

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



Kids will be returning to school over the next few weeks and the OSFM continues to work closely with our local partners to ensure school buildings are a safe environment for students to learn. We want to thank all local jurisdictions who participate in our public-school inspection program. 100% of Illinois public schools have been inspected and this wouldn't be possible without your assistance. When locals complete these inspections, it's not just checking a box for school safety, it's building or establishing relationships with the administration in those school districts. When there is an emergency, it's the local department that will respond to assist. By completing these inspections, they are familiarizing themselves with the layout of the building and the emergency plans that are in place. This can lead to faster and more efficient responses. The OSFM thanks you for your participation. We also want to encourage other fire departments to get involved in our program. Make sure to watch our website, newsletters, and your fdmail accounts for upcoming public school inspections classes the OSFM plans to host. For more information about this program visit our website at sfm.illinois.gov.

The OSFM continues to strive to help provide funding to support our local fire service partners across the state. We were able to maintain funding for some great program such as community risk reduction (CRR), computer-based firefighter certification testing, firefighter online training management system,

firefighter training programs, minimum basic firefighter trainings, senior officer training, and payment to local government agencies/individuals participating in state training programs in the FY 2024 budget.

There are a couple of exciting new initiatives that the OSFM is finding! A one-time \$5 million dollar Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction grant! Rules are currently being drafted with a goal of rolling it out before the end of the calendar year. Stay Tuned! The OSFM is also providing one-time funding to IFSI for research activities. The direct impact of the studies will be on firefighter work along with health and safety.

The FY 2024 budget reflects our commitment to the Illinois fire service with funding increases in several areas:

- Small Equipment grant increased from \$1.5 million to \$4 million.
- Cornerstone training funding increased from \$350 thousand to \$450 thousand.
- Explorer-Cadet School funding increased from \$65 thousand to \$80 thousand.
- Illinois Firefighter Peer Support funding increased from \$60 thousand to \$75 thousand.
- MABAS funding increased from \$180 thousand to \$200 thousand.

All of these programs are an important part of helping the OSFM further our agency mission. We want to remind all departments to make sure your FDmail accounts are current. If you don't have an active FDmail account, you are missing out on notifications about some of our funding opportunities, newsletters from the OSFM, and other training announcements. Make sure to visit our website and check out

our grants and loans page. There, you will find what active grants and loan programs are currently available. REMINDER, if your NFIRS data is not current for the past two years, you will NOT be eligible for any of our grant or loan programs. We are here to help if you have any questions. Please visit <https://sfm.illinois.gov/iam/firedepartment/nfirs.html> to learn more about the OSFM's role in the NIFRS program and to see if your department is compliant.

A change is also coming to the NFIRS program. The NIFRS Data Warehouse will be replacing the SORT tool in early August 2023. The OSFM has posted a training document: [CREATING A MONTHLY INCIDENT REPORT IN DATA WAREHOUSE](#) on our NFIRS page. Please reach out to us at SFM.Nfirshelp@Illinois.gov if you have any questions.

JC Fultz
PIO

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association



On behalf of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association I extend thanks to all who contributed to the success of our first Illinois Fire Service Conference. This includes those who worked so hard on the planning and delivery of the Conference, as well as those who attended and supported the event.

One of the many lessons that was reinforced through this process is that all of us in the fire service have similar needs. Whether you are a Volunteer,

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Paid-on-Call, Career, or elected member of a Fire Protection District or a municipal department, we all need to keep current on finance matters, legal matters, personnel matters, and the needs of our constituents. Of course technical proficiency in fire suppression (even new electric fires!), rescue, and Emergency Medical Services are critically important as we are the folks who most often perform that work for our residents and businesses.

As all of our agencies face staffing shortages and recruiting challenges, the unified voice of the Illinois Fire Service is more critical than ever. We must find ways to collectively attract new members to serve in our fire and EMS roles, members who will bring the same level of enthusiasm that each of us brought when we entered the fire service and hopefully all maintain today, and folks who are willing to accept the new responsibilities we never dreamed we would be facing. But finding new personnel is not our only challenge. Keeping the people we already have on our rosters is equally important. Most importantly we need good, honest, motivated leaders who are willing to forgo the status quo and embrace the new challenges we face today as well as those challenges yet to come.

