

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 76, Number 4

July - August 2022

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

SAVE THE DATE - PLAN NOW TO ATTEND



DOWN & DIRTY
FIREFIGHTING WEEKEND

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

OUR ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

The Bulletin

July - August 2022 Volume 76 Number 4

The Bulletin is published digitally every other month and placed online at www.illinoisfirefighters.org.

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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

At this time I would like to thank past Fire Marshal Matt Perez for all he has done for the Fire Service in Illinois. His leadership has had a positive impact on the Fire Service in Illinois. All Firefighters should have great admiration for the initiatives he was able to secure for our benefit.

With that being said, I would also welcome Dale Simpson acting State Fire Marshal to the position of leadership. It is with our hope that this administration will permanently place a successor in the near future.

I also have told my executive board that I will not be seeking reelection when my term is finished as President of this organization. My term will end at the next Conference in October during the Down & Dirty Training weekend. It has been a great being in a leadership position for many years now. It's time to turn it over to the next board member that our membership will elect during our next Conference. I will remain on the executive board as past president and assist the new leadership when asked.

Our Association is being prepared for a new beginning in a marketing effort to bring in new member departments. Not only membership, but a whole new way of communicating and the use of social media. We have hired Creative Entourage in the St. Louis area as our vendor to assist in this initiative. As time goes on, you will undoubtedly see the changes we are trying to accomplish. It has always been that we relied on your fire department administration to forward our communications to you. This does not always happen and it is understandable in the volunteer world. When we complete our alliance with Creative Entourage, it is our hope that you will have better understanding and access to your association.

We're winding down toward the last of July and we have our Conference scheduled at the end of October. This announcement will be in this issue of the Bulletin. Please don't wait to get registered. Firefighters that have been at our training said, "can't wait until next year". No other time can you attend your Fire Academy with FREE tuition and rooms. This only could have been done because of this Association and partnerships with IFSI and our State Fire Marshal. Both agencies understand the burdens fire departments are having and this is a way to get you to your Fire Academy without that financial burden. We want to thank them both for this benefit. I have been coming to Fire College for over 45 years. I have seen 2000 plus Firefighters attend Fire College. In 1980, it became IFSI, our official Fire Academy and it has grown to be one of the best Fire Training and Research facilities in the nation. Please take in a little pride when attending training, you are taking it from one of the best!

As you know this is a major election year. Over the past years, both sides of the aisle have supported us. It's up to you to keep our elected officials informed on our needs. The Fire Service is still hurting all over this State. Retention and Recruitment is an on-going issue and has critical implications in areas. Funding is still a big problem and it got worse during the height of Covid. This Association has your back and we will do everything in our power to make things better for you back home.

Until the next time!

"Train Smart, Be Safe"

God Bless

John Swan President IFA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist



IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn organized an annual press conference on the dangers of fireworks with the IL Fire Safety Alliance and Chicago Fire Department at the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital on June 30th. The event garnered great media coverage and was broadcast on all major news networks. Speakers included Chicago Fire Marshal Ryan Ramirez, Pediatric Emergency Room Surgeon Dr. Marion Henry, psychiatrist Dr. Royce Lee to discuss how fireworks trigger PTSD and Aileen Marquez, whose daughter suffered burns on over 70 % of her body from a sparkler. A live demo was also performed which showed how quickly a shirt could be engulfed by flames by just a brief touch of a sparkler. These events are extremely vital to heighten awareness over the holiday week, as well as continuing to educate legislators that fireworks should always be left to the pros.





Conference packets will be in the mail soon. Sign up can be done online through the IFSI website. Payments must be made either through the link from IFSI to the IFA payment page. Registration INCLUDES hotel accommodations. Once registrations open, sign up early to make sure that you get the class you want.

Classes for 2022 include Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC), Foundations and Essentials of Firefighting, Engine and Truck Company Operations, Single Family Dwelling, Alternative Fuel Vehicles, Collapse Awareness, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention for the Emergency Services, Volunteer Fire Service Culture - Essential Strategies for Success, Creating a Psychologically Healthy Fire Department.

Watch the IFA website - www.illinoisfirefighters.org - and your emails for updated information



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 618-882-4783 or by email at editor@illinoisfirefighters.org.

