

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



The OSFM wants to remind everyone to save the date for the 30th Annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Medal of Honor Ceremony that will be held in Springfield on May 9th. The Fallen Firefighter Memorial will begin at 10 AM at the memorial on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol with the Medal of Honor Ceremony to follow at the Bank of Springfield Center. Check our website for more details as the event gets closer.

The OSFM is accepting nominations for the Fire Prevention & Life Safety Award. This award is in recognition of the extraordinary efforts performed by individuals in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety. Applications are due by March 1st and can be found at www.sfm.illinois.gov.

In 2022 according to National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), Illinois Fire Departments responded to 18,018 calls about carbon monoxide and were able to determine a CO lead at 8,447 of those locations.

Unlike smoke, carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas only detectable by special devices and CO alarms. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) encourages residents to have their furnaces checked, change furnace filters and to make sure carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke detectors are functioning properly. Also, test and inspect all smoke and CO alarms in your home monthly. If you find broken or expired alarms, don't wait, replace them immediately.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are very similar to the flu and include headache,

fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. Other signs of possible CO presence include condensation on walls and windows, house pets becoming sluggish and chronic odors from malfunctioning appliances.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), heating is the second leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths. Local fire departments across the country responded to an estimated average of 48,530 fires involving heating equipment per year in 2014-2018, accounting for 14% of all reported home fires during this time. These fires resulted in annual losses of 500 civilian deaths, 1,350 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage. Most home heating fire deaths (81%) involved stationary or portable space heaters. The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (25%) was failure to clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys. Half of the home heating fire deaths were caused by having heating equipment to close too things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing mattresses or bedding. Nearly half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January, and February.

Space heaters lead to countless fires due to improper use during the winter months. It's important to plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and not extension cords. Keep space heaters at least three feet from curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding. Purchase units with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over or you forget to shut it off.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when it comes to winter heating safety:

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional, change furnace filters frequently.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturers' instructions.
- Keep interior and exterior air vents clear of blockages or obstructions.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like a furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before being placed into a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Create a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Test smoke and CO alarms at least once a month and be familiar with the sounds they make.
- Never use an oven or range to heat your home.
- Remember to turn off portable or space heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors on each floor of your home and within 15 feet of each sleeping area.
- CO detectors have a limited life span, check the manufacturer's instructions for information on replacement.

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Illinois Fire Service Institute



As we move into the new year, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) team is preparing for another active training season. Multiple classes kicked off mid-January, to include Basic Operations Firefighter (BOF) Blended training at four remote locations across Illinois.

Our team is energized from the restful holiday break and ready to deliver top-quality training throughout the upcoming months.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Mark your calendar for these 2023 special events:

- 99th Annual Fire College – June 2-4
- IFA – Down and Dirty Firefighting Weekend – October 27-28
- 6th Annual Veterans in the Fire Service Day – November 4-5

FOLLOW US:

Remember to follow our regular training highlight updates on all the IFSI social media channels.



TEAM IFSI AND CORNERSTONE:



A reminder that no cost training and education is available to departments through the Team IFSI and Cornerstone Programs.

Team IFSI: IFSI offers a basic three-year cycle training plan, to include support materials that allow training officers or company officers to provide a fundamental and comprehensive training program for their department or crew. This training program takes into account annual training requirements that a department is expected to meet and includes a broad spectrum of training subjects. Materials are packaged in an easy-to-use lesson plan. All Team IFSI resources are available at no-cost to departments. IFSI student or staff login is required to access the materials through the IFSI Student and Staff Resource Center.



The IFSI Cornerstone Program supports fundamental and essential skills training for fire departments and mutual aid organizations throughout the state. The training is coordinated through eight IFSI Regional Representatives who work with local departments in determining specific training needs and scheduling relevant training opportunities. Funding for Cornerstone Program courses is supported through the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, so training is delivered at no cost to students or local fire departments.

We encourage you to visit the IFSI website for more information on these two programs: fsi.illinois.edu

2023 CALENDARS:

It is that time of year again! IFSI has released the 2023 calendar and printed calendars were mailed to all fire departments, IFSI staff, and our friends in late December. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the printed calendar, please email fsi-marketing@illinois.edu.

We thank you for your continued



support in the fulfillment of our Mission:
Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research.

