

# *The* **Bulletin**



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

**Volume 69, Number 2**

**March - April 2015**

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

## *Illinois Firefighter's Association provides Discount Prescription Drug Card*



### **Illinois Firefighter's Association**

#### **Prescription Assistance Program / Community Health Initiative**

The Illinois Firefighters Association is constantly striving to better serve our communities by providing a variety of fire prevention, health and safety programs. It is our goal to help our communities be as strong, safe and healthy as possible. A recent Mayo Clinic study determined that almost 70% of the people in our state take at least one prescription drug each month. Many of these people are having a difficult time purchasing their prescription drugs because of the high cost. The IFA has partnered with Discount Drug Network (DDN) to provide everyone in our community access to a **FREE PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**. This free program is accepted at almost every pharmacy in Illinois. Every FDA approved drug is eligible to be purchased at a discount. Even if you have health insurance, our program offers you the opportunity to purchase your medication for **LESS THAN YOUR CO-PAY**. Discount Drug Network donates a portion of their proceeds to IFA to help us continue this and other valuable community services.

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March - April 2015      Volume 69   Number 2

The Bulletin is published every other month at  
Highland, Illinois

Subscription rate - \$15.00 per year

Please send address changes or articles to:

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**January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15,  
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## Mission Statement

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

## President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters,

We now know who our new State Fire Marshal will be. I would like to welcome Matt Perez on board as our Fire Marshal. But, before I go on, I want to thank outgoing Fire Marshal, Larry Matkaitis, for a job well done. It is a well known fact, Fire Marshal Matkaitis has always had the safety of the public and the Fire Service in mind when making decisions that affected us both. I believe, some of those decisions were unpopular with some in the political arena and private sector. But that's OK, for as long as I have known Larry Matkaitis, he made those decisions with us in mind. I wrote Larry a while back and made a statement about a quote General MacArthur made, "An old soldier never dies, he just fades away". Well, he reassured me that he wasn't just going to fade away.

On behalf of all the firefighters of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, we want to thank him for a job well done. Now, it is time to gather strength from all of us and see that Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis' legacy continues with us in mind. With the new administration, it is my hope that the funding of the vital programs of the Fire Marshal's Office continues. As I told you in the past, we do not need general revenue funds to keep us safe. Home owners and businesses pay into the Fire Prevention Fund to support our programs. That money is supposed to help reduce the risks of Insurance Companies by increasing firefighter training, fire prevention, inspections and investigations, which in turn, saves more lives and property. This all goes back to better protecting the public and us doing our job.

A couple of administration's ago, the Fire Marshal's budget was cut and that created what that administration called a surplus. Those funds were then swept and put in the General Fund. Now that's what I called legalized theft and what I consider hinges on fraud. Home owners and businesses believe that money was being used for one purpose and now is spent another purpose. I hope this does not come about and we will be watching this closely as time goes on.

In new business, I just received notice for the upcoming Fire College 4th thru the 7th of June. This will be the 91st Annual Fire College, which is the longest running Fire College in the nation. I hope you get a chance to take advantage of this training event. Last year, the attendance was up, indicating that our economy is doing better. We are also expecting a larger attendance at our Annual Firefighter Conference, October 15th thru 18th. This will be our 125th Annual Conference and we want to make this year's Conference a special event, along with our Down & Dirty hands on training.

Keeping you up to speed with legislation, the old fireworks issue is back in the spot light. This seems to come up almost every year and every year we must show our opposition. It is a well known fact that fireworks in the wrong hands will increase injuries. This latest version of legislation would send some of the revenue back to the fire service. I believe that could be construed as blood money. As much as we all like to see fireworks, we need to leave the use of fireworks in the hands of the professionals. I am asking all of you to oppose this newest piece of legislation and call your representatives in opposition. I hope everyone has a wonderful spring and summer.

*So stay safe and God Bless.*

*John Swan President IFA*



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

## Fireworks Proposal On Hold For Now

After an intense two months of lobbying against SB 1681 which would have legalized the sale of Consumer Fireworks in Illinois, the Senate President's office did not schedule the bill for a hearing though it had been assigned to the Senate Revenue Committee.

In January at the Statehouse, I coordinated a press conference in conjunction with Burn Awareness Week uniting the fire, law enforcement, public health and the medical community to educate the public and the media on how the legalization of Consumer Fireworks for retail sale makes bad public policy. Despite the increase of injuries and deaths in states that legalize such fireworks I was able to also bring out the following compelling arguments: 1) from homeland security standpoint the Department of Justice has issued warnings regarding the sale of Consumer Fireworks since they are most often used to make improvised explosives and the fact both the Boston Marathon Bomber and the Times Square Bomber both purchased their explosives from the same Consumer Fireworks Retailer and 2) the US Veterans Administration has issued warnings that both the smell and sound of fireworks trigger Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in many combat vets. This is especially true of Consumer Fireworks used in random neighborhood displays that disrupt veterans in the privacy of their own homes.