SPECIAL PROJECT #2473: *THIRST 4 FIRST*



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Umbrella Insurance to Cover For The Unexpected

Anyone can file a suit for just about anything. The sad fact is that you could be sued because someone tripped at your home or apartment, your dog bit someone, your child hit a foul ball that hit a spectator or another player, or someone got hurt jumping on your backyard trampoline. Without enough liability protection, you could be in real financial danger.

That's why you should consider an excess liability insurance policy, also known as an umbrella.

There are some misconceptions about umbrellas, such as:

1. Only high earners and those with a lot of assets need one
2. Your homeowners or renters liability coverage is enough
3. They cost too much

Financial experts advise that as long as you can earn a livelihood, you should have an umbrella liability policy. Most recommend having at least \$1 million to provide liability coverage beyond the limits of your auto and homeowners insurance policies, even if you have less than \$1 million in assets. That's because if you lose a lawsuit, you could be forced to pay a legal judgment from your current assets (your home, bank accounts and some investments), and even from future earnings. It does happen, especially if the injury is serious.

In addition, the defense costs for lawsuits can be overwhelming. An excess liability policy helps pay for the costs to defend yourself.

California Casualty offers personal umbrella policies underwritten by RLI, a leading niche provider. The reality of an unforeseen accident is very real and can result in a large lawsuit that could easily cost \$1 million or more. A personal umbrella may also cover you for a libel and slander lawsuit, or a disparaging social media post.

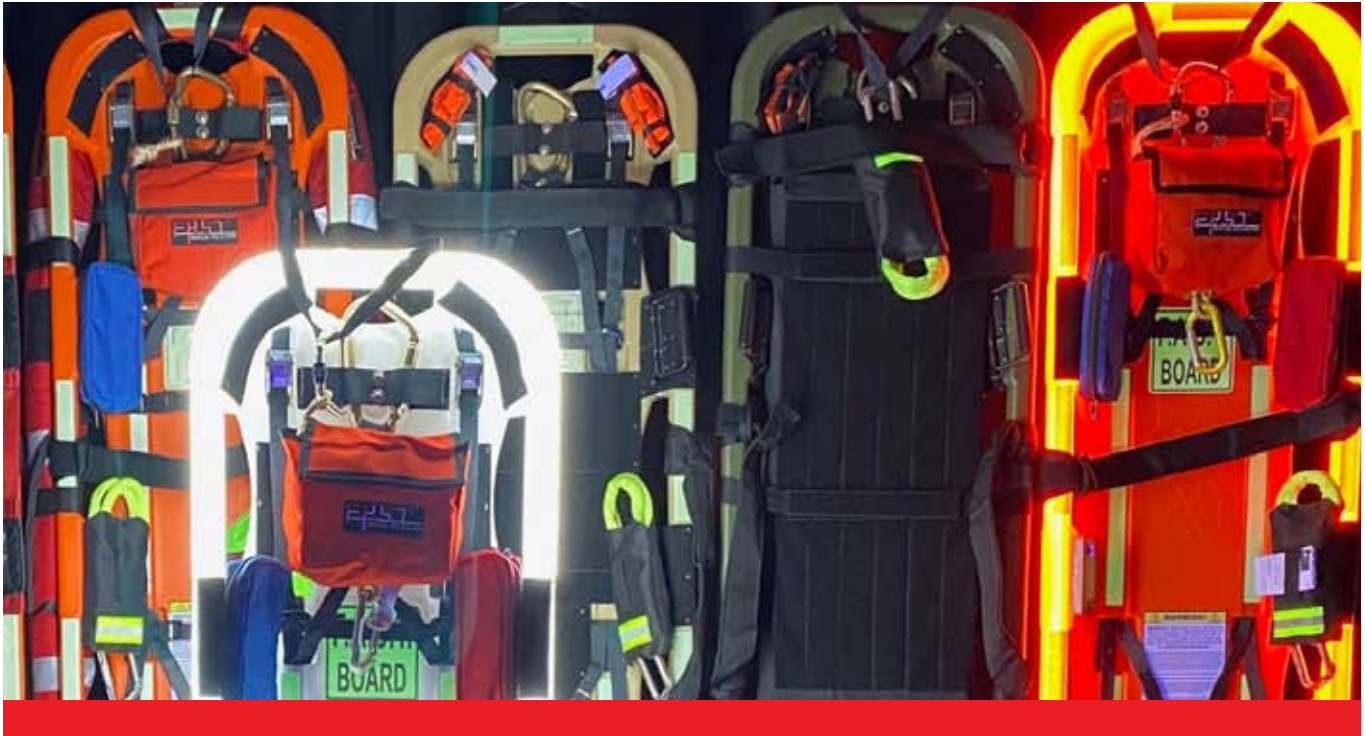
Still not convinced? If you answer yes to any of the following questions, you may want to consider purchasing an umbrella policy:

