

The **Bulletin**



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January - February 2014

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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IFA Recognizes IFSI Deputy Director Roger Lunt on his Retirement



The Bulletin

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Table of Contents

Chaplain's Corner.....	7
IFSI Update	11
Legal Issues - Obamacare	17
Legislative Update	4
Paxton FF Raise Red Kettle Fund	5
Plan Now for 2014 State Fair....	18
President's Message	3

Index of Advertisers

AEC	20
Alexis.....	16
California Casualty	10
GCN Training	10
NVFC	9
SCBAS, Inc.	6
Sentinel Emergency Sol.....	19
VFIS.....	8

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Mission Statement

Dedicated to the advancement of the Fire Service by providing leadership. The Association will proudly support the community of firefighters in Illinois through education, training, benefits and information networking at the local, state and national levels.

President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters,

The winter has been extremely harsh already this year. We have lost three of our local citizens to hypothermia. All three left their vehicles and tried to walk to a nearby resident after being stuck in a snow drift. With wind chill of 40 degrees below zero, it does not take long for your body to fail. All three victims were found less than a half mile from their vehicles. As a quick reminder, pass the word to your residents and family members of the dangers of the extreme winter conditions this year.

This also puts additional stresses on the firefighter. Frost nip and frost bite can occur very fast while working out in these conditions. Be sure to protect yourself appropriately and watch out for your fellow firefighters during emergency calls.

This is the first of the year and dues notices have been sent out. As a reminder, please return them to us so we can count on your membership. Yes, every member counts to make this association great. We should be proud of the fact that we are the oldest and largest association in the state. The accomplishments that this association have made over the last 124 years has helped every firefighter. We will continue to adhere to our mission and provide the best support we can.

The Officers and Directors of this association cannot do it alone. It is our membership that will carry us on in the years ahead and that will make us stronger. The times may seem tough, but our willingness to carry on cannot fail. We are too important to each other and to our communities. With all the technology we have gained over the years, it is still the human element, the firefighter, that must neutralize the threat with their hands-on accomplishments. With this being said, we recognize your importance and will stand for your interests, well into the future. I am asking all of you to inquire if your surrounding fire departments are members of this association, if not, get them to join. Our website www.illinoisfirefighters.org, has all the information about our membership and benefits of membership, along with the application process.

In closing, I hope every fire department, that had a need, was able to fill out a small equipment grant application from the State Fire Marshal's Office. That program has helped many departments around this state over the years. Illinois has some of the best programs for firefighters and fire departments. Other states are far behind us with these types of support programs. I strongly believe that it is because of the influence that is in place by our organization and the other fire service organizations. Our leadership in the Fire Advisory Commissions and working with our Fire Caucus Legislators keeps us in the lead in the Fire Service of this nation. We cannot become delinquent or complacent with our missions goals. Firefighters lives are still being lost and we have many achievements to accomplish before we meet our goals.

God Bless and be Safe

John Swan President IFA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

EMS IN-FIELD SERVICE UPGRADE SIGNED into LAW

During the fall veto session the EMS Alliance fought hard for the passage of HB 2778 which was signed into law December 27, 2013. The legislation was one of the recommendations which came out of the EMS Task Force Report. The legislation contains the following provisions:

- Allows rural ambulance services serving populations of 7,500 or fewer to request through their EMS System Medical Director to IDPH that they can conduct an in-field service level upgrade;
- Allows approved ambulance services to have advanced level equipment secured/locked on their ambulance to allow an advanced level EMT (Paramedic or Intermediate) to function at their level of licensure and not be restricted by the vehicle licensure level;
- Requires approved ambulance services would to advertise to the public only the level of care they could guarantee 24 hours a day;
- Allows the EMS System Medical Director to define what constitutes an in-field service level upgrade;
- The EMS System's that have rural ambulance services performing these in-field service level upgrades would perform regular quality assurance.

