

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



The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has announced the recipients of the 2024 Small Equipment Grant Program. A total of \$4 million was awarded to 165 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 417 applications, requesting around \$9.5 million in funding for this grant period.

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.

There were 111 Fire Protection Districts awarded a grant, and these are listed below.

- Abingdon FPD
- Addieville Community FPD
- Allendale Rural FPD
- Alto Pass FPD
- Anawan Alba FPD
- Arenzville FPD
- Atkinson FPD
- Auburn Fire and Rescue
- Bartlett FPD
- Bath FPD
- Bensenville FPD #2
- Bethany FPD
- Biggsville FPD
- Bloomington Township FPD
- Braceville FPD
- Bridgeport FPD
- Bureau FPD
- Carroll FPD
- Carrollton FPD
- Cedarville FPD
- Central Stickney FPD
- Central Warren FPD
- Chatsworth FPD
- Chebanse Township FPD
- Cherry FPD
- Chillicothe Community FPD
- Christy FPD
- Cissna Park FPD
- Clayton FPD
- Coyne Center FPD
- Crescent Iroquois FPD
- Cuba FPD
- Darien-Woodridge FPD
- Dawson FPD
- Dorsey FPD
- Elba Salem FPD
- Elkhart Rural FPD
- Farmersville Waggoner FPD
- Forreston FPD
- Garden Homes FPD
- Girard FPD
- Glen Carbon FPD
- Glenside FPD
- Good Hope-Sciota FPD
- Hardin FPD
- Hoffman FPD
- Huey Ferrin Boulder FPD
- Iuka FPD
- Kaneville FPD
- Kankakee Township FPD
- Kell Community FPD
- Kewanee Community FPD
- Keyesport FPD
- LaMotte FPD
- Latham FPD
- Leland Community FPD
- Lincoln Rural FPD
- Lockport Township FPD
- Manhattan FPD
- Maquon FPD
- Marine Community FPD
- Maroa Countryside FPD
- Massac County FPD
- Mazon FPD
- Menominee-Dunleith FPD
- Middletown FPD
- Midway FPD
- Mount Olive FPD
- Mt. Hope-Funks Grove FPD
- Mulberry Grove FPD
- New Berlin-Island Grove FPD
- Norris City FPD
- North Calhoun FPD
- Northern Piatt County FPD
- Odell FPD
- Olive FPD
- Onarga FPD
- Oneida-Wataga FPD
- Orangeville FPD
- Owaneco FPD
- Papineau FPD
- Pawnee FPD
- Pingree Grove & Countryside FPD
- Prairie FPD
- Raymond Community FPD
- Roberts Melvin FPD

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- Roodhouse FPD
- Rural Pope County FPD
- San Jose FPD
- Shelbyville FPD
- Smithboro FPD
- South Wheatland FPD
- Spring Creek FPD
- St. Rose FPD
- Steger Estates FPD
- Stillman FPD
- Sublette FPD
- Utica Community FPD
- Valmeyer FPD
- Versailles FPD
- Virden FPD
- Wade Community FPD
- Waltonville FPD
- West Chicago FPD
- West Peoria FPD
- West Union Community FPD
- White Hall FPD
- Williamsfield FPD
- Woodlawn FPD
- Xenia FPD
- York Center FPD

OSFM Personnel Standards & Education Rule Changes 2024

The Office of the State Fire Marshal currently has two sets of rules that are in comment period until the end of April. There is one on changes to Certifications and another on the new Fire Station Grant Program. The proposed rules text and other information, including a fact sheet outlining changes to certification, are available at <https://sfm.illinois.gov/resources/proposed-rule-changes.html>. We encourage you to check out the information and the proposed rules.

James A. Rivera.

Illinois State Fire Marshal

Illinois Fire Service Institute EXPLORER CADET FIRE SCHOOL - JULY 18-21, CHAMPAIGN

Registration is now open for the 21st Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School. This one-of-a-kind event delivers hands-on and live fire training to Explorers, Cadets, and Junior Firefighters ages 15-20.



www.iafpd.org

Students engage in immersive training scenarios that meet and challenge all skill levels.

Students will learn from some of the top fire service professionals in the industry as they develop key firefighting skills and learn more about the fire service industry.

Housing and meal plans are available as part of registration fees. For complete program details and registration, visit fsi.illinois.edu.



