

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) is excited to announce the recipients of the 2024 Small Equipment Grant Program. A total of \$4 million was awarded to 178 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.

Fire Dept/EMS Name	Award Amount
Addieville Communtiy FPD	\$25,989.44
Apple River FPD	\$26,000.00
Aroma FPD	\$22,123.00
Beecher FPD	\$19,742.00
Bellflower FPD	\$25,250.00
Bement FPD	\$26,000.00
Bloomington FPD #1	\$26,000.00
Boone County FPD #2	\$25,271.64
Braidwood FPD	\$25,495.44
Brownstown FPD	\$25,200.00
Burlington Community FPD	\$23,000.00
Carrollton FPD	\$25,900.00
Cave Eastern FPD	\$26,000.00
Chatham Community FPD	\$24,575.00
Cisco FPD	\$26,000.00
Coal City FPD	\$18,750.00
Coffeen FPD	\$25,985.34
Colona Community FPD	\$21,500.00
Cornbelt FPD	\$21,174.00
Crescent - Iroquois FPD	\$26,000.00
Davis FPD	\$18,505.00
Divernon FPD	\$25,486.00
Dunlap Community FPD	\$21,985.00
Eastern Prairie FPD	\$24,426.88
Easton Rural FPD	\$25,992.00
Elwood FPD	\$19,395.00
Emington-Campus FPD	\$18,297.50
Enfield FPD	\$26,000.00
Erie FPD	\$23,919.00
Farmersville Waggoner FPD	\$24,786.30
Farmington FPD	\$26,000.00
Fillmore Community FPD	\$26,000.00

Forrest-Strawn-Wing FPD	\$24,776.00
Fosterburg FPD	\$8,684.00
Franklin FPD	\$24,390.00
Gardner FPD	\$12,142.42
Gifford FPD	\$15,500.00
Gilman FPD	\$25,974.00
Glen Ellyn	\$25,895.00
Good Hope - Sciota FPD	\$26,000.00
Grand Ridge VFD	\$16,927.50
Grantfork FPD	\$25,002.20
Green Valley FPD	\$19,725.00
Greenup FPD	\$21,210.00
Hammond FPD	\$25,770.00
Hardin FPD	\$23,124.99
Harristown FPD	\$25,912.00
Homer FPD	\$7,200.00
Hoyleton Community FPD	\$22,400.00
Huey Ferrin Boulder FPD	\$25,557.40
Itasca FPD	\$10,400.00
Lanark FPD	\$26,000.00
Lee Community FPD	\$25,000.00
Limestone Township FPD (Kankakee)	\$22,793.00
Limestone Township FPD (Peoria)	\$23,178.00
Lincolnshire - Riverwoods FPD	\$26,000.00
Little York FPD	\$17,280.00
Logan - Trivoli FPD	\$14,954.00
Long Creek FPD	\$25,840.00
Long Lake FPD	\$25,965.00
Maeystown Rural FPD	\$24,575.00
Malta FPD	\$11,997.00
Marissa Voluntter FPD	\$25,200.00
Mason City FPD	\$24,150.00
Medora Community FPD	\$13,545.00
Metamora FPD	\$25,910.00
Milledgeville FPD	\$16,331.20
Mineral - Gold FPD	\$24,991.73
Mitchell FPD	\$26,000.00
Monticello Fire & Rescue Dept	\$26,000.00
Mt. Zion FPD	\$20,763.30
Nauvoo FPD	\$26,000.00
Norris City FPD	\$25,346.00
North Calhoun FPD	\$8,968.00
North Maine FPD	\$25,863.00
North Palos FPD	\$23,820.00
North Park FPD	\$12,897.75
North Scott FPD	\$25,770.00

