

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Dillon, President
Braidwood FPD*

Wash Your Hands Wear Your Face Covering Practice Social Distancing

These criteria still exist in this pandemic world. As Fire District Trustees I want to remind everyone that we need to assure the safety of all our first responders. I know I am speaking to the choir here but if only one person is exposed to the COVID could mean having a whole fire company or fire station closed or several individuals quarantined.

As of the time I am writing this article the exposure numbers are increasing in Illinois as well as the U.S., we have to remain diligent in protecting our people.

The IAFFPD remains focused on "Supporting better governance by fire protection district officials through education, resources, communication and legislation".

Education and Training

Throughout this issue of the Fire Call and on the IAFFPD website, you can always find the educational activities being conducted around the State. With Covid we have focused on virtual training and on-line learning. We just completed an ETS training session at the I-Hotel in Champaign. This was an in-person and online session. Thanks to our education committee and Staff, the training went very well with about 12 attendees and

25 on-line participants. The education committee is now looking at the annual Winter Conference and how we can provide the usual updates and training both in-person and on-line. We also continue to add to the online programs which can be easily accessed from the IAFFPD website.

Resources

The IAFFPD has several publications that can assist district trustees in finding the information needed to better perform their duties. The fire call (Thanks to the publications committee and office staff) has timely articles of fire issues in Illinois. The Handbook for Trustees and Text of Laws are other useful publications that are available. The website also has links or lists of other agencies providing guidelines to address the flu season coming up and the covid pandemic.

Communications

This is where the IAFFPD needs your help! Member contact information is always a work in progress and we need your help as Trustees retire, move to other positions with pension boards, or commissions our database, and contact information that needs to be updated. Please contact the office staff with any changes to assist us with getting the IAFFPD and Fire District information to our members. The office staff puts out blast messages and other information distributed via email. The district's membership database needs to

be updated so the distributed information, notices and blast messages can get to the correct people.

Legislation

The legislation committee has been watching the activities or should I say inactivity at the Statehouse and will continue to monitor and review legislation as it is presented.

I want to welcome retired State Representative and current fire district Trustee Don Moffit as a member of the IAFFPD Legislative Committee. Mr. Moffit has been a great supporter of the Association and has the Legislator of the Year Award named after him. Don's experience and knowledge of the State government will help our committee greatly.

Soon you will be receiving your membership renewal packet, PLEASE renew your membership and keep receiving the fire call and member discounts on training sessions and other activities. Watch the IAFFPD website for updates on current fire service action, legislation and upcoming events. If you need more information on ways your district can work with the IAFFPD or questions on how the IAFFPD can assist your district, the Board of Directors, Staff and I are interested in hearing from you.

Michael Dillon
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IAFFPD, President ■