Pictured left to right: IL Association of Fire Protection Districts Executive Director Cherie Breneman, IL Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski, IL Plumbing Inspectors Association Secretary Dave Dertz, Tom Harnsberger of the Carroll Fire Protection District, IL Fire Chiefs Association Past President Sherman Chief Eric Smith, Springfield Fire Marshal Chris Richmond, Springfield Fire Chief Ken Fustin, Chair of SIU Medical School Surgery Dept and Head of Memorial Hospital Burn Unit Dr. Michael Nuemeister, IL Fire Safety Alliance/IL Fire Firefighters Government Affairs Director

Margaret Vaughn, Chicago Fire Department Deputy District Chief Joe Roccasalva, IL Fire Services Association President Chief Steve Iovinelli, IL Fire Chiefs Association VP Chief Bryan Doyle, State Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Addison), IL Public Health Association Executive Director Tom Hughes, Burn Survivor & Tragedy to Triumph Founder Dave Schurry and Bartlett Fire Department Deputy Chief Mike Figolah.

## Appointment of Perez as New State Fire Marshal

Governor Rauner announced the appointment of Matthew Perez as the Illinois Fire Marshal. Perez is currently the Fire Marshal of Aurora (lives in Sugar Grove) and has been with the department for 27 years. Before he became a firefighter, Perez served as a Kane County sheriff's deputy for two years. Perez has a degree in Fire Service Management from SIU. Perez will be "acting Fire Marshal" until he is officially approved by the Senate.



## **Safety Training Liability Bill – HB3881**

Rep. Don Moffitt introduced legislation on behalf of IFA to grant immunity back to government entities, apprenticeship programs and non-profit associations who provide occupational safety training. This immunity had been lost when SB 3287 was signed into law last summer and made all trainers that were not “in-house” or “wholly owned by the employer”. Though the trade unions sided with the IL Trial Lawyers last year this year now they have felt the negative impact on how this is impacting safety training and our supporting is in our efforts to get the law changed. Though a vote was not taken there a special hearing before the House Labor Committee in which Chief Sashko and I testified how both firefighters and the general public’s lives are put at risk without expert safety training. We will continue to working to address this issue.

## **IL FIRE SERVICE RECEPTION**

Once again IFA joined forces with the IFCA, IAFFPD, NIAFFPD, IL Fire Safety Alliance, Northern IL Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board to host a joint reception for legislators on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Springfield.



Pictured at left is former Rep. Bob Flider who is now lobbying with Margaret Vaughn, Rep Michelle Mussman (D-Schaumburg), IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn back row: Kevin Schott, Rep. David Harris (R-Arlington Heights), IFA President John Swan, and IFSA Executive Director Phil Zaleski

Picture #2 – IFSA Executive Director Phil Zaleski, IFA President John Swan, IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn, IFA Board Director Kevin Schott, Sen. Mike Noland (D-Elgin) and Sen. Iris Silverstein (D-Chicago)





## Grain Bin Rescue Tube Update

Kevin Schott, Senior Policy Advisor - Office of the State Fire Marshal

After attending several meetings with Firefighters around the State, there seems to be a lot of misinformation and confusion in regards to deploying and utilizing the Grain Rescue Tubes that have been distributed throughout the State. Our office has hosted two meeting recently with Illinois OSHA (formerly known as the Illinois Department of Labor-SIED Division) and the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) in an attempt to clear up some of the confusion.

Here are some of the results of those meetings.

- Once a Fire Department is called to respond to a grain bin rescue, it must be handled as a Permit Required Confine Space. All aspects of 29 CFR 1910.146 must be adhered to, even though 1910.146(a) states “This section does not apply to agriculture, to construction, or to shipyard employment”.
- If responders will be entering the grain bin to utilize the rescue tubes, or for any reason they will be breaking the plane of the confined space with any part of their body, all authorized entrants, attendants and Entry Supervisors MUST be trained in both Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue.
- All responders need to be trained to do the job they are assigned to.
- Districts need to have written policies and procedures addressing responses in this area.

The Illinois On-Site Consultation Program, a division of Illinois OSHA can provide consultation services at no cost to any district requesting assistance in developing their policies and procedures. You may contact them at 800-972-4216 or through the website at <http://osha.illinois.gov>.

For questions on Illinois OHSA enforcement requirements you may contact Tim Rienstra at 217-785-7056, or [tim.rienstra@illinois.gov](mailto:tim.rienstra@illinois.gov).

The Illinois Fire Service Institute can assist in training needs. You may contact Dave Newcomb, Ag Rescue Program Manager at IFSI. 217-333-3800. [Newcomb@fsi.illinois.edu](mailto:Newcomb@fsi.illinois.edu)



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# **Firefighter on death of chief: “A safe truck was my responsibility”**

## **Firefighter Patrick Cullum discusses the pain and lessons from an incident that killed Chief Kenneth Lehr and his desire to honor his mentor and friend**

By Greg Frieze, EMS1 Editor-in-Chief

Editor’s Note: When we reported the LODD of Fire Chief Kenneth Lehr, I wrote an editorial asking questions about the incident. Many readers took me to task for posing those questions just hours after the incident and long before the completion of a full investigation, including the man driving the fire engine, Firefighter/Engineer Patrick Cullum. In subsequent days Cullum and I corresponded by email and phone about the incident.

EMTs, paramedics, and firefighters bear witness to tragedy. It is part of the job. Solace is often found in the idea that others might learn from our very worst moment and prevent a future tragedy from happening.

The recent death of Medora (Ill.) Volunteer Fire Chief Kenneth Lehr was such a tragedy, and it seized headlines across public safety media. A seemingly inexplicable and senseless incident, it provoked emotion and strong reactions from many.

