

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



Application Period is open for the OSFM's Small Equipment Grant Program

The OSFM will award \$1.5 million to eligible fire departments and ambulance services for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment. All interested departments should send an application to OSFM electronically or postmarked no later than **November 30, 2022**.

The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000. A total of \$2.5 million was awarded to 104 fire departments/districts and EMS providers across the state in April. This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for the fire departments and not-for-profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The grants allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small tools and equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase. In addition to firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE), applicants can also apply for personal infection control items such as masks, gowns, and gloves this application cycle. Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts, and township fire departments are eligible to apply. In addition, stand-alone, not-for-profit ambulance service providers are eligible to apply.

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 August 2020 through August 2022 for this grant period.

Additional information including the application can be found at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/lam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx>

Completed applications should be submitted to:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Small Equipment Grant Program
1035 Stevenson Drive
Springfield, IL 62703

PFAS Survey

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal has been tasked by the PFAS Reduction Act (415 ILCS 170) with surveying the Illinois fire service annually for six years to determine the prevalence and use of Class B foam stock which contains perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This is the second annual survey. The OSFM is asking all departments complete the survey by November 15, 2022. **Only personnel authorized by their department should complete this survey.** To see a letter from Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson regarding this survey please visit our website at sfm.illinois.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Hay at greg.hay@illinois.gov. The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZJN7XK2>.

Illinois Fire Service Institute



With only a few months left in the year, the IFSI team remains busy supporting training activities, research efforts, and statewide community connections. A few updates from our team:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Planning is already underway for the 2023 Winter Fire School. The two-day annual event will take place January 21-22, 2023 in Champaign. Complete program details, course listing, and registration will be posted on the IFSI webpage in mid-November.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION:

Fall is always a busy time for the IFSI team, and the 2022 fall season is no exception. In just a few short months, IFSI will deliver three special events, complete the largest resident Academy class, offer BOF training at three site locations, execute seventeen Special Operations Training Program classes, provide six Leadership Development and Decision-Making offerings, conduct twelve Instructor Program courses and four Fire Ground Officer classes, PLUS present multiple no-cost classes across the state through the Firefighting/Cornerstone Programs. While busy, we remain grateful for the opportunity to support emergency preparedness and community safety for our state.



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RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS WANTED:

The IFSI Research team is looking for participants to support current study data collection needs. We are looking for two distinct groups of firefighters between 18-55 years old who are not tobacco users.

- New-less than three years of active fire service
- Experienced-greater than 15 years of active fire service (*Active service years can be combination of volunteer and career*)

For this project we require participants to:

- Complete a health history questionnaire, which includes physical activities and typical PPE
- Provide blood samples collected from a single visit at IFSI

Compensation is available for those that qualify. For more information, contact Kristen Massey at kradema2@illinois.edu.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION!

Jim Keiken
Director

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance

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 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 from 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.

81st Fire Prevention Week Luncheon Sees 375 Attendees

Nearly 400 members of the fire service and beyond joined the IFSA on October 13th for the 81st 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 Chief (ret.) Patrick Kenny, as he shared his personal story and put forth a call to action to stand up and face mental illness, grief, and loss head-on, by examining the myths and stigmas that are attached to each of those challenges. He shared his leadership mental health strategies and tactics and discussed the complications that arise of being a leader, whether in one's work, family, or personal life.

Two Fire Prevention Awards were also presented. The first Special Recognition Awards was given to Illinois Representative Joyce Mason for her successful efforts in thwarting fireworks legalization legislation earlier in the year. The second Special Recognition Award was presented to Sophia Schwalbach, for her efforts to promote fire safety education and distribute life-saving devices such as smoke alarms CO alarms, and escape ladders to the students who live both on-campus and off-campus at Milliken University in Decatur.

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



VOLUNTEER RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS ARE NEEDED!

ABOUT THE RESEARCH STUDY:
IFSI Research needs volunteers to participate in a study to develop a risk measure of the probability of developing cancer markers (inflammatory markers, metabolites, gene expression, etc.) based on measured levels of PFAS in blood serum.

We hypothesize that exposure to toxins has the potential to trigger cancer biomarkers. To test our hypothesis, IFSI is partnering with the Department of Bioengineering and the Illinois Cancer Center to establish a protocol for serum collection among new and experienced firefighters to predict cancer risk.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PARTICIPATE:
Kristen Massey, Research Project Manager
kradema2@illinois.edu

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
2 different groups of firefighters between the ages of 18-55 years old who are not tobacco users are needed.

GROUP 1 – New Firefighters
(less than three years of active fire service)

GROUP 2 – Experienced Firefighters
(greater than 15 years of active fire service)

**active service years can be combination of volunteer and career.*

REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete a health history questionnaire, which includes physical activities and typical PPE
- Provide blood samples (about 15 ml), collected from a single visit at IFSI

COMPENSATION IS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE THAT QUALIFY
We anticipate that this will not take more than 15-30 min of the participant's time.

