

The **Bulletin**



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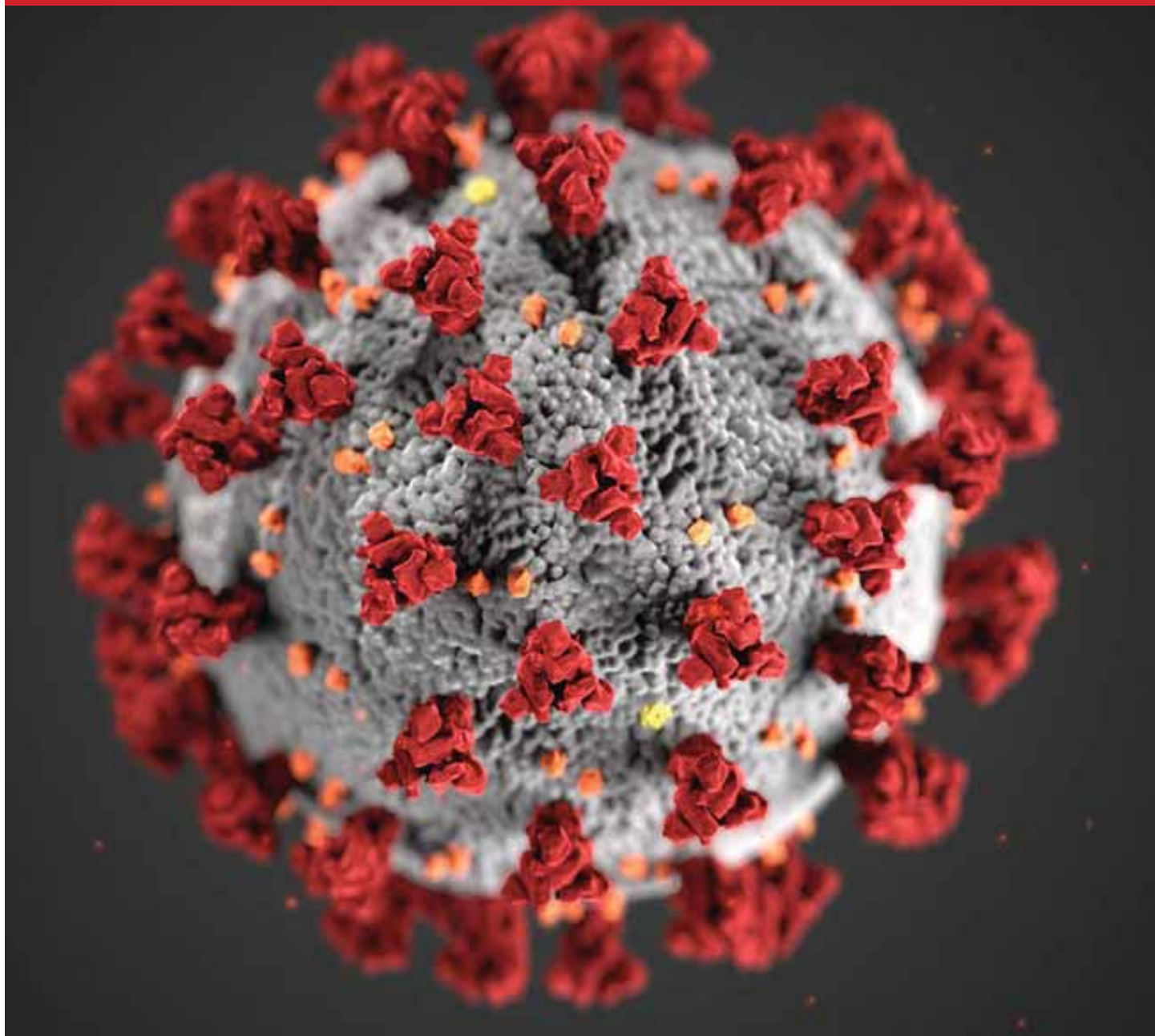
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COVID-19



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

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Mission Statement

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

President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters

When you read this article, it is my hope that COVID-19 will be going away from all of us. It has had major implications on all of us. Not only in the Fire Service, but this nation and the whole world. We regret and give sympathy for all of those that have fallen ill and died from this dreaded disease. We have lost firefighters and other first responders that did their best in protecting us. With everyone's help, I hope we can see an end to this in the near future.

The Illinois Firefighters Association is standing strong through this pandemic and working hard with all the other Fire Service organizations. We have been working together, helping and supporting each other's missions. Many of our partners in the fire service plans for 2020 have either been cancelled or postponed. If you have not heard, this year's Fire College in June has been postponed until October. The Fire College will be in conjunction with our Down & Dirty Weekend the 1st of October. It will be two separate events going on simultaneously, but separated at IFSI. You will hear more about this in the near future. I expect that after this pandemic is over there will be many conferences and events merged together. In my last article, I outlined the importance of partnerships and alliances in fulfilling each other's missions. Today shows the utmost importance of drawing those alignments with alliances and partnerships. I am proud to say that our Association started these alliances and partnerships with our Fire Academy from the birth of IFSI in 1925 and it continues today.

In the fire house, you have seen big changes, in the way you operate during responses, and after your return. Each call could be classified as a haz-mat event. Those hazards you face today can't be seen, and I hope you're taking all the necessary steps to keep you, your fellow firefighters and family safe. I can reassure you that your State Fire Marshal and his staff are doing everything possible to keep you safe and informed. A few weeks ago, he hosted a Illinois Fire Service State Agency Status Update. It was organized and broadcast through IFSI FACEBOOK.com/fsi.illinois.edu. I hope you were able to participate in some way and get questions you may have, answered.

