

The Bulletin



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 76, Number 2

March - April 2022

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

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION PRESS CONFERENCE SUPPORTING THE \$500 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TAX CREDIT



**IFA PRESIDENT SWAN ADDRESSING THE MEDIA IN
SUPPORT OF THE \$500 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER
TAX CREDIT**

The Bulletin

March - April 2022 Volume 76 Number 2

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Please send email addresses and articles to:

The Bulletin

Kerry Federer, Editor

PO Box 77

Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Office 618-882-4783

Fax 618-882-7287

Cell 618-830-3961

editor@illinoisfirefighters.org

www.illinoisfirefighters.org

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Amboy School | 25-27 |
| Amboy Training Dinner | 16 |
| Chaplain's Rack | 20 |
| FM Global Grants | 19 |
| IFA Partners with SAVVIK | 6 |
| Legislative Update | 4 |
| OFSM Update | 10 |
| Motel 6 Discount | 22 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| SAVVIK Buying Group | 7 |
| Whatch What You Say | 12 |

Index of Advertisers

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Alexis | 8 |
| California Casualty | 9, 11 |
| Dinges | 10 |
| Exposure Reduction | 5 |
| FirstNet | 23 |
| Illinois Fire Safety Alliance | 11 |
| Gateway Foundation | 14 |
| NIFSAB | 17 |
| NVFC | 15 |
| SCBAS | 18 |
| T-Mobile | 24 |
| University of Chicago | 23 |
| VFIS | 9 |

IFA Officers, Directors, Support Staff and Consultants

Officers

President (2022)

John Swan
23288 Green River Rd.
Colona, IL 61241
309.792.3231-station
309.792.3250-fax (station)
309.314.0939-cell
john.swan@colonafire.com

Vice-President (2022)

Terry Ford
6404 Godfrey Rd
Godfrey, IL 62035
618.977.2843-cell
tford9@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer (2023)

Kerry Federer
70 Arbor Crest Dr.
Highland, IL 62249-3899
618.654.3852-home
618.830.3961-cell
kdfederer@gmail.com

IFA Office

PO Box 77
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
Phone 618-882-4783
Fax 618-882-7287
editor@illinoisfirefighters.org

Directors

Roger Agpawa (2022)
16629 Plainview Dr
Markham IL 60426
708-210-1320
ragpawa@countryclubhills.org

Ed Allsman (2024)
1314 Gonterman St
South Roxana, IL 62087
618.781.4630-cell
618.254.1088-station
618.254.8802-fax (station)
callsman@srfire.org

Mitch Althoff (2023)
415 W Kentucky Ave
Effingham IL 62401
217-821-1754
mitchalthoff@yahoo.com

Jeff Bryant Sr. (2025)
PO Box 165
Amboy, IL 61310
815.994.6184-cell
jbryant9962@gmail.com

Joe Heim (2025)
341 Gramercy Street
East Dubuque, IL 61025
563.599.3356-cell
edfire18@yahoo.com

Rosemarie Arvia-Malone (2024)
16056 Crystal Creek Dr
Apt 3A
Orland Park IL 60462
708.600.9896
raarvia@yahoo.com

Joseph Mandarin (2025)
24403 Arrowhead Dr.
Manhattan, IL 60442
815.680.6020 home
708.935.2893-cell
Corky2700@aol.com

Curtis Miller (2023)
3011 Dalmation Rd
Pinckneyville IL 62274
618.237.0900-cell
pvfire19@gmail.com

Ronald Mulach (2022)
304 Wolf
P.O. Box 26
Hamel, IL 62046
618.633.2376-home/fax
618.973.5871-cell
samrjm10@aol.com

Edward Myers (2023)
2171 E. 221st Street
Sauk Village, IL 60411
708.983.9102-cell
708.758.2225 xt. 430-work
708.753.0901-work fax
acmyers502@comcast.net

Bill Offerman (2024)
600 Beattie St.
Elwood, IL 60421
815.423.6967-home
815.423.5224-station
815.423.6323-fax
Chief.offerman@gmail.com

Robert Reason (2022)
55 North Street
East Peoria, IL 61611
309.265.6472-cell
309.699.5252-fax
breason@sbcglobal.net

Kevin Schott (2023)
1710 N Harrison
Litchfield, IL 62056
217.971.8196-cell
kschott316@gmail.com

