

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

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FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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Department Spotlight
Staunton Fire Protection District

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Mission Statement

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

President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters,

It just does not stop. Senate Bill 3287 passed the Senate and is on the way to the House for approval. That piece of legislation could very well put a stop to outside training for firefighters. The trial lawyers, we believe, are trying to push this piece of legislation through. Our instructors now have limited liabilities for instructing outside their fire departments and this legislation could prevent them from instructing training elsewhere.

Hopefully we can get this stopped or amended. This could affect most of the fire service and our Fire Academy, along with the Cornerstone Program. We have been very busy trying to get the word out all over this state. By the time you get this Bulletin, we will hear how all this pans out.

Our next Illinois Fire Service Association meeting will June 5th, just before Fire College starts. One of the main issues that will be discussed, will be the Minimum Standard of Training for firefighters. I believe we may have come together with a proposal that we all can live with. The mandatory requirement must be left with your department for now. Your department already is required by the Department of Labor to give you the required training for the tasks that perform. A bucket type of system would fit for most volunteer departments. You will hear more about our proposal before the year is done.

I hope many of you were able to attend Fire College this year, you may not know that our Fire College is the oldest running Fire College in the nation. Each year, nearly five hundred firefighters take advantage of classroom and hands on training. Thirty years ago, we would have well over a thousand firefighters attend. In those days, the Fire College was free to firefighters, but you know, nothing is free. The cost has risen and the attendance has diminished. That is not the end, the Institute is actually training many more firefighters, now, through their outreach program. The On-line, Regional Training facilities and Cornerstone Program has provided training to thousands of firefighters that may not been able to attend Fire College. The Institute is healthy and motivated in its effort to continue providing for our training needs well into the future. If you have not registered your Explorers or Cadets for the Hands on Training June 19th thru the 22nd, the time is now. They must be pre-registered to attend. I attended last year and watched the young firefighters and they were thrilled about the training they received.

Now it's time to be thinking about our Annual Conference and Down and Dirty training weekend. October will be here before you know it. The Firefighters that attended last year also stated that the training was great. The announcement should be in this issue, so take advantage of early registration so you can get the class that you requested. Our Officers and Directors of this association have been working hard to address your needs and we need your support to keep this association strong. Please get the word out to those departments and firefighters that do not belong to this association. They will find out that the benefits will far out way the costs of our dues. In closing, we all want to come home after the call, be your fellow firefighters keeper and keep them safe through training.

God Bless and be Safe

John Swan President IFA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

IFA PARTICIPATES IN LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

IFA joined forces with IL Fire Safety Alliance, the IL Fire Chiefs Association, the IL Association of Fire Protection Districts, the Northern IL Association of Fire Protection Districts and the Northern IL Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board to host a reception for legislators the evening of April 9th. The reception was well attended by legislators and gave fire officials an opportunity to get better acquainted with legislators in a relaxed setting. In recent years, there has been over a 50 percent turnover in the General Assembly and it is important that we develop and maintain relationships on an ongoing basis with legislators.

Battle over Income Tax Extension at Statehouse

The legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 31st and are supposed to have the State Budget wrapped up by then. What is at odds is whether the Governor has enough votes to maintain the state income tax at its current rate. Back in 2011, the state income tax was increased from 3.75% to 5% but the increase was temporary and is set to expire in January. If it does not get extended, the legislature will be looking at another \$1.8 billion hole in the State budget. The debate is pitting those who's state funded programs would be cut without the extension against those who are rallying for lower taxes in an election year.