As often happens with such incidents, the immediate reaction by some was to find someone to blame. In the case of Chief Lehr’s death, that person was Firefighter/Engineer Patrick Cullum, who drove the truck that killed his chief.

“If just one death can be prevented then something good will have come from this incident,” Cullum told EMS1 in an exclusive interview about the incident, the aftermath and how he’s coping with the tragedy.

### **The incident**

On the afternoon of Feb. 5, a landing zone (LZ) was set up to fly a patient with a significant injury to a trauma center. This LZ was deemed unsuitable and a second LZ location was selected approximately one mile away. Cullum drove the fire engine from the first LZ to the second.

Chief Kenneth Lehr is alleged to have ridden the engine’s tailboard, unknown to Cullum, between the two landing zones.

As Cullum, 47, pulled the fire engine off the highway in the area being established as the second LZ he visually located nearby personnel and took note that they were 10 to 15 yards away.

In the seconds between stopping and the putting the fire engine in reverse, Lehr either fell or stepped off the engine’s tailboard. He was run over by the reversing truck, and was pronounced dead at the scene.

### **Bearing responsibility for his role**

Firefighter/Engineer Patrick Cullum, who drove the truck that killed his chief, said it was his responsibility to make sure the engine was safe. (Image courtesy of Patrick Cullum)

Cullum says he will regret for the rest of his life not taking 10 more seconds to find a spotter before reversing the fire engine.

“Someone notified me that Chief Lehr had been on the back of the truck and fallen under before I could stop,” said Cullum. “It was not an accident. It was my responsibility to ensure a safe truck.”

Cullum, from his life and military experience, believes it is human nature to assign blame. Even though he doesn’t know why the chief got on the back of the truck, potentially while it was moving, Cullum is accepting responsibility for his role in what happened.

“This was not an accident. It was an incident,” said Cullum. “In an accident there is nothing that could have been

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done to change the outcome. An incident, even when the outcome is tragic, could have been prevented.” Cullum said that as the engineer, it was his responsibility to make sure the engine was safe. “I failed in that respect and I also failed my fire department brothers and sisters worldwide,” he said.

### **Learning from LODD and near miss incidents**

The Secret List, NIOSH Line of Duty Death reports, Near Miss reports and other training materials are created and distributed to help emergency responders learn from past incidents and avoid repeating those same incidents. Asking questions about an incident – why, what, where, when, and how – is part of the investigative and learning process.

When asked about his initial response to an EMS1 editorial questioning how the incident occurred, Cullum clarified.

“It wasn’t the questions EMS1 asked,” he said. “The questions need to be asked, but they need to be asked with more knowledge of the incident and what happened.”

The preliminary state police report and early news reports of the incident were thin on specific details about the patient’s injuries, the request for an ambulance, the departments that responded, and where the landing zones were located.

Those details will likely be clear in the final OSHA report.

### **Loss of a friend and a department**

Medora is small community. Members of Lehr’s family asked Cullum not to participate in the funeral and also asked him to resign from the department a few days after the incident. He has subsequently resigned from the department.

As the department’s training officer for the last five years, Cullum worked closely with Chief Lehr.

“Kenny was a friend, mentor, chief, and surrogate father figure to me and many others on the department,” he said.

“We had our disagreements, but we always worked through those disagreements. That is part of being in a volunteer fire department. You have debates or arguments and then you move on to share a beer together.”

### **Grief and post-incident stress**

Grieving is a process unique to each person experiencing a loss. As a Navy veteran and firefighter, Cullum has seen death and dismemberment before, but sleep is not coming easily to him.

“When I close my eyes, I see all of the incidents behind my eyelids,” he said.

“I have seen this before. I know we need to prepare for the worst and hope for the best.”

Cullum has been surprised by the thoughts that have come into his mind as he’s grieved the loss of his chief.

“I won’t see Kenny at the pork chop dinner (an annual fundraiser for the department),” he said. “This was a fun event for me and all the guys. A vision of Kenny and the assistant chief standing at the grill popped into my mind, for no particular reason, a few days ago.”

His experience underscores a truth about dealing with traumatic encounters: stress management is unique to the individual.

“I can only speak for myself. I can’t speak for the other guys on the department. Talking about the incident is helping me,” said Cullum.

### **Support from the fire service**

In the days since the incident, former fire department colleagues, his pastor, and many friends have visited Cullum at his home.

“I have not been alone,” said Cullum. “This is hard for me and everyone. I pray to God to give me the strength I need.”

Support for Cullum has extended beyond his own department, as several within the fire service have reached out to him. One retired fire chief in particular has been helpful, Cullum says, in sharing his own experience of dealing with a line of duty death at his department.



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They are currently collaborating on a lesson or presentation they might give to other departments to help prevent a similar incident from occurring.

OSHA has interviewed Cullum and others about the incident. The final report has not yet been released. Cullum approached the interview knowing the investigators had a job to do.

“I did my best to be truthful about what I saw and did. The investigators were gracious in the interview and looked at the incident from all angles,” said Cullum.

### Hopeful that others will learn

Cullum is not the first and he will not be the last emergency responder to reverse a fire engine or an ambulance without a spotter.

“All of us have from time to time assumed it was OK (to back up) and got away with it,” said Cullum.

Backing without a spotter is an example of normalization of deviance by emergency responders, similar to failing to wear a seatbelt or distracted driving of an emergency vehicle. Over time, when negative consequences do not occur, unacceptable practices become acceptable. A series of near misses does not change the risk of a fatal backing incident.