Jim Keiken
Director

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Updated Smoke Alarm Law in Effect as of January 1st



In 2017, the IFSA along with support from the Illinois fire service worked with the General Assembly to pass a law which will require Illinois residents to replace their old smoke alarms with the type that has a long-term, 10-year sealed battery beginning January 1, 2023. This would apply to residents that are still using alarms with removable batteries or alarms that are not hardwired.

Smoke alarm law background

- Since 1988, all dwellings in Illinois have been required to have smoke alarms.
- In 2017, Public Act 100-0200 was passed to update the Illinois Smoke Detector Act to reflect advances in alarm technology.
- As of January 1, 2023, any new smoke alarms being installed within a single or multi-family home are required to be featured with a 10-year sealed battery.
- Smoke alarms in single or multi-family homes prior to January 1, 2023 may remain in place until they exceed 10 years from their manufactured date, fails to respond to operability tests, or otherwise malfunctions.

Exemptions

- Homes built after 1988 that already have hardwired smoke alarms.
- Homes with wireless integrated alarms that use low-power radio frequency communications, Wi-Fi, or other Wireless Local Area Networking capability.

To view the Illinois law in its entirety, visit www.IFSA.org/smoke-alarm-law.

Camp I Am Me Seeking Volunteers to Make a Difference in Young Survivors' Lives

The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance'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. 2023's camp will represent

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the 32nd year of Illinois' camp for young burn survivors and the IFSA is looking for compassionate and enthusiastic volunteers from the fire service and beyond 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 70 campers!

The IFSA's 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 begins with the tremendous volunteer staff during this one special week of the year.

2023's Camp "I Am Me" will take place June 18-24. The program takes place at the YMCA Camp Duncan in Ingleside, Illinois, located in northern Lake County. Volunteers must be 21 years of age at the time of camp to participate, must be able to stay at camp the entire week, and participate in camp's Staff Professional Development Day, which will take place on April 22nd in Rolling Meadows. For additional details and to complete the Request to Volunteer Form, visit www.IFSA.org/get-involved.

Philip Zaleski
Executive Director

IL Fire Inspectors Association

Membership renewals are out. If your department is currently a member of the IFIA, thank you. If you are not a member, please consider doing so. The cost is only \$100. You can apply for membership by going to our website. When you fill out the information needed, we will then invoice you.

The 2023 IFIA elected officers were sworn in during our December planning meeting by Minooka Chief Al Yancey. The new 2023 IFIA officers are President, Mary Ludemann – Minooka; Vice President, Michael Rons – Schaumburg; Secretary, David Wheeler – Oak Lawn; Treasurer, Scott McBride – Roselle. Serving as an officer is a multi-year commitment. Thank them for volunteering to serve.



Membership renewals are out. If your department is currently a member of the IFIA, thank you. An invoice has been sent to you for your processing. If you did not receive one, please contact our office. If you are not a member, please consider doing so. The cost is only \$100. You can apply for membership by going to our website. When you fill out the information asked for, we will then invoice you. For businesses, Associate membership is only \$150. This year the by-laws were changed, and Associate members now have the ability to serve as an officer of the Board of Directors. As a reminder on membership, we are not an individual based membership. If your department is a member, for \$100, then all members of your organization receive the member benefits. Your membership helps keeps the cost of our offerings to you down.

There are some new laws taking effect in January 2023 that fire inspectors should know. First, in accordance with state law (225 ILCS 317/17), an appropriate level in NICET certification in Inspection and Testing of Water Based Systems shall be Level III. Building owners must utilize an inspector who is employed by a state-licensed fire sprinkler contractor and has appropriate credentials through completion of a certified sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or certification through NICET III (changed from NICET II; effective January 1, 2023) or ASSE 15010. Find the details from the OSFM here: tinyurl.com/2s768ynu.

Second, battery operated smoke alarms that are in need of replacement must be updated to units with long life batteries. Find the details here: tinyurl.com/5hczur6t.

OSFM Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II, and PFLSE certification classes are already on the books for 2023. These classes are taught by experts in their fields, some of whom have decades of experience. Check our website or the end of this article for the dates and locations. Registration can be done on our website.

Make plans for our annual Fire and Life Safety Conference, March 22 – 24, in East Peoria. Complete details and registration is available on our website. Some of the presentations scheduled are: Change YOUR Mindset, Change YOUR Community; Communicating with Candor

and NOT Chaos; NFPA 3000 Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Program, How Hazardous Materials Use and Storage Impacts Facility Occupancy Classification; Developing Lesson Plans and Understanding State Standards; Steps to Safety™ Prevent Fire and Falls at Home; Understanding Substance Use Disorder and its Link in the Fire Service; Trained Crowd Managers: Force Multipliers for your Fire Prevention Efforts; Applying Behavioral Science to Fire Safety Education; and Wicked Code Problems. A full program with all classes, descriptions, and speaker bios is available on our website.

