

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 continues to strive to keep an accurate account of all active career and volunteer firefighters across the state, but we need your help. We understand that rosters change and leadership changes in fire departments, but we need to know these changes so we can ensure we have the right contacts for sending out grants and loans, training opportunities, and other important information from the OSFM. This will also become very important to your members with a couple of initiatives that are coming very soon. Chiefs or department leadership, if you have a few minutes please go through and check that your active roster matches up with what we show at the OSFM. Staff members from our Personal Standards and Education Division will be visiting departments across the state over the next few months to assist with this process and provide reminders. We have a lot of great things coming from the OSFM and we don't want any departments or members to miss out on these opportunities.

The OSFM's Small Equipment Grant Application is open through December 15. The OSFM continues to hear the needs of departments across the state, and we are proud to be able to increase funding to \$4 million dollars for our small equipment grant program for this fiscal year. Our firefighters in Illinois deserve to have the best equipment that helps keep them safe, which in turn allows them to help residents in their time of need. The OSFM continues our dedication to helping provide this much needed funding to departments across the state. All applicants are required

to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying. The OSFM will require departments to be current from September 2021 through August 2023 for this grant period.

When it comes time for your department or district to apply for the grant, please make sure you fill out all sections of the application completely and accurately. Do not skip or omit any information being requested, and do not leave any fields blank.

Here are the top five reasons for an application to be rejected:

1. NFIRS reporting issues. A complete compliance list is available on our website and is updated monthly. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns to: sfm.nfirshelp@illinois.gov
 - Departments/Distracts data needs to be current from September 2021 through August 2023
2. Equipment Identification
 - Tier 1 vs Tier 2
 - Tier 1 higher priority and better chance to receive funding.
 - Tier 2 may be awarded, but not until after all eligible Tier 1 applications are considered.
3. All required signatures are not on the application.
 - All application must be signed by the Fire Chief and;
 - If Fire Protection District, President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees
 - If Municipal Fire Department, Mayor and City Manager, Clerk or highest elected local official.

- This ensures all officials above are aware of the application.
4. Budget information is incomplete.
 5. Equipment justification is missing or incomplete.
 - Tell your story and why you need this equipment.

We are here to help answer any questions or address your concerns when it come to applying for the small equipment grant.

JC Fultz
PIO

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



On behalf of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself as the new Executive Director for the Association. I started as a paid-on-call firefighter with the Village of Riverside, eventually being promoted to Deputy Chief. During much of that same time I was a career firefighter with the Pleasantview Fire Protection District, retiring in 2019 after serving as the fire chief for five years. More recently, I have been working on a number of different projects, including many with the IFCA. Much of my focus during this time was on legislative issues. I am here to help, don't hesitate to reach out to me at execdir@illinoisfirechiefs.org.

In October, the IFCA swore in our new Executive Board. Led by President Tom Styczynski (Alsip FD), First Vice President Chad Hoefle (Stillman Valley FPD) and Second Vice President Brian Lambel (Wilmette FD), the Board looks forward to

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an exciting year helping our member fire chiefs provide vital emergency services for their communities.

The IFCA is also looking forward to again partnering with the IAFFPD to jointly host the Illinois Fire Service Conference. We feel many important lessons on what worked and what can be improved were learned at the first conference and believe that, working together, we can present the premiere fire service event in Illinois. We look forward to seeing all the IFCA members, and IAFFPD members, in September.

As always, if we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to contact me, or Maureen in the IFCA office info@illinoisfirechiefs.org.

John Buckley
Executive Director
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Illinois Fire Service Institute



As we move approach the end of the year, the IFSI team will wrap up the fall training season and move into preparations for early 2024 course deliveries. It will be an exciting year for our team as we celebrate 100 years of continuous training within the fire service and kick off our 100-year celebration activities in late January.