Jeff Stuck (2025)
1002 Jeffrey Dr
Carterville, IL 62918
618.925.4915-cell
stuck915@hotmail.com

Support Staff and Consultants

Chaplain

Chaplain Josh Ehrler
157 Century Hill Dr
Oregon IL 60101
608-234-3793
prjoshehrler@gmail.com

Legislative Lobbyist

Margaret Vaughn
9211 Waterfall Glen Blvd.
Darien, IL 60561
217.280.0206-cell
630.908.7311-fax
mvaughn@springnet1.com

Attorney

Shawn Flaherty
OBKCG&D, LTD
303 N. Main St.
Elburn, IL 60119
630.365.6441 Phone
630.365.6451 Fax
sflaherty@ottosenbritz.com
www.ottosenbritz.com

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

Over the last two years, I can say now it looks as if the Covid pandemic is slowing down and we're getting back to some resemblance of normalcy. We will continue to be vigilant in our responses and everyday activities.

In my last article, I spoke about communications and how important it was for continuity within your department. I would like now to address the need to maintain great teamwork from the chief down to the boots on the ground. As you know, we work as a team and not as individuals. This is so important when working in life threatening events, whether it is on the fire ground or elsewhere. Not being part of a team can lead to freelancing and safety issues. It should be understood that safety is the main objective besides mitigating the threat. This blends right in with communications. You can expand the idea as a team member to partnering and drawing alliances outside the Fire House. This goes with mutual aid with other fire departments and working together as one. You should know your neighboring departments and get to be able to work as one on the fire ground. This begins with the incident command system and understanding the span of control and continuity of command. When we work together and function as one, we all have a better chance of coming back home safe and sound.

You should incorporate a team atmosphere into the public sector also, take advantage of letting your residents know your strengths and weaknesses. Draw them in with good communications so they can understand that they can be part of an outside team. This is really important when you go to ask them for help. Whether it is with a referendum that needs to get passed or making it to the next pancake breakfast. It is also important to stay in touch with your local legislative representatives. They need to know your needs and to be able to keep up with the changing environment in the fire service. Make them part of your team, they know how important we are to the public. They also know partnering with you, only helps them in the long run.

We are in a critical need in the fire service for volunteers in areas all around this State. Working in a team approach can also help in solving some of our problems. Take advantage of working with outside groups and associations that follow your mission. We have fourteen different Fire Associations in Illinois, all working together as a team. With this being said, there is a lot of power in one voice on any issue that needs addressed. Being a team member on the National scale is also very important. Do you belong to the NVFC? The National Volunteer Fire Council plays a big part in being a team member in the Fire Service. Please join them if you're not already a member.

They have been our advocate of ours in supporting and securing grants for the Fire Service on the national level. They have been a leader also in helping with recruitment and retention of Firefighters. If your department is not signed into the Make-Me-Firefighters portal online, please get it done. I only touched on a few things of importance in regards to being part of a team player. Your personal involvement as a team player is the most important of being a Firefighter.

"Train Smart, Be Safe"

God Bless

John Swan President IFA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

IFA Holds Capitol Press Conference for Passage of Volunteer Tax Credit

SB 3027 which will provide a \$500 tax credit to volunteer emergency workers, who receive no more than \$10,000 for their service, passed the Senate unanimously but was hitting a road block in the House. Though between the House and Senate, we have over 50 co-sponsors, because a few state agencies had expressed their concern to the Chairman of the House Revenue Committee, about implementation and it looked like it hit a road block and was stalled. However chief Senate Sponsor Chris Belt (D-Swansea) is extremely devoted to its passage, he held a press conference in his district at the Signal Hill FPD in Belleville on March 18th and I organized another press conference at the Capitol on Wed March 23rd on behalf of IFA and invited all legislators to participate. We had wonderful participation from legislators (17 of which came to the press conference) and great turnout from the media. The purpose of the press conference was not only to promote the passage of the bill but to educate the public on the dire shortage of volunteers and the risk to public safety it is creating. Because of the heightened public awareness of the issue, a hearing on the issue was finally allowed in the House Revenue Committee for the first time in years. Special thanks to our Chief House Sponsor Lance Yednock (D-Ottawa) who presented the bill. I testified on behalf of IFA along with Fairview Chief Brad White and East Dundee Chief Jason Parthun. A productive meeting between the IL Dept of Revenue, OSFM, myself, and several fire chiefs was held the day after the House hearing and at press time, is follow-up meeting is scheduled for several days later. We are hoping the legislation can be included in the final budget package.