Oblong Township FPD	\$26,000.00
Odin FPD	\$26,000.00
Oswego FPD	\$25,440.00
Paris Community FPD	\$26,000.00
Pesotum Fire	\$22,322.00
Pinckneyville Rural FPD	\$23,480.00
Pleasant Hill FPD	\$25,990.00
Rock City FPD	\$24,840.00
Rural Pope County FPD	\$20,239.80
Salem FPD	\$19,664.90
Sheridan Community FPD	\$10,747.00
Shoal Creek FPD	\$25,950.40
Smithboro FPD	\$26,000.00
South Roxana FPD	\$25,557.00
St. Libory FPD	\$25,800.00
Thomasboro FPD	\$25,022.80
Tolono FPD	\$26,000.00
Toulca - Rutland FPD	\$25,992.00
Troy FPD	\$26,000.00
Unit 7 FPD	\$25,200.00
Versailles FPD	\$26,000.00
Village of Gorham Volunteer FD	\$25,989.85
Ware-Wolf Lake FPD	\$9,822.91
Warrenville FPD	\$16,059.00
Waverly FPD	\$26,000.00
Wayne FPD #1	\$26,000.00
Wheatfield FPD	\$26,000.00
Williamson County FPD	\$26,000.00
Wonder Lake FPD	\$24,970.00
Wood Dale FPD	\$26,000.00
Worden FPD	\$26,000.00
TOTAL;	\$2,489,564.69

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 347 applications, requesting around \$7.7 million in funding

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for this grant period.

"Grant programs like our Small Equipment Grant Program are critical in providing fire departments and ambulance providers with the necessary equipment to ensure their staff can perform their duties safely and efficiently. These grants alleviate the burden of tough financial decisions, allowing departments to acquire essential tools without delay, ensuring they have what they need when they need it," said **Illinois State Fire Marshal James A. Rivera**.

The eligible volunteer emergency worker must submit an application with Illinois Department of Revenue to receive a required credit certificate. Only those members that receive a credit certificate from the Illinois Department of Revenue will be permitted to apply the tax credit on their tax return. Further information referencing the Volunteer Emergency Worker Tax Credit will be available on the Illinois Department of Revenue website <https://tax.illinois.gov/individuals/credits/volunteer-emergency-worker-credit.html>. Please note that the total amount of all tax credits awarded each calendar year cannot exceed \$5,000,000, and credits are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

James A. Rivera
Illinois State Fire Marshal

Illinois Fire Service Institute

Spring is always a busy time for the Illinois Fire Service Institute and 2025 is no exception. Warmer weather and longer days naturally bring renewed energy to the training campus. As we move further into the spring months, we are also busy preparing for our annual summer training events.



A few updates from the IFSI Team:



IFSI OFFERS NO-COST TRAINING ACROSS ILLINOIS

- **Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Blended**- Provides new firefighters with the practical and cognitive training needed to operate safely and effectively on the fire ground.
- **IFSI Cornerstone Program**- Brings fundamental and essential skills training directly to local fire departments.
- **Light and Fight**- One day courses deliver hands-on, live fire training for all experience levels.
- **TEAM IFSI**- Partners local departments and IFSI with personalized, basic three-year training program that includes support materials.
- **Explorer Cadet Field Training Days**- One-day "down and dirty" fire service training introducing youth ages 15-20 to hands-on firefighting skills and information about becoming a first responder.

101ST ANNUAL FIRE COLLEGE – JUNE 6-8, 2025

IFSI is offering 19 live fire, hands-on and classroom training opportunities during the 101st Annual Fire College. The course list offers training opportunities for everyone and features the following new classes:

- Big Water, Standpipes and Foam
- LDDM Fire Officer
- Wildland Fire: Initial Attack Considerations and Tactical Water Use
- Firefighting with Limited Personnel
- OSHA Requirements
- Firefighter Responsibility and Fireground Tracking
- Initial Response to Fire Alarms
- Make Yourself a Good Victim
- VEIS Room and Beyond (Vent, Entry, Isolate, Search)

Registration is open and seats fill quickly so register now.

IFSI COURSE NAME CHANGES

To align with updates being made by NFPA and OSFM, IFSI has changed the name of Vehicle and Machinery Operations (VMO) to Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue and Vehicle and Machinery Technician (VMT) to Heavy Vehicle Rescue.

The new course titles do not impact certification requirements. Students will

continue to earn the same certifications that were earned when taking VMO and VMT.