FIREWORKS POPS UP AGAIN IN LEGISLATURE

Rep. David Reis (R-Olney) introduced legislation in the form of HB 5902, this spring, which would legalize the sale and use of Class C fireworks to the general public. We, immediately, mobilized our opposition. Local chiefs from southern Illinois and hospitals and the heads of fire service organizations, also reached out to Rep. Reis directly, but he was committed to advancing the issue. Though the bill was assigned to the Public Safety: Police and Fire Committee, prior to the hearing, Rep. Reis did agree to meet with the fire service to learn more about our concerns. I arranged that the meeting take place right after the Fire Caucus breakfast so key leadership in the fire community could attend. We explained that the increased cost to local governments due to increased emergency response, the increased cost to the state with the Medicaid claims, not to mention the human suffering most of which is endured by innocent bystanders, it would not be worth any little revenue it would bring in. We also explained Units of Local Government can currently pass a local ordinance to allow for the sale of Class C fireworks as long as the individual goes through OSFM approved training and the local fire chief signs off on the site. Rep. Reis later decided not to advance the bill based on the information we shared and the bill was re-assigned to the House Rules Committee.

END OF SESSION

At press time, there are only 10 days left in the legislative session, but the fate of many bills is still up in the air. IFA is fighting vigorously against SB 3287, an initiative of the IL Trial Lawyers

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Association which will make any entity providing safety advice or recommendations liable in a workers comp case unless it is done in-house. I will provide a more detailed report of the final status of the fire service bills in the next newsletter in order for you to have the most up to date info. In the meantime, if you have any specific state government concerns, please contact me at 217-280-0206 or mvaughn@springnet1.com.

Photos from the Legislative Reception



Left to right: State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis, OSFM Senior Policy Advisor Kevin Schott, State Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Addison) State Rep. Chris Welch (D-Addison), Broadview Fire Chief Tom Gaertner, Margaret Vaughn, OSFM Legislative Liaison George Korda and NIFSAB Executive Director Tom Lia.

Elwood Fire Protection District Chief Bill Offerman, Margaret Vaughn, State Senator Mike Frerichs (D-Champaign) and OSFM Senior Policy Advisor Kevin Schott.



South Wheatland Asst. Fire Chief Dane Hodges, Director of Agriculture Bob Flider, Margaret Vaughn, South Wheatland Fire Chief Tom Williams

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Chaplain's Corner

Kevin Coffey - IFA Chaplain

AN UNLIMITED WATER SUPPLY

Having spent my career fighting fires in Chicago where Lake Michigan was available on every street corner, I never did get a grasp of the challenge of obtaining a good water supply like most of the rest of the fire departments throughout Illinois. Our concern was to keep the water moving so as not to let the lines freeze rather than to conserve water so as not to run the supply low. Well, now retired from Chicago and a member of my local volunteer department, I know better. I no longer take for granted the value of a good water supply as we “put the wet stuff on the orange stuff”. That’s why this account of Jesus in the gospel of John, chapter 4, is written in my heart with a much bolder exclamation point than ever before. It goes something like this:

Now Jesus’ fire department was called to respond mutual aid to a fire in a town in Samaria called Sychar. It was a hot day around noon and Jesus had to drag some large diameter hose a long way to the hydrant. Needless to say, when he got there he was winded and exhausted.

Now a Samaritan firefighter came to hook up a line to the same hydrant, so Jesus said to him, “Will you hook my line up to your gate valve?”

The firefighter responded: “You are from the Galilean Fire Department and I am from the Samaritan Fire Department. How can you ask me to hook up your line?” (For Jewish firefighters did not associate with Samaritan firefighters.)

Jesus answered: “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks for some water-supply help, you would have asked me and I would have given you living water.”

“Hey bud”, the firefighter responded, “you didn’t even bring a hydrant wrench with you to turn this thing on! Where are you going to get this living water?”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who gets water from a hydrant will need to do so again and again, but whoever taps into the water supply that I give him will never run low. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life!”

Obviously, Jesus is taking this firefighter on a journey from physical water to the offer of spiritual water – “living water” as he calls it. And the invitation to this firefighter – and to all of us – is to know the gift of God that he offers: **that gift is faith**. Faith that God has called you to your work in the fire service...faith that God is with you every step of the way...faith that your humble and compassionate service is never forgotten by God...faith that your training is preparing you for the emergency responses that God is going to dispatch you to...faith that God will help shoulder the accumulated stress of your fire service experience when you cast it upon him...faith that in a fallen world where things can sometimes go horribly wrong, God will walk with you – and even carry you – through unbearable pain and grief...faith that God hears every prayer and catches every tear.