- Are you a high wage earner?
- Do you own more than one property?
- Do you have a vacation home or rental property?
- Do you have a pet dog?
- Do you have a swimming pool, trampoline or play equipment in your yard?
- Do you own a boat or other recreational vehicles?
- Do you have inexperienced drivers in your household

Investing today in a personal umbrella policy will provide you and your family with excess coverage above your basic homeowners or renters liability. For example, if you have liability limits of \$500,000, a personal umbrella can provide an additional \$1 million of protection, for as little as \$150 to \$300 per year. Depending on your insurance needs, you may be able to purchase \$2 million, \$3 million or up to \$5 million of excess liability coverage.

Accidents happen every day. But you can be prepared. Call 833-989-3579 today to speak with an advisor about protecting yourself, your family and your assets, or visit www.calcas.com/personal-umbrella. Call 833-989-3579 or visit www.readyforquote.com/Katelyn today to speak with an advisor.

Founded in 1914 and headquartered in San Mateo, California with service centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty, IFA endorsed program, provides members and other public safety employees and volunteers across the country auto and home insurance with special rates, generous discounts and unique benefits not available to the general public.

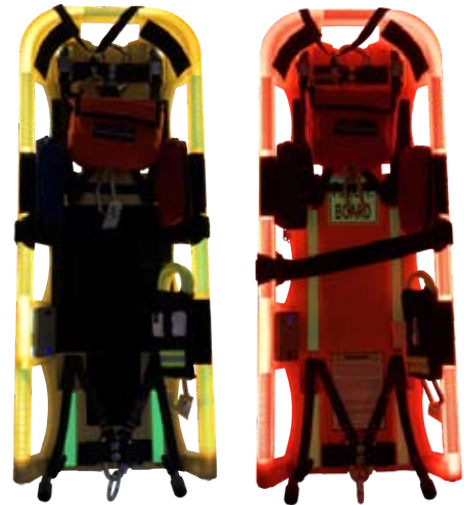


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DFC Office

info@dingesfire.com
(815) 857-2000



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



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- Family Involvement & Support
- Treatment for Co-Occurring Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
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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.





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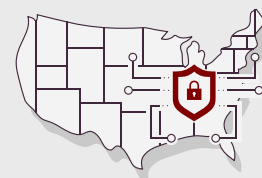
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- Check, shut-off and relief valves
- Gauges and much much more



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- Cylinder valve repairs
- On site quantitative SCBA facepiece fit testing for all Survivair®, all Scott® and MSA Millinium®

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FM Global



Fire Prevention Grants

Mark Blank, and Jed Bowen from FM Global worked with NIFSI during our fire safety classes with the AFFI in our pilot classes on “Fighting Fires in Fire Sprinkler Protected Buildings” classes earlier this summer. They are encouraging our Illinois Fire Service friends to apply for the fire service grants from FM Global. Take a little time to think of items, products, or systems that can help improve your fire prevention efforts in your community. Hope you can give it a try!

Tom Lia NIFSI

Because FM Global believes that the majority of fire can be prevented, FM Global is pleased to offer financial support to organizations working to combat fire. Through our Fire Prevention Grant Program, fire departments and brigades, as well as national, state, regional, local and community organizations can apply for funding to support a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness and control efforts, including pre-incident planning, fire prevention education/training and arson prevention/fire investigation.

To fill out an online application follow this link
<https://fs20.formsite.com/fmglobal/form14/index.html>

[For Questions firepreventiongrants@fmglobal.com](mailto:firepreventiongrants@fmglobal.com)

From the Chaplain's Rack

IFA Chaplain Josh Ehrler



The next article in my series: Why does your house need a chaplain?

