

# *The* **Bulletin**



*Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.*

**Volume 73, Number 4**

**July - August 2019**

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**NEW  
CONFERENCE  
HOTEL**

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE  
129TH ANNUAL  
IFA TRAINING CONFERENCE**



129<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

Illinois Firefighter's Association

**DOWN & DIRTY**  
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**OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2019**

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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State Farm

**CLASS LIST  
IN THIS ISSUE**

**RETURNING AGAIN THIS YEAR  
FREE HOTEL ROOMS  
FOR THOSE TAKING TRAINING**

**CONFERENCE  
FORMS  
IN THIS ISSUE**

The Bulletin is published digitally every other month and placed online at [www.illinoisfirefighters.org](http://www.illinoisfirefighters.org).

Please send email addresses and articles to:

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## **Bulletin Deadlines:**

**January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15,  
September 15, and November 15**

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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:

Hopefully, the Illinois monsoon season is over. I know many of you were dedicated to the flooding conditions that we faced. Now we are in the restoration phase and clean up of all the damage. I hope we can say that your responses to these flooding conditions helped save more lives and property. This brings me to the awareness that Firefighters do more than just fight fires. Over the decades our role as firefighters has changed dramatically. No more are we just firefighters, we are expected to respond to all types of emergencies and non-emergencies. The impact of all these extra responsibilities has put many stresses of the Fire Service and each Firefighter themselves. These stresses include physical and mental impacts that each Firefighter takes home with them every day. For this reason, there has been an increase in firefighter suicides and many have left the Fire Service. We have recognized that we are not immune to what we see and do in our duties as Firefighters. For this reason, the Fire Service has established the Illinois Firefighter Peer Support team that can help defuse and mitigate those stresses. Another great resource for help is RE; ACT these resources provide awareness, counseling, and training for firefighters and their families. You can go online and get the information and contacts you need to assist your department.

It's not too early to start thinking about this year's Conference and Down & Dirty training weekend. Your department will be getting the flyer in the mail very soon and will be on our web site also. Please pass the word to all the firefighters and get them registered as soon as you receive this information. Be advised that we have changed conference hotels. **The board decided to check out some different hotels in the area and found one that fits our needs and will allow us to still have the hospitality room This year the conference hotel will be the Eastland Suites and Conference Center, 1905 N. Cunningham in Urbana Phone 217-344-4479. Hotel costs are included for those taking classes.**

This is the time of year that we start thinking about legislative initiatives that could help benefit all firefighters. Terry Ford and I returned from the National Benefits Summit in Minnesota and brought back initiatives that other states were providing to their Firefighters. A couple of initiatives that struck my attention was a tax credit on real estate taxes and a mandated Firefighter Cancer Insurance for all firefighters. This legislation was passed in New York and the state of Georgia. We will be looking at those states legislation and determine if Illinois can do the same type of coverage for Illinois Firefighters. With the recognition of cancer being at a much higher rate for firefighters, we need to make sure our firefighters are properly protected as well. The career side of the Fire Service has the presumption in place that helps them with he heart / lung issues. But, the vast majority of Illinois firefighters are not protected. I believe the volunteer and P.O.C has the same risks as the career side. This will be a challenge to get this done, but it needs to be addressed to benefit all firefighters.

So, ***“Train Smart, Be Safe”***

*God Bless*

*John Swan President*

# Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist



## **IFA LEADS FIGHT AGAINST SB 37 SECONDARY FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYER PENSION FUND PAYMENTS**

Sponsored by Sen. Melinda Bush (D-Grayslake) and Rep. Larry Walsh (D-Joliet) SB 37 as introduced would have required a unit of local government of 5,000 or more inhabitants that employs a firefighter, who is a full-time firefighter in a different downstate firefighter pension fund, to make specified contributions of 17 percent annually of that firefighter's salary and requires the firefighter to make contributions of 9% of their own salary to that primary department's pension fund. This would have had a **crippling impact on fire safety budgets, property taxes and ultimately lead to privatization.**