IFA is extremely grateful to the support of SB 3027's co-sponsors below:

Senate Sponsors

Sen. Christopher Belt - Doris Turner - Patrick J. Joyce - Neil Anderson - Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas, Jil Tracy, Melinda Bush, Donald P. DeWitte, David Koehler, Win Stoller, Brian W. Stewart, Dale Fowler, Julie A. Morrison, Cristina Castro, Suzy Glowiak Hilton, Meg Loughran Cappel, Karina Villa, Rachelle Crowe, Emil Jones, III, Laura M. Murphy, Jason Plummer, Sally J. Turner, Jacqueline Y. Collins, Chapin Rose, Darren Bailey, Dave Syverson, Adriane Johnson and Ram Villivalam

House Sponsors

Rep. Lance Yednock - Thomas M. Bennett - Norine K. Hammond - LaToya Greenwood, Kathleen Willis, Katie Stuart, Dave Severin, Michael Kelly, Michael Halpin, Sue Scherer, Deb Conroy, Anthony DeLuca, Daniel Didech, Amy Elik, Dave Vella, Jackie Haas, Andrew S. Chesney, Dan Caulkins, Adam Niemerg, Bradley Stephens, Daniel Swanson, Tony McCombie and Lindsey LaPointe

HB 4461- Payment to FPD After Disconnection by Municipalities

Sponsored by Rep. Larry Walsh (D-Joliet) and Sen John Connor (D-Romeoville), this legislation addresses the issue of problems with FPD collecting money owed by municipalities required after disconnection of a district territory. If such payment is not made within 30 days following a written demand by the fire protection district entitled to the payment or which causes a fire protection district to incur an expense in order to collect the amount to which it is entitled shall, in addition to the amount due, be responsible to reimburse the fire protection district for all costs incurred by the fire protection district in collecting the amount due, including, but limited to legal fees and costs. **HB 4461 passed the House and a Senate hearing is scheduled.**

Fireworks Scare

Since January I have been working against the 3 following fireworks all of which I lead the successful efforts to beat back. I appreciate the great response from the fire service to the Calls for Actions I have put out against the fireworks legislation. It makes a big difference when legislators hear from you!.

The Bulletin

1. **SB 3039 sponsored by Sen Tom Cullerton** (D-Villa Park) to remove consumer fireworks, display fireworks and flame effect fireworks from the definition of 1.3 fireworks. The bill does not make sense from a technical aspect and goes against regulatory standards however when I spoke to Sen Cullerton, he said there was no lobbying group behind it but rather an idea he had wanted to push on his own but had Sen Rose take the lead for the past several years. After an in depth conversation with him he and calls from his local chiefs he decided not to advance it. He has since stepped down from the Senate.
2. **HB 2898 – sponsored by Rep. Rita.** This is the bill that passed the House Consumer Protection Committee last year, being pushed by TNT Fireworks AKA the fictitious “US Fireworks Safety Commission” (in order to fool legislators) and we were able to prevent being called for final House vote. Because it had passed the Consumer Protection Committee last year, it was allowed back onto the House floor. The sponsor was working very hard during House deadline week to pass it and picked up several co-sponsors. After I sent a blast to legislators exposing the bill to what it really was, one of the representatives showed it to the sponsor and he backed down and did not call it. But it was a nail bitter till late Thursday night and I appreciate all the calls from the fire service.
3. **SB 2170- Sponsored by Sen. Munoz-Sen Anderson** The language is identical to HB 2898 and was defeated by one vote in the Public Safety Committee last year. Sen. Anderson had been the main sponsor but Munoz had taken over sponsorship back in January because TNT Fireworks continues to have a lobbying firm in Illinois. The bill was given life by being put into the Senate Public Safety Committee with an extended deadline but after he received a tons of calls from the fire service and meetings with him to explain how bad it really was, he decided not to advance it.

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

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

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

Illinois Firefighters Association- IFA Member

Welcome to the Savvik Buying Group!

