

# 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 OSFM on Social Media



The Office of the State Fire Marshal is working to increase its outreach through social media by utilizing Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Each week, OSFM highlights a topic and posts fire prevention, fire safety, public safety and other important information on Facebook and Twitter. The goal is to create a fire-safe state and provide tips for residents to use to help create a fire-safe home.

OSFM is committed to helping spread the fire prevention message and promoting news from departments and districts across the state. If your department or district has something you would like to share, please tag us in your post or send us information and OSFM will share!

You can follow OSFM:

**Facebook:** @IllinoisStateFireMarshal

**Twitter:** @ILFireMarshal

**YouTube:** Illinois State Fire Marshal

### Coffee with the Chief

OSFM has started a new segment called Coffee with the Chief. The focus of this segment is to highlight smaller departments and fire protection districts across Illinois. Many departments and districts face similar challenges or have unique challenges or qualities. Fire Marshal Perez is dedicated to telling the story of the Illinois Fire Service and some of the challenges that face different departments and districts across the state. Highlighting these challenges could help to show other departments or districts that they are not

alone. This gives an opportunity for Chief's, who are proud of their departments or districts, to showcase what they have accomplished and what the future holds. How this works...Fire Marshal Perez will visit the department or district and do a sit-down interview with the fire chief. Here are a few sample questions that Fire Marshal will ask:

- Tell us the history of your department or district?
- Talk about the geographic area (size) of the department or district coverage area?
- Tell us about the demographics.... who are you serving?
- What apparatus do you have and are there any stories about them?
- Community outreach is important, what do you do to reach out and educate the people living in your area?
- What are some challenges your department or district faces?
- What would you consider your biggest challenge?
- What does the future hold and where do you see your department or district headed?

Once the interview is shot OSFM's PIO will get video and photos of your department or district and may ask if you have any other photos that could be used. Photos could be of the history of the department, big events that have occurred or other interesting photos you would like used in the segment. The segment will be edited and once that is done will be posted on OSFM's Website under Coffee with the Chief and on OSFM's social media channels Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

If you are interested in highlighting your department or district you can contact Fire Marshal Perez at [matt.perez@illinois.gov](mailto:matt.perez@illinois.gov) or OSFM's PIO JC Fultz at [jc.fultz@illinois.gov](mailto:jc.fultz@illinois.gov).al fires making up 89 percent of deaths.

**State Fire Marshal**

### Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



First and foremost, I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's Holiday. It is hard to believe that 2020 is upon us, but then again so is the snow and cold weather so soon we will be saying hello Spring (sooner the better).

I would like to thank Cheri, Karrie and the IAFFD Team for allowing us to team up with them at the 2020 Winter Conference in O'Fallon. This venture will allow us to expand our message of training for Chiefs in mid-central Illinois. We have Chiefs Al Yancey and Forest Reeder delivering programs along with me having the opportunity to share the stage with Jim Sinclair. Our goal with this approach is to reach out to FPD Chiefs, Chief officers & Trustees offering classes in leadership, recruitment and planning. Once again thank you for this opportunity.

As an update for our Volunteer Combination Officer Committee (VCO): we are meeting to discuss long term goals and objectives along with assessing the 2020 conference location and time of the year. We will also be looking at ways to deliver short programs in a manner that will be done in time frames that are

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more effective and efficient towards our volunteer and par on call fire service team. If you are on need of a one-day session and are willing to host & assist with recruiting attendees, please contact me or Chief Al Yancey. [yanceya@minookafire.com](mailto:yanceya@minookafire.com) or [jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org) On behalf of President Greg Earle and the entire Board let it be known The IFCA is proud to partner with the IAFFD as co-hosts of the 2020 Legislative Day scheduled for March 18, 2020 in Springfield. Our Presidents and VCOC Committee are committed to working very closely with the IAFFD in 2020 and beyond.

We have established a new committee of very strong and driven individuals who will be helping us with recognition at several levels. The committee is the IFCA Past Presidents Committee or as I call them Team-IFCAPP! One of their assignments will be to make sure we have proper recognition in the areas of Chief Emeritus, IFSAP Professional of the Year and IFCA Chief of the Year at the Career Volunteer and Combination levels. Their goal is to get the word out, assist with channeling applications from the departments/districts to the review committees thus assuring proper recognition.

