

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



Governor JB Pritzker and Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez have announced an innovative funding opportunity specifically addressing Illinois fire departments impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of \$1,000,000 will be available to assist approximately 80 impacted fire departments that operate in diverse communities throughout the state. Under this one-time grant opportunity, eligible Illinois fire departments could receive up to \$15,000 in order to make up for lost donation revenues stemming from their inability to host local fundraising events during 2020. These fundraising events pay for necessities like fuel for fire trucks, utilities, and insurance.

In order to be eligible for the assistance grant the applying fire department must:

- 1) Be an Illinois combination or volunteer fire department;
- 2) Operate within a jurisdiction with a population at or less than 7,500 people;
- 3) Have an approved annual budget at or less than \$150,000;
- 4) Have an OSFM Fire Department Identification Number (FDID); and
- 5) Be current with their National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) reports at the time of application.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is pleased to collaborate with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) who will create a special committee to review the grant applications utilizing a blind review needs-based analysis. The OSFM will facilitate and directly oversee the distribution of the grant awards to the recipients. This grant is financed through

the Illinois Fire Prevention Fund, a non-general revenue fund that is supported primarily by a 1% assessment of the gross fire risk premium receipts of all insurance companies operating in the state.

All grant applications must be received by August 13, 2021. The application review process will begin on August 23, 2021 and end on September 3, 2021. Grant recipients are expected to receive awards by October 2021.

Grant applications can be found by visiting the OSFM website at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/CurrentFocus/Documents/Fire%20Department%20COVID-19%20Assistance%20Grant%20Application.pdf>.

The OSFM continues to work with Vector (Target) Solutions to launch a time saving, easy-to-use web-based tool to help every fire department and firefighter more quickly and easily document training.

At this time, be sure that all members of your department are listed on the roster and registered for the PSE WebAccess Portal. You can find the PSE WebAccess Portal by visiting <https://webapps.sfm.illinois.gov/PSEPortal/Account/Login>. It will be very beneficial for 100% of your fire department's members to be listed on the roster and registered on the PSE WebAccess Portal prior to participation. Even if the department opts to not participate, it is good practice for all members of your department to be added to the department roster and registered for the PSE WebAccess Portal. Fire Departments can direct their members to the link provided to get them registered, registration is Free!

If your fire department currently utilizes Vector (Target) Solutions and your

members are also registered on the PSE WebAccess Portal with a different e-mail address than they use for Vector (Target) Solutions, they should change their e-mail in the PSE WebAccess to match the e-mail they use in Vector (Target) Solutions. To find the latest information and news from the OSFM, visit our website at sfm.illinois.gov or follow us on social media. Facebook: @IllinoisStateFireMarshal Twitter: @ILFireMarshal YouTube: Illinois State Fire Marshal

State Fire Marshal

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



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

First, congratulations on a great 2021 Conference. It was truly great to see so many gathered enjoying the venues and fellowship. Last article I talked about teamwork and I will re-enforce that again by saying Teamwork and partnerships are a key to success, and I feel strongly that the IAFFPD & IFCA are working well setting the future for the fire service with enhanced opportunities of partnerships. Enjoy the summer, be safe and Once again together as partners we achieve more.

From Jim Grady III IFCA – ED:

I would like to echo President Don's comment regarding the IAFFPD Conference well done and just excellent. The committee did a great job and I would like to thank Cheri and Karrie for their help lining up meetings for me and allowing

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me to continue to help with committee activates and the positive partnership we have.

Ok Big news – through a partnership with the Office of The State Fire Marshal a grant has been established to assist Volunteer FD's that took a hit during the pandemic. The criteria and rules are posted at the OSFM website so please take the time to fill out the application if you are eligible.

Our Symposium went well – great presentations and this year our first IFCA Bean Bag Tourney. We had approximately 200 attendees with favorable reviews and comments. We are looking forward to 2022 back in East Peoria.

Our 2021 Fall-Annual conference is in the final stages of planning. We will have more information on our website shortly, but please save the dates of October 17-20, 2021 in Peoria Illinois for our annual gathering. On Sunday the 17th we will hold the Fallen FF Memorial Stair Climb.

This year the Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor program will be Friday September 10, 2021 in Springfield. Please refer to the OSFM website for information.

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 a 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. 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. 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

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.

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

Our website is updated and maintained by Chief Larry Moran with assistance from Maureen Griseto, Chief John Buckley and me if they dare. 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. 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 1-847-966-0732.

Jim Grady III
Executive Director

Illinois Fire Service Institute



Summer 2021 has been very busy for the Illinois Fire Service Institute! On 30 June, we wished Colonel Royal Mortenson well in his retirement and officially “welcomed” Chief Jim Keiken as the new Director of IFSI. We are so grateful to Colonel Mortenson for his visionary leadership and dedication to the Illinois fire service and are excited for the next chapter of direction and guidance.

