

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 75, Number 4

July - August 2021

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE
DOWN & DIRTY FIREFIGHTING TRAINING CONFERENCE
SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 11-14, 2021 AT IFSI**

130TH ANNUAL

DOWN & DIRTY

FIREFIGHTING WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 12 - 14, 2021

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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Table of Contents

Amboy Training	19, 20
Chaplain's Rack	22
CalCas Lower IL Rates	18
IFA Partners with SAVVIK	6
Illinois State Fair 2021	14
Legislative Update	4
OFSM - COVID 19 Funds	10
Motel 6 Discount	24
President's Message	3
SAVVIK Buying Group	7

Index of Advertisers

Alexis	8
California Casualty	9
Dinges	11, 12
FirstNet	23
Illinois Fire Safety Alliance	13
Gateway Foundation	28
NIFSAB	16
NIFSI	26
NVFC	15
SCBAS	17
Sprinkler Fitters Local 28	27
T-Mobile	27
University of Chicago	25
VFIS	9

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Mission Statement

Dedicated to the advancement of the Fire Service by providing leadership. The Illinois Firefighters Association will proudly support the health and welfare of 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

Looks like we're close to where we can finally train and function more normally. I believe we will always need to be diligent to the fact that this virus may carry on for a while. Most of, if not all of us, have put in place an ongoing decontamination and prevention program and have been following the CDC recommendations. Firefighters who have taken the vaccine may have that added protection. With this being said, things have been opening back up not only in the public world, but also for us in the Fire Service. We must still be vigilant as time goes by. We have lost many Firefighters to this dreaded virus and now we still are losing Firefighters in everyday firefighting activities. The nature of our occupation puts us in a high risk category. This should be an awareness to the fact that training never stops in our line of work. I think we all know by now that no matter how much training we have, we still put our lives on the line. This brings me to the point, we will be recognizing the upcoming 20th anniversary of 911, where we lost 343 of our fellow firefighters. It will always be the Firefighter or First Responder that risks their lives and puts their lives in jeopardy. As time gets closer to this date, many of you will be paying tribute to those that were lost during this tragic event. Please keep in mind also those First Responders that have perished before and after that infamous date.

I want to reinstate the importance of you as a Firefighter. You may have some of the best tools and equipment to do your job, but you must rely on your training to pull you through any emergency situation. Many volunteer fire departments around this state lost firefighters on their roster due to the high risk of covid. Also many firefighters quit volunteering because of the high risks from covid and pressures put on them from family and their regular employment agencies. This put an extra burden on the rest of the department to maintain response capabilities. For those departments relying on fundraisers to keep their department functioning, those activities were also stopped. This puts financial burdens on that department and threatens their bottom line. Our State Marshal recognized those burdens and is offering a grant for those departments that qualify. If you do not know about this grant, please go to the Illinois Fire Marshal's website and get the details or give his office a call.

We are now planning our 130th Conference and Down & Dirty Training weekend in November. You should all get the details about this event very soon. Again, our State Fire Marshal has provided a grant for FREE rooms during our event and our Association is providing FREE training to our members besides paying for the Conference registration. This could only happen if it was not for our joint partnership with IFSI and our State Fire Marshal Matt Perez. As you may know by now, our new IFSI Director is Jim Keiken. We welcome him to his new post and we know he will do us all a great job!

"Train Smart, Be Safe"

God Bless

John Swan President IFA



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

FIREWORKS TRAGEDIES

Though we were able to defeat the legislation to expand the sale of fireworks in Illinois, we have to stay diligent and **remind legislators of the horrible tragedies that occurred over the 4th of July holiday** (all of which could have been so easily prevented) including a fatality in

Boone County, gentleman who lost his eye in Waukegan as well as lost hands and fingers and residential fires throughout the state.

FIRE SERVICE RELATED BILLS SENT TO GOVERNOR

SB 121 ALLOWS OSHA RESPIRATOR QUESTIONNAIRE to be DONE BY EMS - An initiative of IFA, SB 121 sponsored by Sen Neil Anderson (R-Moline) and Rep Dan Swanson, Kathleen Willis, Mike Halpin and Tom Morrison, will allow codify in the law that EMS professionals are allowed to complete OSHA respirator questionnaires for fire service personnel. After being able to complete the questionnaires for decades, the Illinois Department of Public Health decided 2 years ago that only doctors could sign them, which would put not only a financial strain on fire departments but created a hardship in medically underserved areas in which doctors are in short supply. The Department of Public Health removed their opposition to the bill which now clarifies under the Emergency Medical Services Act that EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic or PHRN as permitted by their EMS System Medical Director.