IFA was adamantly opposed to this legislation and headed up the opposition, coordinating ongoing conference calls with other opposing fire and municipal officials and organizing lobby days for fire officials to meet with key legislators and Pension Committee members. Fortunately, in the end, the language was deleted from the bill that required any payments from part-time and volunteer departments and instead alternative language was added, which only requires certain incident to be reported back to the primary department and salaries and number of hours worked for part-time and paid-on call firefighters (who also work full-time for a municipal department) 30 days after the end of each fiscal year. The reporting requirement only applies to municipal departments. **After all the hard work IFA put into fighting this bill, we are very fortunate with the outcome and appreciate everyone who supported us with their efforts.**

**Below is a rundown of some of the other legislation impacting the fire service that passed this session.**

**HB 1876 – ASSISTANT CHIEF CAN USE FLASHING LIGHT** House Sponsor Blaine Wilhour (R-Beecher City)/Senate Sponsor Jason Plummer (R-Edwardsville).

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that red or white oscillating, rotating, or flashing emergency lights may be used on a vehicle operated by a qualified deputy fire chief or assistant fire chief (in addition to a fire chief.) **The bill was signed by the Governor and will take effect January 1, 2020.**

**HB 2215 – FIRE SERVICE LABOR MOVEMENT LINK on OSFM WEBSITE –** Sponsored by House Sponsor Lance Yednock (D-Ottawa)/Senate Sponsor Tom Cullerton (D-Addison)

The bill requires OSFM to supply a link to an educational program or literature on the *History of the Fire Service Labor* movement. Firefighters excluding volunteers, part-time and paid-on call are required to complete the training. **The bill passed and is being sent to the Governor.**

**HB 2473 - FIRE PROTECTION DIST-CONTRACTS** House Sponsor Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-North Lake)/Senate Sponsor Sen. Linda Holmes (D-Aurora)

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that a board of trustees may enter into contracts for supplies, materials, or work involving an expenditure in excess of \$20,000 through participation in a joint governmental or nongovernmental purchasing program that requires as part of its selection procedure a competitive solicitation and procurement process. **The bill passed and is being sent to the Governor.**

**HB 2766 - SUICIDE PREVENTION for FIRST RESPONDERS-** House Sponsor Rep. Frances Hurley (D-Chicago)/Senate Sponsor Terry Link (D-Waukegan)

Creates the First Responders Suicide Prevention Act. Provides that emergency services personnel and public safety personnel may refer any person to an employee assistance program or peer support counselor within the emergency services provider or law enforcement agency, or if those services are not available within the agency, to another employee assistance program or peer support counseling program that is available. **The bill passed and is being sent to the Governor.**





IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn spearheads “Dangers of Fire Works” Annual Press Conference at Alexian Brother’s Hospital July 3rd in Hoffman Estates, bringing together fire safety officials, physicians, mental health professions and veterinarians to explain impact of fireworks on kids, pets and Vets with PTSD.

## PLEASE DONATE IFA PAC FUND

Please support IFA’s advocacy efforts by donating to our Political Action Fund. We need to continue to strengthen our voice at the Capitol but can only do so with your help.

Though your donations are not tax deductible, they allow IFA to participate in fundraisers for legislators who support our causes, which is critical.

\$250\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail donation to: IFA PAC Fund, PO Box 77, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Thanks for your generosity!



Plan now to attend the  
**Annual IFA Training CONFERENCE**

held at the

**Illinois Fire Service Institute**

Featuring

**Hands On and Classroom Training**

Great Training for the Rookie and the Officers

And Everyone In Between

**2019 Conference**

**October 24 - 26**

*Class list and registration forms in this issue*

*Sign up online on the IFSI Website*

**NOTICE**  
**CHANGE IN**  
**CONFERENCE HOTEL**  
Conference hotel has changed to the  
**Eastland Suites and Conference Center,**  
**1905 N. Cunningham in Urbana**  
**Phone 217-344-4479**

**Hotel included for those taking classes. Refer to brochure.**

### HANDS-ON COURSES:

12 HOURS EACH | FRIDAY, 1-5PM & SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM

#### FOUNDATIONS OF FIREFIGHTING

The Foundations of Firefighting Course is designed for firefighters who are new to the fire service or have limited experience with live fire conditions. Course topics will include the basic and fundamental skills necessary to operate effectively and safely on the fireground. This class will address firefighter orientation and safety, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), personal protective equipment (PPE), tools, apparatus, hose, ladders and basic fireground operations. **NFPA compliant personal protective equipment and SCBA is required.**