Find those emerging leaders in your district or department and help them develop further. Encourage their growth and new thinking rather than stifling their enthusiasm and ideas. Share your lessons from the past while you embrace their positive outlook for the future. Encourage them to attend our next Illinois Fire Service Conference for new ideas and updates on all that we do.

Once again on behalf of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association I thank all who were part of our Illinois Fire Service Conference, and on behalf of the people you serve I say thank you for the services you provide to keep your community safe.

Richard J. Mikel

**President, IL Fire Chiefs Association
Fire Chief, Elk Grove Village, Illinois**

Illinois Fire Service Institute



It seems impossible to believe that we already weeks into the Month of July and planning for fall trainings. We are looking forward to welcoming new candidates to the next cycle of Basic Operations Firefighter Blended (BOF) and the resident Academy in August and early September.

The IFSI Team is also prepared and eager to deliver the multitude of essential skills, hands-on, technical rescue, no cost, low cost, and top-quality training activities this fall.

DISPATCHERS HANDS-ON IN-SERVICE TRAINING
SEPTEMBER 13 - 14
NO COST TO ATTEND
 Learn what happens from the moment the call is taken to everything involved on the scene of the incident.
 For more details or to register online, visit: **FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU**
UNIQUE, ONE-OF-A-KIND TRAINING OPPORTUNITY
 - Continental Breakfast and Lunch Provided
 - No Registration Fee to Attend
 - Lodging Available at the State Rate
 - Continuing Education Hours Available
 MABAS Division 21

VETERANS IN THE FIRE SERVICE
 An Opportunity for Firefighters Past, Present and Future
NOVEMBER 4-5, 2023
 IFSI TRAINING SQUARES, CHICAGO
 - No cost to attend
 - Meals and lodging are provided
 - Unique training for all skills levels

We encourage you to stay connected to the IFSI website and social media channels for updates on class availability and new course offerings.

FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU

Registration is also now open for several upcoming special events.

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

**Jim Keiken
Director**

Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



Have a Public Educator Deserving of Recognition, Nominate Them Today

Each year Camp I Am Me presents awards for corporate responsibility, life safety, special recognition, as well as the coveted Wayne Luecht Memorial Award in front of 300+ attendees 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.campiamme.org/fpwl**.

82nd Annual Fire Prevention Week Luncheon Takes Place October 12th

Join members of the fire service for Camp I Am Me's Fire Prevention Week

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The National Fire Academy in cooperation with the Illinois Fire Service Institute present the following tuition free NFA courses in Illinois.

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION
F0458 - Preparation for Initial Company Operations	11/4/23 - 11/5/23	Stirling
F0322 - Incident Command System for Structural Collapse Incidents	12/14/23 - 12/15/23	Waukegan
F0770 - Fire Investigation: First Responders	1/4/24 - 1/5/24	Waukegan
F0458 - Preparation for Initial Company Operations	1/20/24 - 1/21/24	O'Fallon
N0390 - Fire Inspection Principles I	1/21/24 - 1/26/24	O'Fallon
F0321 - Incident Command for Highrise Operations	2/8/24 - 2/9/24	Waukegan

REGISTER ONLINE: FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU

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Luncheon on Thursday, October 12th. The event will be held in Woodridge and will include lunch, networking, and a keynote presentation.

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 Camp I Am Me receives nominations and presents awards to those deserving individuals, groups, or businesses.

To learn about these awards, the event's keynote presentation, and online registration, visit www.campiamme.org/fpwl.

Support Those You Save!

For nearly 30 years, Boot Day for Burn Survivors has helped provide much needed support to those that have been affected by burn injuries. As a result of Illinois fire service support, the IFSA has expanded upon its signature program, Camp "I Am Me," and has further developed

new support programs and events to help assist burn survivors of all ages!

Join members of the Illinois fire service by signing up, schedule dates and locations, grow community support, and enjoy your event while shaking your boots! Information on the IFSA's Boot Days can be found at www.campiamme.org/bootday.