Savvik Member # 28828

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Member Login Instructions:

Go to <https://savvik.com>

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

About SAVVIK Buying Group

Our Beginnings

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

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

Where We're Going

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

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

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

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

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Office of the State Fire Marshal

**A message from Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez**

Spring is the season of change and also marks the return of Daylight Saving Time. This serves as a biannual reminder to test, inspect and replace all broken smoke/CO alarms in our homes. We continue to see too many headlines that note the fire department found non-working or no smoke alarms in a residence that had a fire. It's simple, working smoke alarms save lives! The materials used in today's construction of homes and other contents are synthetic in nature which means they burn hotter and quicker. These materials also put off toxic fumes, which increase the danger of inhalation injuries and likelihood of succumbing to the smoke. If you didn't check or inspect your smoke/CO alarms to ensure they are working or expired when you changed your clocks, take a few minutes and do that today. If you find a broken alarm, don't wait, replace them! Fire doesn't discriminate, it can happen at any time! It could happen to you, your neighbor or a loved one. Also, take a few moments and review your families fire escape plans and hold a drill. Have your kids identify two ways out of each room of the house and identify your meeting place outside of the home.

March is Mental Health Awareness Month. Far too many of our brothers and sisters are suffering in silence, or worse, taking their own lives because they are facing a mental battle. The OSFM has added resources on our website (sfm.illinois.gov, in the resources tab) that have links to organizations that can help you through any issues you are facing. Don't be ashamed or afraid to talk about your problems with someone or to reach out for help. Our jobs are stressful, and we help people on their worst day, so why do we hesitate to help ourselves? We are only as strong as our mental health, and this should be just as much a priority as our physical health.

March is also Women's History Month. The OSFM will be celebrating and highlighting women in the fire service. Make sure to follow us on facebook and twitter, along with subscribing to our YouTube channel. The OSFM encourages any female who is thinking about joining the fire service to reach out to someone and find a mentor. We need more females in the fire service community. There are many organizations out there that have ways to help find a mentor that can help guide you through. This mentor can help you to become a firefighter and then help guide you through your whole career. Don't let any barriers stand in your way, if you want to achieve something go and do it! Visit our website throughout the month as we will be visiting with a few females from across the state and will share their stories.

The OSFM thanks you for your continued hard work and dedication to the citizens of the communities you serve and to the Illinois Fire Service.



First Responders! Get Away From It All With California Casualty's Work Hard/Play Hard "\$10,000 Camping" Giveaway

California Casualty wants to thank the Illinois Firefighters Association first responders for all that they do, including the seemingly impossible efforts needed to overcome the challenges of recent times, California Casualty launches its 2022 Work Hard/Play Hard "\$10,000 Camping" giveaway.

The contest invites all interested firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement to enter to win \$10,000 to purchase outdoor gear that lets them disconnect from the hectic, fast-paced daily grind and reconnect with friends, family and nature.

It's a prize intended to give one lucky first responder the funds needed to have the peaceful, restful, outdoor quality time they all deserve.

Firefighters, EMTs and Law Enforcement officers can enter at www.policefiregiveaway.com/rm. The deadline to enter is November 18, 2022.

"First responders do the hard work keeping our communities safe," said California Casualty Sr. Vice President Mike McCormick. "We owe the dedicated professionals who protect our communities this *thank you* for all that they do."

Previous Work Hard/Play Hard sweepstakes from California Casualty have awarded public safety personnel ATVs, DeWalt Tools, motorcycles, and cash. Past winners include an Oregon Police Officer, Colorado Sheriff's Captain, Firefighters from California, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania, and California Peace Officers.

Founded in 1914 and headquartered in San Mateo, California with service centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty provides public safety employees and volunteers across the country auto and home insurance with special rates, generous discounts and unique benefits not available to the general public. Learn more about California Casualty at www.calcas.com or call 1.800.800.9410.



PSA: Watch What You Say in Closed Session!

by John Motylinski
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

The Open Meetings Act affords local governments a degree of privacy in discussing sensitive topics. 5 ILCS 120/2(c). Indeed, subjects involving specific personnel, collective bargaining, real estate transactions, and litigation (among others) can be discussed in closed session. *Id.* Although these sessions must be recorded, state law offers robust protections against public disclosure of closed session discussions. For instance, closed session tapes are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, nor are they typically able to be discovered in Illinois lawsuits.

Nevertheless, what you say in closed session may still become public in at least two situations.

First, only discussion pertaining to topics authorized to be discussed in closed session will enjoy confidentiality. As part of their motion to go into closed session, public bodies must announce the gist of what they will talk about (e.g., discipline or compensation of a specific employee, pending litigation, etc.). Yet, sometimes, local governments will talk about other subjects in closed session. Other times, localities will rely on an inapt closed session exception. Discussions in these situations are not protected and, if pressed, the local government may have to disclose the verbatim records relating to those discussions.