#### VEHICLE MACHINERY OPERATIONS

The Vehicle Machinery Operations Course is designed for all skill levels. Course topics will include vehicle access and disentanglement techniques and scene safety, evaluation, and management for emergency situations. The class will emphasize proper use of equipment including hand tools and hydraulic and air-powered equipment. **NFPA compliant personal protective equipment is required.**

#### ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR FIREFIGHTING

The Essential Skills for Firefighting Course incorporates multiple training topics into one convenient schedule. Class topics include forcible entry, RIT training and thermal imaging camera applications. Students will participate in hands-on drills with both inward and outward swinging doors as well as multiple types of tools and locks. Live fire scenarios will address the tactical and strategic operations related to downed firefighters and the operation of the thermal imaging camera. **NFPA compliant personal protective equipment, SCBA, and ear protection is required.**

#### ESSENTIAL DRIVER ENGINEER SKILLS

The Essential Driver Engineer Skills series of courses will include training on the following topics: down and dirty hydraulics, basic pump operations and Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS). This engaging, hands-on course will cover the basic concepts on how to calculate hose line pressure, the mechanical principles of pumps as well as use of foam operations for fire suppression. **NFPA compliant personal protective equipment, SCBA, and ear protection is required.**

#### FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS BY RAIL

This course is designed for any first responder who could respond to a railroad emergency involving flammable liquids. Students will have the opportunity to learn more in depth information about flammable liquids shipped by rail and their characteristics. They will receive training on the types of railroad cars used to ship flammable liquids and their construction, safety features, markings and other important characteristics. They will also have the opportunity to participate in hands-on evolutions learning how to properly cool rail cars involved in flammable liquid fires. They will be able to learn and practice foam application techniques on rail cars. Upon successful completion of this class, the student will have an increased level of understanding on how to deal with flammable liquid emergencies on the railroads. **NFPA compliant personal protective equipment, SCBA, and ear protection is required.**

### CLASSROOM COURSES:

TRAINING OFFICER BOOT CAMP - 12 HOURS | FRIDAY, 1-5PM & SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM

The Training Officer Boot Camp course is intended for any level member that assists in training for a fire department or district. Topics include Illinois Fire Service requirements, training needs assessment, IDOL requirements, training calendar creation, budget constraints, multiple company training and legal aspects of training. Emphasis is given to volunteer and part-time organizations that may be lacking the internal support to get training accomplished. Record management and audits are also covered. An OSFM Personnel Standards & Education (PS&E) staffer will be in attendance to support learning objectives. This is an interactive course that requires active student participation. Student should bring materials that will assist with the set-up of a better training program, i.e. calendar, policies and procedures, or SOP/SOG that impact the training organization.

HELPING YOU HELP THEM (DNR) | 4 HOURS | FRIDAY, 1PM-5PM

The Helping You Help Them course will provide insight into funding and grant initiatives available to fire departments. Topics will address steps that can be taken to assist your department in becoming more successful. Also included in the presentation will be a brief introduction to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Excess Property Program.

CANCER AWARENESS | 4 HOURS | SATURDAY, 8AM-12PM

Andy Dina is a 34 year veteran of the fire service and Assistant Fire Chief for the Warrenville Fire Protection District. Andy

## The Bulletin

is a cancer survivor and eight year volunteer with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN). He mentors firefighters throughout the country who are diagnosed with cancer and serves as an instructor for the FCSN curriculum. Shawn Flaherty is a partner with the Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo Ltd., in Naperville. He has represented fire protection districts, fire and police commissioners, and other municipalities statewide for over 20 years. Shawn assists clients with legal matters involving public safety issues, labor and employment, and public pension disability hearings. Shawn and Andy will present on firefighter cancer awareness and prevention. The discussion will include data, statistics, causes, prevention measures, and the increasing legal side of firefighting and cancer.