HB 51 - INCLUSION of CHICAGO in 10 YEAR SMOKE DETECTOR ACT - House Sponsors - Rep. Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. - Senate Sponsors - Sen. Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas and Craig Wilcox - Amends the Smoke Detector Act. Removes language providing that specified smoke detector requirements shall not apply to dwelling units and hotels within municipalities with a population over 1,000,000 inhabitants.

HB 351 - Fire Injury Reporting to Dept of Insurance - House Sponsors - Rep. Lance Yednock - Senate Sponsors Sen. Melinda Bush and Karina Villa-Christopher Belt-Robert F. Martwick - Amends the Downstate Firefighter Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Requires the fire chief of a secondary employer to report any injury, illness, or exposure incurred by a secondary employee during his or her employment to the Department of Insurance. Requires secondary employers to transmit to the Department of Insurance a certified copy of its report accounting for all hours worked by secondary employees. Effective immediately.

HB 640- FIRE ADVISORY COMMISSION – ARSON INVESTIGATORS & MABAS - Adds the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Illinois in the organizations from which ex officio members of the Illinois Fire Advisory Commission shall serve

HB 2860: VEHICLE EQUIPMENT EXPANSION to DEPUTY & ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF -House Sponsors Rep. Daniel Swanson, Chris Miller, Mark Luft, Jeff Keicher, Mike Murphy, Mark Batinick, Thomas M. Bennett, Tony McCombie, Norine K. Hammond and Dan Ugaste - Senate Sponsor Sen. Neil Anderson - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that the vehicles of deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet. Provides that deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs are eligible for fire chief license plates. Provides that any fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief operating warning devices upon a vehicle not owned by a municipality or fire protection district shall display fire chief license plates. Provides that, with the exception of permanently issued license plates, upon the resignation, termination, or reassignment to a rank other than fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief, a person issued fire chief license plates shall immediately surrender the license plate to the Secretary of State. Provides that the Secretary of State shall have the ability to recover the license plates.

The Bulletin

HB 2864 RURAL POPULATIONS CREDENTIALING of RNs, PAs & APNS as VOLUNTEER EMTS - House Sponsors Rep. Daniel Swanson, Chris Miller, Mark Luft, Michael T. Marron, Thomas M. Bennett, C.D. Davidsmeyer, Tony McCombie, Steven Reick, Amy Elik, Avery Bourne, Norine K. Hammond and Dave Severin - Senate Sponsors Sen. Neil Anderson-Chapin Rose- Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that, in a rural population of 5,000 or fewer inhabitants, each EMS System Medical Director may create an exception to the credentialing process to allow registered nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to apply to serve as volunteers who perform the same work as EMTs. Requires that, as part of the volunteer recognition process, EMS Systems shall ensure that registered nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses have an active license issued by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. This system-level recognition shall require documentation and proof of the completion of at least 20 hours of prehospital care-specific coursework approved by the Department of Public Health and 8 hours of observant riding time. Provides that each EMS System Medical Director who creates an exception to the credentialing process may require additional training or documentation and may reject a volunteer applicant for just cause. Provides that each exemption period shall be no longer than one year, after which time a volunteer applicant may apply for another exemption. Provides that each EMS System Medical Director is responsible for ensuring that volunteer applicants meet EMS System requirements for credentialing and authorizing the practice in accordance with the EMS System plan for basic life support. Provides that exceptions to the credentialing process are only allowable for volunteer EMS agencies in Illinois.

HB 3763- RESPONSE TIMES STUDY PRIOR to CONSOLIDATION - House Sponsors - Rep. Daniel Swanson-Frances Ann Hurley, Chris Miller, Mark Luft, Amy Grant and Lawrence Walsh, Jr. - Senate Sponsors - Sen. Neil Anderson-Linda Holmes - Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that, before a fire protection district may close a fire station or dissolve the district, a response-time study must be conducted that shows, at a minimum, estimated response times to the territory currently served by the fire station or district and estimated response times to that territory after closure of the fire station or district. Requires a response-time study before any territory may be involuntarily disconnected or consolidated with another fire protection district or municipal fire department.

SB 561 - PFAS REDUCTION ACT - Senate Sponsors Sen. Laura Ellman-Melinda Bush, Suzy Glowiak Hilton-Jacqueline Y. Collins and Laura M. Murphy - House Sponsors Rep. Anna Moeller - Creates the PFAS Reduction Act. Provides beginning January 1, 2022 that a person, local government, fire department, or State agency may not discharge or otherwise use for training or testing purposes a class B firefighting foam containing intentionally added PFAS except if the entity 1. Evaluates the testing facility for containment, treatment and disposal measure to prevent uncontrolled release of Class B firefighting foam into the environment 2. Notifies IEMA within 48 hours; n and 3. Provides training to employees of possible hazards, protective actions and a disposal plan.

