISO 17024 covers the certification process for a number of skills, not just this one. At this time, this particular certification is done by ICB alone. No one else currently provides it. A fire alarm technician must have ICB fire/smoke damper certification or certification from another ISO 17024 compliant certifying body in order to inspect/test HVAC fire dampers and

smoke dampers. This includes smoke tower dampers in high rises. Much like elevator recall testing, a non-certified fire alarm tester must still test the device that interfaces with the damper for proper operation per the facility's sequence of operations, but cannot comment on the functionality or viability of the connected equipment.

Upcoming events

- April – Mini-seminar with the OSFM divisions
- April/May – Fire and Life Safety Educator OSFM class at Countryside
- May – Fire Inspector 2 at Huntley
- June 24 – Mini-seminar – IFC update
- August 21 – Fire Safety Exhibit at the State Fair
- August – Inspector 1 at Glenside
- October 28 – Accessibility Code update
- November – “Did You Know” mini-seminar

Robert Morris
Executive Director, IFIA



The **2021 Edition** of the **Trustee's Handbook** is available for purchase \$50 each. The authors revised about 30 pages of the previous 2018 version. This exceptional resource is a breakdown on the duties and responsibilities for the administration but also explains the fire laws in layman's terms.

Contact IAFPD to order
at 217-525-6620
or email info@iafpd.org.