### RESILIENCY | 4 HOURS | SATURDAY, 1PM-5PM

This course will provide first responders in any stage of their career with the necessary tools to remain resilient to the stressors that come with the job as well as stress from off the job. Focusing on cutting-edge science, students will see how stress can damage the brain, and also how the brain can recover from this damage. Students will also increase their understanding of how stress and mental health impact not just the brain, but the entire body. Behaviors and mindsets will be presented that will help students to care for themselves as well as support their families at home and at work. First responder resiliency matters, and this course seeks to remove the stigma surrounding the discussion of mental health, trauma, and suicide. Facilitated group discussions will create open dialogues where students can share what has worked well for them and address areas where improvements

## FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITY:

### ROLLING RESPONSES: 6PM

The rolling response training will provide a realistic hands-on training opportunity for all skill levels. Students will be assigned to a fire company, be dispatched via radio and respond in assigned apparatus to one of three live fire training props. Training scenarios will simulate real world incidents with an established command structure, live fire, rescues, search, ventilation, hose line advancement, forcible entry, and victim removal. The incident commander will direct companies to carry out emergency scene tasks. An IFSI Instructor will facilitate and guide each company. **NFPA compliant personal protective equipment is required.**

## OSFM TRAINING CLASSES

### Public School Inspection Class | 4 HOURS | FRIDAY, 1PM-5PM

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Division of Fire Prevention is statutorily mandated to inspect all public schools in Illinois (except for Chicago Public Schools). This is accomplished both with OSFM Fire Prevention Inspectors and partnerships with local fire authorities who complete the necessary OSFM training and are recognized as Qualified Fire Officials (QFO). This class will be the exact same class as is offered to those local fire authorities wishing to become a QFO. Attendees who submit proper documentation to OSFM prior to taking this class will be added to our Qualified Fire Official list. Note: Required documentation includes confirmation from an attendee's Fire Chief that they will inspect the public schools found in their jurisdiction.

### Life Safety Codes | 8 HOURS | SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM

This class will provide instruction in the basic life safety topics such as means of egress, building construction, protection of hazards, fire protection systems, fire-rated construction, interior finish, as well as discussion on NFPA 101, Life Safety Code. Dependent on time, instructors will also discuss select occupancies from the Life Safety Code to include; Business Occupancies, Hotel, Apartment Buildings, Assembly Occupancies, or Mercantile Occupancies.

## CERTIFICATION COURSE:

### 16 HOURS | FRIDAY, 9AM-5:30PM & SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM

### TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE/RESCUE TASK FORCE TRAINING

The Tactical Emergency Casualty Care/Rescue Task Force Training (TECC/RTF) Course is an EMS-based class designed for all skill levels. The class covers topics that decrease preventable deaths from active shooter, hostile, or mass casualty events. The TECC program includes discussions, table top, and full immersion exercises. Upon successful completion of the course, students will receive TECC certification from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT).

**Sign up on IFSI website, payment made on IFA website**

**Conference hotel has changed to the Eastland Suites and Conference Center, 1905 N. Cunningham in Urbana Phone 217-344-4479. Hotel included for those taking classes. Refer to brochure.**



**STEP 1: Registration Information**

First Name: _____	MI: _____	Last Name: _____
Driver's License Number: _____		State of Issue: _____
Date of Birth: _____		
Mailing Address: _____		City, State, Zip: _____
Home/Eve Phone: _____		Cell Phone: _____
Male: <input type="checkbox"/>	Female: <input type="checkbox"/>	Student Email Address: _____
Name of Emergency Contact: _____		Emergency Contact Phone: _____

**SUBMIT BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM TO IFSI BY MAIL OR FAX**

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE  
11 GERTY DRIVE | CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820  
FAX: 217.244.6790

**OR REGISTER ONLINE AT  
WWW.FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU**

*Last day to cancel registration: October 24, 2019.*

**STEP 2: Registration is first-come, first-served. Please select a course.**

HANDS-ON COURSES   12 HOURS (CHECK ONE)	CLASSROOM COURSES
<input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Firefighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Training Officer Boot Camp – 12 hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Machinery Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> OSFM Training: Public School Inspection – 8 hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Essential Skills for Firefighting	<input type="checkbox"/> OSFM Training: Life Safety Codes – 4 hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Essential Driver Engineer Skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Helping You Help Them – 4 hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Flammable Liquids by Rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Awareness – 4 Hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Rolling Response Scenarios	<input type="checkbox"/> Resiliency – 4 hours