One of the last things I wanted to mention is the great job your State Fire Academy is doing. I want to give thanks to Colonel Mortensen, his staff and all his support personnel at IFSI. They have literally set the bar for others to follow for outside online training. When times get tough, they have proven again they can maintain the needed training for our firefighters. Not only around this state, but other states as well and foreign nations. They have proven to be real "Devil Dogs" fighting to support us with our training requirements. Devil Dogs! look it up, it's part of your homework.

In closing, the Illinois Firefighters Association, this year is trying to recognize a firefighter for outstanding performance. "Firefighter of the Year" will be awarded at our Annual Conference this fall. An application is in this issue of the Bulletin, if you know of a deserving candidate, please get it filled out and back to us.

"Train Smart, Be Safe"

God Bless

John Swan President



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RETURNS TO WRAP UP SPRING SESSION

The General Assembly Springfield on March 20th for the first time since March. In order to allow more room for social distancing, the House met at the Springfield Convention Center and the Senate did most of business from their individual offices in the Capitol and only 10 at a time were allowed on the Senate floor to vote. It was a "Special Session" with a limited agenda related to COVID 19 response, state budget, hospital assessment program, laws sunseting before June 2021, the, General Election, and Constitutional Amendments. The rest of the substantive legislation from earlier in the session will not be addressed until the fall veto session or the spring session 2021 which begins in January.

COVID-19 LEGISLATION RELATED to FIREFIGHTERS

Under HB 2455, all Illinois Firefighters can now qualify for COVID-19 related line-of-duty State death benefits. The bill also includes provisions amending the Workers Compensation Act as it relates to "first responders" and "essential workers". If first responder goes before the Workers Comp Commission, with an injury or occupational disease resulting from COVID 19, it shall be rebuttable presumed to have arisen out and in the course of their employment. However, as a defense, the employer can use ordinary presumption to rebut the claim with evidence that CDC or IDPH guidelines were followed. The provisions in the legislation apply to COVID-19 cases contracted between from March 9th to December 31st, 2020. HB 2455 has passed both Chambers and is on its way to the Governor.

SB 471 – COVID DISABILITY BENEFITS

SB 471 addresses disability for public employees who cannot work because of COVID 19, including firefighters, by extending their disability pay for a period of up to 6 months and requires it to be at the same pay as when they were working. SB 471 passed both Chambers and is on its way to the Governor.

OSFM BUDGET

At this point it looks like the OSFM budget being proposed is pretty much level funding as it was in one the past. I will keep you posted of further developments.

Scheduled classes for 2020 Conference

ACTIVE SHOOTER
LONG LEAD OUTS/ENGINE OPERATIONS
TIC/SEARCH/RIT
ESSENTIALS OF FIREFIGHTING
FOUNDATIONS OF FIREFIGHTING
AG EMERGENCIES

Friday evening: Myths & Realities

**STATE OF ILLINOIS PRELIMINARY
EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT**



**FREE DECON EQUIPMENT
IS NOW AVAILABLE TO
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Camp I Am Me Going Virtual Due To Covid-19

Help needed from Fire Departments

As you are aware, each year the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) hosts a weeklong camp for children that are survivors of burn injuries – Camp “I Am Me.” No other IFSA programs has received greater attention from the fire service, medical community, general public and the media than burn camp.

It is with great sadness and regret that the decision was made to cancel this years “physical” camp due to the pandemic. This year’s camp will now be held “virtually” the week of July 19th and planning is in full swing, with more than 20 different sessions already planned!

We can use the fire service’s assistance! Every year at camp, many local fire departments would send engines, trucks, and command vehicles to Camp “I Am Me” to participate in the Fire Apparatus Parade. It was during that parade that campers were allowed to ride within the vehicle with sirens going, waving to the crowd and onlookers. It has always been a memorial experience for all and a camper favorite.

As part of this year’s camp, and with the assistance of Camp “I Am Me” sponsor, Johnson Controls Inc., we are collectively trying to put together a video that would try to duplicate that experience for the campers. Our request is to have as many fire departments as possible take a video (15-30 seconds long, max. 1 minute) of your personal message to the camp (of course with appropriate sirens and alarms). Bonus points if the trucks are moving!

Please feel free to make any signs of encouragement or support that you feel necessary. We were hoping for something to the effect that we understand that even though the campers are all at their homes, we are all still together!

Here are some of the suggestions/recommendations:

- Try to include a sign or reference to the camp and or campers from “Camp I Am Me”
- Film from a phone in Landscape mode (sideways)
- Try and use a tripod or someone with a steady hand (the less camera motion, the better)
- Keep zooming down to a minimum
- Try and do it on a bright day
- 480p or 720p resolution

Please send your video to a shared Dropbox folder to <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uwwucs5qqrpm1g6/AAAAJdxH2jMNuWtrpbGiu7Xya?dl=0xxxxxxxxx> by Wednesday June 17th which would have been the actual date of the parade. Make sure you identify your department, village or fire district name in the file name.

We understand that this virus is affecting many on higher levels with loss of jobs, sickness and death, but we are hoping that on a different level, we can still bring a little happiness into the life’s of approximately 75 children/campers that would have attended Camp “I Am Me” this year.

We hope that the campers can count on your support. Please feel free to reach out to our volunteer contacts at Johnson Controls with any question you may have. With camp scheduled for mid-July, we are hoping to receive all fire department submittals as soon as possible to start working on editing this project and avoiding any production delays. Thank you for whatever support or assistance you can offer.