Sign up now for the conference, as early bird pricing goes away after February 22nd. Registration can be done at our website www.IllinoisFireInspectors.org.

If you are a business that would like to exhibit to showcase your product and get face time with over 100 fire inspectors and educators, or do a sponsorship for the conference, those opportunities are available on our website www.IllinoisFireInspectors.org. It is your support that keeps the conference affordable.

We are always looking for training topics to present. If there is something that you would like to find out more on, contact our office and we'll forward that to the appropriate people.

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 the different awards and their descriptions.

Upcoming events

- February 24 – a virtual seminar on fire alarm inspection and testing
- FLSE: April 24 – 26 and May 1 – 2, Downers Grove
- Inspector 1: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Downers Grove
- Inspectors Day at the State Fair – August 20 – eligible for ICC credits
- Inspector 2: September 7, 14, 21, 28 and October 5th, Romeoville

Robert Morris
Executive Director, IFIA

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Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

There may be no "I" in Team but there are three in Illinois. This June three "I's" will be together for a new and exciting event. Work is well underway to combine the annual conference of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts (IAFPD) and the annual conference of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) into the First Annual Illinois Fire Service Conference (IFSC)!



This concept has been discussed for years and is now coming through fruition. Combining our conferences will help trim expenses for many vendors, sponsors and attendees alike as they need only travel to Peoria once rather than twice.

Moving apparatus to Peoria and paying for floor display space only once is appealing to our apparatus and Ambulance partners. Needing to "close the office" to be with Illinois Fire Service personnel once rather than twice is also appealing for both vendors and sponsors. For many Chiefs traveling to one conference rather than two is more suitable for their personal schedules and more feasible for their tight budgets.

In addition to the economic advantages this conference will now have tracks available so attendees can choose which presentation they prefer to attend during any given timeframe. There will be several topics to choose from with

the intention of meeting the needs of all attendees be they fire officers, Trustees, Commissioners, or other fire service professionals. It is an exciting time in the Illinois Fire Service and this first Illinois Fire Service Conference will be one to remember.

Many thanks to those who are working so hard behind the scenes to make this conference one that will address the training needs of all concerned in a comfortable, professional, efficient, and welcoming manner. Committees of personnel from both the IAFPD and the IFCA have worked diligently to bring the best aspects of their Association's conference forward to create a "best of the best" event for all to learn and enjoy. Yep – it will be THAT good. WE look forward to seeing you there.

Richard J. Mikel
IFCA President

Illinois Firefighters Association



The Illinois Firefighters Association is off and running with an exciting new project for the new year! Visit our website often and follow our progress as we roll out our GO GREEN CLEAN Firefighter Cancer Awareness and Prevention Initiative. Our 2022 Annual Conference, held on October 22nd at IFSI in Champaign, was a great success that ended with the dedication of

our "First in the Nation" GO GREEN CLEAN Fire Truck. This working bright green fire truck will travel to firehouses around the state bringing firefighters the tools and information they need to stop cancer at their door! It is our vision to provide equipment, training, and education, free of charge, for the best mitigation practices that will allow every firefighter to reduce cancer risks while still on the fire scene. We have developed a Mission Statement and Program Guidelines that we are very proud of and are attached below. We have designed and trademarked a GO GREEN CLEAN ribbon logo. Also included are pictures that were taken at the dedication of the GO GREEN CLEAN fire truck. Currently, we are releasing promotional news about our innovative initiative at the local, state and even national level. We are hopeful that this will create interest and enthusiasm that grows stronger every day. We believe that reaching out to the firefighters in our attention grabbing and unmistakable truck will heighten awareness of cancer risks and increase proper decontamination practices. We want to thank our partners that made this groundbreaking project possible: Alexis Fire Equipment who donated the truck; Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez (Retired) who acquired the funding for the decontamination equipment; Our State Fire Academy (IFSI) for creating the training video; Illinois MABAS for assisting in equipment distribution; and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network for training our Directors in Firefighter Cancer Awareness and Prevention Practices. The Illinois Firefighters Association wishes everyone a Happy and Safe New Year! ■