The legislation does however allow fire departments to still use class B firefighting foam containing PFAs when responding to and mitigating incidents where a fire, spill, or leak of a known or suspected flammable liquid has occurred or is believed to be imminent.

Beginning in 2025, manufacturers will no longer be allowed to manufacture or distribute class B firefighting foam with PFAS except if it can be shown that additional time is needed for compliance at which point the date can be extended to 2027.

SB 1575 - FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH DATA - Senate Sponsors Sen. Robert F. Martwick, Terri Bryant, John Connor, Laura Fine, Meg Loughran Cappel, Steve Stadelman, Adriane Johnson, Sara Feigenholtz, Laura M. Murphy, Rachelle Crowe and Suzy Glowiak Hilton - House Sponsors Rep. Lindsey LaPointe-Frances Ann Hurley-Jackie Haas, Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar, Elizabeth Hernandez, Katie Stuart and Kathleen Willis - Amends the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act. Provides that the Department of Human Services shall create and maintain an online database and resource page on its website. Provides that the database and resource page shall contain mental health resources specifically geared toward first responders with the goal of connecting those persons with mental health resources related to crisis services, wellness, trauma information, nutrition, stress reduction, anxiety, depression, violence prevention, suicide prevention, and substance use and of encouraging information sharing among families of first responders, first responder organizations, first responder professional organizations, and first responders. Effective immediately.

SB 1714 REMOVAL of LABOR HISTORY from FIRE PROTECTION TRAINING - Senate Sponsors Sen. Cristina Castro - House Sponsors Rep. Daniel Swanson - Amends the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act. Deletes provision that fire fighter training schools must provide training in the history of the fire service labor movement using curriculum and instructors provided by a statewide organization representing professional union firefighters in Illinois.



IFA has partnered with SAVVIK Buying Group to provide our members with access to equipment, supplies, apparel and even vehicles at group buying prices. We have sent SAVVIK a list of our members and their contact information and once SAVVIK has set up the list, our members will be receiving a notification like below. You will not be able to register your account until you receive this notice. The notice is being sent to the main contact the we have on file for our member departments.

If you do not receive your notification or if you are having problems creating your account, contact Secretary Treasurer at 618-830-3961 and he will assist you in setting up your SAVVIK account.

Once you are signed up with SAVVIK, there is another benefit for your members at SAVVIK Perks. SAVVIK Perks provides discounts for your members on entertainment, food, travel and many other personal discounts.

Illinois Firefighters Association- IFA Member

Welcome to the Savvik Buying Group!

Savvik Member # 28828

(Please note, the above Savvik member # 28828 is exclusive to the Association record only. Each member will have their own unique number. This is how we track vendor sales for revenue share back to the Association.)

Savvik Membership:

Your agency is a new member of the Savvik Buying Group through the IFA. This membership is FREE as a benefit from your association.

Savvik is a Public Safety GPO with over 13,000 agency members who have access to volume discount pricing on various products and services. Our vendor programs are competitively bid and publicly awarded. As a Savvik member you now have access to over 80+ vendor programs.

Savvik will give back 1/3 of your association sales revenue to the IFA

Member Login Instructions:

Go to <https://savvik.com>

Click on LOGIN, follow the instructions to set up your personal username and password.

About SAVVIK Buying Group

Our Beginnings

The Savvik Buying Group, formally known as the North Central EMS Corporation, is a non-profit organization owned by its members and formed to reduce the financial impact of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 within the EMS industry. Our mission is to provide members with a mechanism to achieve cost reductions, which has evolved into a group-purchasing program. Savvik values quality supplies and equipment for the members, at the industry's best prices.

The phrase "at the industry's best prices" plays an even more important role today than in previous years as the Medicare Fee Schedule took effect on April 1, 2002. Ambulance services across the country have seen a drastic reduction in their Medicare reimbursements which accounts for up to 75% of their revenue. This drastic reduction in revenue decreases their capital budgets and curbs their purchases if not determine their entire existence.

Where We're Going

Membership is comprised of ambulance services, fire departments, first responder groups, police/sheriff departments, industrial emergency response teams, and other organizations related to the EMS industry. Savvik is proud to focus on membership nationwide. Our intent is to offer the Electronic Patient Care Reporting and Data Collection contract to all Savvik members regardless of their physical location.

