



IN THE NEWS

IN MEMORY



Congratulations!

Congratulations Trustee **Al Bach** on his retirement from the **Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District**. Al served on the Board of Trustees for over 13 years and had a great impact on the department. We wish him well as he relocates to Texas.



Congratulations **Amboy Fire Chief Jeff Bryant** on the celebration of his retirement on November 2, 2024. At the time of retirement, Chief Bryant was recognized for his 36 years of service, 33 as an officer, and over 10 years as the chief. Bryant Sr. is a member of the IAFFPD Legislative Committee and the Education Committee, active member with the Illinois Volunteer and Combination Officers Committee, serves as director of Illinois Firefighters Association, an associate at Haigh Solutions (fire department consulting service), an associate at Dinges Fire (since 2002), and runs grant workshops.

Illinois OSHA

Training Quality Matters

Did you know that IL OSHA has a standard on fire department training quality? 1910.156(c)(3) says: "The quality of the training and education program for fire brigade members shall be similar to those conducted by such fire training schools as the..." and then the standard lists several state-level fire schools. IL OSHA uses the Illinois Fire Service Institute as the measure of quality for Illinois fire department training. Does that mean you need a world-class training facility and full-time instructors? No. Does that mean you should ensure training that is contemporary, science-based, reflective of your department's actual capabilities, and compliant with IL OSHA standards? Yes.



There is an incredible amount of training and education available to today's firefighters. The number of private fire training companies has dramatically increased over the past ten years. The quality of training these companies deliver is highly variable. Before hiring an external company to provide training at your FD, or before sending your firefighters to training provided by an external company, please scrutinize the training quality. Did you know that some states don't have public-sector OSHA regulations? Would you want an instructor from another state that was not familiar with IL OSHA standards teaching your firefighters? Please do your homework to ensure your firefighters receive high-quality, legally-compliant training and education so they can strike the balance between firefighter safety and operational effectiveness.

Questions? E-mail us at DOL.Safety@illinois.gov call us at 217-782-9386 or visit us at osha.illinois.gov ■

Erik Kambarian - Chief, Div. of Occupational Safety and Health (IL OSHA) Illinois Department of Labor



Robert (Bob) Langguth passed away peacefully February 2, 2025. Bob Was the founder of Eagle Engraving Inc. of Saint Charles, Illinois, and committed to providing excellent service to our First Responder Community. Prior to Eagle Engraving,

Bob was a long time employee of Chicago Title and Trust Company, where he met his loving wife, Arleene. Bob was a volunteer with Kane County ESDA for many years and also worked for the Kane County Sheriff's Department filling in as Supervisor of Communications.



George William Petecki, Jr. (55), of Joliet, passed away on March 23, 2025. He was a devoted father, son, brother, and friend. A lifelong servant to his community, George was a Trustee for the Joliet East Fire Department and an Eagle Scout, staying active in Pack

94 to mentor young scouts. As the owner of George's Landscaping Inc., he took great pride in his work, leaving a lasting mark on the community



David G. Webster, 73, of Sweetwater, Tennessee, formerly of Martinton, passed away on April 11, 2025. David married Sandra Sue Wehling on August 21, 1971 in Watseka and she preceded him in death in 2014. David was a member of the Strickly Street

Rob Club. He was the owner and operator of Dave's Rod Works and FOB Fabrication. David was a member of the Martinton Fire Department and a Trustee for over 50 years, as well as being a Village Board Member.



Jeremy Todd Norris (55) of Marion passed away March 23, 2025, surrounded by family. A dedicated public servant, Jeremy, joined the newly formed Williamson County Fire Protection District (WCFPD) as a volunteer in 1990. His passion for

firefighting and commitment to service enabled him to excel in training, leading to his rise through the ranks. In 2010, Jeremy was appointed Chief of the district, a role in which he oversaw significant growth and improvements, including the financing, design, and construction of the new Station 1—the first newly constructed facility since the district's inception Under Jeremy's leadership, the WCFPD achieved new heights in service quality, driven by his commitment to excellence and the welfare of the community.