

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 Welcome Fire Marshal



Rivera! Governor JB Pritzker has appointed James A. Rivera to serve as Illinois State Fire Marshal. Rivera most recently served as Deputy District Chief for the Chicago Fire Department.

"With more than thirty years of service with the Chicago Fire Department, I am proud to appoint James Rivera as our state's next Fire Marshal," said Governor JB Pritzker. "James has dedicated his life to public service, gaining the trust and confidence of everyone around him. I am confident he will serve the state of Illinois with honor, ensuring our residents are safe, informed, and prepared. I want to thank Dale Simpson for serving as our acting State Fire Marshal, and deeply appreciate his continued dedication to our state."

Rivera has worked for the Chicago Fire Department since 1990. He began his service as a firefighter, working his way up to become Deputy District Chief. In 2014, Rivera served as the Chief of Operations for the U.S. Security and Protective Services in Chicago. Along with his extensive experience in the field, Rivera has accumulated numerous certifications and honors from institutions ranging from the Department of Homeland Security, Louisiana State University, and the State of Illinois.

"I am truly honored and want to thank Governor JB Pritzker for selecting me to be the next Illinois State Fire Marshal. His incredible staff has made me feel welcome and has helped make this transition very seamless. I look forward to working with the staff at the OSFM, Illinois fire service

leaders, members from across the state, and our industry partners to continue to build upon and grow the agency's mission," said incoming Illinois State Fire Marshal James Rivera. "We have a lot of great things ahead for the OSFM thanks to the hard work and dedication by my predecessors, and I look forward to continuing and expanding this positive momentum. The Chicago Fire Department has been my home for 33 years and I have worked for 10 different fire commissioners, along with numerous other brothers and sisters who have helped shape me into the person and leader that I am today. Thank you to everyone at the Chicago Fire Department for an amazing career and I have truly enjoyed serving the city I love."

Rivera is a member of the City of Chicago Community Advisory Board and the Chicago Firefighter Union. While serving, Rivera received both his Master of Science in Public Administration & Management and Bachelor of Arts in Fire Service Administration from Lewis University.

Small Equipment Grant Recipients

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has announced the recipients of the 2023 Small Equipment Grant Program. A total of \$1.5 million was awarded to 64 fire departments/districts and EMS providers across the state. The program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 each for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment.

This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for fire departments and

not-for-profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase. The OSFM received 296 applications, requesting around \$4.5 million in funding for this grant period.

"The OSFM continues to remain committed to our mission of helping departments and districts purchase essential firefighting or EMS equipment that will help not only their members to stay safe, but continue to provide lifesaving services to their communities," said **Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson**. "Budgets remain tight, and the cost of firefighting equipment continues to rise, that is why programs such as our Small Equipment Grant are a great resource, especially for our smaller and rural volunteer fire departments across the state."

"As we all know, volunteer fire departments all around the state are struggling to maintain a safe work environment due to the lack of funding. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Small Equipment Grant Program has provided us the opportunity to purchase a thermal imaging camera we desperately need that will help keep our firefighters safe," said **Colona Fire Chief John Swan**.

"The Salem Fire Protection District covers approximately 124 square miles. That includes U.S. Highway 50, two state routes, and thirteen- and one-half miles of Interstate 57 that have significant

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personal and commercial traffic. This results in our department responding to numerous motor vehicle accidents with occupant entrapment. Receiving this small equipment grant will provide us with the funding needed to purchase rescue tools that will enable us to perform life-saving motor vehicle extrications," said **Salem Fire Protection District Chief James Cerny**.

Most Illinois fire departments, fire protections districts, township fire departments, and stand-alone, nonprofit ambulance service providers were eligible to apply. All fire departments, fire protections districts and township fire department applicants were required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying.