COME CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF IFSI EXPERIENCE IFSI: OPEN HOUSE June 5, CHAMPAIGN - 5:00PM – 7:00PM

As part of our centennial celebration, the Illinois Fire Service Institute is hosting a community Open House event to showcase our organization to local, regional, and state community members. Our hope is to educate non-fire service personnel on our role in emergency preparedness and first responder training.

Open House activities will include training ground tours, live fire and course demonstrations, touch-a-truck activities, and fire safety messages.

The event is open to the public and free of charge. We invite you to join us for this IFSI experience as we showcase who we are and what we do.

FREE TRAINING IS ONLY A CLICK AWAY

The Illinois Fire Service Institute Cornerstone Program brings fundamental and essential skills training to the doorsteps of fire departments and mutual aid organizations throughout Illinois. Eight IFSI Regional Representatives work with fire departments across the state to make training easily accessible and relevant.

- Basic training is offered at convenient times and locations.
- Classes are offered at no cost.
- Regional Representatives can customize class opportunities and work with most training schedules to support local departments.

For a list of all upcoming training opportunities in your area, visit the Cornerstone Program webpage or contact your Regional Representative to discuss your specific training needs: <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/information/regions/>

Jim Keiken
Director

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



Thank you for the opportunity to update the members of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts on what is going on with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. The IFCA values our relationship with the IAFFPD. Working together (along with the NIAFFPD) we were able to host a very successful Fire Service Leadership Legislative Day in March. Bringing the interests of the Fire Service Leadership to our Legislators is extremely important. The Legislators and staff notice us and this helps build the relationships that help advance our joint interests.

The IFCA symposium returns this month to East Peoria. This three-day event is a great opportunity for Chief Officers to hear important updates, learn from national speakers and participate in discussions on issues that impact them. Possibly the most important aspect is the opportunity to network with their peers throughout Illinois. Additional information and registration are available at www.illinoisfirechiefs.org.

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Last month, the IFCA announced the hiring of Ray Kay as the Program Director for the IFCA Assessment and Consulting Services. You may know Ray from his time serving as Chief of the Orland Fire Protection District, working with MABAS in Cook County or instructing Hazmat classes. The position has been re-designed to allow Ray more time to work on consulting and other projects that we believe will help our members. We are very excited to welcome Ray and with the future of this position.

The IFCA Educational and Research Foundation offers several classes geared toward helping fire department officers grow their knowledge and provide for an

effective and safe response throughout their communities. These classes include all three fire officer levels, Incident Safety Officer, and Training Program Manager. All these programs lead to OSFM certification and exceed the requirements for certification. One lesser-known program is the Senior Officer Focus Program. This program is offered at low or no cost and is tailored to the local fire district's needs. Information on all these programs is available at www.illinoisfirechiefs.org.

Finally, last month the fire service lost IFCA Past President Greg Earle after a long and hard-fought battle with cancer. Greg was integral in working to enhance and continue the relationship between the IFCA and the IAFFPD. His impact on the fire service endures and we will all continue to benefit from his efforts.

As always, if we can be of assistance do not hesitate to reach out to our office at info@illinoisfirechiefs.org or 847-966-0732.

John Buckley
Executive Director, IFCA

IL Fire Inspectors Association



Our 2024 Fire and Life Safety Conference was our largest, with almost 140 attendees and 24 exhibitors. Our thanks to all who helped make this event successful.

On opening day, the Dick Arthur award was given out to David Brinker of the Lockport Township F.P.D. This is awarded for the Fire Prevention Professional who dedicates his career to the cause of Fire Prevention, Life Safety, and Education in the manner that gives great honor to the fire service.

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 webpage for the different awards and their descriptions.

The IFIA continues to offer Fire Inspector 1 and 2, and Public Fire and Life Safety classes – all taught by experts working in their respective fields. Check the website for details. If you have a financial need, **please note that scholarships are available!** You can fill out an application that is on our website, now!

The Board has developed way for companies to become a sponsor of the IFIA. These are good for a calendar year. Information is available on our website.

Are you in need of education hours, or did you miss our recent our mini-seminars? We are making the recordings of our November and January mini seminars available. These classes typically 2.5– 3.5 hours. The cost of each class will be \$20 for IFIA members and \$25 for non-members.

You can register on our website to receive a link. At that point we will invoice you and send you the appropriate link(s). The classes are: Did You Know?, November 2023; and NFPA 72 and I-Code Summary of Fire Alarm and Signaling Requirements, January 2024.