One of our cadets has come to call it my “magic backpack.” If you are of a certain age, or your kids are, you get the reference. For the rest of us, it's what Dora the Explorer calls her backpack that she stuffs full of the supplies she finds along her adventures.

My magic backpack is yellow (because that's our color in Mt. Morris), the size of an average school bag, and goes wherever I do, whether in my car or on an apparatus. I started packing it early in my fire chaplain career, because I kept finding myself in situations where I

needed something that wasn't on me.

The contents of my go-bag reflect my role in my department, as well as the reality of being in the fire service. For instance, my backpack has a clean shirt, socks, and a hand towel. It has granola bars, a bottle of water, a high vis vest and safety glasses. There's a flashlight, a couple pairs of latex gloves, and lots of pens.

None of that is terribly unique. Three important, chaplain items I carry: a metal clipboard, emergency contact sheets, and copies of “After the Fire.” Do you know about this resource? It's from the USFA and is totally free. It comes in PDF and hard copy versions and contains lots of helpful advice for families displaced by a fire.

When your fire department responds to a residence fire, who works and stays with the family to ensure their care? As a fire chaplain, one of my responsibilities is on-scene logistics for our families. I'm the one who calls Red Cross and other resources for the residents to make sure those organizations are activated. The clipboard is good for taking down information from both the residents and the resources for coordination. If those resources are coming to the scene, I'm the one they meet to ensure they get through the fire ground quickly.

Being the primary communicator and advocate for the family, I check in regularly with IC for updates. As you might expect, most civilians do not understand what it takes to fight a residential fire, or what overhauling means. Hearing glass breaking and watching ceiling get pulled creates a lot of questions and concern. The chaplain can be the one standing with the family explaining the entire process in a calm, clear manner that conveys the professionalism of the department without tasking a firefighter or officer away from their duties.

When the impacted individuals are stable, I start with my scene 360s. My backpack becomes an excellent tool for carrying lots of bottles of water to companies scattered around the incident. It gives me an excuse to be visible, pass messages between personnel, get an assessment for the family, and make myself available to our firefighters. We're not going to be doing much intervention work right there on the spot, but I make it clear I see them and I'm around for when the hoses are rolled, and the equipment is housed.

There is nothing magical about my faded yellow backpack. There is nothing magical about being a chaplain, either. However, a trained chaplain in your house could be a vital coordination and communication asset for your department. Give it some thought and give me a call if you're considering recruiting a chaplain. Until we meet at the IFA Annual Training Conference in October, take care of yourself, take care of your company.

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Bellwood	Gurnee	New Lenox FPD	Rolling Meadows
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Berwyn	Harwood Heights	Niles	Roselle FPD
Bloomington	Hazel Crest	Norridge	Schaumburg
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NFA RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER PLAN REVIEW CLASS

presented by

The National Fire Academy, Illinois Fire Service Institute, Alsip Fire Department
with Support by Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative

DATE:

OCTOBER 18TH & 19TH, 2022

LOCATION:

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

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

SCHEDULE FOR EACH DAY:

7:00AM CHECK-IN * Continental breakfast
provided by NIFSI

8:00AM CLASS STARTS

11:30AM LUNCH * Lunch provided
by NIFSI

12:30PM CLASS CONTINUES

4:30PM OVERVIEW

INSTRUCTOR: **TBA**



Fire Chief
Tom Styczynski



Sponsor

CLASS INFORMATION

- Certificate of Attendance from the Illinois Fire Service Institute & National Fire Academy
- Hands-On Classroom Training
- Plan Review
- Home Simulations
- Live Burn Demonstration
- NFPA 13D Standard
- NFPA 13R Standard
- International Residential Code (IRC) P2904
- Sprinkler Identification Numbers

In addition to Fire Academy materials, NIFSI is providing a NFPA 13D book to each attendee.

Bring a Calculator or use one on your phone.

