

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



It is with a grateful heart and mixed emotions that I write this final submission. If you would have ever told me, or anyone that knew me 37 years ago,

that I would have been asked to serve as the State Fire Marshal, the consensus opinion would have been to get your head examined. Every step of the way between then and now there have been people that have altered the course of my life which guided me to where I am today. My father was a policeman in Aurora and was well respected in our community for his work with juveniles helping to turn hundreds of wayward teens into productive members of society. I wanted to be like him, so I joined the Kane County Sheriff Department. I was sent to the Illinois State Police Academy where the mantra of Integrity, Service and Pride was forever etched into my brain. After a few short years I realized that law enforcement was not the path for me and recognizing this, my wife Traci showed me a newspaper advertisement for the Aurora Fire Department. A short time later I was hired by AFD and transitioned from the required independent, take control mindset of law enforcement to the team mentality of the fire service.

Having grown up the youngest of 5 overly aggressive, risk loving brothers (as well as 1 well protected sister) the concept of "team over self" and running towards danger came naturally. To

this day, although there are many fine fire departments in Illinois, I would not have changed my time in Aurora with anywhere else. We had all the manpower, vehicles, tools, equipment and training we could have asked for and we were well compensated for our work.

After moving through the ranks to Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal, I was contacted by the Lt Governor to apply for the State Fire Marshal position. To say this was an unexpected phone call is an understatement and I assumed the call was a prank orchestrated by one of my coworkers. I soon found out it was not a prank, retired from Aurora and ironically started my new job on April Fool's Day 2015.

Taking a leap of this magnitude and was like jumping out of a plane and hoping the parachute worked. I soon found out that my fellow workers at the OSFM were my parachute. The folks at OSFM are honestly some of the most kind, caring and conscientious people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. As I kept my eyes and ears open (and my mouth shut) they showed me what I needed to know and made me feel at home from the very first day.

Probably my most surprising discovery was that not all fire departments had it as good as we did in Aurora. I wanted that to change and worked with our people, as well as all of our Illinois fire service organizations, to develop programs and budgets that provided the best possible funding to benefit the firefighters who jumped off the trucks across the State.

Luckily, my pre-existing relationship with IFSI Director Royal Mortenson allowed us to

forge a strong bond between our agencies and his leadership brought new initiatives to benefit firefighters across the State. Thanks to Governor Pritzker, in the last few years we were allowed to fund grants and loans for education, training, equipment and vehicles at an unprecedented level for fire departments across the State and raise OSFM headcount to complete our mission and our statutorily mandated operations. It is very comforting to know that the OSFM is being left in the very capable hands. The leadership in place with Acting State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson and his exec team will no doubt continue and improve the direction we have established.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my wife Traci, none of this would have been possible without her career guidance, standing by me through some very tough times and still loving me when I was probably at times unlovable. She took on the lion's share of raising our children and establishing a safe and loving home which allowed me to focus on my responsibilities. Lastly, a tip of the cap to Norman who has been my road dog for all 7 years. It has been a great ride and I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. God Bless the OSFM and the Illinois Fire Service!

Dale Simpson has assumed the role as Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal. Simpson has served in public safety for over 35 years, the last 9 years with the OSFM. Before assuming the



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role of Acting SFM, Simpson began his career with the OSFM as a Fire Prevention Field Inspector, then moved into the position of OSFM Fire Prevention Division Manager, before accepted the role of Bureau Chief of Operations. Prior to OSFM, Simpson served with the Springfield Fire Department beginning in 1983, and upon his retirement in 2009 had worked his way up through the ranks, retiring as Division Chief Fire Safety, along with serving as the City of Springfield Fire Marshal. Prior to the fire service, Simpson was involved with both paid and volunteer ambulance services.

During his time in the Springfield Fire Department Simpson served as a sworn Fire/Arson Investigator, Explorer Post Coordinator, C.E.R.T. Coordinator, Juvenile Fire Setter Program Coordinator, and instructor for both the Springfield Fire Department and Lincoln Land Community College.

Simpson is honored and proud to serve the OSFM and looks to continue the Agency's mission of providing fire safety and other essential services to the citizens of Illinois.