LEGISLATURE RETURNS to SPRINGFIELD

Back in December the legislature finally reached an agreement with the Governor's office on pension reform and legislation was signed into law. The pension reform, conceal carry, and gay marriage legislation dominated the last legislative session and hopefully with those issues behind them the legislature will be ready to focus on other items as the spring session is getting under way. Although there were over 40 brand new legislators sworn in just a year ago quite a few incumbents have since resigned or are announcing their plans not to run again so there will continue to be a revolving door of new faces under the Dome. This means that it is essential for fire officials to get to know their legislators and make them aware of your needs since many legislators don't have the institutional knowledge and history working with the fire service as their predecessors did.

KANE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE FORUM

In November, working with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and the Kane County Fire Officials, I coordinated a Legislative Forum to better acquaint local fire officials with their legislators. We had an excellent turnout from both fire officials and legislators. It provided a great opportunity to familiarize the legislators with the legislation the fire service plans to tackle this spring and also get their feedback and input.



1st Row seat Rep. Kay Hatcher, Sen. Mike Noland (D-Elgin), Sen. Linda Holmes (D-Aurora), and Sen. Tim Schmitz (R-Batavia)

2nd Row Standing: Montgomery Chief Tom Meyers, IFSA Board Member Michelle Nabor, West Dundee Chief Randy Freise, Margaret Vaughn, Rep. Linda Chapa La Via (D-Aurora), Rep. Bob Pritchard (R-Sycamore) and South Elgin Chief Joe Chuchey

Paxton Firefighters Raise Red Kettle Funds

IFA member Paxton firefighters joined Chicago firefighters to sing Christmas carols on a downtown Chicago streetcorner to raise funds for the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. From left to right: FF Zach Vaughn, FF Andy Jones, FF Ross Kleinsteinber, Chief Denny Kingren, Chicago Fire Commissioner Jose Santiago, IFA Chaplain FF Kevin Coffey, and Lt. Bob Kingren



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Chaplain's Corner

Kevin Coffey - IFA Chaplain

Managers of God's Stuff

Do you ever stand back and take a good look at all that has been provided for you to accomplish the fire service mission in your community? There are tools: simple hand tools, power tools, hydraulic tools; tools for pushing, pulling, chopping, cutting – and best of all at times smashing and breaking, er...forced entry and overhaul I mean of course. There is hose – lots of it. There are various diameter hoses with various linings and jackets. There is hose bedded on the rig and donut-rolled in the compartment. There are ground ladders and roof ladders and aerial ladders. We have all been issued PPE – personal protective equipment: bunker gear, helmets, hoods, gloves, SCBA. Then there are rigs: pumpers, ladder trucks, rescues, ambulances and a variety of specialty vehicles. You may have a specific truck/trailer/training for a unique rescue task that you respond to county-wide or within your MABAS division: haz-mat, tech-rescue, water rescue. And of course the fire station(s) – perhaps you can tell the story of when your department added on this bay or that door or remodeled and extended the training classroom or kitchen. Maybe you are still working in the station that was built decades ago and you work with less and less room as the rigs have gotten bigger and wider. Or maybe that new station has been built and it's just the old-timers who tell the stories of the old one. And, of course, advancements in technology always guarantee that when you attend FDIC next year, you will discover that what your department has is already outdated!

Now all these things in the possession of your fire department have a story of how they got there. There was some human agency through which they landed in your hands, on your rigs, in your station. There was a budget to consider, trustees to address, comparisons to be made, demonstrations to view, estimates to scrutinize – should you purchase new or can you get by with used? Some of the old school stuff has been handed down through generations of your department's firefighters, while some of the new went through a slow process of acquisition that you may or may not have been personally involved with.