Grant recipients and awards are listed below:

Boone:

- North Boone FPD 3- \$23,225

Brown:

- Brown County FPD- \$25,740

Cass:

- Chandlerville Volunteer FD- \$25,984

Champaign:

- Sidney FPD- \$11,725
- Gifford FPD- \$12,750

Champaign/Douglas:

- Broadlands-Longview FPD- \$25,950.97

Christian:

- Morrisonville-Palmer FPD- \$14,901.95

Clark:

- Martinsville FPD- \$25,000

Cook:

- Village of Flossmoor FD- \$25,785

Edwards:

- West Salem FD- \$7,183.80

Fayette:

- Brownstown FPD- \$23,850

Fulton:

- Astoria FPD- \$17,487

Hancock:

- LaHarpe FPD- \$23,703.40
- Warsaw Rural FPD- \$23,672
- West Point FPD- \$25,000

Hardin:

- Rosiclare FD- \$26,000

Henry:

- Clover Township- \$19,542
- Colona FPD- \$8,568

Iroquois:

- Martinton Fire- \$19,505

Jackson:

- Elkhart Volunteer FD- \$25,400
- Gorham- \$25,944.25

Johnson:

- Goreville FD- \$26,000

Kane:

- East Dundee & Countryside FPD- \$17,488.97

Knox:

- Rio Township FPD- \$26,000

LaSalle:

- Cedar Point FD- \$10,580
- Tonica Volunteer FD- \$18,500

Lee:

- Amboy FPD- \$26,000
- Compton Community FPD- \$26,000

Macon:

- Harristown FPD- \$25,841

Madison:

- Grantfork FPD- \$25,900
- Madison FD- \$16,295.65
- Rosewood Heights FPD- \$5,355
- Worden FPD- \$26,000

Marion:

- Sandoval FPD- \$25,273.25
- Salem FPD- \$25,008

Marion/Clinton:

- City of Centralia- \$23,664

Mercer:

- Rivoli FPD- \$25,993

Montgomery:

- Fillmore Community FPD- \$16,978
- Taylor Springs FD- \$9,020
- Witt Volunteer FD- \$25,014

Morgan:

- Waverly Volunteer FD & Rescue Squad- \$25,966.95
- Woodson Community FPD- \$25,895

Moultrie:

- Lovington Community Ambulance- \$26,000

Ogle:

- Ogle-Lee FPD- \$23,016.80

Piatt:

- Bement FPD- \$26,000
- Cisco FPD- \$25,620

Pike:

- Pleasant Hill FPD- \$18,859

Pike/Adams:

- Barry FPD- \$26,000

Pulaski:

- Olmsted FD- \$26,000

Randolph:

- Ellis Grove Volunteer FD- \$25,800
- Village of Evansville FD- \$25,837.62

Richland:

- City of Olney FD- \$25,526.32

Sangamon:

- Diverson FPD- \$26,000
- Pleasant Plains FPD- \$26,000

Schuyler:

- City of Rushville- \$26,000

Shelby/Christian:

- Moweaqua FPD- \$22,091.50

St. Clair:

- Sauget FD- \$25,992.55

Stephenson:

- Rock City FPD- \$9,033

Tazewell:

- South Pekin FD- \$13,517.95

Union:

- Ware-Wolf Lake FPD- \$22,775

Washington:

- Okawville Community FPD- \$26,000

Whiteside:

- Prophetstown FPD- \$26,000

Williamson/Saline:

- Stonefort FD- \$25,615

Winnebago:

- South Beloit FD- \$24,003.50

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



As we move into spring 2023, I ask that you put on your calendars the Annual Medal of Honor Ceremony which will be held in Springfield on Tuesday May 9th, 2023 at 10am. We will start the program (weather permitting) at the Illinois Firefighter Memorial and then move over to the Prairie Convention Center for the recognitions.

I would like to welcome Retired CFD District Chief James Rivera as our newly appointed State Fire Marshal. James comes to the Marshal's office after serving the City of Chicago faithfully for over 30 years. Our interim Marshal Dale Simpson will be assisting Jim with his new role at the OSFM. Dale thank you for your service and assistance.

Yes, time is drawing near for the 2023 Conference which will be held in Peoria June 14 – 17, 2023. The program is all set with great topics delivered by excellent speakers. I thank you for your patience and understating with the scheduling and final preparations that were being made and adjusted. We did hit a few snags along the

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way, but they have been addressed and we should be good to go.