An amazing result of our success was the formation of The Savvik Foundation in 2000. Savvik invests back into the industry! A portion of our excess revenues are returned to regional, state and national EMS associations as well as being donated to The Savvik Foundation so that it can complete its mission of leading industry efforts in such areas as safety, efficient operations, education, research and national consensus building.

We're dedicated to improving the general wellbeing of the public safety industry as a whole. Our effectiveness increases with commitments from our vendor partners to provide Savvik members with quality products and services at the industry's best prices.

Savvik has enjoyed significant growth over the last few years by developing partnerships (including revenue sharing relationships) with regional, state and national EMS associations. Savvik has fifty-one group affiliates that include membership to the Savvik Buying Group as part of their group dues structure. The associations that participate in our group membership program receive quarterly reports and payments from our office. Payments reflect a portion of the contract management fee of the total sales their members purchased from our vendors.

Membership Includes:

Access to National Public Bids – you can piggyback for free!

Large vendor contracts – save time and money!

Online marketplace – 5.11 Gear at the lowest prices!

Individual savings programs – benefits you can share with everyone in your agency

All of this for FREE!

If you have not received your registration email from SAVVIK, contact Secretary/Treasurer Kerry Federer at 618-830-3961 or by email at editor@illinoisfirefighters.org.

DARE TO DREAM BIG. SKY'S THE LIMIT



1500 GPM RIV PUMPER #2362 / LOUISE VOL. FIRE DEPT. / LOUISE, TEXAS

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AT ALEXIS FIRE EQUIPMENT, WE ARE FUELED BY THE DESIGN CHALLENGES OUR CUSTOMERS REQUEST WHEN IT COMES TO CUSTOM-ENGINEERED FIRE APPARATUS. WE NOT ONLY TRANSFORM IDEAS AND SKETCHES INTO STEEL ON WHEELS, BUT WE BUILD A PREMIUM QUALITY FIRE TRUCK WITH UNPARALLELED CUSTOMER SERVICE. FROM BRUSH TRUCKS AND MINI PUMPERS TO TANKERS, PUMPERS AND AERIALS, WE ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE. **OUR TRUCKS. OUR TEAM. OUR CUSTOMERS. ONE DRIVE.**

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California Casualty's auto and home insurance policies include - free of charge - an exclusive benefit designed with firefighters in mind. Should a firefighter lose their life in the line of duty, the insurance premium will be waived for the surviving partner/spouse for the remainder of the current policy year and for the following policy year. Call or click to learn more.

 **California Casualty**
WE **PROTECT** AMERICAN HEROES®

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Office of the State Fire Marshal



Governor JB Pritzker and Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez have announced an innovative funding opportunity specifically addressing Illinois fire departments impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of \$1,000,000 will be available to assist approximately 80 impacted fire departments that operate in diverse communities throughout the state. Under this one-time grant opportunity, eligible Illinois fire departments could receive up to \$15,000 in order to make up for lost donation revenues stemming from their inability to host local fundraising events during 2020. These fundraising events pay for necessities like fuel for fire trucks, utilities, and insurance.

In order to be eligible for the assistance grant the applying fire department must:

- 1) Be an Illinois combination or volunteer fire department;
- 2) Operate within a jurisdiction with a population at or less than 7,500 people;
- 3) Have an approved annual budget at or less than \$150,000;
- 4) Have an OSFM Fire Department Identification Number (FDID); and
- 5) Be current with their National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) reports at the time of application.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is pleased to collaborate with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) who will create a special committee to review the grant applications utilizing a blind review needs-based analysis. The OSFM will facilitate and directly oversee the distribution of the grant awards to the recipients. This grant is financed through the Illinois Fire Prevention Fund, a non-general revenue fund that is supported primarily by a 1% assessment of the gross fire risk premium receipts of all insurance companies operating in the state.

All grant applications must be received by August 13, 2021. The application review process will begin on August 23, 2021 and end on September 3, 2021. Grant recipients are expected to receive awards by October 2021.

Grant applications can be found by visiting the OSFM website at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/CurrentFocus/Documents/Fire%20Department%20COVID-19%20Assistance%20Grant%20Application.pdf>.

The OSFM continues to work with Vector (Target) Solutions to launch a time saving, easy-to-use web-based tool to help every fire department and firefighter more quickly and easily document training.