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IL Fire Inspectors Association



We are offering a Fire Inspector 1 class in Bedford Park in November. The dates will be November 7, 14, 21, 28, and December 5. If this is of interest to you, the sign-up information is on our website.

On November 18 – our popular “Did You Know?” mini-seminar will return. This class will be a virtual presentation, so there is no reason to miss it. This presentation gives a short overview of multiple topics. Then, if you want more information, you can reach out to the instructor. Scheduled so far are:

- a CRAIG 1300 demonstration
- pressure reducing/restricting valve review
- toxicity of combustion byproducts
- CaptiveAire hood systems
- air compressors for dry and preaction fire sprinkler systems
- Hydra-Tap for testing backflow preventers.

Make plans for our annual **Fire and Life Safety Conference**, March 22 – 24, in East Peoria. Complete details and registration will be available soon on our website, but *some* of the presentations planned 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.

Registration is available now for attendees on our website. Additionally, if you are a business that would like to showcase your product, or do a sponsorship for the conference, those are also available on our website www.IllinoisFireInspectors.org.

Due to your generosity of our fundraising event this summer, we received enough funds to award three scholarships for OSFM classes in 2023. We will be giving away one seat in the Fire Inspector 1, Fire Inspector 2, and Public Fire and Life Safety Educator classes. These will be awarded to IFIA members who are in financial need to attend these classes. *If your department is not a member, now is the time to sign up.* The application form, and the details, can be accessed on our website at <https://www.illinoisfireinspectors.org/scholarship>. Applications must be received by our office by November 1st. In order for us to keep providing scholarships, when we host fundraising event in the future, your support is needed. One hundred percent of the funds go directly into a scholarship fund. Keep your eyes open for an event this fall.

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.

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 web page for the different awards and their descriptions.

Upcoming events:

Inspector 1: November 7,14,21, 28, and December 5 Bedford Park

“Did You Know?” mini-seminar November 18

Inspector 1: January 5, 12, 19, 26 and February 2nd, Romeoville

Inspector 2: 2023 - Thursday: September 7, 14, 21, 28 and October 5th, Romeoville

FLSE: 2023- April 24-26 and May 1-2
Robert Morris
Executive Director, IFIA

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

We just completed our 71st annual conference where John Kachanuk finished his Term as President and thanked everyone for all of their support and assistance.



As we enter the terms of office for 2022-2023 Chief Richard Mikel from the Elk Grove Village Fire Department was sworn in as President. President Mikel’s message was one of reaching out to others and asked them to attend gatherings, get involved and share of their talents. President Rich emphasized the changes of today’s fire service and how we need to be more diverse not only on how we train, but how we recruit, who we recruit and who we are as the fire service. I will sum it up like this – President Rich stated that when we take on new firefighters no matter career, volunteer or paid on call make them feel welcome and thank them for their service.

Chief Mikel is joined by Chief Tom Styczynski from the Alsip FD and 1st Vice-President, Chief Chad Hoefle of the Stillman FPD as 2nd Vice-president and Chief John Kachanuk from Havana FD as our Immediate Past President will be the Executive Branch of the IFCA Board.

We have added several new members to the board throughout the state and all changes to the board will be posted on our website.

The IFCA held our annual conference in Peoria (October 16-19) and had a good turnout consisting of 200 plus registrants, 120 vendors (staff of 400) and 30 mechanics.

Several recognitions were given: Chief of the Year for 2022 Chief Joseph Heim of the East Dubuque FPD in the Volunteer category. We also recognized Robert Buhs with a lifetime achievement award titled the Jerry Burke Award, named after our previous Director and mentor Jerry Burke.

We also saw the passing of the gavel and welcomed as our President for 2022-2023 Chief Richard Mikel of the Elk Grove Village FD. Our executive team along with all of our directors and representatives are committed to working with the IAFFPD as together we move forward with training, education, sharing of resources and partnerships.

The 2023 combined conference is well into the planning stages and there will be much more information out that details the classes, the cost and all necessary information so that you can sign up. Our goal is to center on education programs

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that help ALL! We will be sending out updates shortly but put in your in books June 2023 Peoria Illinois for what will be a fantastic gathering of fire service leaders. Our Volunteer Combination Officers Committee will be holding a conference on January 20th and 21st in East Peoria Illinois. A flyer will be mailed out very soon that will give details, but as of toady we have booked three dynamic speakers that will address volunteer recruitment, mental health, leadership and handling LODD incidents.

The 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 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. 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 website 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 Deputy Chief Paul Kinsella 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

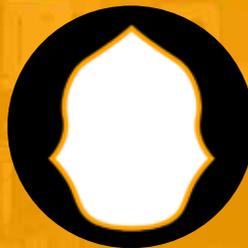


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Personnel



Apparatus



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