Did you know that The IFCA assessment 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. 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](mailto:dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

**IFCA FOUNDATION NEWS:** Scholarships are open and ready for you to fill out a request for officer classes, specialty classes & college courses. Please never discount applying because of location or size of the department. We have many partnerships and opportunities for you – So do it! Apply at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org). If you have questions, contact [jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

The IFCA Education-Research Foundation continues to host a variety of Fire Officer Class and new Chief Officers programs. Information is available on our website. [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://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](http://www.eagle-engraving.com)

The Illinois Fire Chiefs are holding the following events in 2020:

### 50<sup>th</sup> Annual IFCA Symposium

May 13-15, 2020

Para-Dice Hotel East Peoria Illinois

### VCOC 11th 2020 Annual Conference

Dates & location to be announced

### IFCA 70th Annual Conference,

Peoria IL

October 11-14, 2020

The National Fallen Firefighter

Stair Climb - Peoria Civic Center

Sunday October 11, 2020 @ 10:00am

Our website operates under the guidance of Maureen Griseto, Chief John Buckley and Chief Larry Moran. Please look at our site to obtain information related to the IFCA and The IFCA Education Research Foundation. [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org) 1-847-966-0732.

**Jim Grady III**

**Executive Director**

**Illinois Fire  
Safety Alliance  
30<sup>th</sup> Years of Camp  
"I Am Me"**



The dates for Illinois" camp for young burn survivors – Camp "I Am Me" – have been set. "Burn Camp" will take place June 14-20 and will continue to offer this life-changing event for young burn survivors at

no-cost for approximately 70 campers. The Fire Apparatus Parade and Appreciation Day events are scheduled for Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> and departments from across the entire state are encouraged to attend, participate, and have a blast with the campers! Visit [www.IFSA.org](http://www.IFSA.org) for details and various volunteering opportunities!

### Support Those You Save!

For more than 25 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](http://www.IFSA.org/bootday).

### Dates to Remember

- Burn Awareness Week – Feb. 2-8
- Camp "I Am Me" Shirt Day – Feb. 4
- Chicago Wolves Hockey Fundraiser (Rosemont) – Feb. 23
- Donor & Volunteer Recognition Breakfast (Addison) – April 3
- Camp "I Am Me" (Ingleside) – June 14-20
- Camp "I Am Me" Fire Apparatus Parade & Appreciation Day – June 17
- IFSA Day at the Illinois State Fair (Springfield) – Aug. 21
- IFSA Bowl-Away-Burns Fundraiser (Westmont) – Aug. 29
- Fire Prevention Week – Oct. 4-10
- Fire Prevention Week Luncheon (Woodridge) – Oct. 8

Information on all IFSA events, programs, and services can be found at [www.IFSA.org](http://www.IFSA.org).

**Philip Zaleski**

**IFSA Executive Director**

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### Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals



The Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals (IFSAP) organization continues to provide educational opportunities and networking to its members. The board has been hard at work preparing for our annual conference. If there are specific topics or areas of training you would like provided by IFSAP to your admin professionals, please email me and we will add it to our education committee's list of items to cover.

**Upcoming Events – Please see our website for information and registration to all of our scheduled events!**

#### **IFSAP Elections** (January)

Thank you to those Fire Chiefs who currently support their admin professionals and encourage them to step up to the board level. We will be holding elections in early 2020 and are always welcoming members to do more with their fire service career and improving themselves by holding an IFSAP board position.

#### **IFSAP Annual Conference** (April 22 – 24)

IFSAP's annual conference will take place in Champaign, IL with one full day of information and training at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Hotel arrangements will be announced with a full schedule of the event in January, 2020. Registration for the event will begin in February, 2020. We hope that all Chiefs will encourage their administrative assistants to attend this annual event which will provide valuable fire service training and experience as well as key networking opportunities.

#### **Executive Support Personnel (ESP) Program** (Sept. through Nov.)

Registration for this program will begin in January, 2020 and will be due by April 30<sup>th</sup>. This program is tailored for all administrative staff with at least one year in the fire service at the start of the program. The program is designed to provide information training in the areas of fire service knowledge and orientation, EMS, technical communications, legal

topics, fire behavior & more! This program is step one of two in acquiring an OSFM Fire Service Executive Support Certification. The 13-week program is an opportunity to network and takes place at various fire departments throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. We encourage all fire service administrative staff to take this program to enhance their career and to become even more valuable to your Fire Chief and your organization.

#### **Excel Training** – Spring, 2020

Registration for a select number of excel training classes will be made available to our members.

IFSAP's blanket fundraiser has been a huge success and if you haven't placed an order – what are you waiting for? If you have not seen any of the custom knit blankets out there, please take a look at our website for additional information on receiving a sample blanket and how you too can get them for your organization (minimum order required). Proceeds from the sales benefit the IFSAP Education Fund and assist the organization in keeping the cost of training programs down. I guarantee you won't find a better quality, personalized knit blanket for that price.

Thank you for your time and please be sure to refer to our website [www.ifsap.org](http://www.ifsap.org) to stay up to date on our many events. I hope that each of our Illinois Fire Chiefs ensure that their admin staff is a registered member of our organization. If you don't have an admin, please register yourself and your department with our IFSAP E-Blast Program to receive our email E-blasts and stay in touch with us. Have a question or a form you need help with... one or more of our 240 members are willing to help you out!

