

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President  
Braidwood FPD*

## Protect Yourself and Others

**Stay Back Six (6) Feet**  
**Stay At Home**  
**No Shaking Hands**  
**Wear A Face Mask**  
**Wash Your Hands Frequently**

The above guidelines still apply even after several months of restrictions. THANK YOU to all our first responders, emergency room medical staffs, firefighters, paramedics and those trying to keep us safe while the coronavirus remains active across the country. Fortunately, Illinois has been staying on top of the issue and we stand stronger than many other states at this time.

Your association has been working to keep members advised on new developments and timely information available. Please see the website IAFFPD.org for current COVID-19 Updates & Resources that are available.

Illinois has entered Phase 4 – Revitalization: Which means the rate of infection among those surveillance-tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital continues to decline. Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

During this time when in-person meetings are not allowed, the IAFFPD has been active coordinating educational programs via live webinars that have since been recorded and are now available on-

demand in the Online Learning Library. These programs are intended to help members meet their continuing education requirements but are also a great way to learn from the experts in their field.

**Workers' Compensation "Start to Finish"** - Presented by Robert M. Buhs From the filing of a claim to acceptance and beyond, this program covers significant cases and the aspects of procedural and substantive workers' compensation law and responsibility issues.

**Illinois OSHA: Compliance 101 for Fire Departments/Districts** - Presented by Erik Kambarian, Illinois Department of Labor Erik Kambarian gives an introductory overview of the Illinois Department of Labor's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (IL-OSHA).

**Marijuana Legalization and the Fire Department** - Presented by David Livingstone & John E. Motylinski As the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act imposes clear limits, employer safeguards and the employee's rights to privacy, there are policy changes to consider, personnel standards to understand and liability matters that come into play with the new ever-growing and ever-changing legal issue.

I would like to thank Paramedic Services of Illinois and the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board for sponsorship these online learning programs. I urge our members to see all of our virtual learning programs on the Education page of IAFFPD.org.

The IAFFPD program/education/conference committees are meeting to plan the 2021 events calendar, starting with the Winter Conference in O'Fallon and

the Annual Continued Trustee Education (CTE) sessions which are presented during the first quarter. We are all hopeful that by that time the virus will not prevent these from being held in person. I enjoy seeing everyone at the sessions and talking with our attendees. We have been preparing to offer training by video conference to allow us to reach more members at once and minimize travel for them.

Since we were unable to have an annual conference this year, I would like to invite our members who are looking for new gear, rescue equipment, vehicles or professional services (Attorneys, Insurance & Financial) to take a closer look at the advertising pages of this issue of The Fire Call and the Associate Member Directory. Most of these businesses attend our conference every year and have supported our organization for years. Please consider buying from them first and help them recognize the value in their decision to advertise in our magazine.

Do you know a fire district that may not be a member of IAFFPD? Please consider helping them by sharing what your district values most about their membership and urge them to contact our office staff. We can provide them with information that shows the importance of being a member of the IAFFPD and would be happy to attend their next meeting.

As we continue through summer, please remember to wear a face mask and practice social distancing to protect yourself and others. Be safe!! ■

Michael Dillon, Braidwood FPD  
IAFFPD President