

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 75, Number 3

May - June 2021

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

Press Conference Opposing Fireworks Bill - HB2898



April 7th Dangers of Fireworks Press Conference at the Chicago Fire Training Academy with CFD officials including CFD Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt & Chief Wally Schroeder, along with University of Chicago Emergency Pediatric Specialist Dr. Alison Tothy, MD, Dr. Mondrian Contreras of the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association, Westchester Fire Chief Mike Mavrogeorge, IL Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski and IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn

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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

As this pandemic is somewhat under control with vaccines, we must look ahead to get some normalcy back into our lives. Those of you that do not intend to take the vaccine, please be aware that you may be still at risk. I can't make that decision for you and in all good faith, I do understand your feelings. I have lived through the polio virus and have seen what vaccines have done to eliminate the dreaded diseases. Without the breakthrough in scientific technology, many more people could have perished in the past in an untimely death.

Now, we must look ahead and get ourselves back on track with training. Everyone should be an expert in online education, but there is nothing like hands on training. Everyday, more and more opportunities are opening up with hands on training. All of your education taken online or in a classroom environment must be backed up with practical skills. The old saying "you can talk the talk but you must walk to walk" will show that you can do hands on operations. You must get the feeling that you can operate in an emergency scene with confidence. Then, you can do the job to mitigate that situation. As I said in the past, no one does it alone, we must act and operate as a team player. Your fellow firefighters rely on you and your training to protect them, the people and their property.

Fire College may be over when you get this, but I wanted to mention Director Mortenson will be leaving at the end of June. He has done a wonderful job leading IFSI over the years and we wish him and his family well. I also want to congratulate the new Director, Jim Keiken on board. Jim is not new to IFSI and he looks to be a shoe in for that position. Jim has been Assistant Director for years now and he knows IFSI well and where IFSI is going well into the future. IFA has had a long relationship with IFSI from the very beginning. We look forward to working with him and his staff in the training needs of the Firefighters all over this State. We are just one of the many fire service organizations that make up Illinois. We are all very reliant on IFSI in the leadership and the product they produce. That product can be equated into knowledge, experience and skills development of a Firefighter. Those are the most important aspects to being a Firefighter. It doesn't matter how long you have been in your fire department, training never ends, it is a revolving door.

On the volunteer side of the Fire Service, the average service life of a volunteer is three to five years now. We must do whatever we can to recruit Firefighters, but also retain them. For years, IFA has been working on benefits to help this situation. Working with NVFC and Corporate America, we are making some progress. Please do your part to mentor your fellow firefighters and help recruit new Firefighters in your department. The word of mouth and association can help solve the shortages we face.

So until the next time !

"Train Smart, Be Safe"

God Bless

John Swan President IFA



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

It has been an extremely busy spring session for IFA, and we are seeing positive outcomes for our work.

EMS OSHA RESPIRATOR QUESTIONNAIRE BILL PASSES SENATE

SB 121 sponsored by Sen Neil Anderson (R-Moline) on behalf of IFA, which will allow EMS professionals to complete OSHA respirator questionnaires for fire service personnel. After being able to complete the questionnaires for decades, the Illinois Department of Public Health decided 2 years ago that only doctors could sign them, which would put not only a financial strain on fire departments but created a hardship in medically underserved areas in which doctors are in short supply. The Department of Public Health removed their opposition to the bill, which now clarifies under the Emergency Medical Services Act that EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic or PHRN as permitted by their EMS System Medical Director. *The bill passed the Senate unanimously on April 21st and the House Police and Fire Committee on May 6th and is on the consent calendar of agreed bills scheduled to go before a final vote in the House. Our House sponsors are Rep. Swanson, Willis and Halpin.*

FIREWORKS BILLS DON'T ADVANCE

Thanks so much for all the members of the fire service, public health community, and burn survivors who contacted their state legislators in opposition to HB 2898. After the bill passed the House Consumer Protection Committee IFA and the IL Fire Safety Alliance lead the opposition and stepped up their opposition even more. On April 7th, working in conjunction with CFD, I organized a press conference at the Chicago Training Academy against the bill on behalf the IL Fire Services Association in which a live demo of the 500 gram devices of pyrotechnic the bill would misclassify as "Novelty" to show the media just how dangerous they are. I also lined up a top University of Chicago Emergency Pediatrician and Veterinarian to both speak in opposition to the bill.