For more information, please contact Rich Trapp at rtrapp@illinois.edu.

EXPLORER CADET FIRE SCHOOL – JULY 17-20, 2025



Registration is open for the 21st Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School.

Explorer Cadet Fire School offers Explorers, Cadets, and Junior firefighters between the ages of 15-20 years old the opportunity to develop key firefighting skills and learn more about the fire service. IFSI instructors will deliver multiple hands-on, live fire training for participants of all skill levels during this unique training program.

DISCOVER IFSI – NEW RECRUITMENT EVENT

Know someone interested in a career in the fire service? Then help them **Discover IFSI** in 2025.

IFSI is offering multiple *Discover IFSI* informational events to support and inspire youth interested in becoming a member of the fire service. The next event is scheduled for Thursday, May 8 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Discover IFSI events feature:

- Information about how to become a firefighter in Illinois.
 - Guided tours of the IFSI training facilities.
 - Up-close observations of live fire and technical rescue fire training.
- Discover IFSI* events also include

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personal interactions with experienced fire service personnel who will provide valuable insights into the career and how IFSI can assist individuals aspiring to join the profession.

Please share this information and be a part of building the next generation of firefighters.

For more information about these and other IFSI programs and events, please visit fsi.illinois.edu.

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 appreciate the opportunity to meet our Legislators in Springfield and explain the issues important to the Illinois Fire Service. Bringing the interests of the Fire Service Leadership to our Legislators is extremely important and does make a difference. The Legislators and staff notice us and this helps build the relationships that advance our joint interests.

The IFCA symposium returns this to East Peoria May 13th through the 15th. 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. We scheduled the Symposium to immediately follow the Illinois Firefighter Memorial and Medal of Honor ceremony in Springfield and encourage fire chiefs from throughout Illinois to attend both events.

The IFCA Assessment and Consulting services continue to serve the fire service in Illinois. While we frequently are known for our work with promotional assessments,



we can also help with fire chief recruiting and hiring. We also work with fire districts on a wide variety of consulting projects. Recently, we have worked with Illinois OSHA and others to provide a fireground operational SOG. This is a great template for both the fire district without a policy and for those who want to make sure the policy currently in use in their organization meets the basic OSHA requirements. The IFCA vision is for our consulting service to investigate the need for further such policies and work to help develop and provide them to the fire districts in Illinois.

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. The Foundation also sponsors an annual scholarship program. Funding for this program comes from events and donations. On July 16th, we will hold our annual Golf Outing to benefit our scholarship program. Information is available on our website – consider joining us for this great event.

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

Another Fire and Life Safety conference is behind us. We had approximately 140 attendees and 24 exhibitors. We believe that this year's conference ranked in the top of our conferences.

In speaking to several of our speakers, who travel the country making presentations at conferences, they indicated that they will make a point of telling people that they should attend our

future conferences – a great testament to a great conference.

Now we have to meet that in the future. If anyone has a topic worth considering, or knows of a good speaker, contact a Board member or our office. We will begin the big work of planning for 2026 in early July, following the NFPA conference.

Several awards were given out at the conference. Cindy Wilson, from Minooka, was presented the Lonnie Jackson award for her years of work in fire and life safety education. Lonnie was the IFIA's first Executive Director. The Lonnie Jackson award is for someone who "...unselfishly contributed to the greater good of fire and life safety education in the fire service...".

Art Peters, from Pleasantview, was presented the Dick Arthur award for his many, many years of service. Dick was the IFIA's first President. The Dick Arthur award is "...for the Fire Prevention Professional who dedicates his career to the cause of Fire Prevention, Life Safety, and Education...".

The last award was a "new" one. The Board decided to rename the Dick Arthur Award. The inaugural award was given to Robert Morris, the current Executive Director. Morris has been the Executive Director for 13 years, and has served on the Board in various capacities for close to 40 years. The new award is named the Arthur-Morris Lifetime Achievement Award.

Just a reminder that we accept nominations for our awards year-round 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, and submit them now.