This gift of faith taps us into the unlimited supply of God’s living water which he promises will become a spring welling up within you and me. I hope you’ll keep that invitation in mind on your next trip to the hydrant. If I can help or encourage you or your fire department in any way, please let me know.

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

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2014 Conference Classes

Hands-On Firefighting Classes

Down & Dirty Basic Firefighter - Limited to 50 students

Are you ready to get in there and fight the fire? This hands-on class is designed for the new firefighter and covers extensive fundamental firefighting skills necessary to function on a fire ground. Subjects include some, but not all, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), small tools, hose, ladders, fire stream management and basic fireground operations. Students from this class will participate in the live-burn exercise as members of a fire fighting crew.

Down & Dirty Basic Pump Operations - Limited to 40 students

This class covers the mechanical principles of pumps, operation of a pumping engine and hands-on pumping activity. Students practice computing the friction loss for a variety of evolutions and receive hands-on training in operating different types of pumpers with municipal and tender water supplies. This is a valuable class for those who have recently been promoted to driver/operator, or are seeking a better understanding of how a pump moves water from hydrants, tanks and static sources through the pump to extinguish the fire.

Myths and Realities - Limited to 30 students

The class returns this year by popular demand. Observe and experience first-hand fire behavior, proper stream application, plus the effects of straight and fog streams. Techniques for easily handling 2-1/2" hose and hand tools will be demonstrated. Note: this class may be taken in addition to Friday's classes at hotel.

Down & Dirty Rapid Intervention Team - Basics

Limited to 50 students

This Cornerstone version introduces students to the basics of Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) operations and tactical and strategic operations related to downed firefighters. Discussion covers firefighter case studies, RIT tools, staging, RASP, size up, accountability, equipment demonstrations, victim extrication/disentanglement, and managing the "Mayday." Preventive or proactive methods of avoiding situations where fire fighters are trapped are highlighted. Practical reactive techniques or mitigation of a downed responder are demonstrated and practiced as a part of this "hands on" class.

Equipment Requirements For All Hands-On Classes

All firefighters participating in the three hands-on classes and Friday night's Myths and Realities MUST have an SCBA (with current hydrostatic test date and a complete set of their own, properly fitting, protective clothing (as prescribed in NFPA 1971, 1972, 1973, and 1974).

Classroom Firefighting Classes

Chaplain's Workshop - Friday and Saturday at the hotel

A Chaplain at the scene of a fire can play a number of significant roles – from providing information to bewildered onlookers and family members through delivering comfort and guidance to fire victims. This 12-hour workshop focuses on what you can do at the scene.

- Psychological first aid
- Fireground communication and culture
- An introduction to Technical Rescue
- What the Chief expects of the Chaplain
- L.O.D.D. review and ICFC update
- Case Studies, if time is available

Getting to know OSFM and IDOL

This Saturday afternoon program will focus on the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) and how the agencies interact with fire departments throughout Illinois. The class takes a close look at current issues and recent developments in areas such as code enforcement; fireworks regulation; life safety code adoption efforts; minimum training standards and inspection practices of IDOL. Fire department programs offered by OSFM and IDOL will be highlighted. Kevin Schott of the OSFM and Cheryl Neff of IDOL will make the joint presentation.

New This Year:

Understanding Today's Dynamic Fireground

Firefighters responding to structure fires today are faced with many challenges – from building construction to operating with limited manpower. They are challenged by changes in fire behavior, but will gain much from the research that has gone into making the fireground safer for all. We will look at the testing that UL and NIST have conducted and its relation to fire attack, building construction, legacy and modern furnishing, along with what needs to be relayed for size up. This class is beneficial for all members of the fire service from the newest firefighter to the chief officer. This class will be held on Friday and Saturday from 1-5 pm at the hotel.