Regardless of what you have to work with, how it got there, or who it was that played a major role in making it happen, our faith informs us that everything we have to work with as we carry out our fire service calling belongs to God. The Bible tells us that from God's perspective we are stewards, or managers, of all that He provides for us to accomplish what He has called us to do. For example Jesus told a story like this one: "There was a fire chief who was going away to a conference, who called his firefighters and entrusted the department equipment and operations to them. After a long while he returned and to those who faithfully managed things in his absence he stated, 'Well done, good and faithful firefighter! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things'". Of course the chief here represents God and the firefighters

The Bulletin

us. In another stewardship story Jesus says, “The firefighter that can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and the firefighter that is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much”.

I have noticed in myself and others two polar attitudes that can blind our faith to the reality of our fire service stewardship with God. Younger/newer firefighters who weren't there to see what it was like without all that we have today can sometimes develop an attitude of entitlement and fail to value their stewardship. Older/senior firefighters who have worked hard and long to bring their department to where it is today can sometimes develop an attitude of ownership: “that's my rig, it's my fire station, my fire department!”. But both entitlement and ownership block the faith experience of being managers of what God has provided and of which we will give an account to Him. So you are invited to that faith – a faith that humbly manages your fire service resources as a stewardship from God from the smallest tool/task to the greatest. And at the end of the day to place it all before Him and hear His voice in the depth of your heart: “Well done good and faithful firefighter!”

Kevin Coffey, IFA Chaplain (815-457-2007, kc9526@yahoo.com)



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As a first responder, your emotional well-being is just as important as your physical health. Are you or someone you know struggling with persistent sadness, substance abuse, work or life stresses, or other issues affecting your work or home life? The first step is reaching out.

Here's what you can do:

- Talk about it
- Seek professional help for yourself or your colleague
- Encourage positive lifestyle changes, like eating better and getting more exercise
- Offer support by listening and checking in with your peers

Call the National Fire Service Member Assistance Program and talk to someone who understands. We're ready to answer the call.

1-888-731-FIRE (3473)

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Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Jim Keiken, Deputy Director



Mark Your 2014 Training Calendar

- **Annual Fire College**, June 5 - 8, 2014
- **Annual Explorer / Cadet "HOT" Fire School** June 19 – 22, 2014

IFSI Winter Fire School was held at IFSI Saturday and Sunday, January 25 and 26, 2014 and had approximately 200 in attendance. This year's program included:

Bad Boys, Whatcha Gonna Do? This specially designed Winter Fire School class will provide first responders with critical information on how to manage a variety of these situations. Scenes that include finding a weapon or contraband or finding yourself in the middle of a physical confrontation will be discussed. The class will be taught by police officers who are instructors at the Illinois Police Training Institute.

Fire Behavior and Smoke. No matter how much you know about fire behavior this class is a must for all fire service personnel. How to recognize what is happening around you in a burning building and then how to anticipate the fire's next move are the foundational topics presented in this class. Learning how to observe fire and smoke conditions with an understanding how to manage each situation will be discussed.

Is It Safe To Take Off My SCBA? We've all been there – the main body of fire is out, and we're itching to take off our mask and SCBA during overhaul. And we've also had the headache the next day from the poison gasses that we breathe in during overhaul. What about the gasses that have effects that don't show up for years to come? This course will expand the firefighter's understanding of when, why, and how to complete atmospheric monitoring in the post-fire environment.

SCBA Training Program Development. This Winter Fire School class has lifesaving information for all fire service personnel. The class will convince you of the importance of quality SCBA training. Instructors will present guidance on how to develop an SCBA training program for new recruits and extend continuing education for all department members. The class will discuss case studies of line of duty death incidents that may have been impacted by SCBA issues or training

Strategy and Tactics. In this Winter Fire School offering students will obtain an understanding of the Incident Command (IC) system, strategic and tactical objectives, risk management, pre-incident planning and accountability. The class also covers personnel safety, occupancy, hazard identification, size-up, standard company functions, fire behavior and the variables of fire department responses. This class is designed for personnel responsible for commanding one to two companies at the fire or emergency scene, such as Company Officers and Chief Officers of small fire departments.