In addition to multiple dedication ceremonies, and retirement celebrations we hosted two annual training events in June. The energy and excitement among students, staff, and special guests alike has been refreshing as we gradually return to traditional operations.

FIRE COLLEGE

IFSI hosted the 97th Annual Fire College at three training locations 3-6 June.

Over the course of the four-day event, nearly 200 first responders from across Illinois received hands-on, elite training, delivered by a dedicated team of over 100 instructors and staff.

EXPLORER CADET FIRE SCHOOL

One week after Fire College, our team welcomed 170 explorers, cadets, and chaperones to Champaign for the 18th Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School. While the format of the 2021 event was altered due to University of Illinois COVID restrictions, the participants from 31 departments received a top-quality training experience. Year after year, this event offers a unique opportunity for young professionals to learn more about a potential career in the fire service.



LOOKING AHEAD

IFSI is gearing up for the 2021 fall training season, to include the next offering of the Basic Operations Firefighter Blended (BOF) program. The fall BOF program began July 24 with practical training locations in Cherry Valley, Sherman, Swansea, and Streator. This no cost program is a great pathway to state certification and is funded through the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal.

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We are also rolling out the deliveries of two of our newer training programs, Active Shooter Incident Management (Basic) and School Safety and Violent Event Incident Management (Reunification). Both programs are grant funded and will be delivered throughout the state this fall.

It is an exciting time for IFSI as we move through staff transitions, rollout of new programs, kickoff of fall course deliveries, on campus research studies, and training on the national stage at multiple fire service conferences. We are ready and waiting to meet and exceed every challenge and opportunity that comes our way in support of these efforts and the fulfillment of our mission. #WeAreIFSI

Jill Sauer, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

IL Fire Safety Alliance Fire Prevention Week Luncheon Returns October 7th



Join members of the fire service for the return of the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance's Fire Prevention Week Luncheon on Thursday, October 7th. The 80th annual event will be held in Woodridge and will include lunch, networking, updates from each of the 14 organizations that make up the Illinois Fire Services Association.

The Fire Prevention Week Luncheon also provides an opportunity to highlight and honor those who have gone above and beyond in fire safety and burn prevention, as each year the IFSA receives nominations and presents awards to those deserving individuals, groups, or businesses. Nominations can be submitted at any time, but must be received no later than August 15th to be considered for this year's event.

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For complete information on the Fire Prevention Week Luncheon, the award nomination form, and online registration, visit www.IFSA.org/FPWL.

Safety Series Resumes in September

The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance's Safety 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.

The remaining three sessions will take place between September and December and can be viewed through Facebook Live on the IFSA's page. Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts are encouraged to publicize and share these events with their residents to help reduce burn-related injuries and incidents.

Information can be found at www.IFSA.org/safetyseries.

Philip Zaleski
Executive Director

MABAS

The Month of June 2021 Provides MABAS and Fire Mutual Aid in Illinois and Wisconsin Extreme Challenges.

The month of June 2021 began with the winding down of the MABAS resource response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Three previously deployed Western Shelter systems are in the process of being demobilized and returned for rehabilitation. This leaves ten Western Shelters remaining deployed in the field.

Four Major Events in Illinois Test the Response Capability of MABAS Resources and Mutual Aid

The first major event took place at the Wood River Refinery June 3 to 7. A railroad tank car containing sulfuric acid reacted with another chemical causing a failure in containment and a release of a toxic vapor

cloud. Assistance was requested from MABAS and MABAS Divisions.

MABAS Divisional Resources

16 MABAS Divisions Responded with personnel & apparatus.

- Division 54 Breathing Air Compressor Vehicle.
- Division 32 Mobile Ventilation Vehicle.
- 6 Divisional Generator/Light Tower Trailers.

MABAS Central Resources

- MABAS Operations Staff Personnel.
- Mission Support Unit – South Vehicle.
- RED Center Dispatch and Control.

The second major event began June 14th and is still ongoing. This was the fire incident in Rockton, IL. Assistance was requested from MABAS, MABAS Divisions and MABAS Wisconsin.

MABAS Divisional Resources

- 29 MABAS Divisions with 167 Fire Agencies Responded.
- 350+ Fire Personnel with over 108 Fire Apparatus & Ambulances
- Division 8 Hazardous Materials Team & Equipment.
- 12 Generator Light Towers from Divisions.
- Planning Chiefs for Winnebago County EOC.