Traffic Incident Management & Responder Safety Workshop - Limited to 40 students

This six-hour hands-on training workshop is based on the National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management and provides an overview of the safety hazards at highway incidents. Topics include strategies and tactics designed to help save lives and prevent injuries of emergency response personnel. The class is taught by Brad Sprague, Deputy Chief of Operations for Minooka Fire Protection District and a Sergeant with Illinois State Police District 05. This class will be held on Saturday from 8am - 4pm at the hotel.

**Get a free registration for every three
from the same organization**

**Testing for Firefighter Certification will take
place on Thursday and Friday nights**

STAUNTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

On February 2, 1923, Staunton Mayor Paul D. Weiss called a special meeting to investigate the possibility of establishing a volunteer fire department that would respond to fires with the newly purchased 19234 REO fire apparatus. During the initial meeting, Mayor Weiss appointed Tony Safko as the first chief of the Staunton Fire Department. A total of 20 members signed on as the initial members of the department. Each member paid a \$1.00 membership fee.

From 1923 until 1978, the Staunton Fire Department operated as a volunteer fire department affiliated with the City of Staunton. In 1978, the Staunton Fire Protection District was formed and each household within the fire protection district was taxed a basic rate. Currently the fire district is managed by a three-person board: President Bill Knop, who has been the president of the Staunton Fire Protection District since its inception, Treasurer Ron Dustman, and Secretary Bart Yakos.

The Staunton Fire Protection District (SFPD) in Staunton, Illinois, is currently an all-volunteer fire department located 40 miles northeast of St. Louis, Missouri. The district covers 32 square miles of territory with an estimated population of 7,500. The largest portion of the population (5,200) resides in the city of Staunton, and the remainder lives in the rural farm area surrounding the city. The city boasts a small business district, a hospital, a long- term care facility, an assisted living facility, three schools, ten churches, and some small industry. The district also has a major interstate highway, a state highway, two railways, a private airport, and several pipelines contained in the response area. The district covers portions of two different counties and seven different townships. The district water supply is provided by five different public water supply systems and two private systems. The public systems are supplemented by a number of dry hydrant systems that were installed by SFPD volunteers in rural areas of the district.

The SFPD currently maintains a maximum roster of 50 active firefighters and approximately 25 inactive and honorary firefighters. The department is structured into 4 companies with 1 captain, 1 lieutenant and 10-11 firefighters per company. A fire chief and two assistant chiefs oversee the department operations. A fire department chaplain supports department operations. A junior firefighter program with a roster of 5- 8 personnel rounds out the department roster. Current department members currently average 10 years of service within the department. The Staunton Fire Protection District is led by an very active group of fireground and volunteer organization officers. They include the following:

Company 1: Captain Brian Dustman and Lieutenant Bill Miller

Company 2: Captain Mark Bryan and Lieutenant Allan Williams

Company 3: Captain Danny Mosser and Lieutenant Jim Aljets

Company 4: Captain Corey Painter and Lieutenant Ryan Ray

Assistant Chiefs Russell Alexander and Kevin Kuethe

Chief Rick Haase

Volunteer President Ryan Ray

Volunteer Vice President Brad Legendre

Volunteer Secretary David Wells

Volunteer Treasurer Anthony Saracco

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The department currently operates seven apparatus, an ATV, and a trailer. Engine 4911 is a 1986 Pierce class A pumper with a 750 gallon water tank and a 1,000 gpm pump. Engine 4912 is a 2007 Pierce class A rescue pumper with a 1000 gallon water tank and a 2,000 gpm pump. Engine 4913 is 2000 Pierce class A pumper/tender with a 1,500 water tank and a 1,500 gpm pump. Tender 4961 is 1989 Marion tanker with a 2,200 gallon water tender. Squad 4951 is a 1994 Road Rescue heavy rescue truck. Squad 4952 is 2013 Ford 4 wheel drive light rescue truck. Brush Truck 4971 is a 2013 Ford 4 wheel drive vehicle with a skid unit that contains a 200 gallon water tank and 500 gpm pump. ATV 4972 is 2006 Polaris 6 x 6 all terrain vehicle. The SFPD also operates a special operations trailer that carries the department hazardous materials equipment and a large foam supply. The department maintains state of the art equipment including four hydraulic rescue tool systems, air bags, two thermal imaging cameras, positive pressure fans, over 3,000' of large diameter hose, and a complete compliment of firefighting and rescue tools. The department is equipped to provide high angle rescue, confined space, water and ice rescue response. All SFPD firefighters are issued NFPA compliant bunker gear and wildland gear.