Philip Zaleski
Executive Director

IL Fire Inspectors Association

Our FLSE committee will have a mini seminar on August 25th at the Minooka Fire Protection District, 7901 E. Minooka Rd., Minooka, at 9 am. This roundtable discussion will be on programs from their departments. Learn some tricks, share your successful (or failed) programs, and network with new and seasoned educators. This fun and exciting session will give you a few new tools for your Pub Ed toolbox. If you



would like copies of a program that is being presented, please bring your own thumb drive.

In Palatine there are two free CRR classes. On August 29th there is a one-day CRR Awareness class. On August 31 and September 1 there is a two-day Community Risk Reduction Assessment class. For further information and registration, go to fsi.Illinois.Edu.

There will be Fire Inspector I and II classes offered in the Fall. Registration is available on the website.

The IFIA day at the State Fair is Sunday, August 20th. We need volunteers to assist us. Please reach out to the office if you are interested in participating. We can provide parking and gate passes for those attending. While the tent hours are from 10-4, if you are able to provide 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 public education.

We are accepting nominations for all our Fire Prevention Awards. If you know an

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION
CONFERENCE
3rd Annual

ILLINOIS
COMMUNITY RISK
REDUCTION

VISION
20/20
COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 27 | 8AM-5PM

BAUER/PLUMMER PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY
701 N. KILBOURN AVENUE, CHICAGO

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individual or organization that is deserving of an award, you can nominate them through our website. Description of the awards can also be found there.

Our 2024 Fire and Life Safety Conference dates are March 20 – 22, 2024, with a pre-conference on the afternoon of the 19th. If you have ideas for topics or instructors, any other comments, please contact the office or a board member.

If you'd like to know more about fire doors, there is a free online class on Fire Door Systems - A Guide to Code Compliance. The date is September 19th, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Registration can be done at here: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7c5f41d4-c04a-4c56-9321-983895111e64@c6e9757d-2bab-4dea-ab79-3c01888f63b5>

While many months away, we have reserved a room for our Holiday Party. It will be on December 7th at Roberto's Ristorante & Pizzeria, 483 Spring Rd, Elmhurst. The event will begin at 6 pm. All are welcome to attend. Please let the office know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly.

Unfortunately, while this does not apply to most people, we need to remind everyone of our refund policy. We recognize that it takes some time to process payments for our events, so we allow people to attend even though payment has been invoiced, but not yet received. Most other organization do not do this. We have had recent occasions where people did not show up, left mid-class, etc., and did not pay for the class.

There are times where we decide to run or not run a class based on the number registered. Not attending and not paying then puts us in a money losing situation.

Our policy, on the website, states any registration cancelled less than seven days from the start of the class will be assessed 50% of the class cost. Any no-shows will be assessed the full cost of the class.

Individuals who do not pay, will not be allowed further registrations until payments are received.

We feel that we have been very generous with our policy of letting people attend classes at the last minute, prior to payment being received. We hope everyone understands our need to have this policy.

We have a few long-life smoke alarms remaining. If you'd like a few to carry on

your vehicles, let us know. 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 a 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 make arrangements to acquire them.

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. ■

Upcoming events:

- Inspector 1: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Downers Grove
- Inspector's Day at the State Fair – August 20th
- August 11 – IFC Updates at B&F in Elgin
- Inspector 2: September 7, 14, 21, 28 and October 5th - Romeoville
- IFIA Annual Fire and Life Safety Conference – March 20 – 22, 2024

Robert Morris

Executive Director, IFIA

SAVE THE DATE:



Winter Conference February 16 & 17, 2024
Regency Conference Center
400 Regency Park, O'Fallon, IL

- ✓ **Open Forum**
- ✓ **Legal Training for Trustees**
- ✓ **Volunteer & Combined Chiefs Topics**
- ✓ **Legislative Update**
- ✓ **Vendor Display**
- ✓ **CE Hours**
- ✓ **Networking Opportunities**
- ✓ **Raffle Drawing**



For information visit
IAFPD.org
or call 217-525-6620