“My hope is to prevent another needless death by sharing with others that ten seconds is enough to save a life,” Cullum said. “This incident, maybe, can be a tragic learning tool and I will not have completely failed my mentor and friend.”

*Article reprinted with permission of EMS1.com and FireRescue1.com*

# Line of Duty Death Fire Chief Kenneth Lehr, Sr.



### Firefighter's Prayer

Author Unknown

When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rage,  
give me strength to save a life, whatever be its age.  
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late,  
or save an older person from the horror of that fate.  
Enable me to be alert, and hear the weakest shout,  
quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.  
I want to fill my calling, to give the best in me,  
to guard my friend and neighbor, and protect his property.  
And if according to Your will I must answer death's call,  
bless with your protecting hand, my family one and all.



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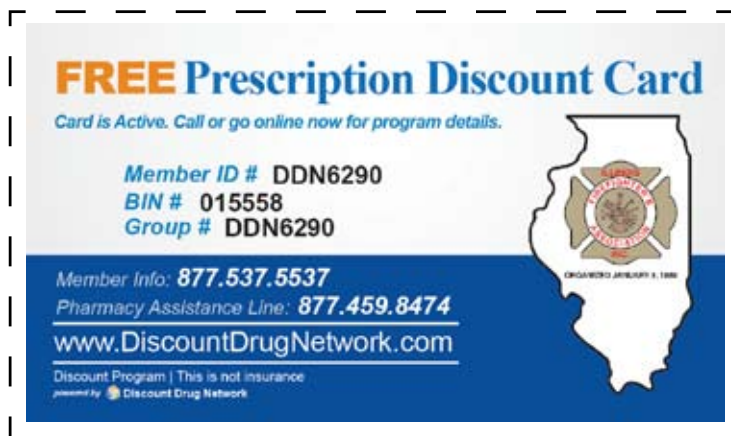
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**Department Spotlight**

# Alsip Fire Department



## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Alsip Fire Department is to provide timely, professional, safe and cost effective emergency service for the preservation of life and property. The patient's best interest and minimizing fire loss is always the first priority with the Alsip Fire Department.

We are committed to continuous improvement in providing "State of the Art" patient care and fire suppression/prevention for all we serve. To that same end, we are committed to the advancement of our members while continuing our history of quality service to the community.



## **Statistics**

The Alsip Fire Department is a municipal fire department that protects 6.78 square miles of the Village of Alsip. The fire department protects a residential population of slightly less than 20,000 people and a daytime business population of 20,000 to 30,000 people in approximately 950 businesses. Besides the industrial and commercial buildings, the Alsip Fire Department protects 9 miles of the Tri-State Tollway (I-294), the CSX/ Indiana Harbor Belt railway, and the Calumet Sag Channel.

The Alsip Fire Department operates out of 2 fire stations with a minimum of 8 personnel on duty each day. In 2014, the Alsip Fire Department responded to 3,378 incidents. Responses included 14 structure fires within the village, 2,077 Emergency Medical Service calls including vehicle accidents, and 141 hazardous condition calls. The Alsip Fire Department provides automatic-aid to the Blue Island, Crestwood, Oak Lawn Fire Departments, and Palos Heights Fire District. The Alsip Fire Department is a member of MABAS Division 22.

## **Roster**

The Alsip Fire Department is an all-career fire department. The Alsip Fire Department staffs a Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 7 Lieutenants, 26 firefighters/ paramedics, 2 part-time Fire prevention officers, and 1 Administrative Assistant. All chief officers and career personnel are all State Certified paramedics.

Additionally, the fire department performs annual fire inspections in 1400 commercial, industrial and multi-family buildings with 6 state certified fire inspectors who are firefighters who come back off duty at a special compensation rate. The Public Education Bureau is coordinated by 2 lieutenants and all public education activities are performed by off duty firefighters at a special compensation rate.

## **Apparatus and Equipment**

The Alsip Fire Department has the following apparatus and equipment;

A 2001 Seagraves fire engine (reserve engine) with a 1500 gpm pump, 750 water tank and 40 gallon class "B" foam cell

A 2006 Seagraves fire engine with a 1500 gpm pump, 750 gallon water tank and a 40 gallon class "B" foam cell

A 2012 Seagraves fire engine with a 2000 gpm pump, 750 gallon water tank and a 40 gallon class "B" foam cell

A 2002 Seagraves 100' ladder truck with a 1500 gpm pump and a 300 gallon water tank

A 2008 Road Rescue Ambulance (reserve/ back-up)

A 2011 Road Rescue Ambulance

A 2014 Road Rescue Ambulance

3- Ford Explorer staff cars (Chief, Deputy Chief, and Shift Commander)



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- 2- Fire Prevention vehicles (Ford Escape and Ford Escort)
- 1 2002 Dodge utility pick-up truck
- 1 2014 12' trailer for public education and training

The Alsip Fire Department also houses the MABAS 22 light tower and tent trailer, a C.A.R.T. equipment trailer (TRT), and the science/ command van for the Southwest Hazardous Materials Response Team (MABAS divisions 19 & 22).