Such was the fate of the public body in *City of Bloomington v. Raoul*, 2021 IL App (4th) 190539. There, the Bloomington City Council went into closed session to discuss termination of an intergovernmental agreement with a neighboring community. The Council cited the litigation exception, but an appellate court disagreed with that determination. There was no pending or probable litigation arising from the agreement; at most, there was a remote possibility that a lawsuit would be filed on that subject. So, the Council violated the Open Meetings Act by closing the meeting on that topic, which meant the verbatim record became public record.

For this reason, it is not only important to keep conversations to bona fide closed session topic(s), it is imperative not to assume that all comments made in closed session will forever be kept secret.

Second, even where a public body follows all the rules, closed session tapes may be compelled by federal court subpoenas. As noted above, closed session verbatim records cannot be discovered in Illinois state court lawsuits. See 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e). Nor can they be brought to light via the Freedom of Information Act. *Id.* Both of these protections stem from *Illinois'* Open Meetings Act. *Id.* However, federal courts play by different rules, and do not recognize the Act's confidentiality provisions.

The recent case of *Cage v. Harper* illustrates this dynamic. No. 17-CV-07621, 2019 WL 11704171, at *1 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 16, 2019). There, a former employee filed a federal lawsuit against his former employer—a state university. The university's board of trustees had properly entered closed session under the personnel exception to discuss terminating the employee. The employee ultimately filed a motion asking the federal court to require the board to produce its closed session tapes. The board argued that the Open Meetings Act protected the recordings, but the court disagreed. It noted "federal courts are not bound to apply state-law privileges" in federal cases due to the Constitution's supremacy clause. Nor did the court "see how the public interest would be endangered by disclosure of the requested information." In the court's view, if the employee was correct about the circumstances leading to his firing, "the public interest would likely be served by bringing the behind-the-scenes machinations of the Board to light." Therefore, the court required the board to turn over its otherwise confidential closed session tapes.

The upshot is that closed session discussions are not absolutely immune from disclosure. To the contrary, the confidentiality afforded to these conversations is fragile. If there is any defect in the closed session proceedings, then closed session recordings may not be protected. And if a federal court is involved, it might compel disclosure of closed session tapes even if a public body did everything right. For these reasons, it is vital that you watch what you say in closed session.

John E. Motylinski is an associate with the law firm of Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in Naperville. John graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Illinois College of Law and holds an undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He focuses in the areas of local government, municipal, public pension, and labor and employment law.

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

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

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Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



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

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

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

Share the Load™ Program

nvfc.org/help

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

Directory of Behavioral Health Professionals

nvfc.org/phfd

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

Psychologically Healthy Fire Departments Toolkit

nvfc.org/phfd

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





AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT

25 N. East Ave.

P.O. Box 165

Amboy, IL 61310

Phone (815) 857-2325 * Fax (815) 857-2066

Chief Jeff Bryant Sr.

BFFA and Amboy Fire Protection Hosts:

Staging a Comeback: How an Organization and Community Evolved After a Tragedy

April 8th, 2022 6pm with dinner

Chief Garrison will walk through the events of July 10, 2018, the loss of not a firefighter and its effect on the department and community. Garrison will discuss the resilience of his organization and their commitment to building a better model fire department and honor the sacrifice made that day.

Chief Garrison's professional fire service career spans over thirty years. Beginning as a volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic with the Libertyville Fire Department, Chief Garrison enjoyed a 21 year full-time career with the Lake Forest Fire Department retiring at the rank of Deputy Chief.

Chief Garrison led his community through the tragedy of a horrific gas main explosion which levelled a significant portion of Sun Prairie's downtown in 2018. This incident caused transformational change in both the department and the community and has caused unexpected ripples of change in every aspect of how the department exists requiring new thoughts, building new relationships, and active management to help the wider fire department community make it through.