Our organization's efforts and goals are to continue to enhance our members' knowledge and skills in the fire industry we serve. Please contact any member of our board or feel free to reach out to me personally for assistance or feedback you may want to provide. We are here to serve our Illinois Fire Chiefs in any professional capacity and will continue to do so into the next decade as we welcome in 2020! A healthy, happy New Year to each of you!

**Laura Haiden - IFSAP President**  
**Glenside Fire Protection District**  
**lhaiden@glensidefire.org**  
**(630) 668-5323**

### Illinois Fire Inspectors Association



In December, we swore in our new slate of officers. They are Jamie Brown, New Lenox; Jay Atherton, Palatine; Mary Ludeman, Plainfield; Mike Rons, Schaumburg. Welcome them when you next see them. Serving on the Board is a five-year volunteer commitment to help this Association grow, and help you.



*Being sworn in by the New Lenox Fire Chief Adam Riegel are Mike Rons, Jay Atherton, Jamie Brown, and Mary Kay Ludeman.*

Your Association exists to help you, because of you. We welcome your participation in any of many forms. As just mentioned, there is serving on the Board of Directors. There are also many committees such as Social, Code and Professional Development, and Fire and Life Safety Education. These committees only meet once every month or two. If time does not allow you to participate in these, attend our mini-seminars and monthly meetings. We look forward to your comments and want you to bring back information you have heard to your department.

After almost 25 years, Marcia Michehl has retired at the end of November. She has been the "voice" you hear at the office for those many years. She has worked with us in four of the six locations the office has had in its existence. We thank her for her years of service and wish her well with her future endeavors. If you would like to leave a comment for her, email the office and we will make sure it gets to her.

The annual (since 1976) Fire and Life Safety Conference will be held March 18 – 20 in East Peoria. Our keynote speaker is Burt Clark, PhD, on the American Fire Culture in 21<sup>st</sup> Century. On Thursday we

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have Tom Polera to talk about a community education training program for active shooter events – The First 12 Minutes; and Tonya Hoover, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy.

Our pre-conference, on Tuesday afternoon, which is free to IFIA members, will be on Community Risk Reduction. The presentation will be by Beverly Walker. Room Reservations for Conference can be made by calling 1-800-547-0711 and referencing code **0317FIA** or by going to <http://www.paradicecasino.com/groups> and typing in **0317FIA**. Detailed conference flyer, and registration information, can be found at [www.IllinoisFireInspectors.org](http://www.IllinoisFireInspectors.org).

The IFIA is offering two Office of the State Fire Marshal certification classes this Spring. Fire Inspector 1 will be held in Palatine - February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 3 and the Public Fire and Life Safety Educator will be held in Downers Grove - April 27, 28, 29 and May 4, 5. For registration information see our website at [www.IllinoisFireInspectors.org](http://www.IllinoisFireInspectors.org)

For ICC preferred provided credits and seminar certificates, we are required to have attendees sign in AND out. We have tried for a couple of months to catch up on some that did not sign out. **Beginning January 2020, if you did not sign in or out, you will not receive a certificate of attendance.**

**From Vision 20/20, a change in leadership.**

Since its inception in 2007, the Vision 20/20 Project, a collaboration of leading national fire safety organizations, has been led by Project Manager Jim Crawford. During his tenure, Vision 20/20 has grown from a conceptual, grass-roots effort into a leader in the field of Community Risk Reduction and has served as a platform for bringing together individuals and organizations to focus on the complex issues of CRR. After 12 years of leading this project, Jim is retiring, and following a national search, Stephen Hrustich from Gwinnett County, Georgia will be assuming the role of Project Manager effective January 1, 2020.

Stephen has over 34 years of experience in the fire service, most

recently as the Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal overseeing the Community Risk Reduction division of Gwinnett County Department of Emergency Services, and prior to that he was the fire chief of the Endicott and Johnson City Fire Departments in New York. Hrustich holds a master's degree in Executive Fire Leadership and Emergency Management, is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program and is a credentialed Chief Fire Officer and Fire Marshal by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

"The future for The Vision 20/20 Project is bright," said Hrustich, "but this is only possible because of the incredible work that Jim did in bringing together people to focus on making CRR a major presence in the fire service. His leadership and vision is what made Vision 20/20 a reality and we are going to continue to build on his legacy and this strong foundation into the future."

The Vision 20/20 Project has a history of significant accomplishments, and most recently was awarded a FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to hold the sixth [National Model Performance in CRR Symposium](#) (February 18-20, Murfreesboro, Tennessee), which has grown into a premier gathering of international experts to learn and share best practices in Community Risk Reduction. This Symposium is being done in partnership with a number of leading fire safety organizations, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Code Council, the International Fire Marshals Association, the International Fire Service Training Association, the National Fire Protection Association, and the United States Fire Administration. Other activities under this grant will include a continued focus on expanding the use of CRR in the fire service across the nation.

**Robert Morris**  
Executive Director, IFIA

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