At this time, be sure that all members of your department are listed on the roster and registered for the PSE WebAccess Portal. You can find the PSE WebAccess Portal by visiting <https://webapps.sfm.illinois.gov/PSEPortal/Account/Login>. It will be very beneficial for 100% of your fire department's members to be listed on the roster and registered on the PSE WebAccess Portal prior to participation. Even if the department opts to not participate, it is good practice for all members of your department to be added to the department roster and registered for the PSE WebAccess Portal. Fire Departments can direct their members to the link provided to get them registered, registration is Free!

If your fire department currently utilizes Vector (Target) Solutions and your members are also registered on the PSE WebAccess Portal with a different e-mail address than they use for Vector (Target) Solutions, they should change their e-mail in the PSE WebAccess to match the e-mail they use in Vector (Target) Solutions.

To find the latest information and news from the OSFM, visit our website at sfm.illinois.gov or follow us on social media.

Facebook: @IllinoisStateFireMarshal

Twitter: @ILFireMarshal

YouTube: Illinois State Fire Marshal



DINGES FIRE
COMPANY

TRUCKS.TOOLS.TRADITION.

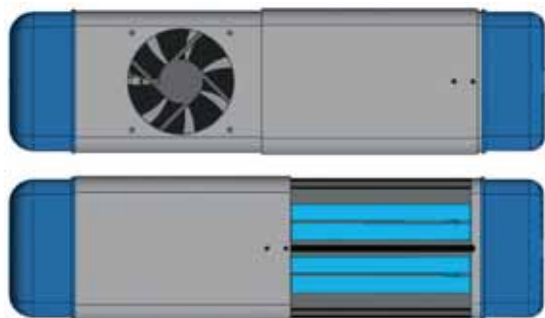
Unique Dual Sanitizing UV For Your Mobile Unit



Your mobile unit is continually exposed to viruses, bacteria, mold, allergens, and other pollutants that can quickly contaminate the air and surfaces and stay active and infectious for extended periods of time, risking health and lives. Aerapy's **researched, tested, study-backed**, and **affordable** ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI or UV) equipment harnesses the power of UV-C light to kill those pathogens or render them harmless.

The patented **DuoGuard** for mobile units helps guard against the spread of pathogens two ways: an integrated fan creates powerful airflow for air disinfection during transport and, once unoccupied, the UV device sanitizes surfaces with the push of a button.

Aerapy UV kills >99.9% of tested virus and bacterial pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2 (the coronavirus that causes COVID-19).



Patent No. US 10,893,990

MOBILE AIR AND SURFACE UV SANITIZING

DuoGuard

The **DuoGuard's** unique dual air and surface cleaning capability allows your mobile unit to be cleaned both while the vehicle is in use as well as in-between service calls while unoccupied, bringing unmatched disinfecting power to mobile units.

While the vehicle is running, the compact, ceiling-mounted device offers continuous air sanitizing with fully contained UV-C lamps and an integrated fan to draw air into the device to clean and disinfect. When the vehicle is safely unoccupied, the **DuoGuard's** surface sanitizing function can be engaged as an innovative panel slides back to reveal the UV-C lamps that then illuminate to further clean exposed surfaces after normal cleaning procedures.



Selling Price: \$1,495
Ask your Rep about
the details!

"Consider using ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) as a supplement to help inactivate SARS-CoV-2, especially if options for increasing room ventilation are limited."



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
AND PREVENTION (CDC), COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS DISEASE)



MOBILE AIR AND SURFACE UV SANITIZING

DuoGuard

How Does It Work?



The **DuoGuard** employs short-wavelength UV-C light to kill or inactivate pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and molds in the air by disrupting their DNA and destroying their cellular function, causing the death of the microorganism and/or rendering it helpless.

AIR CLEANING

Drawn into the device by an integrated fan, air then passes through the **DuoGuard's** disinfecting UV-C light. Each trip through the device continues to reduce the number and impact of pathogens in the mobile unit. The air sanitizing function can be engaged while the vehicle is occupied and in transport as the UV is fully contained within the device.

SURFACE CLEANING

The usual method of cleaning and wiping down surfaces and tools with disinfectants is an important first step, but because mobile units have hard to reach, uneven surfaces it's easy to miss areas. The **DuoGuard** surface cleaning function exposes UV light to touch all exposed areas within the vehicle for your choice of 5, 10, 15, or 30 minutes and, in combination with normal cleaning procedure, is the optimal solution for surface disinfection.

Safety Features

A sliding panel keeps the UV-C light fully contained while the air cleaning function is engaged and the vehicle occupied. For surface cleaning, there is a 60-second delay after the function is activated, as well as these power interruption safeguards, to shut the device down while the UV-C lights are exposed: door switch, motion sensor, and emergency switch.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

2.25" H x 6" W x 24" L

Designed for mobile units.