The State Fair will be upon us soon, and we can use your help. Our day to staff

Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research.

CORNERSTONE TRAINING
BRINGING QUALITY, NO COST FIRE TRAINING TO YOUR COMMUNITY

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- Regional Representatives can customize opportunities and work with most training schedules to support local departments.

For a list of all upcoming training opportunities in your area, follow the link below and click on your region, or contact your Regional Representative to discuss your specific training needs.

[HTTPS://GO.FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU/CORNERSTONE](https://go.fsi.illinois.edu/cornerstone)

Training opportunities are never more than a click away
FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU

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the fire safety tent is August 18th. While the tent is open from 10 – 4, we are only asking for a few hours, leaving you the rest of the time to enjoy the Fair.

Upcoming events:

- Inspector 1 – New Lenox, Thursdays, Aug. 1 - 29
 - Inspector 2 - Romeoville, Thursdays, Sept. 5 – Oct 3
 - May 17 – Automatic retrieval systems
 - June 6 – *Full day Virtual* ICC presentation - Significant changes to the IFC, 2021 ed.
 - June 14 – Working with people with special needs
 - July 26 – OSFM school inspector update
 - August 9 – In person, in Alsip, Photovoltaic and Electronic vehicles
- Some of the above events are still having the details finalized, but make sure you Save The Date! Once everything is locked in, details will be on our website, so check that as the dates get closer.

Robert Morris

Executive Director, IFIA

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance

Illinois Burn Camp for Children Scheduled

The dates for Camp I Am Me's Summer Camp – Illinois' camp for young burn survivors – has been set! "Burn Camp" will take place June 16-22 and allows for any young burn survivor to attend this life-altering program at no-cost. Also camp-related, the Fire Department Parade Appreciation Day events are scheduled for Wednesday, June 19th 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 Camp I Am Me 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 an individual or

group at your department or within your community deserving of this recognition at one of the largest fire service gatherings in the state, please consider submitting a nomination. Nominations may 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.

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 280 departments across that state that participate in the program, which has resulted in the distribution of more than 32,000 smoke alarms since 2018. Departments looking to join the program should review the program requirements and submit an inquiry at www.IFSA.org/alarms.

Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals



Happy Spring! At our January 2024 meeting, the IFSAP Executive Board took an extensive look at what IFSAP was in the past, and how it will continue to evolve & grow within the fire service. We look forward to continue offering amazing educational opportunities, continuing to expand our membership throughout Illinois and reviewing the regions that IFCA utilizes, we are also reaching out to all departments and districts down state to help create regional representation. We are proud to announce that IFSAP has partnered with the Illinois Fire Fighters Peer Support organization, and they are now offering a 1-day program specifically designed for the Administrative Professional in the Fire Service. Our first 2 classes were full, and we currently have a waitlist for the next class and plan to schedule this for summer 2024.

The responsibilities of administrative professionals in the fire service can be stressful and demanding. They may

encounter challenges such as managing critical information, interacting with personnel in distress, handling logistics for emergency responses, and supporting firefighters dealing with unimaginable scenarios on calls. The pressure to perform efficiently in a fast-paced environment while dealing with the emotional toll of the job can lead to increased stress, anxiety, and burnout among administrative staff.

Many admins understand that we are a trusted person within our organizations, and there is a comfort level that many have with the front-line workers. Recognizing changes in physical and verbal cues is one part, understanding the appropriate actions and resources to help them and potentially save their lives is another. Mental health awareness among administrative professionals in the fire service is crucial, despite their roles not directly involving firefighting. Admins play a pivotal role in supporting the operational aspects of the department, and their well-being is essential for maintaining the overall functioning of the organization.

Ultimately, prioritizing the mental wellness of ALL staff, including administrative professionals, contributes to a more resilient and cohesive fire service community. We want to thank the Illinois Fire Fighters Peer Support for designing this program for us.

While we are always looking to expand our membership, we also need to expand our inclusivity to those departments outside of the Chicagoland area. This means reaching out to the farthest parts of our great state of Illinois and ensuring that we address the concerns of those departments and districts. A new committee has been formed within IFSAP to further expand on the use of long-distance communication and collaborations. If you're a district or department down state and your admin is interested in being a regional rep for your area please reach out to us.

It's truly my honor to represent these women in the upcoming year and we thank you, Our Chief's, for your support and partnership. I'm excited to find innovative ways to support your Administrative Assistants and our departments and districts.

Kris Murphy

Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals President