

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 use of barricade devices on school doors has become a hot button issue and the subject of Illinois Senate Bill 1371. When the OSFM contemplates the issue of school security, we considered not only how to provide increased safety during an active shooter situation, but also how to provide this added security without creating other risks. As school administrators know, the people most likely to commit violence on school grounds are the students themselves. Students are also much more likely to be the victim of a violent assault than to be involved in a school shooting.

(<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/iscs18.pdf>)

Allowing barricade devices that do not meet NFPA or Illinois State Board of Education requirements could give any student the ability to lock a room with potential victims inside and prevent school staff or first responders from entering the room. Promotional videos for some barricade devices even depict law enforcement officers, using currently assigned tools, who cannot breach the doors to which they are applied. When looked at in this context, that is a frightening image and, ironically, this knowledge could actually aid in the planning of an assault.

The desire to react quickly, and within budgetary restrictions, can lead to choices that may solve one problem but inadvertently create others. The demand for increased security precautions needs

to be balanced with requirements for egress, fire protection, and accessibility. A code compliant locking mechanism provides increased safety, would be cost effective to install, would not impede egress, could easily be opened from the outside by school staff or first responders with no special tools or knowledge, and could be engaged simply and quickly to eliminate any delay in securing the room. This is an option I am willing to stand behind in the effort to protect Illinois residents from the dangers they are most likely to face.

This code compliant option was also supported by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force - School Safety Working Group established in 2018. This group consisted of representatives of law enforcement from local, county and Illinois State Police, local and state fire service, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Chicago Public School District, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, regional superintendents, assistant superintendents, the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the Illinois Association of School Boards. The final recommendations document from this working group, which takes a much larger scale view of safeguarding our schools, can be found at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/ITTFSchoolSafetyWorkingGroupRecommendations.pdf#search=illinois%20terrorism%20task%20force>

I would encourage you to read through the document as it contains many recommendations designed to curtail school violence and, more

specifically, I would draw your attention to "Recommendation #7 – Priority List for Hardening of School Facilities" which in part recommends installation of a uniform, interior door locking system that is compliant with applicable codes. The use of barricade devices was thoroughly discussed in the working group and it was decided they should not be part of the recommendations.

Matt Perez
State Fire Marshal

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



Summer is here along with that is the heat, humidity BUT also time for BBQ's, sitting on the porch visiting with friends and relaxing. So, enjoy!

This year's IAFFD 2019 Conference was another success: great sessions, events and planning. Once again, a big thank you to Cheri, Karrie, Samantha, Ken and to the entire conference committee team job well done! Our speakers were excellent and well-grounded with a message of empowerment and success. To those who took time to attend thank you for your commitment. I had a great time teaming with Karl Ottosen and look forward to seeing you at the IAFFD Winter conference.

At this year's conference IFCA Vice-Presidents Greg Earle, Don Shoeflin and

Continued on page 17

Around the State

Continued from page 16

I had the opportunity to meet with some of the IAFFPD members of the executive team along with a representative from the NIAFFPD to discuss future endeavors, cooperative efforts and information sharing. It was a good meeting where we have committed to meet on a regular basis. I thank the IAFFPD & NIAFFPD for their time, support and commitment.

Did you know that The IFCA assessment team is ready to serve the members of the fire service with promotion testing, new hire interviews and consulting services? If you are currently using our services, we thank you and we will continue to bring you a professional process. If you have not used our services, please give us the opportunity to provide you with our services. We feel we will deliver you quality and professionalism in every aspect. Contact Dave Slivinski at dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org our Consulting Manager.

The IFCA Education-Research Foundation continues to host a variety of Fire Officer Class and new Chief Officers programs. Information is available on our website at www.illinoisfirechiefs.org.

If you are interested in IFCA apparel and or novelties, please look at Eagle Engraving web-site and go to the at the top of the page Chief Corner for IFCA items at www.eagle-engraving.com.

The Illinois Fire Chiefs are holding the following events:

- **Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Day** at the Sate Fair is Sunday August 11, 2019
- **10th Annual VCOC Conference**, Sept. 14–15, 2019, Bloomington/Normal
- **69th Annual Conference**, Oct. 13–16, 2019, Peoria, IL
- **The National Fallen Firefighter Stair Climb** - Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019 @ 10:00am - Peoria Civic Center, Peoria
Information & registration regarding the stair climb is available on our website as well. Our website operates under the guidance of Maureen Griseto, Chief John Buckley and Chief Larry Moran. Please look at our site to obtain information related to the IFCA and The IFCA Education Research Foundation. www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

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 at Jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org and we will make sure you are kept informed.

If you have any questions or need information, please do not hesitate in contacting me at Jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org or by calling our IFCA office at 1-847-966-0732.

Jim Grady III
Executive Director

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance 79th Fire Prevention Week Luncheon to Define "Courage"



Join 400 members from the fire service at the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance's Fire Prevention Week Luncheon, presented by the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition. The 79th annual event will take place on Thursday, October 10th in Woodridge and will include lunch, networking, and guest presenter, Danette Haag. Ms. Haag will share her experiences of many daily fears from living through and with a traumatic burn injury as a child. Years of very real fears of extreme physical pain from healing burns, reconstructive surgeries, and physical therapy – as well as the even more challenging fears from the emotional pain of looking so differently from the rest of the world. Danette has learned to redefine courage in a way that inspires others to walk with courage and move beyond any scar in life. Courage is not about being tough, as she explains how true courage actually comes from a place of vulnerability. Find out how you too can redefine courage to grown your inner strength and overcome any fear or obstacle that you might face on your own life journey.

The Fire Prevention Week Luncheon also provides an opportunity to highlight and honor those who have gone above and beyond in fire safety and burn prevention, as each year the IFSA receives nominations and presents awards to those deserving individuals, groups, or businesses. Nominations can be submitted

at any time, but must be received no later than August 15th to be considered for this year's event.

For complete information on the Fire Prevention Week Luncheon, the award nomination form, and online registration, visit www.IFSA.org/FPWL.

Philip Zaleski
IFSA Executive Director

Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals



It is my honor and privilege as the President of IFSAP to be working with the current Board. The Board just completed their annual conference in April and has been working diligently to provide training classes to our members over the summer months.

I would like to introduce to you and recognize the members of the IFSAP Board for 2019-2020:

President:

Laura Haiden, Glenside FPD

Vice President:

Courtney Michaels, Barrington FD

Secretary:

Britta Eggebrecht, South Elgin FPD

Treasurer:

Sharon Szynalski, Alsip FD

Directors:

- **Merry Morris**, Elburn & Countryside FPD
- **Alicia Pavone**, Darien Woodridge FPD
- **Kristine Murphy**, Broadview FD
- **Ovie Throver**, Country Club Hills FD
- **Lisa Berger**, Roberts Park FPD
- **Marilyn Russell**, Riverdale Fire-Rescue Dept
- **Christine Calich**, Palos Heights FPD

Executive Director:

Michelle Nabor, Retired Member

Immediate Past President:

Janice Gumprecht, Bartlett FPD

IFCA Liaison

Chief Donald Shovelin, Harlem-Roscoe FPD

I look forward to working with each and every one of these wonderful individuals in the upcoming year. I appreciate the time and dedication they

Continued on page 18

Around the State

Continued from page 17

put forth into our organization and I thank their Fire Chiefs and Fire Departments for allowing their participation. Many Board Members not only volunteer their time to attend meetings, but most of them also volunteer to be on a committee and help at various fire service events.

Executive Support Program

The Executive Support Personnel (ESP) Program was canceled this year, due to low enrollment. This 13-week program provides participants the opportunity to network and train together in their administrative roles. They learn about the fire service and how they can be more effective within their own organizations. Anyone with more than one year of service can register for this program and we encourage all admins to complete the program and then obtain their Illinois OSFM Fire Executive Support certification. This is the only state certification that only administrative staff can obtain. Training is key in the fire service industry and sometimes we forget about our admins in the office. I would like to encourage all fire district chiefs to consider sending their admin to next year's program in 2020 for this valuable training opportunity.