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES:**

**Before 10/1/2019:**

IFA Member – \$50 | Non-Member – \$75

*\*payment must be received by 5pm on 10/1/19 to receive the advance rate.*

**After 10/1/2019:**

IFA Member – \$100 | Non-Member – \$125

**REGISTRATION IS COORDINATED THROUGH THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE**

**THE ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION WILL PROCESS REGISTRATION PAYMENTS**

**PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE:**

By phone: Kerry Federer, 618.830.3961

By Mail: Illinois Firefighter's Association  
Attn: Kerry Federer  
PO Box 77 | Glen Carbon, IL 62034

# The Bulletin

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS AND RELEASE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, through its Illinois Fire Service Institute, attempts to conduct its training programs in a safe and efficient manner. However, it is not possible to eliminate all of the potential hazards to a student's safety. Before any student participates in an Institute training program involving the teaching of emergency response skills, he/she should be familiar with the level of physical stress and other hazards involved. Please read the following explanations of the physical and mental requirements of this course and sign the form to acknowledge that you have read and understand the information. Students who cannot comply with these requirements will not be allowed to participate in parts of the training involving physical exertion, or the use of protective equipment. They may attend lectures and observe evolutions from a safe distance.

### I acknowledge:

1. Practical skills training of all disciplines can be a physically and mentally stressful activity, requiring physical exertion; exposure to high temperature and humidity levels; toxic atmospheres; working at heights and in confined spaces. Elevated body temperatures, increased pulse, respiration, and blood pressure are also possible.
2. Persons with known heart or lung disease, hypertension, who are pregnant (Note: spontaneous abortion will occur with pregnant females when core temperature elevates), or have other medical or mental conditions which may affect their health and safety under these conditions, are advised to check with their personal, or fire department physician before participating in the activity. The ability to meet the Illinois Department of Labor Respirator Wearers physical evaluation is the responsibility of the sponsoring department/agency and is a requirement for any course requiring the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus.
3. Protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus meeting the appropriate NFPA standards, at the time of manufacture, must be worn during most practical exercises and live fire training as directed by the instructor in charge. Protective equipment must be in serviceable condition.
4. Individuals with facial hair, jewelry, or other impediment to the proper seal of the face-piece on self-contained breathing apparatus will not be allowed to participate in evolutions where the atmosphere is toxic or may become so.
5. The use of alcohol, and drugs, which affect mental or physical reactions, immediately preceding, or during training, is prohibited.
6. **I am 18 years of age, or older**, and an active member of a public or private fire department, public sector agency or authorized private corporation pre-approved by the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI).
7. For purposes of promoting the IFSI, I agree to allow IFSI unlimited use of my image, with no compensation.
8. IFSI will not sell nor distribute your email to any outside agency, except to Parkland College (see #11 below). IFSI will, from time to time, provide you with organization updates, newsletters, surveys and the like. Providing your email address will serve as your approval for these periodic distributions.
9. **In order for the students, or their agency, to avoid being billed for the usual course fees, notifications of withdrawal must be made no later than October 24, 2019. This notification must be in writing. Failure to notify the Institute, as noted above, will result in you or your department being billed. Invoices are due and payable within thirty (30) days of receipt.**
10. No unauthorized cameras are allowed at IFSI training or IFSI sponsored training events. The unauthorized use of cameras may lead to confiscation of the camera.
- 11a. **By my signature below, I acknowledge that if I do not have a Department signature in #11b. below, I will only be allowed to participate in Cornerstone, NIMS or LP classroom activities. By my signature below I also attest that I am on the department indicated and that I am authorized by an officer of said department to attend this class and that I am covered by my department's Worker's Compensation coverage for this class.**

Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department

Printed Name/Date

- 11b. By my signature below, I certify that the individual participating (see student signature/name above) is an active member of a fire department and is in good standing with that department. And as such, is covered by that department's Worker's Compensation coverage for this training. In the event of injury during training, the student is responsible for notifying his or her department to initiate the process. IFSI does not provide insurance coverage for students. Any and all injuries, no matter how minor, will be reported to the IFSI staff. IFSI staff will have the final say in selecting the treatment disposition for the student. This may range from on-site treatment to ambulance transportation to a local emergency department or occupational medicine agency. If a student or department does not accept these terms, or refuses to comply with IFSI's treatment decision and disposition, the student will be dropped from the remainder of the class (or program) and will not be eligible for any refund.