I would like to thank Maureen, Karrie and Cheri for their work with the conference, this has been a huge task and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

I would like to congratulate Chief JP Moore and Margi Schiemann as they have taken on the leadership roles within the IFCA Education - Research Foundation. Speaking of the Foundation as a reminder our IFCA-ERF Golf Outing for Scholarships is July 12th, 2023 at the Bloomingdale Country Club.

The IFCA Symposium will be held at the Para-Dice Conference Center in East Peoria from October 18th – 20th, 2023. On the 18th we will hold a Presidential Reception and Recognition gathering followed by the start of the symposium programs. The reception will be highlighting the passing of the gavel, plus recognitions will be given for the IFCA Chief of the Year, Chief Emeritus, Length of services plus other special recognitions. Also, the Fire Service Women of Illinois will hold a training program on Tuesday October 17th, 2023 at this location.

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

Illinois Fire Service Institute

Illinois Fire Service Institute spring training deliveries continue across the State.

Since February, we have offered courses in the Engine Company Operations, Advanced Technician Firefighter (ATF), Smoke Divers, Truck Company Operations, Structural Collapse Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Officer Programs,



Leadership Development and Decision Making, Investigation and Prevention, RIT, and NIMS/ICS Programs. This list does not include the countless Cornerstone Program training opportunities or the Basic Operations Firefighter (BOF) Blended or Fire Academy classes. We are busy! But, we remain focused on our efforts to provide top-quality and relevant training opportunities to all areas of the state.

SPECIAL EVENT UPDATE:



FIRE COLLEGE

Registration for the 99th Annual Fire College is open.

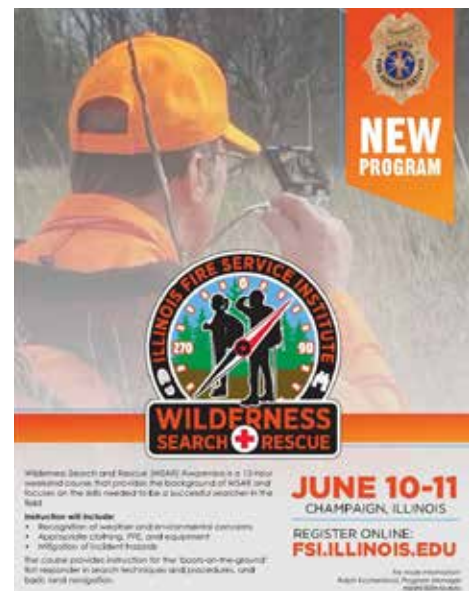
The IFSI Annual Fire College offers three days of innovative and top-quality training for first responders. Since 1925, IFSI has delivered on our statutory commitment to provide affordable, essential skills training during an annual Fire College. Over these 99 years, the event has incorporated the addition of more advanced training opportunities utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and curriculum at the forefront of national training standards. Despite these progressive changes, year after year, one thing remains consistent. Fire College is truly an annual “homecoming” for IFSI students, instructors and staff, offering the opportunity for training, networking, and camaraderie with fellow members of the fire service. **It is an event unlike any other.**

The 99th Annual Fire College will be no exception to this standard. Complete event details, including class offerings and free hotel accommodation information, are posted on the IFSI website: fsi.illinois.edu.

EXPLORER CADET FIRE SCHOOL



Registration is also open for the 20th Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School. This unique training program delivers hands-on, live fire training to Explorers, Cadets, and Junior Firefighters between the ages of 15-20 years old. IFSI Instructors have carefully designed each course to include skill building exercises, practical application evolutions, and multiple immersive training scenarios that will challenge all skill levels.



NEW PROGRAM:

IFSI is pleased to announce a new program offering, Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR). The pilot delivery of WSAR Awareness is scheduled for June 10-11. Registration is now open for this unique training opportunity. Complete program details and registration: fsi.illinois.edu.

We continue to be grateful for your support in the fulfillment of our mission.