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SCAN CODE
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If you have specific questions regarding the
course, contact:

James Moore, Assistant Director
jpmoore1@illinois.edu

Office of the State Fire Marshal



It is with a grateful heart and mixed emotions that I write this final submission. If you would have ever told me, or anyone that knew me 37 years ago, that I would have been asked to serve as the State Fire Marshal, the consensus opinion would have been to get your head examined. Every step of the way between then and now there have been people that have altered the course of my life which guided me to where I am today. My father was a policeman in Aurora and was well respected in our community for his work with juveniles

helping to turn hundreds of wayward teens into productive members of society. I wanted to be like him, so I joined the Kane County Sheriff Department. I was sent to the Illinois State Police Academy where the mantra of Integrity, Service and Pride was forever etched into my brain. After a few short years I realized that law enforcement was not the path for me and recognizing this, my wife Traci showed me a newspaper advertisement for the Aurora Fire Department. A short time later I was hired by AFD and transitioned from the required independent, take control mindset of law enforcement to the team mentality of the fire service.



Having grown up the youngest of 5 overly aggressive, risk loving brothers (as well as 1 well protected sister) the concept of “team over self” and running towards danger came naturally. To this day, although there are many fine fire departments in Illinois, I would not have changed my time in Aurora with anywhere else. We had all the manpower, vehicles, tools, equipment and training we could have asked for and we were well compensated for our work.

After moving through the ranks to Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal, I was contacted by the Lt Governor to apply for the State Fire Marshal position. To say this was an unexpected phone call is an understatement and I assumed the call was a prank orchestrated by one of my coworkers. I soon found out it was not a prank, retired from Aurora and ironically started my new job on April Fool’s Day 2015.

Taking a leap of this magnitude and was like jumping out of a plane and hoping the parachute worked. I soon found out that my fellow workers at the OSFM were my parachute. The folks at OSFM are honestly some of the most kind, caring and conscientious people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. As I kept my eyes and ears open (and my mouth shut) they showed me what I needed to know and made me feel at home from the very first day.

Probably my most surprising discovery was that not all fire departments had it as good as we did in Aurora. I wanted that to change and worked with our people, as well as all of our Illinois fire service organizations, to develop programs and budgets that provided the best possible funding to benefit the firefighters who jumped off the trucks across the State.

Luckily, my pre-existing relationship with IFSI Director Royal Mortenson allowed us to forge a strong bond between our agencies and his leadership brought new initiatives to benefit firefighters across the State. Thanks to Governor Pritzker, in the last few years we were allowed to fund grants and loans for education, training, equipment and vehicles at an unprecedented level for fire departments across the State and raise OSFM headcount to complete our mission and our statutorily mandated operations. It is very comforting to know that the OSFM is being left in the very capable hands. The leadership in place with Acting State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson and his exec team will no doubt continue and improve the direction we have established.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my wife Traci, none of this would have been possible without her career guidance, standing by me through some very tough times and still loving me when I was probably at times unlovable. She took on the lion’s share of raising our children and establishing a safe and loving home which allowed me to focus on my responsibilities. Lastly, a tip of the cap to Norman who has been my road dog for all 7 years. It has been a great ride and I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. God Bless the OSFM and the Illinois Fire Service!

The Bulletin



Dale Simpson has assumed the role as Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal. Simpson has served in public safety for over 35 years, the last 9 years with the OSFM. Before assuming the role of Acting SFM, Simpson began his career with the OSFM as a Fire Prevention Field Inspector, then moved into the position of OSFM Fire Prevention Division Manager, before accepted the role of Bureau Chief of Operations. Prior to OSFM, Simpson served with the Springfield Fire Department beginning in 1983, and upon his retirement in 2009 had worked his way up through the ranks, retiring as Division Chief Fire Safety, along with serving as the City of Springfield Fire Marshal. Prior to the fire service, Simpson was involved with both paid and volunteer ambulance services.

During his time in the Springfield Fire Department Simpson served as a sworn Fire/Arson Investigator, Explorer Post Coordinator, C.E.R.T. Coordinator, Juvenile Fire Setter Program Coordinator, and instructor for both the Springfield Fire Department and Lincoln Land Community College.

Simpson is honored and proud to serve the OSFM and looks to continue the Agency's mission of providing fire safety and other essential services to the citizens of Illinois.

A large graphic with a light blue background. At the top, the text "STATE OF ILLINOIS PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT" is written in large, bold, dark blue capital letters. Below this text are four logos: a fire department emblem with flames, the "IFSI RESEARCH" logo in blue and orange, the "OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL" seal, and the "ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE" badge. In the bottom left corner, there is a photograph of two firefighters in full gear standing next to a fire engine. To the right of the photograph, the text "FREE DECON EQUIPMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE TO ILLINOIS FIRE DEPARTMENTS" is written in large, bold, dark blue capital letters. Below this, a horizontal line separates the text "TO ORDER, VISIT:" from the website address "FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU", which is also in large, bold, dark blue capital letters.