Wildland Fire–Small Engine Tactics & Operations

Wildland fire disasters are making headlines across the country on a regular basis. This Winter Fire School presentation will help prepare you for the variety of wildland fire possibilities that are included in most jurisdictions. The course is designed primarily to prepare experienced firefighters,

engine company officers and initial attack incident commanders in the tactics necessary to conduct both first-in and extended attack engine company operations at local wildland fire scenarios

Saturday Night Bonus Session - After The Fire - Seton Hall Fire Survivors Presentation.

In the early morning hours of January 19, 2000, on the campus of Seton Hall, an arson fire was started in the 3rd floor lounge of the six-story freshmen residence hall. Alvaro Llanos and Shawn Simons, 18 year old roommates at the time, were two of the most severely burned students. Alvaro brings their story to Champaign. It is a dynamic presentation that includes the film “After the Fire” - inspired by their story with a powerful message about campus fire safety.

Dates and Locations for Explorer – Cadet Field Training 2014

Cherry Valley April 5, 2014

Galesburg

April 12, 2014

Frankfort May, 2014

St Louis Area

April or May 2014

This is a 1- day “Down and Dirty” Fire Service Youth training activity, introducing youth to hands-on firefighting skills. This “Down and Dirty” training will provide departments a safe training environment, under state fire academy instructor supervision, that will focus on the same basic firefighting skills that are provided in the IFSI Cornerstone Training program for firefighters statewide. Topics will include; Fire Hose and Appliances, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Search and Rescue, Ladders, Forcible Entry and Hand Tools. While not addressing all, training will use the Illinois OSFM Basic FF objectives as the training guide. Throughout the day long training session Explorer-Cadets will be exposed to the value of team work, leadership and followership

If you have specific questions about this course contact;

Tim Meister, IFSI East Central Regional Representative.

Jim Keiken selected as Interim Deputy Director

Hello my name is Jim Keiken and I am the new Interim Deputy Director at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. I have been in the Fire Service the past 33+ years. I began as a volunteer EMT in Lodi WI and was part of a rural, small town EMS service. In 1980 I was hired by the Janesville WI fire department and spent the next ten years there. I worked first as a Firefighter then as a Firefighter/paramedic.

In 1990, I was hired by the Madison WI Fire Department and assigned to Old Station #8 initially as a firefighter then reassigned to Fire Station #6 as part of the Hazardous

Material team and was activated shortly thereafter as a paramedic. Station #6 was a diverse area with low income, highway, commercial and industrial areas all in the same territory. At the same time I was a paramedic instructor and lead instructor for Rockford Memorial Hospital. I also had a stint as the EMS coordinator for Beloit Memorial Hospital in Beloit, WI.

In 1996, I moved to the departments training division and worked there both as a Training Officer and as a Fire Lieutenant. In training I worked with and later was the lead instructor for recruit training. When not running academies I oversaw department EMT continuing education as well as most other department training.



The Bulletin

In 2002, I was promoted to Division Fire Chief responsible for Grants, Planning technology and west side stations. In 2004, I was promoted to Assistant Chief responsible for Personnel, Planning and Training. I was in this position for the next eight years working with a department, which reach 389 commissioned and non-commissioned personnel. I became the second in command of the department in 2006 and worked closely with the Chief on all department issues and growth. One unique aspect of the Madison Fire Department is that all Chief Officers (except for the Fire Chief) are assigned to the 48-hour schedule and rotate as the On Duty Chief responsible for all department emergency operations. As the Officer in Charge (OIC) I had the opportunity to be the IC for many incidents from simple single-family fires, vehicle extrications as well as greater alarms, Level A Haz Mat incidents and mass casualty incidents.

One of the most unique events I was involved with was as the Incident Management Team for the 2011 Capital Protest, which ran from early February for well over a month and was a 24/7 operation. At its peak we had over 150,000 protesters and in addition to Madison Fire personnel, we had law enforcement personnel from around the state.