2019 Fall Seminar – September 27, 2019

Please save the date and encourage your administrative staff to join us this year for IFSAP's Fall Seminar taking place at the Glendale Lakes Golf Course. Topics are being finalized at the July board meeting and will include a legal section provided by Attorney John Kelly of Ottosen Britz. Registration and the seminar outline can be found on the IFSAP website.

2019 Annual Luncheon

Please save the date and join us at the Annual Awards Luncheon that will take place at the Belvedere Banquets on December 12. Registration and payment information will be located on the IFSAP Website in the near future. The IFSAP board hopes to see you all there!

Thank you for your time. Please be

sure to refer to our website www.ifsap.org to contact any member of our board or feel free to reach out to me personally for assistance or feedback you may want to provide.

Laura Haiden
IFSAP President
Glenside Fire Protection District
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(630) 668-5323

Illinois Fire Service Institute

The past few months have been very exciting for the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Here are a few updates:



SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS:

IFSAP kicked off the summer season by hosting the 95th Annual Fire College June 6-9 in Champaign. Students were able to select from twenty-four unique, hands-on courses. The availability of funded hotel accommodations, supported through the Office of the State Fire Marshal, was very well received by students and sponsoring departments. Overall, it was another successful training weekend for the 320 students and over 200 instructors and support staff.

IFSAP also welcomed 192 Explorers and Cadets to the training grounds during the 17th Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School. This year, the one-of-a-kind training event offered three levels of training to meet the developing skill needs of returning students. The addition of the advanced techniques training was very well received by attendees.

BASIC OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER/NFPA FIREFIGHTER I BLENDED:

IFSAP was very pleased to announce in early June the rollout of the IFSAP Basic Operations Firefighter / NFPA Firefighter I Blended Program. Because of the efforts of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, this certification training opportunity will be offered at no cost to Illinois students or departments.

The blended course will offer the same training and education outcomes as the 7-week IFSAP Academy but will provide a format and timeline that allows for greater

scheduling flexibility for students unable to attend a resident program. The 18-week blended course pilot kicks off August 10th this includes 18 weeks of online education and 9 practical weekends scheduled at the IFSAP Champaign training site. Students will test for IL OSFM, Pro Board, and IFSAP NFPA Firefighter I certifications in week 18.

IFSAP will soon announce the next course offering schedule, expected to start in early 2020 with weekend practical sites located throughout the state. This is a tremendous opportunity for accessible training leading to state and national certification!

TRAINING GROUND UPDATES:

IFSAP continues to work to meet the evolving training needs of the fire service. The Structural Collapse Rescue Program is currently building a new operations training prop that includes a simulated city block of business and residential structures. The prop is expected to be complete in Fall 2019.

The Special Operations Training Program is also navigating the building of a new technical rescue training prop. This multiple story structure will elevate the training efforts for rope and confined space rescue programs.

The fall training season kicks off soon. IFSAP will once again offer an impressive selection of training opportunities available throughout the state. Classes continue to be added to the schedule line-up, including no cost Cornerstone programs. Visit www.fsi.illinois.edu for a complete and up-to-date course schedule.

Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts



As many may have heard and for those who have not, the NIAFPD Executive Director, Kathy Haage, announced her well-earned retirement this past January. Faced with the challenge of finding the perfect replacement for her, the Board of Directors formed a Selection Committee made up of Secretary/Treasurer Bonnie Bayser, Director Brent Frank and myself. Since that time, we have received inquiries

Continued on page 19

Around the State

Continued from page 18

and resumes from some very well qualified candidates. We then screened all the applicants, selected final candidates and conducted interviews. After much work and deliberation we now are very pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, Denise Kauffman.

Denise is the Executive Assistant to Fire Chief Tony Huemann of McHenry Township Fire Protection District and has extensive experience with Fire Protection Districts, local governments, various governing boards and even working as part of a US Senator's staff in Washington D. C. Denise has a degree in Journalism and Public Relations and is also well-versed in web development and social media platforms among many other talents. Denise started with the NIAFPD on July 1st and we are very excited to get to know her as she gets to know the NIAFPD and all of our membership. Kathy has offered her time to continue on for a while as she shows Denise the ropes and ensures a smooth transition. So, please welcome Denise to the family of the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts! ■



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