### Training

The Alsip Fire Department uses a “Training Support Team” made up of 2 lieutenants and 2 firefighters to administer the fire department’s training program. The fire department provides a comprehensive training program to meet all of the yearly requirements plus all necessary training to meet the needs of our customers, both externally and internally. All of the personnel are required to be certified as a Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Operations, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Service Vehicle Operator and the majority of our personnel are also certified as FAE, Vehicle and Machinery Operations, Haz-mat Tech A & B, and various technical rescue certifications. All Officers are certified as at a minimum of Fire Officer II

The Alsip Fire Department has a 3-story training tower at fire station 1 with multiple training props to enhance the training capabilities that includes firefighting, confined space, and rope rescue.

### Specialty Teams

The Alsip Fire Department provides personnel to the following specialty teams

- Southwest Hazardous Materials Response Team
- C.A.R.T. (Combined Agency Response Team- Technical Rescue)
- MABAS 22 Cause & Origin
- IL. USaR- TF-1



**SAVE THE DATE**

# NFPA Conference & Expo

## McCormick Place Convention Center June 22-25, 2015 – Chicago



McCormick Place, Chicago

Expo Hours:

**Monday, June 22**  
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Tuesday, June 23**  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Wednesday, June 24**  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

NFPA offers a free Expo-Only pass if you register prior to the event at [www.nfpa.org/conference](http://www.nfpa.org/conference) by clicking on "Registration." Choose the Expo Only option, which gives you access to the General Session from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm on Monday, June 22, and the Expo on the days it is open.

For more information, call (708) 403-4468 or email [sprinktoml@aol.com](mailto:sprinktoml@aol.com) and [tinucci@nfpa.org](mailto:tinucci@nfpa.org).



Scan for Expo Registration

This conference and expo is the largest and most important event for the fire, fire protection, life safety, and electrical industries, and is widely regarded as the most important event in the industry.

**Join Illinois fire service members and the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition for a special meeting:**

## Illinois Fire & Building Officials Day Monday, June 22

Attend a meeting with fire departments, fire districts and building officials to discuss the current situation in Illinois regarding fire sprinkler protection in all building types, including testing and adoption.

The meeting will be open for discussion with representatives from other states that have established fire sprinkler coalitions through the NFPA.

### Schedule:

- 7:00 am** Sign in for Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition meeting / complimentary hot breakfast
- 7:20 am** Introduction
- 7:30 am** **Issues with enforcement of NFPA 25** (Inspection, Testing & Maintenance of Fire Sprinkler Systems)
  - Linda Pieczynski, Attorney at Law, P.C.
  - Jason Webb, NFPA 25 Specialist for National Fire Sprinkler Association
- 9:30 am** Break
- 9:45 am** **Coalition development** / information and program exchange with representatives from fire service groups
- 11:45 am** **Complimentary working box lunch**
- 12:00 pm** **Call to action** for lead-off programs for Fire Prevention Week 2015
- 12:30 pm** **Wrap up comments** before 1:30 pm General Session
- 6:00 pm** **Follow-up hospitality gathering**

Please stop by Booth #1240 at the Expo to obtain information from the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board and Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, including:

- Sign-up information for NFPA's "Fire Sprinkler Initiative" e-newsletter
- Sign-up information for Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's "Built For Life Fire Department" Program
- Instructions for side-by-side demonstration and NFPA 13D simulator unit







# Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Jim Keiken, Deputy Director



## Mark Your 2015 Training Calendar

Program	Location	Start
Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Module A Online	Champaign	4/6/2015
Fire Service Vehicle Operator Online	Champaign	4/6/2015
Fire Origin and Cause Awareness Online	Champaign	4/6/2015
Fire and Arson Investigation II	Champaign	4/6/2015
ICS 402 - ICS Overview for Executives/Senior Officials	Elk Grove	4/7/2015
NWCG G-130 Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters	Hillsdale	4/10/2015
Command & General Staff Functions for Local Incident Mngt Teams	Sigel	4/10/2015
Hazardous Materials Technician A	Colona	4/10/2015
Hazardous Materials Incident Management System	Troy	4/11/2015
Agriculture Rescue Techniques	Champaign	4/11/2015
NWCG S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighter Training Field Day	Hillsdale	4/11/2015
NWCG S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighter Training Field Day	Hull	4/11/2015
All Hazards Public Information Officer	Shorewood	4/13/2015
Instructor II	Champaign	4/13/2015
Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician	Champaign	4/13/2015
NWCG G-130 Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters	Somonauk	4/17/2015
Light and Fight - On Campus	Champaign	4/18/2015
Light and Fight - Off Campus	Carbondale	4/18/2015
NWCG S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighter Training Field Day	Somonauk	4/18/2015
Fire and Arson Investigation III	Champaign	4/20/2015
Fireground Command Officer School	Champaign	4/20/2015
NWCG G-130 Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters	Richmond	4/24/2015
NWCG G-130 Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters	Fairview Heights	4/24/2015
Hazardous Materials Operations	Rockton	4/24/2015
Hazardous Materials Operations	Mc Leansboro	4/25/2015
Large Animal Rescue Awareness (L.A.R.A.)	Ashley	4/25/2015
Vehicle and Machinery Operations - Level I	Champaign	4/27/2015
Hazardous Materials Operations	Champaign	4/27/2015
Fire Attack and Suppression Techniques (FAST)	Champaign	4/27/2015

*For more information on upcoming classes visit our web site @ [www.fsi.illinois.edu](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu)*

Spring is here and that means burn season at IFSI. Activity on the grounds is rapidly ramping up with the Academy in full force with 31 students, two Responder Intervention Team (RIT) class already complete and another scheduled for early April. Things in Champaign are “hopping”.