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

From IFCA President

John Kachanuk [2021-2022]

Havana FD:

We have started in earnest our combined conference meetings for the 1st Annual Fire Chiefs, Fire Districts & Fire Service Mechanics Conference in Peoria for June of 2023. Once again, I would like to thank the executive boards of both the IFCA & IAFFPD 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 have set up working teams that will focus in on education, training, exhibits, along with all the logistics needed to bring about a successful conference. We are also partnered with the Fire Service Mechanics where they will hold classes and certifications for the variety of levels needed to maintain our fleets.



While we still have several items to address and overcome, 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, Mechanics 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:

I want to start out by congratulating the IAFFPD on a great conference in Champaign this past June. The speakers, the exhibits and all aspects were excellent. I will single out Cheri, Karrie and Kathy as they took the lead with help from others to make sure that the 2022 conference went well! Congratulations once again to all who made this year's conference work! Congratulations to Mike Dillon as he takes on the role of Chairman for the Fire Service Associations Team along with Phil Zaleski, John Buckley & Mitch Crocetti.

As President John Kachanuk stated we will be working diligently towards the first combined conference in 2023, but I need to repeat this, as to avoid any misunderstanding or confusion for 2023: 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 and 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.

Our Annual IFCA 2022 Conference will be held in October 16-19 in Peoria. 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.

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 available on our website. www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

We continue to update our Chief Fire Officer program with a projected roll out at the end of year. There will be some changes and enhancements, but the promise is an updated program that gives an outlet for national recognition. This is a partnership with IFSI utilizing their learning platform and in-house experts.

Monthly, 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 contact me or our IFCA office - jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org 1-847-966-0732.

Jim Grady III
Executive Director

Illinois Fire Service Institute

Summer 2022 has been very busy for the Illinois Fire Service Institute. In June, we hosted our two annual summer training events, Fire College and the Explorer Cadet Fire School.

It was a refreshing kickoff to the summer training season as we welcomed nearly 600 students and chaperones to the Champaign training grounds.

IFSI also welcomed 10 new members to the Illinois fire service in June as



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we completed the Spring/Summer Fire Academy. Congratulations to the graduates and we wish them well in their new careers.

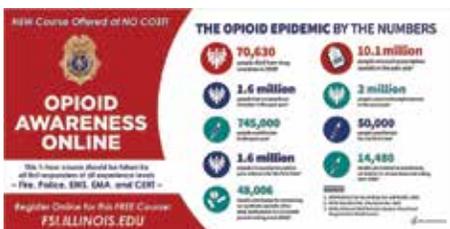
LIBRARY RESOURCES AVAILABLE ACROSS THE STATE

The IFSI Library is proud to offer a fire literacy program that will strengthen ties between Illinois firefighters and their communities. Through ALA's American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries, IFSI is offering the Children Fire Safety Literacy Reading and Discussion Program. The program can be implemented by Illinois fire departments, using history, biography and fiction to teach children in their community about fire safety. Multi-language resources are available and can be shipped through the Interloan library system.



NEW ONLINE COURSE OFFERING

IFSI is proud to release a new online course offering, available at no cost to Illinois students. Complete program details: fsi.illinois.edu.



MOVING AHEAD

We are geared up and ready to launch the fall training season. Additional classes are consistently added to the official schedule, so we encourage you to check the IFSI website frequently for updated class offerings. This includes no cost training opportunities available through the IFSI Cornerstone Program throughout the state.

SAVE THE DATE

Registration for the 2022 Veterans in the Fire Service Day opens in late August. Complete program details are available online.



IFSI will also host the 2022 MABAS Dispatchers In-Service Training days in September. Registration is open for this no cost training opportunity.



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION:

Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research.

Jim Keiken
Director

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance 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.

Safety Series Continues to Have Great Fire Department Involvement

The IFSA'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. Now in the second year of the program, 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 prevention experts from Belleville FD, Chicago FD, Joliet FD, Rockford FD, Rock Island FD, and Springfield FD during 2022's broadcasts.

The six sessions, which scheduled throughout the course of the year, are available at no cost through Facebook Live on the IFSA's page. Fire Departments across the state are encouraged to share these events with their residents to help reduce burn-related injuries and incidents within their communities.

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

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

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IL Fire Inspectors Association



Make plans now for July 21. We have the ICC presenting a full day VIRTUAL seminar on the high piled storage. Details and registration can be done through our website at www.IllinoisFireInspectors.org.