NO COST for Attending: RSVP via email: jeffbryant@amboyfire.com

If you have any questions, please call me at 815-994-6184 or email me at jeffbryant@amboyfire.com

Respectfully,

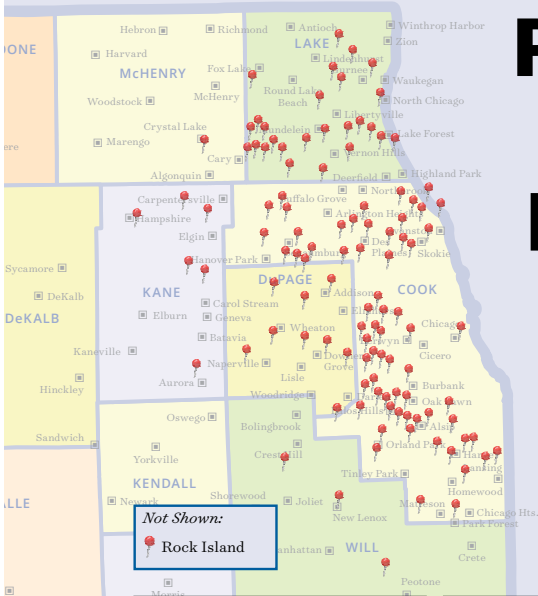
Jeff Bryant, Sr.

Jeff Bryant

Fire Chief

"Everyone Goes Home"

Our Mission is to protect lives and preserve the property of all citizens of Amboy, their guests, and travelers coming through our community, in the most professional, courteous and efficient manner possible.



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| Barrington Countryside FPD | Glenside FPD | Matteson | Riverside |
| Barrington FPD | Glenwood | Mount Prospect | Riverwoods |
| Bedford Park | Green Oaks | Mundelein | Rock Island |
| Bellwood | Gurnee | New Lenox FPD | Rolling Meadows |
| Berkeley | Hanover Park | Newport Township FPD | Roselle |
| Berwyn | Harwood Heights | Niles | Roselle FPD |
| Bloomingtondale | Hazel Crest | Norridge | Schaumburg |
| Bloomingtondale FPD | Hickory Hills | North Maine FPD | Skokie |
| Blue Island | Highland Park | Northbrook | South Holland |
| Bridgeview | Highwood | Norwood Park FPD | St. Charles |
| Brookfield | Hodgkins* | Oak Brook | Streamwood |
| Burlington Community FPD | Hoffman Estates | Oak Forest | Sunnycrest FPD (Flossmoor) |
| Carol Stream | Homewood | Oak Park | Vernon Hills |
| Central Stickney FPD | Huntley FPD | Orland FPD | Warren-Waukegan FPD |
| Chicago | Indian Creek (Countryside FPD) | Palatine | Wauconda FPD |
| Chicago Ridge | Justice | Palatine Rural FPD | West Dundee |
| Clarendon Hills | La Grange Park | Palos FPD | Westchester |
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| Countryside | Lake Bluff | Palos Hills | Westmont |
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| Deerfield | Lake Zurich Rural FPD | Park Ridge | Wood Dale |
| Deerfield-Bannockburn FPD | Lansing | Plainfield FPD | |
| Des Plaines | Lemont FPD | | |
| Elgin | Libertyville | | |
| Elk Grove Village | Libertyville FPD | | |
| Elmwood Park | Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD | | |
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FPD – Fire Protection District

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FM Global



Fire Prevention Grants

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

Tom Lia NIFSI

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

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

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

From the Chaplain's Rack

IFA Chaplain Josh Ehrler



The tone went off on my pager, breaking my concentration. I was in the middle of something long forgotten when dispatch called for our ambulance. The report sounded off; the way one can pick up on vibes across radio waves. Not a DOA, not exactly an unresponsive; it was an injury.

Being a small-town pastor, I knew the address. Because my senses were tuned up, I decided to head toward the scene. On my way, which only took minutes, the call had escalated to needing a landing zone. By the time I was on scene, our ambulance was enroute to the LZ. I was greeted by a friend of their family with, "I'm so glad you're here."

It can sometimes take me a few words to justify the need for a fire chaplain on our department. I'm not a trained firefighter, but I attend drills. I know how to drive nearly all our equipment and I can get our pump going. Yet, my role is not to put out fires or extricate victims. If I ride in a rig, I don't always follow the seat assignment. I probably seem to float around scenes disconnected from a company. I participate in officers' meetings and am not a tactical officer. I have a white helmet and am not a chief.

So, what does a fire chaplain do? What is our purpose? Why would your fire department need a fire chaplain?

Over the coming year, I'm going to offer ideas of why your firehouse needs a fire chaplain. It is a unique role and a vital one. And not just because we chappies are available for psych-social-emotional support.