Though the sponsor of the bill Rep. Rita wanted to call it for vote, we were fortunate that it did not happen, and HB 2898 was sent back to the House Rules Committee after the April 23rd House bill deadline passed. We like to express our sincere gratitude to the following legislators: Representatives Mary Flowers (D-Chicago), Joyce Mason (D-Gurnee), Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago), Jeff Keicher (R-Sycamore), Kathleen Willis (D-Addison), Robyn Gabel (D-Chicago), and Dan Swanson



(R-Woodhall) who all helped in our efforts fighting against the bill as well as Speaker Chris Welch and Acting Chicago Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt and her administration. At the last minute, the 6 day advance notice posting requirement was waived for SB 2170 (the Senate version of HB 2898) and the bill was scheduled for a hearing with less than 24 hours' notice on May 18th. Fortunately, it fell one vote short of passage and we would like to thank Sen Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove), Sen. Robert Peters (D-Chicago) and Sen. Elgie Sims (D-Chicago) for not supporting it and the 255 fire and public health officials and burn survivors and their families who registered in opposition. We cannot let our guard down on this issue and have to continue to educate legislators throughout the year that fireworks need to be left in the hands of trained professionals.

Pictured left to right: Westchester Fire Chief Mike Mavrogeorge, CFD Chief Wally Schroeder, CFD Spokesperson Larry Langford, IL Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski and IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn at the CFD Chicago Fire Training Academy press conference media demo on the dangers pyrotechnic devices HB 2898 would misclassify as novelty items.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH AN ALCOHOL OR DRUG PROBLEM?



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- Residential/Inpatient Treatment
- Virtual Outpatient Treatment
- Adolescent Virtual Outpatient
- Withdrawal Management (Detox)
- Transitional Housing/Recovery Home
- Family Involvement & Support
- Treatment for Co-Occurring Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- 24/7 Nursing & Medical/Psychiatric Attention in a Non-hospital Setting
- Alumni Recovery Community Support Groups & Social Events
- Alumni App for virtual 12 step facilitation meeting and support
- Transportation provided to residential treatment

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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

(Please note, the above Savvik member # 28828 is exclusive to the Association record only. Each member will have their own unique number. This is how we track vendor sales for revenue share back to the Association.)

Savvik Membership:

Your agency is a new member of the Savvik Buying Group through the IFA. This membership is FREE as a benefit from your association.

Savvik is a Public Safety GPO with over 13,000 agency members who have access to volume discount pricing on various products and services. Our vendor programs are competitively bid and publicly awarded. As a Savvik member you now have access to over 80+ vendor programs.

Savvik will give back 1/3 of your association sales revenue to the IFA

Member Login Instructions:

Go to <https://savvik.com>

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

About SAVVIK Buying Group

Our Beginnings

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

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

Where We're Going

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

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

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

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

Membership Includes:

Access to National Public Bids – you can piggyback for free!

Large vendor contracts – save time and money!

Online marketplace – 5.11 Gear at the lowest prices!

Individual savings programs – benefits you can share with everyone in your agency

All of this for FREE!

If you have not received your registration email from SAVVIK, contact Secretary/Treasurer Kerry Federer at 618-830-3961 or by email at editor@illinoisfirefighters.org.

SPECIAL PROJECT #2434: **RED HAWK**

OXFORD TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT / ALPHA, ILLINOIS



2000-GALLON HAWK TANKER

SPECS / PHOTOS / VIDEO ► ALEXISFIRE.COM

At Alexis Fire Equipment, if you can dream it, we can build it. Our quality custom-built fire apparatus are engineered specifically for each of our customers to enable them to fight the battles ahead in full capacity. Built to endure for optimal efficiency and safety, Alexis trucks are completely customer driven. From brush trucks and mini pumpers to tankers, pumpers and aerials, your needs are our commands.



FEATURES: FREIGHTLINER M2 106 2-DOOR CHASSIS, HEAVY DUTY ALUMINUM BODY & GALVANIZED SUBFRAME, ROLL-UP DOORS, HALE DSD 1000 GPM -PTO PUMP, 2000-GALLON WETSIDE POLY TANK, ONE (1) 6" STEAMER INLET, FOLDING TANK STORAGE, SUCTION HOSE STORAGE, WHELEN LED WARNING LIGHT PACKAGE, AND MORE.