The current SFPD station was dedicated was built in 2002. The station has a total footprint of 11,955 square feet with 6,900 square feet of truck bays and 8,550 square feet of finished office area. The SFPD has averaged 110 calls per year over the last 10 years. The bulk of the incidents are minor in nature and include vehicle fires, utility emergencies, and smoke investigations. The department responds to an average of five working structure fires and 25 rescue calls per year.

The SFPD provides a wide variety of support services to the district residents. This includes an extensive public education program, a pre-planning program, a knox box program, a customer service program and a scholarship program for high school seniors. The SFPD maintains a rural water supply program, a disaster planning and response program and MABAS trained honor guard. The SFPD conducts a member safety program and health and wellness program.

The SFPD conducts a comprehensive firefighter training program. The SFPD currently produces a monthly safety bulletin and a monthly personal development bulletin for all SFPD personnel. During the last 20 years, the department members have participated in over 50,000 hours of on-site training have obtained over 50 state and national training certifications.

The department has a developed a well-defined automatic mutual aid program that is coordinated with fire departments in Macoupin, Madison and Montgomery counties. The department is a very active member of MABAS Division 35 and currently houses the division generator/light tower. SFDP members also participate on the MABAS 35 Hazardous Materials Response Team and the MABAS 35 Incident Management Team. The SFPD is also a member of the 3M Firefighters Association (a 36 department mutual aid organization).

The Staunton Fire Protection District currently maintains a class 5 ISO rating. In 2007, the Staunton Fire Protection District won the International Association of Fire Chiefs VCOS / Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Safe Vehicle Operation Program Award. Current Fire Chief Rick Haase was named the Illinois Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year during 2001 and the Fire Chief Magazine National Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year during 2004.

For the last 90 years, the Staunton Fire Department/Staunton Fire Protection District volunteers have responded to almost 4,500 calls for assistance that range from house fires, to vehicle rescues, to water rescues, to hazardous materials releases. The department members have literally donated hundreds of thousands of manhours to the community. They have raised in excess of \$750,000

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to help supplement department operations. They support community activities by donating to community organizations (little league baseball, soccer, Muscular Dystrophy, Red Cross, Salvation Army, schools, etc.). Perhaps the key feature in understanding the Staunton Fire Department is its' teamwork. The infrastructure of the department is the highly dedicated people who will risk their lives for each other and the public. The SFPD team is the most elite organization in Staunton and has withstood many challenges over the last 90 years.

Staunton Photo Album





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Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Jim Keiken, Deputy Director



Mark Your 2014 Training Calendar

- **Annual Explorer / Cadet “HOT” Fire School** June 19 – 22, 2014
- **Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Academy**, September 8 – October 24, 2014

For more information on upcoming classes visit our web site @ <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/>

As I consider what to write for this issue the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) is preparing to conduct its 90th Fire College. This is the longest running Fire College in the nation (world). Fire College was conceived in 1922 to be a “Formal Training Program” by the State Fire Marshal John G. Gamber and fireman from across the state. The first program in 1925 was lecture or demonstration that included:

- “Demonstration of Resuscitation” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio
- “Fire Alarm Systems” F.A. Raymond, Consulting Engineer, Gamewell Alarm Company, Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts
- “Demonstration-First Aid” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio
- “Care and Maintenance of Equipment” Harold F. Hunter, Engineer, Chicago Board of Underwriters
- “Demonstration-Rescue Work” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio
- “Demonstration-Raising Ladders, Hose Work” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio
- “Fire Prevention and Building Construction” Raymond T. Nelson, Engineer, Western Actuarial Bureau