Disinfects both air and surfaces.

Ceiling mounted and direct wired.

Integrated fan.

Specular reflectors for increased UV-C efficiency.

Solid state electronic ballast for low energy use, reliability, and operational safety.

Constructed of stainless steel, aluminum, and UV-resistant polycarbonate (end caps).



In independent laboratory testing, Aerapy UV systems achieved a 99.97% reduction of SARS-CoV-2 in the air in one air pass. On surfaces, 99.99% of SARS-CoV-2 was destroyed in three seconds.

Aerapy UV also showed a greater than 99.9% reduction in additional testing against pathogens including MRSA, enterovirus, and MS2 bacteriophage.



Rep's Name

Rep's Cell

Rep's Email

The Bulletin

Get your department involved with the Be Alarmed! smoke detector installation program to install 10-year battery smoke alarms in home in your community.

This program combines fire prevention education and action to help keep Illinois citizens safe.

Help make your community safer by becoming a partner for local smoke alarm installation today.

Details are available at: www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms



Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



Help needed at 2021 Illinois State Fair



Each year, the IFA sponsors a day in the Illinois Fire Services Association tent at the state fair. As of this moment, it looks like the Illinois State Fair is being planned and help will be needed to staff the tent on Saturday, August 21. It takes a lot of help for all



of the people that go through the tent. If you or any other members of your department are available to work that day, please contact Chairman Bob Reason as soon as possible but at least 45 days prior to the day for the IFA day at the State Fair, August 21, at the phone number below, so that he can get enough parking passes and admission tickets mailed to you prior to the work date.



There are many fire safety booths that need staffing so that the people entering the tent can get fire safety tips and information. There is also a smoke house, where children can learn about how to properly and safely escape from fires.

If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated by the

IFA and all of the people that pass through the tent that day.

Robert Reason, Director
State Fair Committee Chair
Call or text: 309-265-6472





Being a firefighter or EMS provider is tough. Remember that you're not alone.

Most people are aware of the physical demands that emergency responders face. But it's important to realize the impact on your mental wellbeing, too.

Taking care of your mental health is just as important as managing your physical health. The National Volunteer Fire Council is here to help with resources to Share the Load.

Share the Load™ Program

nvfc.org/help

A program that provides access to critical resources and information to help emergency responders and their families manage and overcome personal and work-related behavioral health challenges.

Directory of Behavioral Health Professionals

nvfc.org/phfd

A listing of local providers who are equipped and ready to help emergency responders, rescue workers, dispatchers, and their families with their behavioral health needs.

Psychologically Healthy Fire Departments Toolkit

nvfc.org/phfd

A comprehensive toolkit designed to help fire department leaders promote and support mental wellbeing among their members and create a successful, high-performing department.





The first time I saw how a fire sprinkler worked, I was a little upset ...

My name is Jordan Rodriguez. As a burn survivor, I never want anyone to go through what my family has gone through. My twin brother and I were burned in a house fire when we were 4 years old. While the rest of the family escaped without physical harm, my brother received burns on 43% of his body; 80% of my body was burned. We had many surgeries and spent months in the hospital. There was a mental toll to the fire as well. While growing up, I was bullied and often felt left out. Our mother was devastated and our older brother still deals with post-traumatic stress disorder.

When I was a young man, I saw a demonstration that compared a fire in a sprinklered room versus a fire in an unsprinklered room. **I was upset because I realized that life would have been different for my family if our home had fire sprinklers.** I was upset because I know how many homes and apartments do not have fire sprinklers. Now I am committed to being the biggest advocate I can be.

You can directly impact your community's efforts to reduce fire risks by adopting and enforcing the latest codes that require fire sprinklers in all buildings. A fire can become deadly in less than two minutes. Fire sprinklers are the only technology that can actively prevent a fire from becoming deadly, protecting occupants and firefighters.



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California Casualty Offers IFA Members a Better Auto and Home Insurance Option

California Casualty, the Illinois Firefighters Association auto and home provider/partner is offering IFA members a better option to their current carrier.

This exclusive program - not available to the general public - offers special IFA member rates and generous discounts that offer you multiple ways to save more on your auto and home insurance.