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Office of the State Fire Marshal



OSFM Announces the launch of Vector Solutions

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal is excited to announce the launch of Vector Solutions, a timesaving, easy-to-use web-based tool to help every Illinois fire department and firefighters more quickly and easily record training hours.

With this free new tool, all Illinois fire departments and firefighters can easily track their training hours, resulting in a reduction in recordkeeping errors, paperwork duplication, and time spent manually tracking required certifications and recertifications.

In addition to simplifying your training tracking, OSFM will use this tool to provide communications to departments and firefighters statewide, including information on the latest certification and recertification requirements, the most current news from OSFM, and additional materials as needed. Stay tuned for updates on our website and social media platforms.

The Division of Personnel Standards and Education (PS&E) has produced another training video. This video focuses on how to register for the PS&E Web Access Portal. It's important that all members of your department are registered so that if you choose to use our new Vector Solutions training tracking tool, all members must be registered on the Web Access Portal to participate. All PS&E training videos can be found on the OSFM website or on our YouTube Channel at @Illinois State Fire Marshal.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the OSFM continues to provide resources to the first responder community. Statistics show 1 in 4 people suffer from some form of mental illness in any given year. Firefighters are three times more likely to die from suicide than in the line of duty. According to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, 105 firefighters took their own lives in the United States in 2014. The US Firefighters Association reports that about 10 percent of firefighters may be abusing illicit substances and that alcohol abuse among this population is more than twice the rates seen in the general public. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors among first responders are also common and believed to be triggered or worsened by repeat exposure to trauma, including physical abuse and death among the people they serve, loss of people close to them, and life-threatening situations.

Help is available and know it's okay to ask for help. Visit sfm.illinois.gov, click on the resources tab, then click on Resiliency/Mental Health. This page has multiple resources available for all mental health related issues.

Finally, we continue to see a decline in COVID-19 in our communities and across the state, but now is not the time to let our guard down. As life starts to return to a more normal state, it's important that we still follow the proper protocols issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health. Get your vaccine and keep using the proper PPE when responding to a call. If we all work together, we will get to the end of the pandemic quicker and safer. The OSFM thanks you for all your hard work and dedication during this difficult time!



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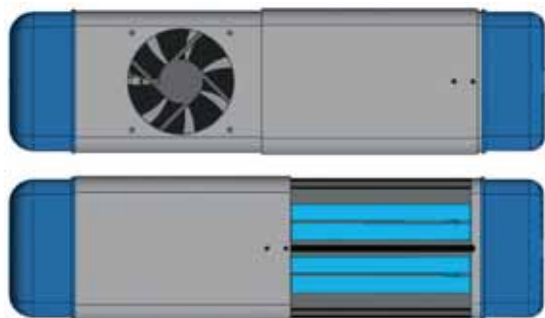
Unique Dual Sanitizing UV For Your Mobile Unit



Your mobile unit is continually exposed to viruses, bacteria, mold, allergens, and other pollutants that can quickly contaminate the air and surfaces and stay active and infectious for extended periods of time, risking health and lives. Aerapy's **researched, tested, study-backed**, and **affordable** ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI or UV) equipment harnesses the power of UV-C light to kill those pathogens or render them harmless.

The patented **DuoGuard** for mobile units helps guard against the spread of pathogens two ways: an integrated fan creates powerful airflow for air disinfection during transport and, once unoccupied, the UV device sanitizes surfaces with the push of a button.

Aerapy UV kills >99.9% of tested virus and bacterial pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2 (the coronavirus that causes COVID-19).



Patent No. US 10,893,990

MOBILE AIR AND SURFACE UV SANITIZING

DuoGuard

The **DuoGuard's** unique dual air and surface cleaning capability allows your mobile unit to be cleaned both while the vehicle is in use as well as in-between service calls while unoccupied, bringing unmatched disinfecting power to mobile units.

While the vehicle is running, the compact, ceiling-mounted device offers continuous air sanitizing with fully contained UV-C lamps and an integrated fan to draw air into the device to clean and disinfect. When the vehicle is safely unoccupied, the **DuoGuard's** surface sanitizing function can be engaged as an innovative panel slides back to reveal the UV-C lamps that then illuminate to further clean exposed surfaces after normal cleaning procedures.