In 2012, I was reassigned to the Assistant Fire Chief for Operations and Administration and oversaw emergency operations for 12 stations (78 daily staffing) and 389 personnel until my recent retirement on June 2, 2013.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with many great firefighter, paramedics, fire officer and chiefs. I have learned many things from them and I am very excited to begin in this new position and look forward to opening the next chapter of my professional career.

As the Interim Deputy Director I will oversee the day-to-day direction of all academic training and education programs at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. As part of the executive management team I will participate in planning for the future as well as assisting in budget development. I will also be an advisor to the Director and participate on various local, state and national committees.

The past year, I have traveled the state with each IFSI regional rep to meet local chiefs and training officers and to learn about the unique needs of each area, as well as specifics on the programs IFSI delivers throughout the State of Illinois. I have spent time in the Chicago metro area and on the opposite end of the state traveling through Southern Illinois visiting departments as well as the July Coal Belt Association meeting. It was a great experience both personally and professionally and I look forward to spending time in every region of the state attending classes and fire service meeting on a regular basis.

I am extremely happy and excited to have the privilege to become the Deputy Director at IFSI and look forward the opportunities to work with departments and agencies across the state of Illinois and I also look forward to the prospect and the chance to be part of the exciting future here at IFSI.

If there is ever anything I can assist your department with: if you would like me to visit your department or attend an area association or county/departments meeting please feel free to contact me at IFSI.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns.

Step One Learning Project for 2014

As many of you may recall for 2103 IFSI program Directors and Program Managers embarked upon a major curriculum project. That project was to review all IFSI program curriculums to assure that

as Program Directors and Program Managers knew exactly what was in the program, that the program was up to date for current teaching practices and that all programs curriculum where in the current format and where complete . As of today we have completed just under 85 percent of all IFSI programs and will complete the rest shortly.

Even though this was a tremendous undertaking, we are not resting on what we did last year. This year we are beginning a multi-year project to develop “Step One Learning” for most IFSI programs. In 2014 we will review and identifying the appropriateness of “Step One Learning” for just over a third of all IFSI course and develop those Step One components for IFSI “Higher Level” curriculums. We will then continue this project for programs next year.

IFSI employs a 5-step training model that is based upon national best-practices, the first step of which is to use the many tools we have made available to you to do your own self-study ahead of the class to prepare yourself to get the most from the instructor-led training.

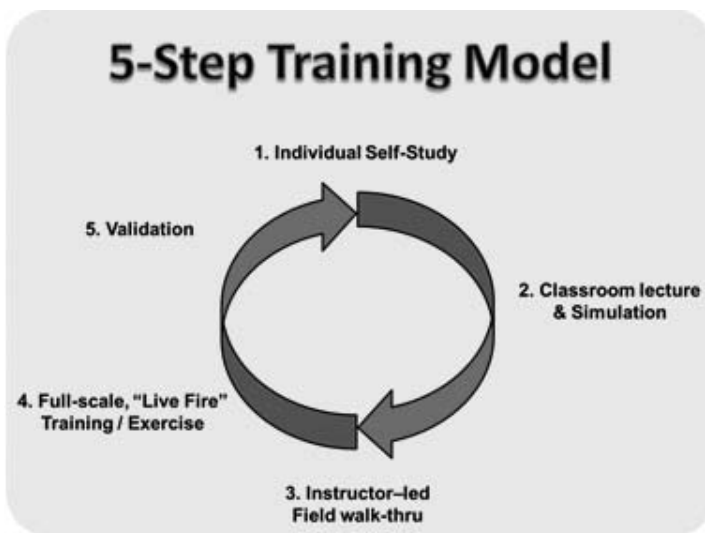
Step 1 Pre-Class Self Study. This is what you and your department can do ahead of a class to prepare for the class. Some of the pre-class materials available to you at little or no cost include:

Review the Down and Dirty Training programs. From a grant provided by the Illinois Firefighters Association, IFSI has produced and distributed at no cost to each Illinois fire department & district a series of 5 CD / DVD training programs, which include how-to training videos and instructor guides. An updated version of the Basic Firefighter Skills CD, plus a new Fires on the Farm and a Fire Attack DVDs will be released this year. If you cannot find your department copy you can download one from: <http://fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/down%20and%20dirty/> IFSI Library. The IFSI Library has an online card catalogue from which you can select from a wide variety of printed and electronic media-based training materials and have them delivered at no cost to you through your local state library branch. If you have a specific question or want a case study ahead of a class, our library research team is there to help.