SAVE THE DATE:

Registration for the 2024 Winter Fire School opens November 10. The two-day annual event will take place January 20-21, 2024, in Champaign and will include live fire, hands-on, and classroom training courses.

NEW COURSE OFFERINGS:

IFSI is now offering a new course in the RIT Program for company and command officers. This new training opportunity parallels the Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician class and will provide the necessary advanced skills to effectively operate as command of a RIT team. For program details, visit fsi.illinois.edu.



IFSI CALENDAR:

The 2024 IFSI calendar will be mailed to all departments in December. If you are interested in receiving a copy of this annual publication, email fsi-marketing@illinois.edu indicating your name and mailing address. We are proud of this piece showcasing our students, staff, programs, and affiliates and would love to share a copy with you.

LIBRARY NEWS:

The IFSI Library has been awarded \$150,000 in grant funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grants for Libraries program.

Funding will support the two-year project Libraries as Partners for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Times of Crisis, a preliminary investigation into partnerships between libraries of all types and community emergency response partners during emergencies. Year 1 will focus on a case study survey of the partnerships between Illinois libraries and community emergency response groups, and Year 2 will focus on community engagement roundtable discussions to bring the conversation to the national level.

This project will discover and promote the essential role that libraries play in community safety and well-being, and serve as the conversation starter for future discussions, collaborations, and research on library-community partnerships.

We are grateful for your continued support of our mission:

Jim Keiken
Director

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Libraries as Partners for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Times of Crisis
A grant project by the Illinois Fire Service Institute Library, UIUC School of Information Sciences, and Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois
August 1, 2023 - July 31, 2025

What is Libraries as Partners?
Libraries serve their communities during many crises, but there is little information on how they partner with emergency responders, like firefighters, to provide emergency services through collaboration.

This project will increase understanding of libraries' role as partners during emergencies to develop recommendations for future successful library-emergency response partnerships.

Project activities include:

- Survey of Illinois libraries to understand their partnerships with emergency responders
- Two Community Engagement Roundtable discussions between libraries and emergency responders on successful partnerships and recommendations for partnerships during emergencies

Benefits and Impact on Firefighters

- Awareness of libraries' role in emergency management and response
- Ability to create successful partnerships with libraries for emergencies
- Increased community preparation, safety, and resiliency through library partnerships

How can you get involved?
In 2024, apply to join the 2025 Community Engagement Roundtables as a panelist or participant! Join the conversation to share your thoughts and recommendations on successful library-emergency response partnerships during community crises.

For more information, visit: imlsgrant.web.illinois.edu

Acknowledgment Statement
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ILLINOIS School of Information Sciences
Institute of Museum and Library Services

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Illinois Fire Safety Alliance

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



Camp I Am Me's signature Summer Camp program provides a special and unforgettable one-week camp experience for children and teenagers who have experienced injuries from burns. 2024's camp will represent the 33rd year of Illinois' camp for young burn survivors and Camp I Am Me 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 60 campers!

Camp I Am Me 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.

2024's Summer Camp will take place from June 16-22. 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 20th in Rolling Meadows. For additional details and to complete the Request to Volunteer Form, visit www.IFSA.org/get-involved.

82nd Fire Prevention Week Luncheon Sees 350 Attendees

More than 300 members of the fire service and beyond joined Camp I Am Me on October 12th for the 82nd annual Fire Prevention Week Luncheon. Guests were treated to a gourmet lunch and networking opportunities with colleagues and program sponsors alike.

This year's keynote presentation was provided by NFPA's (National Fire Protection Association) Senior Director of Public Education, Andrea Vastis. She spoke

on evaluating fire department fire and life safety education efforts, as guests learned how to monitor and evaluate community education programs and social media efforts.

Four Fire Prevention Awards were also presented. A Special Recognition Awards was given to Chicago Fire Department Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt. Three Life Safety Awards were awarded to Arlington Heights Fire Department, Niles Fire Department, and to Carm Welsh, from Beecher Fire Protection District.