Don't get me wrong, that is necessary. I hope we're getting past the old smoke eater, suck-it-up days when trauma and mental illness were only treated with alcohol, divorce, and addiction. I say "hope" because, looking at the statistics, we are still at risk of suicide, addiction, and myriad signs of traumatic stress. There is much work to be done. Fire chaplains can aid in that work.

Along with that, fire chaplains can offer your department support with on-scene logistics, information gathering, and crowd control. We keep the path clear and the scene easier to maneuver for fire/EMS. We can calm stressful situations and bring balance to chaotic moments. We can lead behavior health drills.

Let's start, then, with what is possibly the most controversial topic. Religious affiliation. I am Christian. My badge and lapel insignia bear crosses. My full-time job is to be a Lutheran pastor.

Yet one thing fire chaplains cannot do, and should not do, is invite people to believe what we believe. I almost never pray on scene or in the firehouse, unless specifically asked to do so. I never offer prayer as a form of crisis care. Chaplains can be Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, any religion. Our faith orients our work and drives our compassion, but a fire chaplain is not there to bring people into their religion. The cross on my badge is meant to show people that I am not an officer, I am a unique role in the department. I am there for them, to aid them in a time of crisis, and to stand with them through the ordeal. The cross helps others find me in a sea of turnout gear, like a white helmet ID's the chief.

More on that later. Stay tuned as we consider what it would mean to add a fire chaplain to your ranks. Until then, take care of yourself, take care of your company, watch out for each other.

Safe Call Now (24-7 crisis hotline for first responders)

206-459-3020

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

800-273-8255

Chaplain Josh's Phone

608-234-3793

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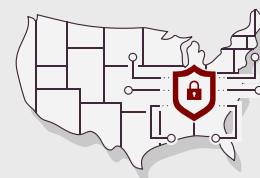
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Amboy Fire & Extrication School

April 9th, 2022

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

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

Opening Ceremony held at Amboy Fire Station

Start Time: 8 AM - Registration starts at 7 AM

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

K-101 - Rapid Fire Keynote Lectures

Chief Rick Lasky (retired Lewisville, TX), Chief John Salka (retired FDNY), Chief Craig Haigh (Hanover Park), Lt. Tim Klett (retired FDNY), FF Jason Patton (Riviera Beach, FL/Fire Department Chronicles)

This class will be a break-out session of all listed speakers for this class, and then to conclude with a panel of all the speakers. The speakers will be discussing multiple administrative, and operational subjects.

****Classroom only, no gear needed****

F-102 - “Drop It Like It’s Hot” - First 30 minute successful fire ground w/ 30 minute bottles.

Lt. Joe Solcani (Chicago Fire Department), Robert Williams (Chicago Fire Department), Joe Santos (Chicago Fire Department), Kevin Schulz, Jason Greer (Bloomington Fire)

****Full gear, SCBA, & spare bottle needed****

F-103 - First Rung - 3rd Annual

Lt Michael Kucaba (Northwest Homer) & Assistant Chief Scott Wittenauer (Amboy Fire)

This class delivers hands-on live fire training in several different scenarios based on the student’s experience level. Rotations will include basic SCBA, Hose Handling & Advancement, Ground Ladders, and Search & Rescue. Instructors from several departments will bring different ideas and solutions for each evolution so the firefighter can sharpen and/or learn new skills. This will be an INTENSIVE HANDS ON CLASS

****Full gear, SCBA, spare bottle needed****

F-104 - Firefighter Primary Search Training - Searching as if their life depends on it, because it does.

Instructors: Jeff Bryant Jr - Aurora, IL & FireNuggets, Nick Ledin - Eau Claire, WI & FireNuggets, Jeff Rothmeier - Milwaukee, WI & FireNuggets, Matt Pieper - Hutisford, WI, Matt Acuff - Aurora, IL, Taylor Quinnell - Eau Claire, WI, Lane Zahourek - Cedar Rapids, IA”

****Full gear, SCBA, spare bottle needed****

F-105 - Basic Rope Technique and principles of sensible rope technology for the fire service.

Paul Benn - State & National Certified Rope Rescue Technician

****Helmet, gloves, safety glasses, hard toe shoes needed****

F-106 - Engine Ops/Pump Ops - Mastering the Panel and Rural Water/Ops Drafting - Successful tender operations, keep the water flowing.

Chief Joel Hallstrom (North Park Fire), Captain Jeremy Billeb (Sterling Fire)

****Helmet, gloves, safety glasses****

F-108 - Basic Wildland Firefighter- Mastering the Tools.