Selling Price: \$1,495
Ask your Rep about
the details!

"Consider using ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) as a supplement to help inactivate SARS-CoV-2, especially if options for increasing room ventilation are limited."



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
AND PREVENTION (CDC), COVID-19
(CORONAVIRUS DISEASE)



MOBILE AIR AND SURFACE UV SANITIZING

DuoGuard

How Does It Work?



The **DuoGuard** employs short-wavelength UV-C light to kill or inactivate pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and molds in the air by disrupting their DNA and destroying their cellular function, causing the death of the microorganism and/or rendering it helpless.

AIR CLEANING

Drawn into the device by an integrated fan, air then passes through the **DuoGuard's** disinfecting UV-C light. Each trip through the device continues to reduce the number and impact of pathogens in the mobile unit. The air sanitizing function can be engaged while the vehicle is occupied and in transport as the UV is fully contained within the device.

SURFACE CLEANING

The usual method of cleaning and wiping down surfaces and tools with disinfectants is an important first step, but because mobile units have hard to reach, uneven surfaces it's easy to miss areas. The **DuoGuard** surface cleaning function exposes UV light to touch all exposed areas within the vehicle for your choice of 5, 10, 15, or 30 minutes and, in combination with normal cleaning procedure, is the optimal solution for surface disinfection.

Safety Features

A sliding panel keeps the UV-C light fully contained while the air cleaning function is engaged and the vehicle occupied. For surface cleaning, there is a 60-second delay after the function is activated, as well as these power interruption safeguards, to shut the device down while the UV-C lights are exposed: door switch, motion sensor, and emergency switch.

PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

2.25" H x 6" W x 24" L

Designed for mobile units.

Disinfects both air and surfaces.

Ceiling mounted and direct wired.

Integrated fan.

Specular reflectors for increased UV-C efficiency.

Solid state electronic ballast for low energy use, reliability, and operational safety.

Constructed of stainless steel, aluminum, and UV-resistant polycarbonate (end caps).



In independent laboratory testing, Aerapy UV systems achieved a 99.97% reduction of SARS-CoV-2 in the air in one air pass. On surfaces, 99.99% of SARS-CoV-2 was destroyed in three seconds.

Aerapy UV also showed a greater than 99.9% reduction in additional testing against pathogens including MRSA, enterovirus, and MS2 bacteriophage.



Rep's Name

Rep's Cell

Rep's Email

The Bulletin

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

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

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

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



Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



Help needed at 2021 Illinois State Fair



Each year, the IFA sponsors a day in the Illinois Fire Services Association tent at the state fair. As of this moment, it looks like the Illinois State Fair is being planned and help will be needed to staff the tent on Saturday, August 21. It takes a lot of help for all



of the people that go through the tent. If you or any other members of your department are available to work that day, please contact Chairman Bob Reason as soon as possible but at least 45 days prior to the day for the IFA day at the State Fair, August 21, at the phone number below, so that he can get enough parking passes and admission tickets mailed to you prior to the work date.



There are many fire safety booths that need staffing so that the people entering the tent can get fire safety tips and information. There is also a smoke house, where children can learn about how to properly and safely escape from fires.

The most popular spot in the tent, is the FREE popcorn.

If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated by the IFA and all of the people that pass through the tent that day.



Robert Reason, Director
State Fair Committee Chair
Call or text: 309-265-6472





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.





The first time I saw how a fire sprinkler worked, I was a little upset ...

My name is Jordan Rodriguez. As a burn survivor, I never want anyone to go through what my family has gone through. My twin brother and I were burned in a house fire when we were 4 years old. While the rest of the family escaped without physical harm, my brother received burns on 43% of his body; 80% of my body was burned. We had many surgeries and spent months in the hospital. There was a mental toll to the fire as well. While growing up, I was bullied and often felt left out. Our mother was devastated and our older brother still deals with post-traumatic stress disorder.

When I was a young man, I saw a demonstration that compared a fire in a sprinklered room versus a fire in an unsprinklered room. ***I was upset because I realized that life would have been different for my family if our home had fire sprinklers.*** I was upset because I know how many homes and apartments do not have fire sprinklers. Now I am committed to being the biggest advocate I can be.