“A rather general criticism, however, was that too much time had been given to lectures and not enough to demonstrations.... So in 1926 the focus was on “hand on training”

The 1926 program included:

- “Sprinkler Protection” Ira. G. Hoagland, Sec. and Treas. National Automatic Sprinkler Association
- “Hydraulics of Fire Streams” Clarence Goldsmith, Assistant Chief Engineer, National Board of Fire Underwriters, Chicago
- “The Contents of Buildings” D.J. Price, Engineer in Charge of Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- “Ventilation of Buildings. Smoke and Gas, with Demonstration” Thomas F. Dougherty, Deputy Chief, New York Fire Department

Let’s fast forward 90 years later to 2014 and what are the hot topics of the fire service? The need for more “hands on” practical training with live fire activities as part of program both on IFSI proper and off site acquired structures. Fire Dynamic in Modern construction: This is a program that looks at the effects of modern construction materials and contents and how these materials have made fire burn hotter and faster. New information learned for Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) stress the importance of controlling ventilation and the need to cool the environment to reduce the risk to firefighters.

It amazes me as much as things change in the fire service we still have a basic foundation of issues. Yes the equipment is better, apparatus provides more water. Protective equipment provides better protection from heat and smoke. We still need education and training on fire attack, ventilation, building construction, Fire Prevention techniques. Now more than ever we need an understanding on the impact of building contents on fire behavior and the list goes on.

Their issues are our issues, the need to not only learn but relearn the basic techniques and skills is constant. As

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firefighters (no matter what rank or position) we need to have a mastery of the profession that needs a constant commitment to learning and training. IFSI is there to support this every day. The mission of IFSI is “Helping Firefighters do their Work through Training, Education, Information and Research.

Each year IFSI has thousands of student contact hour to nearly a thousand Illinois fire department. That said we have many firefighters and numerous departments that don’t utilize the IFSI resources. Some may have in house expertise and resources to do everything on their own, some may not. That doesn’t change the fact firefighter’s still need education and training just like those before us. The issues we are addressing today are not that different from those of the past. What is different is there are now resource to support firefighter and fire department that didn’t exist then. The difference is that IFSI is here throughout the year as a resource for all departments to supplement their own in-house training and resource.

My questions to you are have you taken advantage of the quality programs IFSI has to offer, has your department, if not why not? IFSI is here to help firefighters, let us

New Assistant Director of Fire Fighting Programs

On April 7th Director Mortenson selected Sean serve as its Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs. In his role at IFSI, Burke will be responsible for overseeing the planning and execution of all firefighting programs statewide beginning April 16th.

He began as a volunteer in St. Meinrad, IN, and then moved to the Chicago Fire Department in 1980, where he will retire later this year where he is a Battalion Chief assigned to the 18th Battalion at 71st Street and Parnell in the Englewood area. Sean is a second - generation firefighter, following in the footsteps of his father who served as Assistant Chief on the Lombard Fire Department until 1968. Additionally, Chief Burke has been an IFSI instructor for four years. “With Sean’s extensive experience, we believe he will make an immediate positive impact.” Royal Mortenson, Director for IFSI said. “We are extremely happy to get a firefighter and leader of Sean’s quality on the IFSI team full - time.



New Program Manager for Trench Rescue Training program



The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has designated Brock Herion to lead the SWMD: Trench Rescue Training program. Brock takes over for Heather Moore, who stepped aside to concentrate on other career responsibilities. He will be responsible for scheduling classes, cultivating new instructors and assuring the program continues to meet all state and national training standards.

Herion serves as a Battalion Chief with the Addison Fire District and has been on that department 17 years. He was promoted to Battalion Chief in October of 2013. Herion has been in the fire service for 23 years and with IFSI for three years as an instructor in the Trench Program. He holds certificates at technician level in all of the Special Operation disciplines.

Brock received his Bachelor’s degree in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University and a Bachelor’s degree in Athletic Training from Benedictine University. He holds a Master’s degree in Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University.