OnLine Courses. IFSI has a dozen on-line courses that you can use to prepare for a course or use as a course. There are some costs for the courses, but they are available 24/7 when you can train and some qualify you to test for OSFM State Certification. For more info visit: <http://fsi.illinois.edu/content/distance%20learning/courses/>

Step 2 Classroom Presentation, Discussion and Simulation. This brings the instructor to you in an environment supportive of lecture and table top simulations. You will be introduced to new skills and ideas through an instructor led process. This process will provide the opportunity for objective based discussion and practice thru table top exercises, reading smoke classes, NIST live burn study CDs or other simulations and is available through Cornerstone Funded classes.

Step 3 Walk-thru and Field Simulation. In this step you go out to actual locations or the training field to conduct full-scale walk thrus with the instructor leading a discussion / demonstration of the



concepts discussed in the classroom and simulated thru tabletop exercises. This step builds upon the instructor-led classroom /simulation but moves away from the traditional classroom lecture and table top exercises to the training ground. Building upon your abilities and confidence, the training environment adds the many influences of the real world response. (team work, strategic, tactical or task level thinking, time restraints, physical limitations and “what if” scenarios). This step asks you to role-play fire ground decision making positions, while the instructor shadows and provides direct support to you. An example is walking through the steps of a first arriving engine at a working fire, the use of theatrical smoke to reduce visibility yet maintaining the direct interaction between you and the instructor. Another example would be a vehicle stabilization technique under the direct supervision and direction of the instruction. These classes are available through Cornerstone Funded classes, at Fire College and as part of longer IFSI courses such as Smoke Divers, RIT Under Fire and First In Officer.

Step 4 Live Fire Training. Now you are ready to take full advantage of a live fire training exercise, whether in a burn building or acquired structure. You should be saying that “I am ready,” if not - repeat steps 1, 2 and 3. The instructor(s) has/have told you what you need to know and do. The instructor has led you through a discussion of the theory of a live fire response and walked through simulations of a live fire response, to include “what if” drills when all does not go as expected. You have developed a picture in your head of what the response should look like and practiced it without fire. You are confident and have demonstrated your ability to fight a fire, under close supervision and controlled training environments. Now you are ready to “burn,” but not without the sustained watchful eyes and ears of the instructor. Live Fire training is inherently dangerous and must be done with respect for the real world risks and challenges it presents. You will be demonstrating and exercising structural firefighting and rescue techniques under real fire, heat and smoke conditions. Live-fire activities are available through Cornerstone Funded classes, at Fire College and as the exercise part of longer IFSI courses such as Smoke Divers, RIT Under Fire and First In Officer

Step 5 Validation. This happens when the bell strikes and you are called to respond. It removes the instructor led training environment. You will be observed by a third party either a citizen-in-need at a real emergency or your Chief as he reviews a drill. You will be expected to perform at full speed under high risk conditions. An After-Action review should follow every validation event, real or drill. This review should identify what you and your department do well and identify weaknesses and plan for correction...leading back to Step 1.

Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representatives:

Northeast Region:	Randy Schlichter, 847-343-4039
East Central Region:	Tim Meister, 217-202-4760
Chicago Metro Area:	Richard Stack, 773-988-0259
Central Region:	Jim Vaughn, 309-275-2499
Metro-East Region:	John Nichols, 618-973-2059
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The Unknown Effect of Obamacare on Volunteer Firefighters

by Robert J. Britz and Brian J. O'Connor
Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

With the advent of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), questions are continually being raised by fire protection districts and fire departments who utilize volunteer firefighters and paramedics. Recent articles appearing in various publications have noted that the U.S. Department of Labor classifies volunteers as non-employees, but the IRS considers volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel to be employees of their departments (see “Obamacare Under Fire for its Unintended Effect on Volunteer Firefighters” by Borys Krawczeniuk, Med City News, December 5, 2013).

Many volunteers with the fire service are not “pure” volunteers in the literal sense. Most volunteers receive some form of compensation, although nominal, for services provided. Does that compensation convert a volunteer into an employee? That question has yet to be answered and resolved by the federal government. If volunteers are in fact determined to be employees, districts’ and departments’ obligations regarding health insurance may be affected.

Each district or department that is a “large employer” as defined by the Affordable Care Act is obligated to provide health insurance to its full-time employees. In determining whether or not an employer is a large employer, the employer must total the number of its full-time employees (those working 30 hours or more per week or averaging 130 hours or more per month) and add that figure to its full-time equivalent employees. In determining full-time equivalent employees, the employer is required to add up all the hours worked by its non-full-time employees (including those volunteers who are considered employees) and divide that figure by 120. The resulting product is added to the number of full-time employees. If the total is 50 or more full-time and or full-time equivalent employees, then the employer is mandated by the Affordable Care Act to provide health insurance for its full-time employees.

One might presume that a volunteer who is strictly a volunteer and receives absolutely no form of compensation is not an employee. On the other hand, a volunteer who receives some form of compensation could conceivably be construed to be a full-time employee, provided the volunteer works 30 or more hours per week or averages more than 130 hours per month.

Districts and departments need to wait for further direction from the federal government. Since the large employer mandate requiring large employers to provide health insurance has now been delayed to January 1, 2015, it is hoped that further direction will be forthcoming. On December 12, 2013, legislation clarifying that volunteers who receive no remuneration are not to be included in the definition of employees was introduced in both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate. Whether or not the legislation is passed by both Houses and signed by the President has yet to be seen.

The Bulletin

Robert J. Britz is a shareholder with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. at the firm's Elburn office. Mr. Britz engages in the general practice of law with an emphasis in municipal and local government law, as well as real estate, estate planning, probate, and business matters. Mr. Britz serves as the general counsel to the Illinois Firefighters' Association. You can contact Mr. Britz by e-mail at rbritz@ottosenbritz.com

Brian O'Connor is an attorney with Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. Mr. O'Connor works closely with Bob Britz, who is the current general counsel for the IFA. Mr. O'Connor has presented at various fire service events such as Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts and the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts conferences and training sessions, as well as to a variety of local fire service related organizations. Additionally, he has authored many articles for various fire service publications and organizations. Mr. O'Connor can be contacted by email at boconnor@ottosenbritz.com.



Plan Now For 2014 Illinois State Fair

To all Illinois Fellow Firefighters,

Thanks to all of you that were there to support the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc. by staffing the Fire Services Association Tent at the State Fair on Saturday, August 17th. Your assistance was very much appreciated and your dedication to the fire service was proven by your commitment to work that day and it's always a very long day as well. Those who visited the tent were able to gain important information that would not otherwise have been available to them. You must come to the tent again this year, for that chance again to teach the adults and children fire safety and fire prevention. That may save some lives. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you to share fire safety information for the people of Illinois. I can only give my heartfelt thanks to all the Fire Departments and personnel that were there this past year. Every one in that tent made a huge difference in the fire safety thoughts of the public that visited the tent that day. I will wait for your calls this year for your help at the Fair. Please contact me at least 45 days prior to the day for the IFA day at the State Fair, August 16, at the phone numbers or email below.

Home- 309-694-6678

Cell- 309-265-6472

E-mail me at: breason@sbcglobal.net

Or breason@mail.com

Thank all of you.