Jim Keiken
Director

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Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



Illinois Burn Camp for Children Scheduled for June

The dates for Illinois' camp for young burn survivors – Camp "I Am Me" – have been set. "Burn Camp" will take place June 19-25 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 22nd and departments from across the entire state are encouraged to attend, participate, and have a blast with the campers! Visit www.IFSA.org for details and various volunteering opportunities!

Nominations Being Accepted for Fire Safety & Prevention Awards

Each year the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance presents awards for corporate responsibility, life safety, special recognition, as well as the coveted Wayne Luecht Memorial Award at the annual Fire Prevention Week Luncheon in October. If you know of a group or individual deserving of this recognition at one of the largest fire service gatherings in the state, please consider submitting a nomination. Nominations can be received at any time, but must be submitted no later than August 15th to be considered for this year. The nomination form can be found at www.IFSA.org/programs/fpwl/nominate.

Smoke Alarm Installation Program Continues to Grow Across the State

The Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Installation program is a fire safety and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between Camp I Am Me and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. The program distributes fire safety education materials and 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms to fire departments in Illinois – all at no-cost. There are now more than 260 departments across that state that participate in the program, which has resulted in the distribution of more than 25,000 smoke alarms since 2018.

Departments looking to join the program should review the program requirements and submit an inquiry at www.IFSA.org/prevention-resources/smoke-alarm.

Philip Zaleski
Executive Director

IL Fire Inspectors Association



We wrapped up another excellent Fire and Life Safety Conference in March. Thank you to all that attended. We will begin working on the 2024 Conference in June. If you have any suggestions, please share them with one of our Board members, or you can contact our office at ifiafire@IllinoisFireInspectors.org.

Our Codes and Professional Development committee has been busy. Below are some of the planned upcoming events. Check our website and weekly blasts for additional updated information.

- Fire Sprinkler Plan Review - June 13th & 14th at the Carpenters Regional Council Training Hall, Elk Grove Village.
- Legal Aspects of Code Administration - June 23rd at Harper College in Palatine. The instructor is Linda Pieczynski.
- School Inspection Updates by the OSFM - July 7th, location TBD.
- 2018 IBC/IFC Assembly Spaces - July 20th. This is a virtual class instructed by the International Code Council.
- IFC Update - August 11th 8 am – 4 pm. at B & F Technical Services in Elgin. The instructor is Rich Piccolo.

A reminder that if your organization has not paid the annual dues, we ask that you do that. If you are not a member, please consider doing so. The cost is only \$100. You can apply for membership by going to our website. When you fill out the information asked for, we will then invoice you. For businesses, Associate membership is only \$150. These memberships help support the IFIA in keeping the costs of educational offering reasonable and support our mission of reducing deaths and injuries from fire and other dangers through education, enforcement and engineering.

For those interested in participating further with the IFIA, there are a variety

of committees that help support the organization. These committees include Codes and Standards, Fire and Life Safety, Certification, Pyrotechnics, Legislative, Public School Safety, and Social. Please contact the office or one of the board members if you would like further information or would like to participate.

The IFIA day at the State Fair is Sunday, August 20th. We need volunteers to assist with the event. Please reach out to one of the Board members, or contact the office for further details if you are interested in participation. We are able to provide parking and gate passes for those attending. While the tent hours are from 10 – 4, if you are able to provide just a couple of hours, that would be greatly appreciated. If your department has an Explorer post, this might be a great opportunity to expose them to some public education activities.

The office has approximately 200 long life smoke alarms. We have decided to give small amounts to the fire departments to carry in their vehicles. 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 the risk. This is not meant to be a large smoke alarm campaign, but rather a method to handle an immediate need you come across. We do not have a good way to ship this, so you will need to pick these up, or plan to acquire them. If you are interested in this, contact our office with your department and contact information.

Our awards program is a year-round program. Throughout the year we accept nominations for anyone who deserves 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.

Check the website for the following upcoming events:

- Inspector 1: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Downers Grove
- Inspectors Day at the State Fair – August 20 – eligible for ICC credits
- Inspector 2: September 7, 14, 21, 28 and October 5th, Romeoville ■

Robert Morris
Executive Director, IFIA