You can directly impact your community's efforts to reduce fire risks by adopting and enforcing the latest codes that require fire sprinklers in all buildings. A fire can become deadly in less than two minutes. Fire sprinklers are the only technology that can actively prevent a fire from becoming deadly, protecting occupants and firefighters.



Northern Illinois Fire
Sprinkler Advisory Board
Save Lives. Protect Property.

www.FireSprinklerAssoc.org | 708-403-4468



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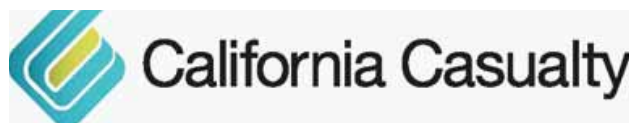
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Summer Safety Tips for Kids and Pets

Summer fun can turn into summer tragedy if we are not careful. As the weather warms up we need to be especially careful, keeping a watchful eye on our children and pets. Here are some of the dangers parents and pet owners need to be aware of.

Pools and open water: [Drowning](#) is the leading cause of unintentional death for children ages 1-4.

- Never leave children unattended near a pool, spa, lake or river
- teach them how to swim
- install fences, barriers, alarms and covers around pools
- ensure pools and hot tubs have approved drain covers
- learn CPR

Pets and pools can also be a deadly combination.

Some excellent learn to swim programs can be found at [SwimAmerica](#), your local [YMCA](#) or at the [American Red Cross](#).

Hot vehicles: It takes just minutes for temperatures to reach life-threatening levels in a car or truck with the windows rolled up.

Unfortunately, dozens of children and pets are put in this dangerous situation, all too often with [deadly results](#). 065

- Never leave children or pets unattended in vehicles
- Check and double check that everyone is out of the car – don't overlook sleeping babies
- Place a wallet, purse, brief case or cell phone in the back seat as a reminder there is a child in the car
- Have daycare providers call parents or relatives if a child doesn't arrive
- Always lock vehicles and make sure children do not have access to keys or remote entry devices
- Teach children that vehicles are never to be used as play areas
- If a child is missing, always check the pool first, then the car (including the trunk)
- If you see a child, infant or pet left in a vehicle, call 911065

Outdoor heat: Extremely hot or humid days can lead to heatstroke.

- Make sure kids and animals stay hydrated
- Avoid strenuous play in the heat of the day
- Stay indoors or in the shade as much as possible
- Visit cooler buildings like libraries, movies or malls if you don't have air conditioning
- Spend time at a community pool, lake or water park

Driving: Simple steps can make everyone safer.

- Always wear seat belts and make certain children are in approved safety or booster seats
- Secure pets in a safety harness or approved carrier
- Never drive impaired
- Don't drive distracted
- Observe all speed limits, restrictions and road signs
- Never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle

Safety is a prime concern at California Casualty. Learn more safety tips from our Resource Page, www.calcas.com/resources.

It's also a good idea to make certain you have enough liability protection with your insurance. Contact a California Casualty advisor today for a policy review, 1.800.800.9410, or visit www.calcas.com.

Sources for this article:

<http://www.poolsafely.gov/>

www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/370_0.pdf

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/Kids-and-Hot-Cars.aspx>

<https://www.safercar.gov/parents/>

This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to teachers, law enforcement officers, firefighters and nurses. Get a quote at 1.888.430.5316 or www.readyforquote.com/katie.

Hoarders Fires

This program is designed to challenge, both Engine and truck companies when dealing with a hoarding situation under fire conditions. The Truck company will be placed in a scenario in which they will have to remove an unconscious victim through moderate to heavy hoarding under a heavy smoke and high heat condition.

The engine companies will have to advance and flow an 1 ¾ hand line through extreme hoarding conditions under a heavy smoke and high heat condition while clearing a path for the hose lines advance. All attending students will be placed through both the engine and truck evolution. This program will push each student to their limits of both stamina and frustration, it is designed to be an extremely challenging course so that when fire fighters are faced with true hoarding conditions they can accomplish all their assigned tasks with a better understanding on how to achieve them.

Register before September 15, 2021 - **3 members for \$200**

After September 16, 2021 - Cost: **\$100 per person**

Location: Amboy Fire Station - November 6th, 2021 (8am-5pm)

How to Enroll: email: jbryant9962@gmail.com



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Vehicle and Machinery Operations

The Vehicle and Machinery Operations course is designed to acquaint the student with techniques used in Auto Extrication. More specifically the student will become familiar with the different classifications and characteristics of vehicles and machines. Students will also become familiar with the different tools used in extrication, stabilization of the vehicle/machine, disentanglement of the patient(s), and initiating patient care.