We could really use your help assisting with the fire inspector's day at the State Fair on August 21st. We will provide gate and parking passes for those attending. Tent hours are from 10 – 4, and you do not need to work tent the entire time. We are only asking for a few hours in the morning or afternoon to assist in promoting fire safety. Help us in our efforts for a few hours and then enjoy the rest of the day

at the Fair. If you stay into the evening, the grandstand entertainment scheduled is Sammy Hagar & The Circle with Ann Wilson of Heart.

We have just begun the process of scheduling speakers and topics for our annual Fire and Life Safety conference in March of 2023. If you have any ideas of topics or speakers that would be beneficial to educators or code enforcers, make sure you email those contact our office.

We are hosting a Fire Inspector I class in Glendale Heights in August. Register now for that class. Remember that the instructors we use are people who have been working in their fields for many, many years, and are subject matter experts in code enforcement. Register now on our website.

Our awards program is a year-round program. Throughout the year we accept nominations for anyone who is deserving

recognition for going above and beyond. It is also possible to nominate civilians or businesses. Check out our webpage for awards and descriptions. Awards will be presented in the Fall.

Please welcome our new Social Chair Sam Giordono. For those who might not know him, yet, he is the fire science coordinator at Harper College. He has some great ideas. Keep your eyes open.

Upcoming events:

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

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MABAS-IL

Now that the weather has finally warmed up I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. MABAS has recently finalized its Homeland Security Grant Program request for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2023. Due to the fact that the overall grant provided to Illinois was reduced around 10% MABAS is again operating with fewer funds to support statewide mutual aid. The State FY23 Preparedness and Response Grant for MABAS was also approved which will offset some of the cuts due to the federal grant reductions and use restrictions. We once again will receive an increased grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshal that helps MABAS offset expenses that are not grant eligible. Thanks for this grant go out to Fire Marshal Matt Perez. We would like to thank Matt for all he has done in his tenure as State Fire Marshal and wish him the best in his retirement in Arizona.

We still need to address the future capital replacement needs of MABAS which we have identified with the State. We are also working on alternate funding sources to cover the basic operating expenses of MABAS and other mutual aid organizations and move these costs from an increasing difficult federal funding source. As these plans develop we most certainly be asking for everyone's help.

Planning will begin in August for the 2023 MABAS Command and Dispatchers Summit next February in Bloomington-Normal. A "Call for Speakers" notice has been sent to all Divisions where we are looking for departments or divisions to share their experiences at difficult situations, best practices or lessons learned. If you have something that you wish to share with the entire group please contact us.

The next MABAS Executive Board meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2023 at the conclusion of the Illinois Fire



Chiefs Association Conference in Peoria. We will also be offering remote sites again if you cannot attend in person. Discussion and possible approval of the new Master MABAS Agreement will take place at this meeting so it is extremely important that your division attends to understand the

process and ask any questions.

Thank you everyone for your support of MABAS and keep everyone safe and healthy. ■



FIRE PREVENTION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) presents awards to nominated individuals, groups, firefighters, life safety educators, and others for their tremendous efforts in promoting fire safety and burn prevention within their community. Award recipients are highlighted at the annual Fire Prevention Week Luncheon, held in October.



Below is the nomination criteria for each award category:

Corporate Responsibility Award: This award is given to a corporation that has responsibly gone above and beyond the norm by providing fire safety or burn prevention education to the public.

Life Safety Award: This award is given to an individual, fire department, or organization that has achieved a pattern of excellence through a fire safety or burn prevention program they developed, implemented, and has resulted in positive life safety results amongst their constituents.

Special Recognition Award: This award is given to an individual who has established a pattern of fire safety and prevention efforts within their community.

Wayne Luecht Memorial Award: This award is granted to an individual who has established a pattern of excellence through a Fire Safety or Burn Prevention Program that has benefited the public outside of their jurisdiction. A person has also excelled in his or her duties while leading the Fire Service to recognize Public Education as an important tool. An individual who has been judged by their peers to possess the qualities and superior work ethics that others strive to emulate.

Nominations can be submitted at any time but must be received by the IFSA no later than August 15th to be considered for the current year. Scan the QR Code to complete the nomination online. Additional information can be found at www.IFSA.org/FPWL.



NOMINATE
SOMEONE