Chief or Training Officer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department

Printed Name/Date



## Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

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### OFFICIAL FIRE DEPARTMENT CREDENTIALS 2019

To the Officers and Members of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are

Members of the \_\_\_\_\_ FIRE DEPARTMENT in good standing and that they were duly elected as delegates to represent the above department at the 2019 Annual Conference of said Association in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Chief (signature)

***129th Annual Conference  
Firefighter Down & Dirty Fire Fighting Weekend  
October 25-26, 2019  
Illinois Fire Service Institute, Champaign, Illinois***

**Mail completed form to:**

Illinois Firefighter's Association  
Kerry Federer, Secretary/Treasurer  
P.O. Box 77  
Glen Carbon IL 62034  
Or Fax to (618) 882-7287  
Or email to [editor@illinoisfirefighters.org](mailto:editor@illinoisfirefighters.org)

Form only needs to be filed if your delegates have changed from what we have on file. If unsure of your delegates, file a new form.

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# Chaplain's Corner

## IFA Offers Free Chaplain Workshop "Firefighter Soul Care Chaplaincy"

I am happy to announce that the officers and directors of the IFA have graciously given me the opportunity to offer a free one-day Chaplain Workshop at this year's annual IFA Conference. I am grateful for their ongoing support which recognizes the positive impact that a local fire chaplain brings to any fire department. The workshop will be held in a meeting room at the Eastland Suites and Conference Center, 1905 N. Cunningham in Urbana. The date is Saturday, October 26, 2019, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Attendees will pitch in together for lunch depending on how many are in attendance.

The workshop topic will be "Firefighter Soul Care Chaplaincy". The experience and service of the local fire chaplain is wide and varied and often depends upon the circumstances, the experiences, and the culture of the particular fire department. He/she may one day be at a fire department training event, the next day pounding nails on a firefighter's house roof, and the next praying with a firefighter's family in a hospital emergency room. Though the job description of the local fire chaplain defies boundaries, yet it is very typical that the chaplain has responded to that calling because he/she has a deep desire to apply and share the gift of their faith with their firefighters. And yet, often times, that turns out to be a most evasive goal to reach.

At the "Firefighter Soul Care Chaplaincy" workshop we will be looking at the foundational beliefs and initiatives that give practical tools for fire chaplains to apply, invite, and strengthen the faith of the members of their fire departments. The workshop will also include opportunities for attendees to share their experiences in discussion with other chaplains.

The workshop is obviously for current fire chaplains, but also for prospective chaplains. If you have a heart to share the gift of your faith with your fellow firefighters, then you may be called to provide Firefighter Soul Care Chaplaincy in your fire department. I hope you will come to the workshop to explore that calling further.

If you plan on attending, please let me know by email at the address seen below. Also, if you would like to get a room please call the Eastland Suites at 217-344-4479 and mention that you are with the Illinois Firefighters Assoc. Conference for the best rate. Hope to see you there!

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

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## Do You Have Enough Insurance to Rebuild?

You never know when it might happen – a wildfire, tornado or flood. All of these have the potential to cause damage in the Prairie State. Spring storms have already spawned dangerous tornadoes and brought flooding along parts of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.

While they may be rare, seeing a madly spinning tornado or wall of flames bearing down on your community or neighborhood is the worst time to wonder, “Do I have enough insurance to build my home again?”

California Casualty has seen enough disasters to know the stress and financial impact they leave behind. More out-of-control fires and powerful storms have resulted in higher cleanup costs, elevated rebuilding prices and shortages of manpower and materials, due to the damage in a concentrated area.