April Instructors of the Month

In April, IFSI recognizes the instructors who developed and delivered the first Large Animal Rescue Awareness (LARA) classes. The team of three worked together over the last three years to develop the new class and to cultivate and train other instructors to teach the class

Deke Carls is a veterinarian and also works as a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician-B. He serves as Captain on the Hillsdale Fire Department, has been on that department since 2001, and has been on IFSI’s field staff since 2012. Deke graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 2009 and works at small animal



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practice in Colona. He has had a long-term interest in horses and has been involved in the equine industry his entire life.



Bill Fulton grew up on a livestock farm near Salem and serves on the Salem Fire Department, while actively farming and working in the community. His farm includes a herd of beef cows and a flock of sheep. His interest in farming and livestock drove his desire to help develop the class on large animal rescue. He has also been active with in other ag rescue classes and was published last year in Fire Engineering on the problems of methane buildup in hog confinement buildings and possible fire hazards. Bill has been on the IFSI field staff since 2004 and has taught more than 196 classes in a variety of topics.

Chuck Seahen has been a field instructor for IFSI since 2006 and serves on the Scales Mound Fire Protection District. He is retired from the Rolling Meadows Fire Department and retired after 27 years as a Lieutenant. Chuck has taught more than 160 classes for IFSI and has 15 skillsets. Chuck's interest in large animals is in horseback riding. He is a riding instructor with the Certified Horsemanship Association in both English and Western equitation.



May Instructors of the Month

In May, IFSI recognizes the instructors who developed and delivered the first Leadership Development and Decision-Making in the Fire Service Workshop in late March. The team of 14 worked closely together over the last two years to develop a process for input and collaboration to develop a cutting edge leadership and decision-making curriculum.

Lew Lake leads the team under the guidance of IFSI's Director Royal Mortenson and with the encouragement and support of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. Altogether the team met monthly to determine Lines of Education and methods of instruction. They will continue to meet and work with other stakeholders to refine the curriculum.



Members of the team include: Sean Burke, Steve Gambrill, Lew Lake, Jason Loeb, Tim Meister, Heather Moore, Jim Moore, Brian Scott, Tom Shubert, Richard Stack, Jim Vaughn, Tony Vespa, Peter Van Dorpe, and Zack Riddle. Together the team represents almost 100 years of instructing with IFSI and more than double that for affiliation with the fire service.



SAVE LIVES

The Illinois fire services, fire chiefs, fire inspectors and firefighters from across the state support the NFPA Fire Sprinkler Initiative and its goal of supporting model code adoption that includes installing residential fire sprinklers following NFPA 13D in newly constructed homes.

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- But the Realtors Associations and Home Builders Associations oppose updating our codes to include fire sprinklers and are voicing erroneous information in the installation cost and function of fire sprinklers.
- GET THE REAL FACTS... talk to your local fire organization or go on the website for the accurate facts!
- Aren't our lives and our citizens lives worth protecting?
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Plan Now For 2014 Illinois State Fair

To all Illinois Fellow Firefighters,

Thanks to all of you that were there to support the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc. by staffing the Fire Services Association Tent at the State Fair on Saturday, August 17th. Your assistance was very much appreciated and your dedication to the fire service was proven by your commitment to work that day and it's always a very long day as well. Those who visited the tent were able to gain important information that would not otherwise have been available to them. You must come to the tent again this year, for that chance again to teach the adults and children fire safety and fire prevention. That may save some lives. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you to share fire safety information for the people of Illinois. I can only give my heartfelt thanks to all the Fire Departments and personnel that were there this past year. Every one in that tent made a huge difference in the fire safety thoughts of the public that visited the tent that day. I will wait for your calls this year for your help at the Fair.

Please contact me at least 45 days prior to the day for the IFA day at the State Fair, August 16, at the phone numbers or email below.

Home- 309-694-6678

Cell- 309-265-6472

E-mail me at: breason@sbcglobal.net

Thank all of you.