This class will also consist of Basic and advanced vehicle rescue techniques that utilize an assortment of hand and hydraulic tools. Emphasis will be placed on tools including Hi Lift jacks, recip saws, air chisels, and rescue struts. These tactics will be taught in a variety of scenarios.

Amboy Fire Department

October 1, 1800 – 2200

October 2, 3, 9, 10 – 0830-1700

Cost: \$200 per Student

Contact Chief Bryant - 815-994-6184

Jbryant9962@gmail.com

Amboy Fire & Extrication School

Amboy Fire Department - April 9, 2022

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

The 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.

Contact Chief Bryant - 815-994-6184

Jbryant9962@gmail.com

Blackhawk Firefighters Association Announces 2021 Memorial Service

The Blackhawk Firefighters' Association is proud to announce the Annual Firefighter Memorial Service. The 2021 Memorial Service will be Saturday September 11th, at 1300 hours, at Sauk Valley Community College, 173 Illinois Route 2, Dixon Illinois. The purpose of this service is to honor those who have served their communities so well.

The event will honor any firefighters who have passed away since our last service in September of 2019, and were a member of the BFFA. In addition, the service will honor firefighters that passed away prior to this date, who have not been honored in prior years and who were members of BFFA at their time of passing. A maximum of three members per department, with a limit of thirty honorees from the association who have passed away will be honored. The thirty positions will be filled as the applications are received.

Contact Chief Bryant - Jbryant9962@gmail.com

From the Chaplain's Rack



Hello Illinois firefighters and personnel.

I am Josh Ehrler and in March 2021 I was elected by the IFA board to be your chaplain. It is a profound honor as the IFA is a significant organization in our state. The privilege is magnified by the fact that I am taking the seat of Chaplain Kevin Coffey, who retired from this post after many years of faithful service.

So, who's the new guy?

Here's a quick bio. I am an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and currently serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Morris, IL. I also proudly serve Mt. Morris Fire Protection District as our Chaplain. We decided early to make the chaplain position a standalone role in MMFPD, which means I am not a firefighter or EMT/Paramedic. My primary responsibilities are to the families/victims while on scene and to our personnel before and after the call.

Now as the chaplain for the Illinois Firefighters Association, my responsibility extends to all of you. My hope is that, even if we don't meet, you will see me as a resource. We know this is tough work, we know it takes a toll, we've all seen the stats. Let me help you and your department get connected with options, materials, and ways to support each other. We all need to keep figuring out how to hold each other up, both for our mutual effectiveness and to ensure we all go home well.

A little more about myself. Before becoming a Lutheran pastor, I was an urban forester near Denver, CO. I have two awesome kids and am married to an amazing, brilliant woman. I love being outdoors, woodworking, and firing up my chainsaws. Ask me about the dead 90' sycamore I removed from the top down with rope work.

Really, ask me anything you want. Call me for whatever you need. I am here for you. 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

Crisis Text Line

"Hello" to 741741

Chaplain Josh's Phone

608-234-3793

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Required and Suggested Training for District Trustees

by Joseph Miller III
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

During the month of May, we typically see an influx of newly appointed and elected members to the Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, these newly appointed members are not always informed of some of the requirements they must take in their new role as trustee.

Required Training

Open Meetings Act

The training that each new trustee should finish first is the Open Meetings Act training required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act. In actuality, this is the only mandated training for trustees. Specifically, the Act requires as follows;

"Each elected or appointed member of a public body subject to this Act...shall successfully complete the electronic training curriculum developed and administered by the Public Access Counselor...not later than the 90th day after the date the member: (1) takes the oath of office [or] (2) otherwise assumes responsibilities as a member of the public body."

5 ILCS 120/1.05(b)

The training normally can be accessed at this website: <http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/> Trustees should follow the "OMA/FOIA Portal" and register for a free account. The online training program can then be completed. Successful trainees will receive a certificate of completion that should be printed and kept in the District's trustee files. As of publication, however, the OMA/FOIA Portal had been shut down for repairs for several weeks, with no set completion date. The Attorney General's Office said officials will not be penalized for failing to complete the training while the website is down. Open Meetings Act training from one of the conferences mentioned below, though, will also satisfy the requirement.