Nominations for next year's program are now being accepted. The online nomination form can be found at www.IFSA.org/FPWL.

Philip Zaleski
Executive Director

IL Fire Inspectors Association

Our annual Fire and Life Safety Conference is March 20 – 22, 2024, with a pre-conference on the afternoon of the 19th. *Make plans now to attend!*



While a few months away, we have reserved a room for our Holiday Party. It will be on December 7th at Roberto's Ristorante & Pizzeria, 483 Spring Rd, Elmhurst. The event will begin at 6 pm. This is a good time to get together outside of work and enjoy the season. Appetizers will be provided, and there will be a cash bar. Recognizing that there are many not as fortunate as us, we will be collecting new or gently worn winter clothing – coats, gloves, hats, etc. to be donated to an agency for distribution. If you would like to make a clothing donation, and cannot attend the holiday party, simply contact the IFIA office and we will make contact with you to get the clothing. All are welcome to attend. Let the office know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly.

We have just a few long-life smoke alarms remaining. If you'd like a few to carry on your vehicles, let us know. Then, should you go to a home that does not have any smoke alarms, you will be able to install one of the ones carried on your vehicle and immediately reduce a risk. We do not have a good way to ship this, so you will need to pick these up, or make arrangements to acquire them.

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.

The final mini-seminar of 2023 will be our popular *virtual* "Did You Know" seminar. This seminar will include a variety of topics and presenters, each lasting about 15-20 minutes. This is the best way to get a high-level view of many topics. If you find one of particular interest, you will be given the instructors contact info to follow up with. The seminar will be on November 17th. Topics confirmed at this time are the Next generation of smoke alarms; Remote testing of fire alarm systems; Existing smoke control systems performance issues; CO and smoke alarm locations; and more. Check the website for the updated topics, and to register.

For those looking for an OSFM Fire Inspector 1 class, there will be one in January in Romeoville. The dates are January 4, 11, 18, 25, February 1. Registration is available on our website.

If one is in need of financial assistance to attend an IFIA Fire Inspector 1 or 2, or Fire and Life Safety Educator certification class, scholarships are available. On the IFIA website is an application form for a scholarship to cover the cost of the class.

Upcoming events:

- November 17th - Did You Know *virtual* mini-seminar
- Inspector 1: January 4, 11, 18, 25, February 1 - Romeoville
- December 7th – Holiday party in Elmhurst
- IFIA Annual Fire and Life Safety Conference – March 20 – 22, 2024

Robert Morris
Executive Director, IFIA

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MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The deadline for submitting your approved and signed new MABAS Master Agreement is January 1, 2024. If you have not already submitted your Agreement, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Section 14 of the New Agreement states.



Section Fourteen – Revocation of Prior Agreements:

This Agreement shall replace all prior Mutual Aid Box Alarm System agreements effective at 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time on January 1, 2024, and in accordance with the laws of their respective states. Any member unit that has not become a Party to this Agreement by 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time on January 1, 2024, shall no longer be affiliated with MABAS in any capacity, shall not continue to benefit from its prior association with MABAS, and shall not rely on the MABAS system for emergency responses, until subsequently rejoining MABAS by the adoption of an approving ordinance or resolution and entering into this Agreement, as may be amended from time to time. The effective date for any new member Unit joining after January 1, 2024, shall be the date set forth to the signature of that new Member Unit.

Any MABAS owned assets in the possession of a Unit that fails to execute this Agreement shall return said assets to MABAS no later than January 1, 2024. Costs associated with the recovery or replacement of said asset shall be borne by the Unit failing to execute this Agreement, including reasonable legal fees.

Information regarding the Master MABAS Agreement, and to see if your department has submitted their Agreement, can be found online at: www.mabas-il.org/mabas-master-agreement.

Contact MABAS Headquarters at 847-403-0500 or your local MABAS Operations Branch Chief should you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. ■

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