With grateful appreciation,

David Prajka, Major Account Executive, Johnson Controls, (708) 945-6455, david.prajka@jci.com

Duke Melchert, Major Account Executive, Johnson Controls, (708) 6992-4100, duke.melchert@jci.com

Link to Virtual Camp site - www.ifsfa.org/virtual-camp

Thank you,

Philip Zaleski, Executive Director
Illinois Fire Safety Alliance

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IAFC Great Lakes Division Update

Since 1873 it has been the IAFC's mission to provide leadership to current and future—career and volunteer— Fire-Rescue, and EMS leaders throughout the international community through vision, information, education, services, and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. Headquartered in Chantilly, Virginia, the IAFC represents the leadership of 1.2 million firefighters and approximately 30,000 fire departments in the United States with members in Canada and countries all over the world. A Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Great Lakes Division encompasses the Great States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected Fire and EMS organizations across the nation and the globe. Firefighters and Paramedics have been infected with COVID-19 and 50 Fire and EMS personnel have made the ultimate sacrifice to date.

Departments across our division, and nation, have struggled to locate and maintain stocks of medical PPE. Now, fire and EMS personnel across our division, and nation, face furloughs and layoffs due to the financial devastation being wreaked on our communities; and Paid-on-Call and Volunteer organizations have seen their donations reduced drastically. Some are struggling to provide basic services.

Our IAFC President, Chief Gary Ludwig, and the Board of Directors have continually advocated fire service needs loudly to Congress and the President to address: The need for PPE; Prioritization of PPE; and for \$100 Million added to the AFG Grant Program for COVID-19 PPE expense reimbursement and purchase of new PPE.

Since the beginning of this crisis, here at the IAFC Great Lakes Division, our leadership has exchanged information and best practices between the Great Lakes States and facilitated the delivery of information to fire service organizations of the individual states for dissemination to their members. Hopefully you received this information and how to access IAFC resources. We have also advocated our fire service needs to the local, state, and federal elected officials of the Great Lakes States.

Since the beginning of this national crisis, the IAFC has been at the forefront by gathering data, assembling subject matter experts, and providing multiple educational mediums and resources to the fire service nationwide. Very early on President Ludwig empaneled the IAFC Coronavirus Task Force. He also activated the IAFC Financial Task Force to research the financial impact of this crisis on our fire service now, and in the future. These task forces have already developed some great information and products. The resources developed by the IAFC can be used by the entire fire service. To access the IAFC Coronavirus resources, go to iafc.org and select Access Coronavirus Resources.

The financial impact to the fire service has been, and will be, devastating. A national financial impact survey conducted by the IAFC revealed:

- Fire Departments of All Types here in the United States are estimated to suffer a \$16.9 Billion dollar shortfall in budget revenue in FY 2021.
- Fire Departments in the United States serving urban areas reported budget losses of up to \$180 million dollars in FY 2020, and a projected loss of \$240 million dollars in FY 2021.
- On average, fire departments serving urban areas expect an \$8 million dollar loss in budget revenue.
- Volunteer Fire Departments across the nation are estimating a budget shortfall of \$1 billion dollars during FY 2021.
- Career and Combination Fire Departments have already reported 935 personnel laid off since the COVID-19 Pandemic began. Believe me, a lot more will come.
- Fire Departments in the United States are estimated to lose 29,925 career personnel in the next 12 months. The estimated cost to save these jobs is \$2.3 billion dollars per year or \$6.9 billion dollars over 3 years.

Our leadership can talk until we are blue in the face- BUT it is local action that truly makes a difference. We need you to contact your congressional representatives and senators in Washington DC and tell them we need federal help now. Ask them to support an additional \$5 billion for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and \$5 billion for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program. Our fire departments and communities need Federal help now more than ever. The recently filed Heroes Act contains \$1 Billion for AFG and SAFER. As you can see, this is not enough.

This is the most trying time in the history of our Fire Service and the International Association of Fire Chiefs will continue to lead, educate, and serve in any capacity we can to help us all get through this together. Thank you for your service and may you and your families stay safe.

Mike Mavrogeorge is the Fire Chief of Oak Lawn, Illinois, in Cook County, where he leads an agency of 69 personnel in delivering pre-hospital emergency medical care, community risk reduction, and fire protection service from 3 stations to a community of 60,000 citizens on the southwest border of Chicago. Oak Lawn EMS-Fire-Rescue is an ISO Class 1 Department. He began his fire service career in 1993. He serves as the President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Great Lakes Division. He also serves as the Vice Chair of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Emergency Management Committee.

The 11th Bi-Annual Amboy Fire & Extrication School

August 15th & 16th 2020 (Date Change)

Complete Weekend Package with Saturday Night Brotherhood Event
BFFA Member \$75 1 day or \$125 for 2 days and non - BFFA \$100 1 day or \$150
for both days of training

Contact : Sr - jbryant9962@gmail.com or Jr - jbryant@firenuggets.com

2 Day Workshop Offerings

Coordinated Fire Attack – Hands On & Live Fire

Instructor: Jeff Bryant Jr. – Aurora FD & Fire Factory Staff

Saturday Offerings:

Truck Company Operations - Hands-On

Instructor: Jeff Rothmeier, Milwaukee Fire Department

1st Rung Recruit Training - FF for the newbie- Hands-On

Instructor: Lt. Kucaba - Northwest Homer FPD

Auto X Extrication Training-Hands-On

Instructor: Captain Mike Huffman – Harlem-Roscoe Fire

Rapid Task Force – Hands-On and Lecture

Instructor: Mercy Health Prehospital and Emergency Services

Strategic Planning for Creating Future Excellence and Juggling Hats- Lecture

Instructor: Chief Craig Haigh, Hanover Park Fire

Fitness - Hip Boots to Bunkers, Recliners to Rowers, the motivation to create a fit fire service. (Bring Reasonable Workout Clothing)