Do you what coverage you have? As your Auto and Home Insurance Program provider, we feel that it’s very important to make sure that you have enough insurance for your home and property.

Here’s why:

- Half of American homeowners have told experts that they don’t really know what their homeowners insurance policy covers
- Other studies estimate that six out of ten homeowners are underinsured by an average of 20 % – meaning if their house costs \$200,000 to replace, they would fall short by about \$40,000 if they had a total loss
- Less than 20% of those in flood-prone areas have flood insurance
- Around 60% of renters have no coverage for their personal possessions

These are some of the factors that could lead to a home being underinsured:

1. **Improvements and upgrades.** When you buy new appliances, remodel kitchens and bathrooms or add on to your home, those improvements may not be covered by your original insurance policy.
2. **Hazardous materials removal costs.** After a disaster, your property may be full of dangerous chemicals, asbestos and other hazardous materials. It may take months to get proper permits, and the costs to remove the toxic residue can be quite high.
3. **Rising construction costs.** After large-scale disasters, building materials, construction crews and equipment may be in short supply. Costs in many areas have skyrocketed after massive property destruction.
4. **Updated building codes.** Rebuilding an older home to meet today’s safety codes may be expensive, especially if you bought your home decades ago.
5. **Limited loss of use coverage.** Make sure you have enough coverage to pay for extra living expenses (rent, food and other essentials) while your home is rebuilt or repaired. It’s important to factor in extended time after large disasters, sometimes more than a year.
6. **Not enough personal property protection.** Make sure that you have enough contents coverage to replace the many items you own – bedding, clothing, kitchen items and electronics. Don’t forget scheduled personal property for high value items, such as jewelry, specialty firearms, fine art and collectibles.



### Being Prepared

As the IFA Auto and Home Insurance partner, we urge you to get a yearly policy review. It's imperative that you tell your insurance provider about any home improvements/upgrades that you've made.

It's also important that you make an [inventory](#) of your possessions. Not only will it help determine the amount of coverage you need, but it speeds up the process of replacing those items. Only half of American homeowners and renters have done an inventory, which could leave them in the lurch after a disaster.

Learn about the auto and home insurance benefits you qualify for and deserve as a member of the IFA by contacting a California Casualty advisor today at 1.800.800.9410 or visit [www.calcas.com/IFA](http://www.calcas.com/IFA). California Casualty can also help you purchase important flood insurance.

Don't forget to enter California Casualty's \$7,500 Garage Makeover Work Hard/Play Hard Sweepstakes. Entries will be taken until October 31 at [www.contest4heroes.com](http://www.contest4heroes.com).

**This article furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to firefighters since 1974 and to IFA members since 2012. Get a quote at 1.800.800.9410 or [www.calcas.com/IFA](http://www.calcas.com/IFA).**

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## Help needed at 2019 Illinois State Fair

Each year, the IFA sponsors a day in the Illinois Fire Services Association tent at the state fair. Help is needed staffing the tent on Saturday, August 17 at 9:30 AM. 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 ASAP prior to the day for the IFA day at the State Fair, August 17, at the phone numbers or email below, so that he can get enough parking passes and admission tickets mailed to you prior to the work date.

Robert Reason, Director  
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Get your department involved with the Be Alarmed! smoke alarm installation program to install 10-year battery smoke alarms in homes 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](http://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms)



# IT TAKES TWO...

## TO PROTECT OCCUPANTS & FIREFIGHTERS FROM FIRE.



Fire Marshal Mary Kay Ludemann & Fire Chief Jon Stratton  
of the Plainfield Fire Protection District

### BOTH SMOKE ALARMS AND HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS SHOULD BE PART OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OUTREACH

There is no better opportunity to have an effective educational impact than at the fire scene or immediately post fire to explain the impact of both fire sprinklers and smoke alarms working together to prevent fire deaths and injuries. Be prepared to educate the media by keeping a fire sprinkler in your command vehicle and hand it to them to reinforce the message.

Following fatal residential fires, fire officials of the past would often talk about smoke alarms with the media and say, "Smoke alarms could have prevented the fire death." Those types of statement generally get the full attention of the public, but doesn't fully describe the other combined potential.