Supreme Court Provides Important First Amendment Ruling in Boston Flag Case

by Ericka J. Thomas and Bradley Michalowski
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

On May 2, 2022, the United States Supreme Court reached a unanimous decision in *Shurtleff v. Boston* pertaining to the First Amendment. Between 2005-2017, it was a common practice for the City of Boston to allow groups and organizations to request to raise a flag on the third of three flagpoles outside City Hall. Until July 2017, Boston accepted each of the applications it received, resulting in roughly 50 flags raised over the course of 284 ceremonies held. However, when Camp Constitution director Harold Shurtleff requested to raise a Christian flag for his organization, the commissioner of Boston's Property Management Department denied the request. The commissioner worried that raising the Christian flag would show support for a specific religion, which the Establishment Clause bars. Consequently, the city told Shurtleff that his organization could raise a different flag, which he was unwilling to do.

Believing that Boston's actions violated the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment, Camp Constitution and Shurtleff sued the city. Although the District Court and First Circuit found against them, the Supreme Court granted certiorari to hear the case. The core issue of this case, as underscored by Justice Breyer in his written opinion for the Court, was whether Boston treated the flagpole as an open forum for citizens to freely express themselves, or if the city earmarked the flagpole to convey government messages. If the Court decided that the flagpole was for government messages, then Boston had the right to forbid Camp Constitution to raise the Christian flag. Alternatively, Boston likely abridges Camp Constitution's freedom of speech if the city treats the flagpole as an open forum for citizens to freely express themselves.

In evaluating the issue, Justice Breyer turned to viewpoint discrimination, and whether Boston engaged in this type of discrimination by declining to permit Shurtleff's organization from raising the Christian flag. Here, the Court found that Boston engaged in viewpoint discrimination. The reason for this is because the city lacked an element of control regarding the flags raised and the information they communicated. In other words, the independent flags were not representative of Boston's viewpoints, but rather those of the organizations and groups who raised them. Therefore, the Supreme Court noted that the Christian flag message belonged to Camp Constitution. Thus, the justices reached a unanimous conclusion that the city violated Shurtleff and Camp Constitution's freedom of speech in forbidding them from raising the Christian flag.

One of the focal reasons why the Supreme Court unanimously sided with Shurtleff is because Boston took no active role in the flag raisings of the different organizations and groups which sent in applications. Furthermore, while Boston made it unclear whether the flags fall within the purview of the beliefs they represent, Justice Breyer referenced in his opinion a city who provides a clear message to its citizens. In California, San Jose clearly communicates that the city's flagpoles are not an open forum for citizens to freely express themselves. Accordingly, whether it be outside Boston's City Hall, or any of the city halls and other Illinois governmental buildings, it is important to consider the implications of this Supreme Court case.

In sum, *Shurtleff v. Boston* provides an important constitutional decision pertaining to the First Amendment and specifically, government speech. A public entity may restrict speech if it has clearly stipulated that a certain location, such as a flagpole or message board, is limited governmental speech. Otherwise stated, the public entity may prohibit speech at places denoted as limited open forums if the speech is not related to the governmental topics allowed. However, a public entity cannot abridge an individual's freedom of speech on a message board or flagpole if it recognizes these places as open forums because citizens may freely express themselves at these designated locations. Ultimately, the principal difference between open forums and limited open forums is that, with the former, the public entity is subject to viewpoint discrimination if it abridges speech based on content. With the latter, though, the limitation on an individual's speech by a public entity does not result in viewpoint discrimination.

Ericka J. Thomas is an associate with Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in the firm's Naperville office. Ms. Thomas concentrates her practice in all areas of litigation, including administrative review of fire and police pension matters and commission matters, insurance defense, village prosecution, and civil rights defense. You can contact her at ethomas@ottosenlaw.com.

Bradley Michalowski is a law clerk at Ottosen, DiNolfo, Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in Naperville, Illinois. He is currently entering his second year of law school at Chicago-Kent College of Law, pursuing a concentration in the areas of school and municipal law.