Instructor: Xercise Science

EMS Topics for the next generation- Lecture

Instructor: Retired Chief of EMS Operations, New Orleans Ken Bouvier

Thermal Imaging & Max Firebox Demonstration- Hands-On

Instructors: Andy Starnes - Insight Training & John Schott - Max Fire Training

Sunday Offerings

Engine Tactics- Hands-On

Instructor: Jonathon Brumley, Denver Fire Department

Command Tactical Priorities - Hands-On (Recommended Day 2 of Strategic Planning for Creating Future Excellence and Juggling Hats)

Instructor: Chief Craig Haigh

Large Vehicle Extrication- Hands-On

Instructor: Captain Mike Hoffman - Auto X

EMS the *WOW*- Lecture Only

Instructor: Retired Chief of EMS Operations, New Orleans Ken Bouvier

Taking Care of Ourselves - Lecture Only

Instructor Sara Gura, Selfcare Path

Harassment, PTSD, Bullying

To Register - www.firenuggets.com

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

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Thanks for your generosity!

Office of the State Fire Marshal

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges and changed the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's (OSFM) normal avenues of communication and work functions. The OSFM continues to provide every agency function that can be done safely with public and employee safety in mind. Communication avenues may have changed, but the continued daily functions and communications amongst staff has allowed the agency to continue providing the highest quality of service that the industry has come to expect.

The OSFM's Arson Division has been providing uninterrupted fire investigations in support of local police and fire departments. Although they have had to alter their personal protective equipment (PPE), and how they conduct business, all Arson Division Special Agents have continued to respond to requests for investigations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OSFM's Personnel Standards and Education Division has worked through difficulties to resume certification testing so that the Illinois fire service can still have access to the training that is essential to doing their jobs safely and effectively. Testing resumed as of May 1st and examinations that were taken in March have been graded. For the latest information about results or testing, visit the PS&E Web portal.

The Boiler Safety Division continues to conduct exterior inspections only, while the Fire Prevention Inspectors are limited to exterior inspections and doing inspections of COVID-19 use facilities. Technical Services Division is working remotely and are still responding to requests. Elevator Safety Division is only responding to accident investigations as of the middle of May. Petroleum and Chemical Safety are limited to permit and work inspections, and investigations of accidents. OSFM Fire Service Outreach Divisions continues to provide assistance to IEMA through the state's emergency operations center. 95% of OSFM office staff transitioned to working remotely and continue to provide administrative support to divisions.

OSFM has a phased recovery strategy to bring back operations to normal or at least to meet the needs of the "new" normal during the COVID-19 pandemic. OSFM will continue to review operations to ensure that the agency is providing as many of its normal services as possible and will work closely with all the Illinois fire service organizations in order to keep the State Emergency Operation Center, IDPH and the Governor's office up to date on all issues faced by the fire service as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

"I am very proud of the Illinois fire service for whom we tirelessly work to support. Our firefighters have answered the call at every turn and selflessly put the wellbeing of the public ahead of their own. The State of Illinois will likely see impacts to its budget due to the COVID-19 crisis. OSFM will continue to advocate for the fire service and maintain as much of our submitted budget as possible," said State Fire Marshal Matt Perez.

"Sadly, three Illinois firefighters have succumbed to COVID-19 related illnesses. The bravery and sacrifice of Chicago Fire Department Firefighters Mario Araujo, Edward Singleton, and River Grove Fire Department EMS Coordinator Robert Reisinger exemplify the best of what the fire service is, and we offer our sincerest condolences to their families and fire departments," said Perez.

Information shows that first responders are at risk of contracting COVID in the firehouse or workplace from peer to peer contact due to lack of social distancing. Consider requiring mask use while working in the fire station, consistent cleaning of frequently touched areas, use of single serving food products and eating/exercising in shifts in order to minimize this risk. Stressing the importance of the consistent use of PPE, good

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hygiene and following safety protocols and guidelines will help to limit exposure risks. OSFM encourages firefighters and EMS workers get tested. A link to current testing sites can be found by visiting: <https://dph.illinois.gov/testing>.

OSFM continues to keep Governor Pritzker, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and Illinois Department of Public Health updated daily on the number of firefighters in quarantine or COVID positive. Continue to send your departments/districts latest statistics to Fire Marshal Perez by emailing Matt.Perez@Illinois.gov. These updated statistics allows for resources to be allocated to areas that may need extra assistance.

Unfortunately, this year's Firefighter Medal of Honor Ceremony was cancelled. Recipients of awards will be notified, and members of the committee will personally present the awards to them at their local firehouses. The hope is to reschedule the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony sometime in September to honor the memory of our two fallen brothers Jake Ringering and Kody Vanfossan.

The Small Equipment Grant Program received 540 applications this year, but unfortunately 160 of those applications were ineligible due to not filling out forms correctly or not being NFIRS compliant. The 200 recipients from this program will be announced in the mid-June.

Impacts from the COVID-19 crisis are hitting everyone hard, especially local fire departments. OSFM and IFA are working on a two-year extension on existing Fire Truck Revolving and Ambulance Revolving Loans. This would defer payments for two years and make the next loan payment due in November of 2022.

If there are positive stories that departments are looking to share or information that the Illinois Fire Service would like to promote, please email jc.fultz@illinois.gov; OSFM's PIO. Make sure to continue to visit the OSFM facebook and twitter pages, along with the website for agency updates and information.