Smoke alarms are important because they alert occupants of a fire, reducing the chances of dying in a fire by half. Fire sprinklers actively work to control or extinguish the fire while it is small and provide occupants with the time to escape. The life and property protection benefits of fire sprinklers cannot be ignored.

Now imagine the impact if the fire officials also held up a fire sprinkler and stated, "When smoke alarms are combined with fire sprinklers, the risk of dying in a home fire is decreased by 80 percent."

Smoke alarms and fire sprinklers together are the perfect fire protection duo. Keep both in your command vehicle.

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## California Casualty Congratulates the 2019 NVFC Junior Firefighter and Junior Firefighter Program of the Year

"It's nice to be recognized for the hard work that I've put into the fire service over the past few years. It has inspired me to continue to work just as hard in the future and do everything possible to give back to my community."

That quote came from Robert Dowd, as he was presented with the 2019 NVFC Junior Firefighter of the Year award.

Robert believes that developing future fire professionals and getting kids interested in the volunteer fire service at a young age is extremely important. "Volunteer firefighters are at an all-time low, and the numbers continue to drop," he added.

Robert has served as secretary, lieutenant and captain of the Syosset, New York, Fire Department's Junior Firefighter program. He became president of the Nassau County Junior Firefighters Association in 2018, and serves on the organization's board of directors. He took part in a week long trip to Germany where he met the deputy director of the German Fire Service and made presentations to junior fire companies about fire service in the United States.

Robert is thankful for the lifelong friends he has already made and the lessons he continues to learn about problem solving and leadership. He plans to attend college and follow in his father's footsteps as a firefighter.

California Casualty is a proud sponsor of the NVFC's annual Junior Firefighter and Junior Firefighter Program of the Year Awards.

California Casualty Account Relations Manager, Tanya Rigsby, presented the Junior Firefighter award to Robert at the NVFC's annual meeting in Virginia this April. "The support that I have received from California Casualty has been unparalleled and it has pushed me harder to be my best and helped me focus on reaching future goals that will put me at an advantage in life," he said.

Robert has certainly impressed NVFC Board member, Bob Timko. "In an era where so many kids are distracted by the internet and smart phones, it's refreshing to meet great young people like him. It makes you realize there many kids who are preparing to be the next generation's leaders."

The NVFC National Fire Service Awards Gala was a festive event as Wylie Donaldson, Jr. was presented with the NVFC Lifetime Achievement Award; Brian McQueen, the NVFC James P. Seavey Sr. Health and Wellness Leadership Award; and the Westport, Massachusetts, Fire Department's Explorer Post #744 was named the NVFC Junior Firefighter Program winners.

"We had a remarkable pool of nominees who demonstrate the meaning of excellence in the fire service, and we thank them all for their service," said NVFC Chair Kevin D. Quinn. "We commend all of our award winners for the remarkable impact they have made on their departments, community, and the fire service. These recipients showcase outstanding commitment and service, and their inspirational work embodies the incredible spirit and contributions of the volunteer fire service."

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Read more about the NVFC awards at [www.nvfc.org/nvfc-announces-2019-award-winners/](http://www.nvfc.org/nvfc-announces-2019-award-winners/).

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# Illinois Fire Service Institute

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

## **SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS:**

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



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

## **BASIC OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER/NFPA FIREFIGHTER I BLENDED:**

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

The blended course will offer the same training and education outcomes as the 7-week IFSI Academy but will provide a format and timeline that allows for greater scheduling flexibility for students unable to attend a resident program. The blended course pilot kicks off August 10. The program includes 18-weeks of online instruction supported by 9 practical weekends scheduled at the IFSI Champaign training site. Students will test for IL OSFM, Pro Board, and IFSAC NFPA Firefighter I certifications in week 18.

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

## **TRAINING GROUND UPDATES:**

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

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

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



A large mobile garage unit with multiple bays. On the left, a sign reads "WORK HARD Play Hard" with the California Casualty logo. A large red sign on the right says "\$7,500 GARAGE MAKEOVER". A California Casualty logo is visible on one of the garage doors.

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