In late February we completed a “Dress Rehearsal of the new Leadership and Decision making program (LDDM) with great response. The next rehearsal is schedule for IFSI in late May with two mini Pilots as part of 2105 Fire College.

## The Bulletin

Fire College is June 4 – 7 with the information out most any day now. We have a number of traditional favorites like Entry Level and Recruit classes, Combatting Single Family Dwelling Fires to name a few as well as new offerings: Fireman, Fire Engine and Fire house on the history, values and beliefs of the fire service as well as Fatal Fire Investigation and Common Sense Building Construction for the street Smart Firefighter. Guest speakers this year include; Tom Tulipano, Dr. Richard Gasaway and Brigadier General Julian Alford. The program this year will also offer a “Blended” Fire Instructor 1 class completing at Fire College. You must pre-register and you will begin the online portion the beginning of May and complete the in person practical application activities at Fire College. Refer to the IFSI web site and Facebook for more information.

Fire College planning is near completion. With the dates scheduled as June 17 – 20<sup>th</sup>. As you may or may not know the grant previously used to offset the program cost is not available this year. After discussion with the advisory group it was decided to go ahead with the program on a cost recovery basis this year. More information on the exact cost and specific class will be out soon. Watch IFSI web site and Facebook for more info.

### **NEW Traffic Incident Management Awareness course**

The 1-hour Traffic Incident Management - Awareness course is designed for all first responders, regardless of their discipline. Following the class, students will understand the fundamental goals of the Traffic Incident Management program and how these goals are designed to help keep all first responders and the general public safe at roadway incidents. The course will also educate first responders on Traffic Incident Management terminology, the proper safe positioning of response vehicles at traffic incidents, and scene safety at traffic incidents.

### **IFSI Instructor of the Month**

**Joe Drennan** is IFSI’s February Instructor of the Month. He Joe joined IFSI in 1988, first as an instructor, then field staff, and later as Program Manager for Vehicle Rescue classes. He has taught more than 3700 hours for IFSI and is best known for teaching vehicle and machinery rescue classes. Joe is rated to teach 29 different classes for IFSI. Each year, Joe can be seen at the Illinois State Fair doing vehicle rescue demonstrations outside the Illinois Fire Service tent.

Joe began his fire service career in 1973 as a volunteer for the North Palos Fire Protection District. He moved to Oakbrook Fire Department in 1974 and later to the Chicago Fire Department in 1980. When he retired from the Chicago Fire Department in 2009, he retired as a Battalion Chief.



### **Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representatives:**

Northeast Region:	Randy Schlichter,	847-343-4039
Northwest Region:	Ray Palczynski,	563-468-8385
Chicago Metro Area:	Richard Stack,	773-988-0259
East Central Region:	Tim Meister,	217-202-4760
Central Region:	Jim Vaughn,	309-275-2499
Southwest Region:	John Nichols,	618-973-2059
South Region:	Tim Bragg,	217-962-1597

*The Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representative can be your important link to bringing State Fire Academy Training to your Fire Department.*

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# Consolidation – All talk or serious proposition?

by Karl R. Ottosen

Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

For several years, there has been significant focus on consolidation of Illinois governmental units. With over 6,800 units of local government there certainly is potential to reduce some. Many people simply argue that consolidation has to save money. Fewer boards, administrations, employees, accountants, auditors, and attorneys would likely produce some economics of scale and help taxpayers' bank accounts. Multiple state task forces or blue ribbon panels have been assembled to opine on what to do with all these governmental units, each designed to develop plans of consolidation.

In the Illinois fire service there have been conflicting messages coming from the Illinois General Assembly. On one hand it approved the AFFI's Regional Fire Protection Agency Act (50 ILCS 741/1) which provides for a petition and referendum process to force cooperation without full consolidation of fire departments. Yet, it also approved a referendum requirement before a municipality can stop providing fire protection services. There are several laws in place which provide different processes to consolidate fire districts, or merge municipal and district departments. In addition the fire service has historically been a leader in using intergovernmental cooperation to share services.

It is apparent the governor desires consolidation of fire service providers. Whether he will be successful in state-wide mandated regionalization or just obtain one or more additional options for departments to consider, only time will tell. However, one simple legislative change could make it much easier for municipalities to transfer their territory to consenting fire districts. If the Municipal Code were revised to permit a city or village by ordinance to annex its territory to one or more consenting fire districts, there would be a quick, inexpensive process available. This would be a good step toward accomplishing a goal of fewer fire departments. It also keeps the decision making at the local level.

It is up to the elected and appointed leaders in the Illinois fire service to determine whether to engage in more cooperation with neighboring departments, or look to real consolidation. However, while some cost savings may be obtained, the focus should be on level of service to be provided. Consolidation just to show reduction in governmental units with lower level of service is not in the public's best interest.

All are urged to carefully consider whether there are better ways to provide fire protection related services to the state's citizenry. Rather than trying to preserve local pride and traditions, look first at whether the residents can be better served with changes in organizational structure. If cooperation or merger benefit the residents, look to ways to accomplish it rather than putting effort into creating obstacles to its success.

While few people really enjoy change, fire service leaders must be more proactive in seeking out ways to be more efficient; including consolidation. If not done voluntarily at the local level, it is likely the state will seriously debate and possibly pass some form of regional fire service. It is probable the "talk" will become a state mandate.