- **Recently Reduced Rates** - Illinois policyholders experiencing a rate decrease may see **-10.7%** on average!*
- **New Discounts** – Go Paperless, Loyalty, New Policy, Preferred Payment Plan, & Safe Driving

Plus, California Casualty provides superior service and unique public safety policy features such as:

- **Reduced Deductible** – if your vehicle is vandalized or hit while parked at or within 500 feet of the facility where you work or volunteer as a firefighter
- **\$500 Personal Property Coverage** - items stolen from a vehicle – including turnout gear
- **Free ID Defense** on all policies
- **Pet Injury Protection** available with an auto policy
- **Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit** – peace of mind for the family of a firefighter who makes the ultimate sacrifice



IFA Members can have it all – fantastic rates, new discounts and great service! California Casualty is ready to meet, or exceed your insurance expectations. Now is the time to compare your current policies with what we offer and seize the savings. AND for a limited time, they are offering IFA members a \$25 gift card for completing an auto quote. To speak to one of our advisors for a quick coverage comparison, call today at 1.866.680.5142 or visit www.readyforquote.com/rm.

*New policyholders will see their savings immediately. Existing policyholders will see their new rates at their auto policy renewal on or after March 15, 2021.

Coverage benefit descriptions are an overview only. Complete descriptions are outlined in the actual policy. Coverages and discounts described are subject to availability and eligibility.

PEER SUPPORT TRAINING COURSE

When:

Saturday Sept. 25, 830am-4pm

Sunday, Sept. 26, 830am-4pm

Where:

Amboy Fire Department Headquarters

25 N. East Ave

Amboy IL 61310

Cost:

\$0 The cost of this class is covered by a grant from the Illinois State Fire Marshall

Please go to ilffps.org and click on the registration page to submit your application.

Any questions feel free to contact us at ilffps1@gmail.com

Upon successful completion of the training, participants will be a member of the Peer Support team. As a member you will potentially meet one on one with peers as well as participate in outreach events. You will also be asked to attending formal events like Road To Help and Re;act. We will also be looking for people to write articles for our blog.

Hoarders Fires

This program is designed to challenge, both Engine and truck companies when dealing with a hoarding situation under fire conditions. The Truck company will be placed in a scenario in which they will have remove an unconscious victim through moderate to heavy hoarding under a heavy smoke and high heat condition.

The engines companies will have to advance and flow an 1 ¾ hand line through extreme hoarding conditions under a heavy smoke and high heat condition while clearing a path for the hose lines advance. All attending students will be placed through both the engine and truck evolution. This program will push each student to their limits of both stamina and frustration, it is designed to be an extremely challenging course so that when fire fighters are faced with true hoarding conditions they can accomplish all their assigned tasks with a better understanding on how to achieve them.

Register before September 15th

3 members for \$200

After September 16th,2021-Cost: \$100 per person

Location: Amboy Fire Station

How to Enroll: email: jbryant9962@gmail.com

Vehicle and Machinery Operations

The Vehicle and Machinery Operations course is designed to acquaint the student with techniques used in Auto Extrication. More specifically the student will become familiar with the different classifications and characteristics of vehicles and machines. Students will also become familiar with the different tools used in extrication, stabilization of the vehicle/machine, disentanglement of the patient(s), and initiating patient care.

This class will also consist of Basic and advanced vehicle rescue techniques that utilize an assortment of hand and hydraulic tools. Emphasis will be placed on tools including Hi Lift jacks, recip saws, air chisels, and rescue struts. These tactics will be taught in a variety of scenarios.

Amboy Fire Department

October 1, 1800 – 2200

October 2, 3, 9, 10 – 0830-1700

Cost: \$200 per Student

Contact Chief Bryant - 815-994-6184

Jbryant9962@gmail.com

Amboy Fire & Extrication School

Amboy Fire Department - April 9, 2022

Class Fees: BFFA Member \$85/ non - BFFA Member \$100

The classes are designed for the student, by using local, regional and national talented instructors. The goal is to provide students with leadership, administrative, and real life, hands on training. Last school exceeded 480 students and staff, from over 80 fire departments.

Opening Ceremony held at Amboy Fire Station

Start Time: 8 AM

Registration starts at 7 AM

Vendors will have equipment on display – indoor and outdoor starting at 7 A.M.

Contact Chief Bryant - 815-994-6184

Jbryant9962@gmail.com

Blackhawk Firefighters Association Announces 2021 Memorial Service

The Blackhawk Firefighters' Association is proud to announce the Annual Firefighter Memorial Service. The 2021 Memorial Service will be Saturday September 11th, at 1300 hours, at Sauk Valley Community College, 173 Illinois Route 2, Dixon Illinois. The purpose of this service is to honor those who have served their communities so well.