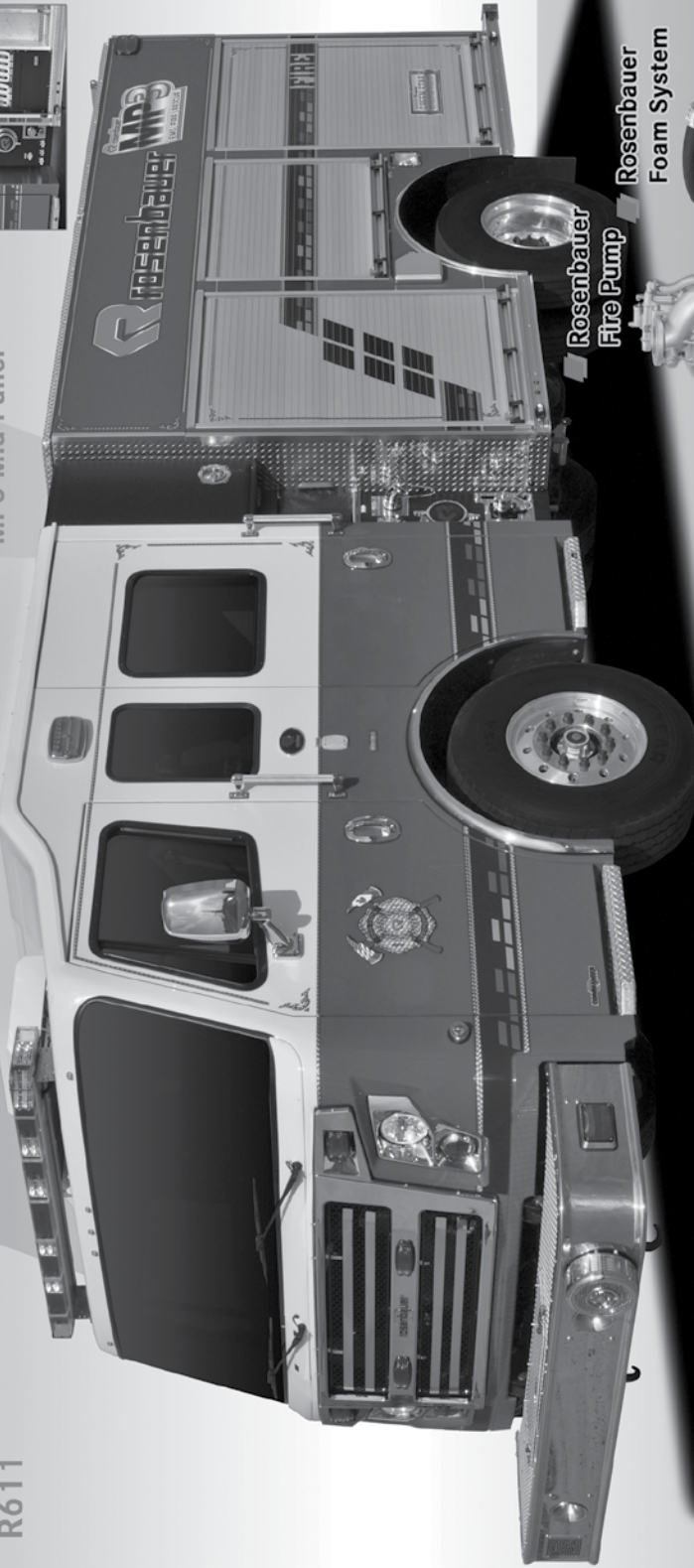
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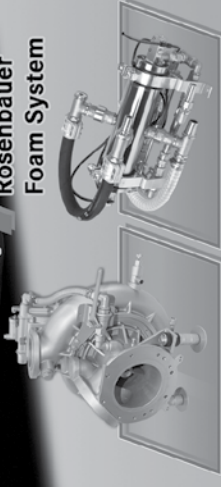
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