**Karl R. Ottosen** is a shareholder and managing partner with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. at the firm's Naperville office. Mr. Ottosen has over twenty-five years of experience representing government entities. He is a frequent speaker at seminars and workshops on topics such as labor, employment, and local government law issues. You may contact Mr. Ottosen at [kottosen@ottosenbritz.com](mailto:kottosen@ottosenbritz.com).

# Chaplain's Corner

## Finding Faith in the Fire Service



It was in the Spring of 1981 and I was a young firefighter on a busy truck company in Chicago. I was very thrilled with my firefighting work, and yet inside I was becoming empty and turning more and more to the party lifestyle to try to satisfy the deeper part of me – obviously a dead-end pathway. As I was lying in bed early one Sunday morning, I heard a voice speak to me and say, “Get up and go to church, this could be your last chance!” To this day I still do not know whether I heard it in the room or just inside my head. I had been invited to church recently by a friend – now my wife of 33 years – but had laughed it off as unthinkable. But that voice...I was drawn...and so I went. A faith invitation was placed before me that day. It seemed simple enough: Would I believe that Jesus died for my sins? Sure. Would I let Him be the Lord of my life from that moment on? Well, I suppose so...what could it hurt? Honestly, I just wanted to get out of there. I think I was breaking out in hives from being in a church for something other than a wedding or funeral. A Bible was placed in my hands on my way out the door (“So that’s what one of those looks like!”) and I strapped it to the back of my motorcycle and headed back to life as I had known it. But little did I know that life would never again be as I had known it. My first thought was that I should have the Bible bronzed and put on a shelf as a souvenir commemorating the day I went to church. But then I did the strangest thing. I opened it up and began to read it...and I’m still reading it today.

Well, now an entire career of firefighting later, I can tell you truthfully from the bottom of my heart that the greatest strength I have ever experienced to guide and guard me through my fire service calling has been that simple gift of faith which God gave to me almost without me even knowing it. He has shown me through literally thousands of experiences over many years that the life lived by Jesus and recorded in the gospels is *the* model rescue life of the fire service. To be humble and yet maintain a sense of pride...to be great by making yourself the least...to rise above petty personality conflicts on your fire department team in order to encourage every member to rise to their potential for the sake of the mission...to see the most unworthy person on the street through the lens of God’s compassion...to be elbow-deep into human trauma and carnage – and yet trust that you were supposed to be there, to see what you saw, to do what you did...to endlessly train in order to be most prepared for whatever may be required to rescue those you are called to serve...to face risk and danger to personal health and safety for the sake of those you don’t even know...to be broken by the pain and regret of a line-of-duty-death and yet eventually rise up again to carry on. Through these and endlessly more experiences it is the gift of faith which opens our eyes to see God at work in our lives. It is faith which strengthens our hands and feet to fulfill our calling. And at the end of every day, it is faith which helps us to trust that through all of our human frailties in a very imperfect firefighting world, that God’s will was done. In fact the Bible says that, ***“This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith”***.

You may not hear a voice like I did – obviously I know that was a very subjective experience – but yet the same invitation to faith is open to you. The pathway to a depth of spiritual meaning and power in your fire service work is by faith to walk with Jesus, allowing Him to lead you into His experience of selflessness and compassion for a broken world in need of your rescue efforts. If I can be of any help or encouragement to you or your fire department, please let me know.

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

## Application Period Open for 2015 Globe Gear Giveaway

*Globe, DuPont Protection Technologies, and  
NVFC partnering to give away 52 sets of turnouts*

Globe, DuPont Protection Technologies, and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) are partnering to help resource-constrained fire departments obtain needed turnout gear. The application period for the 2015 Globe Gear Giveaway program is now open, and eligible departments can apply for four sets of CLASSIX® turnout gear for their members. Thirteen department awards will be made, for a total of 52 sets of gear.

"We are very pleased to be partnering with Globe and DuPont Protection Technologies on this outstanding program to help better equip and prepare local volunteer fire departments," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "Many volunteer departments are struggling to provide adequate protection to their firefighters, and this program has a significant impact on assisting those most in need. We thank Globe and DuPont Protection Technologies for giving back so generously to those who serve."

"At Globe, firefighter safety is not just our business – it's our passion," said Rob Freese, Globe Manufacturing Company Senior VP of Marketing. "We're grateful for the service provided by volunteer firefighters across the country and glad that we can improve their safety and performance with the most advanced turnout gear."

"DuPont is proud to be working together with Globe to support the NVFC again this year on this much needed gear donation program. With our strong commitment to help protect our protectors we want to help ensure that they have the right gear to focus on their job and their communities. Working with Globe we can make the best for the best – 100% of Globe's turnout gear is made with DuPont™ Nomex® and Kevlar® fibers providing proven protection and top performance," said Lisa Roessler, North American Marketing Manager, DuPont Protection Technologies.

The Globe Gear Giveaway program launched in 2012 to celebrate Globe's 125th anniversary. As the world's largest and most trusted manufacturer of structural firesuits in the world, Globe wanted to give back to the fire service and enhance the safety and readiness of our nation's first responders. To date, the program has provided 247 sets of new turnout gear to 43 departments in need to help them improve the safety and protection of their firefighters.