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Chaplain's Corner

(Another) Letter From God

Dear Firefighters,

Once again I think it time to drop you a little note to address some of the questions and concerns that I have heard from all of you during these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 global crisis. I have heard your prayers and have listened intently to your conversations – and most importantly I have

seen what is most pressing upon your souls.

First, I am aware that some of you – or a member of your family or fire department – have experienced the sickness and difficulty of this virus. Some of you have even lost a loved one and, of course, there have been several firefighter LODD's in Illinois and many more among firefighters and police nationwide and globally. I want you to know that I have been with you in your illness, pain, and loss – and I will stay with you as you recover and/or grieve into the future. As I have promised before, I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Thank you for staying true to My calling upon your lives and continuing to serve the emergency needs of the people in your communities even in the face of this viral threat to yourselves. When my Son Jesus was on earth He demonstrated that kind of love and it even proved fatal. But I was there with Him accomplishing My purposes through it all. Of course, I raised Him up from the dead and now His sacrifice is the salvation of the world. I know how to bring the ultimate good even out of the most horrible evil for those who trust in Me.

Many of you have asked, “Did God send this virus?” or “Why did God allow this virus to happen?” Good questions. First, no, I did not send this virus. I don't do evil just to see humans suffer and die. As far as allowing it to happen, yes, I could have stopped it and yet I didn't. My reasons for that is beyond your human logic and ability to understand...so you'll just have to trust me with that. Of course, you have handled all sorts of more localized human tragedy and trauma before this global crisis, so most of you have already wrestled with the experience of trusting Me with what I “allow”. FYI, what you don't know about is the infinite number of disasters and evil attacks that I *did not allow*, stepping in to direct and protect you and your fellow firefighters and families, keeping you out of harms way.

There is a growing suspicion among you that this pandemic is being used by some to manipulate circumstances politically, economically, socially, etc. Well, I won't say you are wrong in general...just know that I see it all perfectly, even to the very motives of men and women's hearts. Believe Me, nobody ultimately gets away with anything if they greedily capitalize on the pain and suffering of the less fortunate and less powerful – which is the opposite of the selfless service that you firefighters do all the time.

I have seen the frustration of the isolation that you and your families are going through. You have asked Me when it will all be over and we can get back to “normal”. Well, I wish I could tell you that this will end and then the good times will roll from there. However, if you look into My words in the Bible you will see that there are some more tough times ahead for this world and, of course, you firefighters will be right in the thick of it.

So what is the take-away of this crisis? The biggest is this...it's time to build the strength of your soul, your faith. These days are a wake-up call to the vulnerability and brevity of your temporary lives on earth. Even if you've never paid attention to My words before, now is the time to do so. You don't need an app or a website or a login ID – just pick up your New Testament and read. Listen for My personal voice of direction, comfort, instruction, and conviction. I have never left any sincere seeker wondering who I am or what I would have him/her do next. When isolation is over get into the company of others who can provide support and encouragement to your faith. As a firefighter you will need Me and the spiritual strength I will give as you serve into the uncertain days ahead.

Until next time...Love, God

Kevin Coffey, IFA Chaplain 773-455-4393 (voice, no text)

Fire Service Seeking Financial Assistance to Combat Covid-19

by William R. Thomas
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

As many know at this point, three federal stimulus packages have been passed to address the financial consequences for individuals, businesses, and governments associated with COVID-19. The first federal stimulus phase, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020, was signed into law on March 6, 2020, with \$8.3 billion focused on medical research and development. Then, on March 18, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was enacted, mainly to provide leave and unemployment benefits for affected families. The most recent and third phase has been the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act contains more than \$2 trillion in stimulus and initiatives designed to combat the financial consequences of the virus, including potential relief for local governments.

Under the CARES Act, \$150 billion was designed to directly aid state and local government agencies. States will receive their pro rata share based upon population. A portion of the funds the CARES Act sets aside for various departments and local government initiatives will be used to increase funding for existing programs, including the addition of \$100 million to the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) for the purchase of personal protective equipment. During this time of uncertainty, the fire service shares the concerns of many over appropriate funding to operate and provide the services needed during the pandemic. Additional funding opportunities, such as Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, may be such an opportunity for districts. SAFER grants were created to provide a source of funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations to assist them in increasing and maintaining both the number and the training of frontline firefighters within their communities. The goal of the SAFER grant is to enhance local fire departments' ability to comply with the staffing, response, and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) codes and standards. We are currently within an open application period for SAFER grants which opened on April 13, 2020 and will close on May 15, 2020.

Numerous fire service entities are concerned that the trickle down of the federal stimulus funds are not going directly to fire departments or districts. Various fire service associations have made a specific call for their membership to contact their members of Congress to request that funding go directly to the departments or districts. The concern is that the funding in the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) does not flow directly from Congress to the necessary departments as the AFG and SAFER are required to do by law. DRF funding to the fire service has run into numerous delays at a time when these funds are necessary for the frontline emergency workers. International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) President Gary Ludwig has stated, "the pandemic is forcing fire departments to pay for more personal protective equipment, decontamination supplies and additional overtime to cover shifts of ill and quarantined firefighters," and further stated that shelter orders may mean less tax money to run fire departments and a reduction of fundraising activities by volunteer firefighters.

So, while the three phases of the federal stimulus legislation have allocated funds in part for assistance to the fire service, all would agree that the need is great and the ability to provide is limited. The daily changes to how COVID-19 is affecting the State of Illinois and its various fire departments and districts will determine the immediate and long-term financial impact to the fire service. As of the drafting of this article, Governor Pritzker has extended the Illinois stay at home order until May 29, 2020, while the daily infection rates and numbers of deaths remain high. This will continue to extend the financial strain on the fire service to provide the necessary services in this current time of need. Efforts continue to seek financial assistance at all levels to maintain the necessary level of services the fire service provides on a daily basis.