The Bulletin

Chris Bulta (Amboy Fire) & Jason Sartin (IL DNR)

****PPE, no airpack****

F-109 - Fire Service grants, funding, and excess property.

Jason Sartin (IL DNR) & Jeff Bryant (Chief Amboy Fire)

****Classroom only, no gear needed****

F-110 - Searching in the Skies & the Waterways - Drone & Rover utilization, and awareness.

Stephen Baxley (Airworx Drone)

****Classroom only, no gear needed****

F-111 - How to Protect your Firefighter through specking the correct gear, as well as cleaning and maintenance.

John Day (Lion Fire Gear Metro Account Manager)

****Classroom only, no gear needed****

F-112 - Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts - Trustee & legal training

Attorney Shawn Flaherty (Ottosen Law)

****Classroom only, no gear needed****

R- 201 - Street Smart Extrication - Maximize your extrication efforts while staying safe on the scene. Course is designed to increase speed and efficiency on an extrication scene.

Captain Mike Huffman (Harlem-Roscoe), Bill Pucket (Retired Deputy Chief South Beloit), & Jack Redieski (Retired Captain South Beloit)

****Full gear, no SCBA needed****

R-202 - Equipment & training requirements for firefighters engaged in water rescue operations - Are you Prepared?

Chief Ryan Buskohl (Dixon City Fire)

****No gear needed****

R-203 - Agricultural rescue training - grain bin, auger, & other entrapment incidents.

Mark Baker (Stateline Farm Rescue)

****Full gear needed, no SCBA****

E-301 - Kids & Sports Injury - Understanding sports injuries & how they occur, BLS & ALS treatment for specific sports injuries, will include injuries on the playground and on the field.

In addition, Managing Fire Firefighter Injuries, Treating Injured from Seatbelts, Responding to Kids in Hot Cars, Kids into Household Chemicals.,

Ken Bouvier (Retired Deputy Chief, New Orleans EMS)

****Classroom only, no gear needed****

E-302 - "Don't Be the Target" - Skill needed to survive during an active shooter incident, and how to make educated life saving decisions.

Tony Celletti (Paramedic Program Coordinator, Advocate Sherman Hospital- GEAEMS)

****Classroom only, no gear needed****

E-303 - Firefighter Psychological Support - How to cope after life threatening situations, before the pain becomes self destructive.

Sara Gura (The Self Care Path)

****Classroom only, no gear needed****

Brotherhood Event- following school held at the Amboy Fire Station

Amboy Fire & Extrication School 2022 Registration Form

Saturday, April 9th, 2022 at Amboy Fire Station, 25 N. East Ave Amboy IL 61310

Class Fees: BFFA Member \$75 / non -BFFA Member \$100. Lunch included.

PLEASE MAIL FORMS & CHECKS TO:

Amboy Fire & Extrication School, PO Box 165, Amboy IL 61310

Brotherhood Event following training start at 5pm at the Amboy Fire Station.

If you cant use link please use form below but it will place you in class until form and payment are received.

Student Name _____

Dept/Organization _____

Billing Address _____

Student Email Address _____

(to notify of their class location, required equipment, and if their class choice was cancelled or filled. Please provide an email address that is checked regularly)

PhoneNumber _____

Class Choice (all classes are full day classes)

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

3rd Choice _____

Optional T-shirt purchase (\$25 per shirt): Small Medium Large XLarge2XLarge 3XLarge 4XLarge

Hold Harmless Agreement. I understand that my participation and/or involvement in the Amboy Fire and Extrication School hosted by Amboy Fire Protection District and the Amboy Volunteer Fireman carries with it the potential for certain risks, some of which may not be reasonably foreseeable. I further acknowledge that these risks could cause me, or others around me, harm, including, but not limited to, bodily injury, damage to property, emotional distress, or death. I am a willing participant in the Amboy Fire and Extrication School 2018. By signing this agreement, I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Blackhawk Firefighter Association, as well as all their employees, agents, representatives, successors, etc. from all losses, claims, theft, demands, liabilities, causes of action, or expenses, known or unknown, arising out of my participation in Amboy Fire and Extrication School.

Signature _____ Date _____

Questions? Chief Jeff Bryant –jbryant9962@gmail.com, (815) 994-6184

Please use registration link to sign up for classes

<https://firenuggets.regfox.com/22-amboy-fire--extrication-school>