Trustees are generally only required to complete Open Meetings Act training once during their appointment/election. However, if a trustee is named the Open Meetings Act officer for the District, then training would be required on an annual basis. An Open Meetings Act officer must complete the training within 30 days of being named. For most fire districts and departments, the fire chief or designee fills this role.

Sexual Harassment Prevention

Employers in Illinois are required to annually train their employees on sexual harassment prevention under the Workplace Transparency Act (775 ILCS 5/2-109). There is some debate, though, whether that includes district trustees because they are elected or appointed officials rather than hired employees. We advise elected and appointed officials to participate in the annual training anyway as a precautionary measure. Trustees are agents of the District, which means they could be subject to a sexual harassment lawsuit. Completing this training would have the dual benefit of proactively attempting to prevent sexual harassment and providing evidence that steps had been taken to avoid malfeasance.

Many districts have asked their attorneys or some other outside professional to provide a training session for all employees to satisfy this requirement, since the law requires specific material be covered.

Recommended Training

The Bulletin

The Fire Protection District Act only mentions trustee training in one section. (70 ILCS 705/6(c)) When a board of trustees qualifies for compensation, individual trustees can increase their compensation by as much as 50% by completing the Essential Trustee Training initially, and then Continuing Trustee Education annually thereafter. If you are a member of a non-compensated Board of Trustees, the training is not required. However, it is still available to all trustees and would provide valuable information to anyone looking to understand the job better.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal mandates that trustees complete 12 hours of training initially to qualify for increased compensation, followed by 3 hours of credits annually for recertification. In a traditional year, there are two huge conferences that allow trustees to satisfy these requirements while learning everything from the basics of being a board member to the most recent legal and statutory developments affecting districts. They are hosted by the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts (IAFPD) in June and the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts (NIAFPD) in January.

Other Training

In addition to the conferences, there are also about half-a-dozen in-person training sessions held throughout the year to give trustees more options for completing their hours. These are also usually organized by the IAFPD or NIAFPD. They are publicized in advance.

Another resource available is on-demand training, which has become even more important this year. There are several presentations posted on the IAFPD webpage. To view the available online sessions simply visit <https://www.iafpd.org/online-programs.html>. In addition, the NIAFPD also posts material on their website, such as their 2020 Fall Seminar (<https://www.niafpd.org/>).

Recommended Reading

Lastly, an excellent resource is the *Handbook for Trustees*, by Jim Sinclair and Shawn P. Flaherty. The handbook can be purchased through the IAFPD's website for \$50 for members (\$70 for non-members).

Joseph Miller, III is a partner with Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in Naperville, Illinois. Mr. Miller's practice is concentrated in the areas of fire protection district law, local government law, and education law.

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE
DOWN & DIRTY FIREFIGHTING TRAINING CONFERENCE
SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 11-14, 2021 AT IFSI**

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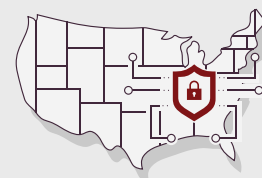
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- **Have completed a Department of Labor Approved Apprentices Program**

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or scan the QR Code at right.





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presented by

The National Fire Academy, Alsip Fire Department, Illinois Fire Service Institute &
Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative

DATE:

JUNE 1ST - 2ND, 2021

LOCATION:

CLASSROOM & LAB LOCATION

Sprinkler Fitters Local 281
UA Training Center
11900 S. Laramie Avenue, Alsip, Illinois
(right next to the Alsip Fire Department)

SCHEDULE FOR BOTH DAYS:

7:00AM	CHECK-IN	<i>*Continental breakfast provided</i>
8:00AM	CLASS	
11:30AM	LUNCH PROVIDED	
12:30PM	CLASS	
4:30PM	WRAP UP	



Tom Lia,
SprinkTomL@aol.com



Fire Chief
Tom Styczynski

CLASS INFORMATION:

This course will empower the learner to identify and mitigate common campus fire and life safety risks, as well as understand the basic components and operation of fire protection and life safety systems.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites to taking this course.

(Recommended for colleges, campus dormitory operations, fire and building departments with colleges.)

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