William R. Thomas is a partner with Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. at the firm's Elburn office. He received his J.D. degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1991. Mr. Thomas focuses primarily on the general practice of law.



FIGHT FOR AIR
CLIMB 



We have a tremendous appreciation for our first responders now more than ever, they are tirelessly providing care for patients with coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Thank you to all the first responders who are on the frontlines.



Thank you for your service!

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IFA Members Can Enter to Win \$5,000 Worth of STIHL® Tools from California Casualty

California Casualty wants to thank Illinois first responders once again with a new Work Hard/Play Hard Sweepstakes. IFA members can enter for the chance to win \$5,000 worth of STIHL* tools at www.contest4heroes.com.

First responders depend on the right tools to reduce their risk of injury and to get the job done quicker. That's why California Casualty, the trusted auto and home insurance provider of firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement officers across the country, is offering a prize pack of STIHL tools, the equipment that first responders count on.

"We're 105 years strong," said California Casualty Sr. Vice President Mike McCormick. "Our strength comes from the dedicated professionals who protect our communities. We owe them this thank you for all that they do."

California Casualty also congratulates Pennsylvania firefighter Kyle Albrecht, who was presented with a [\\$7,500 Garage Makeover](#) from California Casualty in December. Kyle, who volunteers with the Nancy Run Fire Station, serving Bethlehem Township, is also a full-time 911 dispatcher. The award couldn't have come at a better time – Kyle and his wife recently bought their forever home and purchased a storage shed so that he could make the garage more useful.

Other Work Hard/Play Hard sweepstakes from California Casualty have awarded public safety personnel Liberty Safes, DeWalt Tools, motorcycles, and cash. Past winners include an Oregon Police officer, Colorado Sheriff's captain, Firefighters from California, Nebraska, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and a California Highway Patrolman.

With a selection of chainsaws, trimmers, blowers, drills and safety equipment, what tools would you choose? California Casualty wants to give you the chance with the Work Hard/Play Hard \$5,000 STIHL Tools Giveaway. The drawing is open to police officers, EMTs and firefighters – American heroes who work hard and risk their lives. Entries are being taken now through October 31, 2020, at www.contest4heroes.com. One lucky \$5,000 STIHL tools winner will be announced in November.

Headquartered in San Mateo, California, with Service Centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty has been providing auto and home insurance to firefighters since 1974 and to IFA members since 2002. Founded in 1914, California Casualty has been led by four generations of the Brown family. To learn more about California Casualty, or to request an auto insurance quote, please call 1.800.800.9410 or visit www.calcas.com/IFA.

* STIHL does not sponsor or endorse this promotion

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

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

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

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



Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



IT TAKES TWO...

TO PROTECT OCCUPANTS & FIREFIGHTERS FROM FIRE.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NEED FIRE SPRINKLERS FOR YOUR
PUBLIC RELATIONS OUTREACH?**



Please call 708.403.4468 or email
NIFSAB@NIFSAB.org to request one at no cost.



HomeLifeSafety.com



FireSprinklerInitiative.org



HomeFireSprinkler.org



FireSprinklerAssoc.org

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Boost Your Health: Start a Morning Routine.

For more tips just for firefighters
visit www.MyCalcas.com/Fire



Seven Signs You're Being Scammed

You work hard for your money. Don't let online crooks steal it.

You've heard the warnings and you know the saying, "If it sounds too good to be true it probably is." Too many people still keep falling for one or more of a variety of scams. They cost Americans more than \$1 billion a year. It couldn't happen to you, right. It did to a very educated, intelligent friend of mine. She admitted that she got a text from her bank during an important meeting warning that her account had been compromised. It looked real enough. It included the logo and what looked to be the webpage of her institution. While trying to concentrate on the important meeting, she clicked on the link, entered her information and hit send only to realize a second later it didn't seem right. In the few minutes it took to contact her bank, crooks had already taken a large amount of money.

In an effort to help you avoid scams, keep your hard-earned money and skip the embarrassment of admitting you were taken (my friend almost didn't tell me because she felt so gullible), here are seven clues that a text or email offer could be (and most probably is) a [rip-off](#):

1. You've got money due but need to pay a small fee
2. You notice a lot of grammatical or spelling errors or a logo that doesn't look right
3. You are asked to click on a link in an email or text
4. The offer is from overseas, as is the address they ask you to send funds to
5. You are asked to provide personal or banking information
6. You receive an email or text that you need to reset passwords or other information to keep your account
7. The person(s) are overly pushy or threatening

A recent Yahoo Tech article highlighted the "[11 Worst Internet Scams We're Still Falling For](#)":

1. The Nigerian email promising great riches (if you send money first)
2. The online girlfriend who just needs a little money
3. The Craigslist scam
4. Various phishing scams (that appear to be from legitimate companies)
5. SMishing scam (same as phishing but arriving via SMS text)
6. The "mugged or arrested" on vacation scam (a plea for financial help from a relative or someone you know who says they are stuck abroad)
7. The pre-approved credit card or loan scam (that will only cost a little upfront fee)
8. You've won a sweepstakes or lottery scam (with a charge to collect – oh, and it's illegal to play a foreign lottery vial mail or phone)
9. Work at home scams (with some sort of upfront fee)
10. The false computer virus scam
11. The faux charity scam (usually following a large disaster)

Keep in mind, cyber-crooks are always finding new ways to trick us. That's why it's a good idea to check the Federal Trade Commission's webpage filled with information on the [most recent scams](#) being reported across the country.