MABAS Central Resources

- MABAS LNO Staffing at the State Emergency Operations Center.
- Mission Support Unit – North Vehicle
- Mission Support Unit - Central Vehicle with Credentialing Team.
- MABAS Administration Section Chief, Plans Chief, Operations Chief and Local Operations Branch Chief Responded.
- RED Center Dispatch and Control.
- 3 IEMA Mission Taskings.

The third major event was an EF-3 tornado impacting the Naperville/Woodridge, IL area June 20th and is ongoing.

MABAS Resources

- 4 Divisional Generator Light Tower Trailers.
- Division 16 Western Shelter to restore service at damaged fire station.
- Division 16 Technical Rescue Response Team

- MABAS Operations staff personnel.
- RED Center Dispatch and Control.

The fourth major event was the lithium battery fire in Morris that began June 29th and proved to be extremely challenging to extinguish.

MABAS Divisional Resources

- D25 Fire task force 0600-1800 hours on 6/30
- D23 Fire task force 1800-0600 hours on 6/30 to 7/1
- D15 & D19 Haz-mat teams
- D14 Ambulance strike team
- D10 & D27 MVU
- D15 – 2ND alarm fire box & 4th alarm ambulance box
- D7 & D10 - Fire task forces
- D16 Air truck
- D15 & D19 Decon trucks

The week of June 14th had several major exercises scheduled which is when the Rockton Fire response was underway. A decision was made by MABAS to test the MABAS response capabilities and conduct the multiple exercises while the real-world events were still taking place. This would be necessary to be able to respond to multiple events throughout the State at the same time.

Special Operations Teams:

Water

- Operation Great Lakes – Lake Michigan - 6/8 & 6/9 – participation by 9 of the 16 water rescue teams, IL-TF 1 & IL-WR 1. This exercise involved the response of surface, subsurface and boat teams, plus the 2 ROV's, sector scan sonars, divisional and MABAS centralized boats, motors, trailers, vehicles, UAS, MSU-North, AHOST credentialling, RED Center and MABAS Ops support. The CFD, CCEMRS, Chicago OEMC and the were Salvation Army participating agencies. During exercise play on 6/9, MABAS was involved with the Chicago CCTA exercise.
- Prairie Fire 21 – Oglesby site – 6/22 & 6/23 – participation by IL-WR 1, local fire resources the Cook County Sheriff's Department, MABAS centralized boats, motors, trailers, and vehicles, AHOST credentialling, RED Center and MABAS Ops support.



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Technical Rescue

- Prairie Fire 21 – Champaign site (IFSI) - 6/15 & 6/16 – participation by 8 TRT's (4 per day) with Air Truck, UAS, MSU-Central, AHOST credentialling, Orland Central and MABAS Ops support. IFSI provided the site, set-up, and control for the exercise.

Hazardous Materials

- Prairie Fire 21 – Mt. Vernon site – 6/16 – participation by 2 Haz-Mat teams with fire crews, air truck, decon truck, MSU-Central, AHOST credentialling, Orland Central and MABAS Ops support. The City of Mt. Vernon conducted its EMA/EOC exercise in conjunction with the MABAS exercise.
- Prairie Fire 21 – Dwight site – 6/16 – this exercise site was cancelled due to the Rockton Fire Incident. Participation was planned for 2 Haz-mat teams, fire crews, air truck, decon truck, fire tender, GLT, IEMA UCP, AHOST credentialling, Orland Central and MABAS Ops support. This exercise component will be rescheduled for the fall.

US&R - Illinois Task Force 1 (IL-TF 1) –

- A NIMS 80-member Type I Urban Search & Rescue Team mobilized and deployed to Camp Douglas in Wisconsin June 15 to 18, 2021. Rescue Squad members were integrated with Air Force Reserve Urban Search & Rescue personnel for joint rescue training.

MABAS/Cook County Swiftwater Team (IL-WR 1) –

- Team training with the Cook County Sheriff on the Fox River in Yorkville on 5/27 & 5/28
- Coordination with exercise planning, development, set-up, participation and command and control with Operations Great Lakes on 6/8 & 6/9
- Coordination with exercise planning, development, set-up, participation and command and control with Prairie Fire 21 – Oglesby site on 6/22 & 6/23.

Other Notable Milestones Achieved During These Events.

- The MABAS response to the Rockton fire incident was the largest deployment of MABAS resources since the Hurricane Katrina response to Louisiana in 2005.

- The first time both the primary MABAS dispatch center (RED Center) and the secondary MABAS dispatch center (Orland) were operating real-world incidents and exercise deployments at the same time.

- The use of recently trained Administrative Assistant personnel as part of the MABAS All Hazards Operations Support Team (AHOST) to provide credentialling and support functions at scenes.

This month has provided an excellent example of the fire mutual aid capabilities that reside in Illinois and the need to provide for the future capital equipment replacement and personnel training needs to maintain these capabilities. ■



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