The event will honor any firefighters who have passed away since our last service in September of 2019, and were a member of the BFFA. In addition, the service will honor firefighters that passed away prior to this date, who have not been honored in prior years and who were members of BFFA at their time of passing. A maximum of three members per department, with a limit of thirty honorees from the association who have passed away will be honored. The thirty positions will be filled as the applications are received.

Contact Chief Bryant - Jbryant9962@gmail.com



U.S. Fire Administration
Working for a fire-safe America

NFA BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

presented by

The National Fire Academy, Illinois Fire Service Institute,
Alsip Fire Department & Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative



DATE:

DECEMBER 2 & 3, 2021

LOCATION:

**BILL DALTON TRAINING CENTER
AT LOCAL 281 UA**

11900 S. Laramie Avenue, Alsip
(right next to the **Alsip Fire Department**)

SCHEDULE FOR BOTH DAYS:

7:00AM	CHECK-IN	* Continental breakfast provided
8:00AM	CLASS	
11:30AM	LUNCH PROVIDED	
12:30PM	CLASS	
4:30PM	OVERVIEW	



Fire Chief
Tom Styczynski



Tom Lia
sprinktoml@aol.com



CLASS INFORMATION

This two-day course is designed to help fire and emergency services learn what community risk reduction is and how to build organizational support for it.

This course includes three units of instruction:

- Unit 1: Components of Community Risk Reduction.
- Unit 2: Community Risk Reduction as a Service Priority.
- Unit 3: Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction.

There is a pre-course assignment to complete before class that should take about one hour to complete.

If you have specific questions regarding the course, contact:

James Moore, Assistant Director
jpmoore1@illinois.edu

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER ONLINE**

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From the Chaplain's Rack



How is your spirit doing these days?

As an aside, whenever I hear the word “spirit,” I think of high school basketball games where the fans yell, “We’ve got spirit, yes we do! We’ve got spirit, how bout you?” Not exactly what I was meaning.

The words spirit and spirituality have an air of religion to them, which can create a reflex to want to ignore them. I get it. I’m a full-time religion person, an ordained Lutheran Christian minister in the ELCA, and I tend to recoil from churchy words, too.

If you’re still with me, I want to invite us to think about spirituality in broader terms. You may be a deeply religiously person, on the fence about the God stuff, or an absolute atheist. You can be Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Wiccan or have a uniquely local group with which you share your life. To talk about our spirituality is to talk about how we see ourselves in relation to others.

Spirituality is the core of who we are and the connections that sustain us. Spirituality is our wholeness and how we are made whole by the people who are in our lives. And when we have strong relationships and are feeling whole, we have a resilient protective force at work in lives. We have hope.

Spirituality is a little about liturgies and studies for those who use them, and more about how we look forward with anticipation and a sense of purpose. In an Army Public Health Center post from July 2020, spirituality is described as “unique to each individual, and refers to the deepest part of you. It is the innermost part of you that allows you to gain strength and hope.”

Our spirit, or spirituality, is our inner resolve. To put it in better terms, it’s how we put up with the stuff of life, including the stuff we deal with in the fire service. We are called out of our bunks and meals and routines to respond to someone else’s crisis, and we always respond with our best training, skill, and focus. Most of the time, we’ll do our jobs and keep moving. Sometimes those calls stick with us. Or they pile up. They linger in our thoughts and begin to weigh on our hearts. The military calls these heavy events moral injuries. They are the situations and acts that do not line up with our understandings of justice, safety, and right and wrong.

We in the fire service have a powerful sense of right and wrong. It is why we respond to the tones in the middle of the night or at the end of shift. It is why we care so deeply for those strangers and neighbors we will show up to serve whenever they need us. It is why the calls that go sideways, or were tragic before we showed up, can linger on our hearts and challenge our purpose. Maybe even alter our ideas of who we are in relation to others.

How is your spirit these days, friends? How is your internal sense of balance and resolve? Who are your people when the calls pile up? How are you maintaining hope? I want to invite you, as you put focus on your tactical training, to put some time into your spirit. Your inner resolve is vital, and your sense of self is necessary. Because you are necessary. Take care of yourself, take care of your company, watch out for each other.

Safe Call Now	(24-7 crisis hotline for first responders)	206-459-3020
National Suicide Prevention Hotline		800-273-8255
Chaplain Josh’s Phone		608-234-3793

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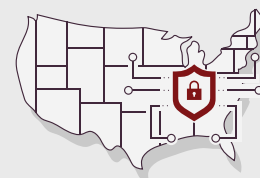
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