The Bulletin

Here are some signs your personal information or accounts [are compromised](#):

- You see withdrawals from your bank account that you can't explain.
- You don't get your bills or other mail.
- Merchants refuse your checks.
- Debt collectors call you about debts that aren't yours.
- You find unfamiliar accounts or charges on your credit report.
- Medical providers bill you for services you didn't use.
- Your health plan rejects your legitimate medical claim because the records show you've reached your benefits limit.
- A health plan won't cover you because your medical records show a condition you don't have.
- The IRS notifies you that more than one tax return was filed in your name, or that you have income from an employer you don't work for.
- You get a notice that your information was stolen in a data breach at a company where you do business or have an account.

The best advice is to be suspicious and very aware. Criminals are always coming up with new ways to try and separate you from your money. It's a good idea to monitor your credit cards and bank accounts weekly (or even daily), have strong passwords and get a yearly credit report.

California Casualty understands how important protecting your personal data is. That's why every auto and home/renters insurance policy comes with free credit monitoring and resolution services from [CyberScout](#). Make sure you're protected from cyber-crooks, contact a California Casualty advisor today at 1.800.800.9410 or visit www.calcas.com/identity-theft.

Resources for this article:

<https://www.yahoo.com/tech/the-11-worst-internet-scams-we-1283163153588278.html>

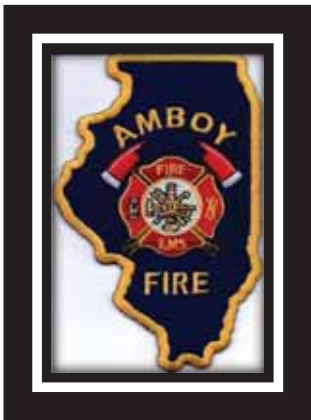
<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts>

<https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-fraud-schemes>

<http://www.ic3.gov/preventiontips.aspx>

<https://www.westernunion.com/us/en/fraudawareness/fraud-be-aware.html>

This article furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to educators, law enforcement officers, firefighters and nurses. Get a quote at 1.800.800.9410 or www.calcas.com.



Chief Jeff Bryant Sr.

AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT

25 N. East Ave.
P.O. Box 165
Amboy, IL 61310
Phone (815) 857-2325 * Fax (815) 857-2066

Chief Rick Lasky Presents

Date: September 12th -8am-4pm

Part 1: Great Leaders Make Difficult Decisions

Great leaders understand how to balance emotion with reason and make decisions that positively impact themselves, their employees, their customers, and stakeholders, and their organizations. When we think of what makes someone a great leader, one characteristic that comes to mind is decisiveness. Standing behind a decision that everyone agrees with is easy to do. Having the guts to make the difficult one is what separates true leaders from those who are just along for the ride.

Part II: The Three Degrees of Mayday

This program is a discussion about 3 categories or situations that firefighters can find themselves in that could result in a Mayday operation. Not every Mayday is the same and as a result not every RIT operations is will be the same. Rapid Intervention Teams need to prepare for various urgent and dangerous situations of increasing difficulty.

Join Chief Lasky as he discusses the new perspective on Mayday and RIT operations and learn how to prepare your firefighters to handle any mayday situation with confidence.

**Register before June 1st Special-
3 members for \$200**

After June 1st-Cost: \$100 per person

Location: Amboy Fire Station

How to Enroll: email: jbryant9962@gmail.com

"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.

AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

Despite these uncertain times, IFSI continues to lead the nation with the delivery of training and education opportunities to first responders utilizing online platforms. Within 10 days of stopping face-to-face deliveries in Mid-March, IFSI launched the Facebook Forum, a live streaming platform offering no cost training and information resources. To date, we have delivered thirteen broadcasts in the Facebook Forum reaching thousands of Illinois firefighters and capturing over 150,000 video views. This engagement has included participants from nineteen other states and six different countries.



FUTURE FACEBOOK FORUM BROADCASTS:

Roof Operations

May 20 1:00pm Instructors Larry McCormack and Eric Troken

Engine Company Operations

June 5 11:00am Instructor Sam Vega

First Due Company Considerations for A Confined Space Rescue

June 10 1:00pm Instructors DeAngelo Cooke and Jamar Sullivan

First Due Company Considerations for Rope Rescue

June 16 1:00pm Instructors Ryan Evans and Joe Smithers

First Due Company Considerations for A Structural Collapse Building Rescue

June 24 1:00pm Instructors Jon Frye and Dan Bracken

IFSI has also offered Virtual Cornerstone Program classes during this response period. These no cost training courses deliver content in a more formal media platform. Upon successful viewing of each course, students can receive certificates of completion for participation. Since April, we have offered 4 virtual Cornerstone sessions reaching over 700 students.

CORNERSTONE VIRTUAL TRAINING (TWO SESSIONS OFFERED FOR EACH TOPIC):

Rural Engine and Tender Ops	May 26	6pm – 8pm	May 30	10am – 12pm
Fire Ground Search and Rescue	June 8	6pm – 8pm	June 13	10am – 12pm
Basic Company Officer	June 22	6pm – 8pm	June 27	10am – 12pm
Thermal Imaging	July 6	6pm – 8pm	July 11	10am – 12pm
Responder Intervention Team	July 20	6pm – 8pm	July 25	10am – 12pm
Tactics and Strategy	August 3	6pm – 8pm	August 8	10am – 12pm

STATE OF ILLINOIS PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT:

On May 1, - IFSI, Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Illinois (MABAS) launched the Illinois Preliminary Exposure Reduction Project. The project was developed to deliver critical firefighter health and life safety research, education, training and basic equipment to fire departments across the state. The intent of the project is to raise awareness of the increased cancer risks faced by firefighters, provide departments with free basic equipment that can be used for preliminary exposure reduction for personnel on incident response scenes, as well as training on how to properly use those tools. For more information on the training tools and free equipment distribution, visit fsi.illinois.edu/decon.