Our next mini seminar is Navigating the Fire Alarm Plan Review and Documentation Process on May 23rd in Palatine. Information on this class, and others, is available on our website.

The IFIA will be offering a Fire and Life Safety Educator classes in Romeoville in July. This class will be Monday through Friday. If that schedule works for you, sign up now on our website.

If you need a **scholarship** to cover the registration fees for our certification class, that application is available on our website.

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On the IFIA website, on the right side of the training tab, are PDFs for tracking your CEUs. It shows what we have a record of for people attending our seminar/classes since 2024. To make a copy of your hours, just scroll to your name and print a screen capture of your record.

Make plans to attend the IFIA day at the State Fair. The date is August 17th. Tent hours are from 10 – 4, but if you are able to do just part of that, it makes a big difference. Bring the family, and spend the remaining time visiting the Fair with them. The IFIA is able to provide gate and parking passes for those who participate. Just email the office so we know the proper number of passes to get.

Upcoming events:

- May 23 – Navigating the Fire Alarm Plan Review and Documentation Process Palatine
- Jul 28 – Aug 1 – FLSE Romeoville
- Aug 17 – IFIA State Fair day
- Sept 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct 2 – Inspector 2 Romeoville
- September 26 – OSFM Regulations Related to Aboveground Storage Tanks
- Nov 10–12, 17 & 18 – FLSE Countryside
- November 21 – VIRTUAL Did You Know?
- December 4 – Holiday Party

Robert Morris

Executive Director, IFIA

Camp I am Me

Illinois Camp For Young Burn Survivors Scheduled For June

Camp I Am Me's Summer Camp is right around the corner! The 34th annual "Burn Camp" will take place June 15-21 and allows for any young burn survivor between the ages of 7 and 20 to attend this life-altering program at no-cost. Also camp-related, the Fire Department Parade Appreciation Day events are scheduled for Wednesday, June 18th and departments from across the entire state are encouraged to attend, participate, learn about this weeklong healing program, 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. This year's luncheon will take place on Thursday, October 9th in Woodridge.

Specialized Smoke Alarms Now Offered Through Be Alarmed! Program

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. At the beginning of 2025, the program began offering bed shaker smoke alarms for those that are hard of hearing or deaf. There are now more than 335 departments across that state that participate in the program, which has resulted in the distribution of more than 40,000 smoke alarms since 2018. Departments looking to join the program should review the program requirements and submit an inquiry at www.IFSA.org/alarms.

Philip Zaleski

Executive Director

Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund



The FPIF Board of Trustees held its organizational meeting on January 31, 2025. During the meeting, the Board elected Kevin Bramwell as Chairperson. Chairman Bramwell, an active-duty firefighter with the Bolingbrook Fire

Department, has served on the Board since its inception and previously chaired the Investment & Operations Committee.

The Board also administered the oath of office to Matthew Kink, an active-duty firefighter from Springfield who was re-elected as a Participant Trustee. Newly elected trustees Mayor David Pileski of Roselle and Mayor Michael Troup of Quincy were also sworn in.

Additionally, the Board appointed Michael Mounts, an active-duty firefighter with the Lake Forest Fire Department, to fill a vacant Participant Trustee position. Trustee Mounts was sworn in during the meeting and will serve until a 2026 election is held to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for May 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Investment Performance – Through February 28, 2025

For the first two months of 2025, the FPIF investment portfolio returned 2.5%, on par with the policy benchmark of 2.5%. The one-year trailing return for the FPIF investment portfolio was 11.2%, outperforming the policy benchmark of 10.9%. All returns are net of fees.

The broad U.S. equity market returned 1.2% year to date through February. Given the market uncertainty due to US tariffs on its trading partners, future returns for U.S. equities may be more volatile and temporarily slide into negative territory.

The broad non-U.S. equity market returned 4.7% year-to-date through February. Emerging market equities delivered strong results, as the investors looked for opportunities to diversify their portfolio and shift some capital away from an uncertain US market.

The broad U.S. fixed income market performed strongly during first two months of 2025 and returned 2.7%. One-year trailing return is up 5.8% through the end of February.

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