To be eligible to apply for four sets of Globe gear, departments must meet the following requirements:

- Be all-volunteer or mostly-volunteer (over 50%)
- Serve a population of 25,000 or less
- Be located in the U.S. or Canada and legally organized under state/province law
- Demonstrate a need for the gear
- Department or person applying must be a member of the NVFC. If you are not a member, join at [www.nvfc.org/beyourbest](http://www.nvfc.org/beyourbest).

View full criteria and apply for Globe gear today at [www.nvfc.org/globe-gear-donation](http://www.nvfc.org/globe-gear-donation). The deadline to apply is June 1, 2015. Winners will be announced monthly between July and December.

### About Globe

Firefighters need to be prepared to perform at their peak, on every call. That's why Globe delivers the most advanced, best-fitting, and longest lasting protection by listening to our customers, creating breakthrough designs, and applying the engineering skills of the nation's most trusted turnout gear manufacturer. Globe turnout gear is designed to protect you, move with you, and improve your performance. It's athletic gear for firefighters. Learn more at [www.globeturnoutgear.com](http://www.globeturnoutgear.com).

### About DuPont Protection Technologies

DuPont Protection Technologies (NYSE: DD) has been bringing world-class science and engineering to the global marketplace in the form of innovative products, materials, and services since 1802. The company believes that by collaborating with customers, governments, NGOs, and thought leaders we can help find solutions to such global challenges as providing enough healthy food for people everywhere, decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, and protecting life and the environment. For additional information about DuPont Protection Technologies and its commitment to inclusive innovation, please visit <http://www.dupont.com>.

### About the NVFC

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides invaluable tools, resources, programs, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Learn more at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org).





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## Sleep: A Nightmare for Firefighters

The switch to Daylight Saving may have been a wakeup call for many firefighters; if losing that hour of sleep of sleep left you even more tired and distracted, you may be one of hundreds of first responders in danger of serious health issues from lack of sleep and exhaustion.

While “springing forward” pushes the body’s clock ahead just one hour, that lost hour of sleep is linked to a spike in heart attacks, 10 to 15 percent rise in traffic accidents and lower test scores for students within the first two weeks of the time change. The effects are amplified for shift workers, especially those working overnights, like firefighters.

### Research Warnings

A study by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) warned that sleep deprivation among firefighters may be responsible for the disproportionately higher fireground injury rates observed in the early morning hours. It also showed that fatigue when driving may increase the risk of crashes following work hours. The switch to DST appears to exacerbate the problem.

Recent research from Brigham and Women’s Hospital warns that sleep disorders such as sleep apnea, insomnia, shift work disorder and restless leg syndrome are common among firefighters. The study found these conditions are linked to a higher risk of car crashes and chronic health issues such as heart disease and diabetes. Auto wrecks and heart disease are the two leading causes of death for firefighters.

### Not You?

The Brigham and Women’s study tried to break down the image of the invincible hero. Researchers talked with 7,000 firefighters from 66 departments across the U.S., evaluating them for common sleep disorders and other health issues. They were also questioned about the likelihood of falling asleep at the wheel, if they had any auto accidents as well as any injuries or close calls while driving. Almost 40 percent were diagnosed with a sleep disorder and those firefighters were more likely to have been involved in a crash and also more likely to report having fallen asleep behind the wheel. While more research needs to be conducted, here are some actions anyone who is sleep deprived should do:

- Set a consistent bedtime and stick to that schedule
- Don’t consume stimulants like caffeine, nicotine and alcohol near bedtime
- Exercise can promote good sleep, just not before bedtime
- Avoid heavy foods and big meals close to bedtime
- Employ relaxing activities near bedtime like reading, relaxing or meditation
- Find time for naps or uninterrupted sleep, even for a short period

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## The Bulletin

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And, those of you who work hard and need to relieve stress can enter the Work Hard/Play Hard contest for the chance to win a customized Harley-Davidson® FLHP Road King or \$25,000. Get all the details at <http://go.calcas.com/harley>.

Remember, getting a good night's sleep and finding more time to relax can make you a better first responder and a better person to the ones you love.

This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to the IFA with exclusive benefits, free ID Defense and the Fallen Hero Survivor Premium. Call today to learn what discounts you might qualify for at 1.800.800.9410 or [www.calcas.com/IFA](http://www.calcas.com/IFA).

Sources for this article:

<http://www.iafc.org/sleep>

<http://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-disorders-problems>

[http://brighamandwomens.org/about\\_bwh/publicaffairs/news/pressreleases/PressRelease.aspx?sub=0&PageID=1921](http://brighamandwomens.org/about_bwh/publicaffairs/news/pressreleases/PressRelease.aspx?sub=0&PageID=1921)

## Illinois Firefighter's Annual Memorial Service

The memorial service is held on Sunday morning, during the annual conference in October.

Please send all names of active and retired personnel from departments that have passed away from September 1, 2014 - September 1, 2015. The names and department info can be emailed to Joe Heim at [edfire18@yahoo.com](mailto:edfire18@yahoo.com).

The IFA reads the names of ALL firefighters from the State of Illinois that have passed away during the year, at their annual conference Memorial Service. If you know of ANY firefighter that has passed away, even from other departments, please let us know. We would like to honor them at the memorial service. The names can be sent to us throughout the year and we can keep track of them to be read at the service.

Thanks,

Joe Heim, Memorial Chairman, Illinois Firefighter's Association

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