MOVING FORWARD:

The IFSI team is working diligently on the development of training and education procedures that will allow us to gradually resume a more normalized delivery of training and education across the state.

We understand completely that this “new normal” must include institutionalized procedures to mitigate the COVID-19 risk to our students, instructors, and staff. These specific procedures and required actions/activities for staff, instructors, and students will be in place before we begin operations.

The Bulletin

Unless otherwise specifically articulated by the Director, all IFSI courses/classes scheduled to take place between 18-31 May were cancelled.

Starting 18 May, IFSI will facilitate training for courses currently in progress. These include the Spring Fire Academy, Basic Operations Firefighter Blended programs and select courses that have maintained virtual activity during our COVID-19 reduction of activity period. This will allow the opportunity for students to successfully complete the course requirements necessary to receive state certification.

All off-campus Cornerstone Program course deliveries were cancelled through 30 June. Cornerstone deliveries will resume statewide 1 July.

The IFSI Program Leadership is evaluating the most needed and appropriate options for program specific course deliveries during the month of June. Depending on their recommendations, currently scheduled courses for June may be cancelled and/or replaced with alternative delivery. Director Mortenson will review recommendations and make scheduling approval decisions accordingly. These decisions will be communicated with impacted students and shared with all staff, once available.

The 96th Annual Fire College and the Illinois Firefighter's Association (IFA) Down and Dirty Training Weekend will be delivered the same weekend in Champaign. Fire College has been rescheduled for October 1-4 and e IFA Weekend will take place as initially planned, October 2-3.

It should be noted that regardless of location, course, or enrollment timeline, our team is and will be addressing the specific protocols that will be implemented to ensure the health and safety of our students, instructors, and staff for all IFSI deliveries. The above actions will allow IFSI to "crawl, walk, and the run" as we gradually resume operations

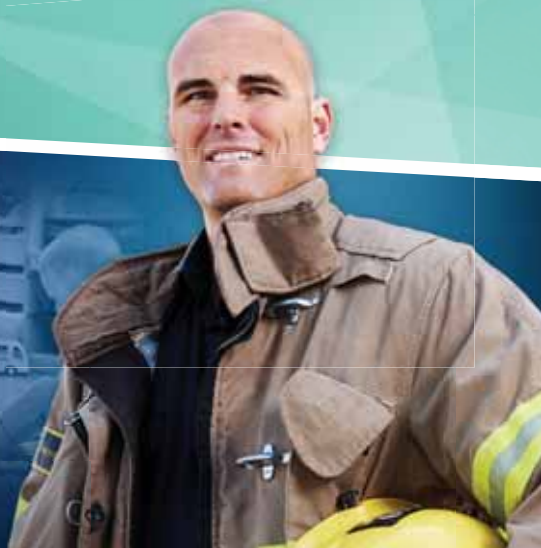
We appreciate the continued support of our organization and look forward to the incremental resumption of our standard operations.



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Save The Date

Down & Dirty Firefighter Weekend

October 1-2-3, 2020

Classes Offered:

- Active Shooter
- Myths & Realities
- Foundations of firefighting
- Essentials of Firefighting
- Commercial Building Forcible Entry
- Ventilation/ Ladders
- Engine Operations
- RIT (Outside)
- Firefighter Rehab
- Firefighter Resiliency

And MUCH MUCH MORE!

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Provided by a grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshal

Registration Opens Soon, Go to:

www.FSI.Illinois.EDU

Illinoisfirefighters.org

SIDE-BY-SIDE BURN DEMONSTRATIONS

Work with NIFSI to Improve Your Public Outreach

The Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative is your full-service partner to deliver impactful side-by-side demonstrations to raise public awareness in your community. We're ready to work with fire and public information officials to display the dramatic differences between flashover and the quick response of residential fire sprinklers.

Our side-by-side demonstration units can be featured at community events, fire department open houses, and other locations that powerfully showcase how fire sprinklers can save lives and protect property.

We provide full-service demonstrations, with staffing, build assistance, furniture, drop-off and pick-up.



Conventional Side-by-Side Units

- Two 10-panel rooms assembled on site
- Full-service includes furniture, sprinkler pipe and sprinklers, smoke detector, drapes/curtain cloth, digital clock



Side-by-Side Mobile Trailer

- Easy to transport/move after demonstration, perfect for street fairs, community events, fire department open houses, village board meetings
- Full-service includes matching furniture, sprinkler pipe and sprinklers, smoke detector, drapes/curtain cloth, digital clock, delivery and pick-up



Lake County Roll-off Side-by-Side

- Mobile unit delivered/picked up on site
- For members of Lake County Fire Chiefs Association (Must be approved by Lake County Fire Chiefs Association, which will deliver and pick up. NIFSI will provide furniture, clock, etc.)
- **Scheduling:** 847-587-8012 or www.srtillinois.org/equipment/sprinkler-side-by-side



Contact: Tom Lia

(m) 708-878-8658 (o) 708-377-7754 (e) sprinktoml@aol.com www.nifsi.org

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- **Scheduling:** 847-587-8012 or www.srillinois.org/equipment/sprinkler-side-by-side



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