Robert Reason, Director

State Fair Committee Chair

.

**Conference Registration Forms will be available in
future editions of The Bulletin**

**They will also be available online at
www.illinoisfirefighters.org**

Watch here for Scholarship Applications

State Testing Site Available at 2014 Conference

We are having a state testing site at the 2014 conference. Testing will be available on Thursday and Friday night. Testing time will be in the brochure.

NVFC launches Share the load: A Support Program for Fire and EMS

Behavioral health is a subject not often talked about in the fire and emergency services, but it affects every department and first responder in some way. To address the growing need for behavioral health support and resources, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has launched Share the Load™, a support program for fire and EMS.



Firefighters and EMTs respond to the worst crises, such as fires, traffic accidents, domestic abuse, shootings, and more. At the same time, they juggle the needs of the department, their families, outside interests, and for volunteers, full-time jobs. Add to that everyday stressors and often poor sleep and fitness patterns. It is easy to see that these factors will impact the behavioral health of many who answer the call.

Unfortunately, many first responders ignore or simply don't address their behavioral health needs. This can lead to serious and life-threatening health concerns, such as depression, chronic stress or anxiety, PTSD, or drug or alcohol addiction. In some cases, unaddressed behavioral health issues can result in suicide – an often preventable tragedy that impacts the entire fire service community.

The NVFC is bringing behavioral health to the forefront of the fire service with the Share the Load program. Through this program, the NVFC is working to break the stigma around behavioral health issues, open up the dialogue in departments, and provide resources departments and emergency personnel can use to prevent tragedy.

The NVFC has partnered with American Addiction Centers to create the Fire/EMS Helpline, a free, confidential helpline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to firefighters, EMTs, and their families. The Fire/EMS Helpline can serve as an individual resource, or departments can offer it as an Employee Assistance Program for their members. The helpline was created for first responders by members of the fire service. Callers receive compassionate, non-judgmental support for a variety of behavioral health issues, such as addiction, depression, suicide prevention, stress or anxiety, critical incidents, PTSD, relationship issues, or other issues affecting their work or personal life. The helpline is available at 1-888-731-FIRE (3473), or learn more at www.nvfc.org/help.

Additional components of the Share the Load program include an online resource center of organizations, tools, and trainings available to help individuals and departments address behavioral health issues; a newsletter with tips and information to help first responders take a proactive approach to behavioral health; and outreach materials such as a poster that departments can hang up at the station to remind their members they are not alone and that help is available.

The key to addressing behavioral health is to take action. Those experiencing behavioral health issues are not alone. All first responders can join together to Share the Load in order to overcome these challenges and build a stronger, healthier, more resilient fire service.

Learn more and access resources at www.nvfc.org/help.

About the NVFC

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides invaluable tools, resources, training, programs, and advocacy for first responders across the nation.

Distinguishing Mutual Aid, Automatic Aid and MABAS and the requirements to implement each

by Laura A. Weizeorick

Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

When a fire department or fire protection district does not have enough personnel or equipment to handle an emergency or disaster situation, it can become dangerous. Multiple alarm fires, mass casualty incidents, large scale hazardous material incidents, and other large emergencies or disasters often require firefighters and rescue workers at the scene for multiple days, supplying around the clock efforts. Such efforts can quickly deplete the resources of even the largest municipality. For small municipalities with limited resources, even a large structural fire may be more than their equipment and personnel can manage.

To prevent being overpowered and understaffed in times of crisis, every municipality, no matter its size, needs to have a strategy in place to receive cooperation from neighboring communities. Cooperation provides increased levels of protection without duplicating seldom-used apparatus and without impacting current budgets. Aid available to Illinois fire departments and fire protection districts are mutual aid, automatic aid, and MABAS, an organized structure to deliver mutual aid.

Mutual aid is assistance from neighboring emergency responders that is dispatched upon request. The request for aid is made by the responding fire department, on a case by case basis, upon arrival at the scene and depends on the unique circumstances presented. It typically requires approval by a chief, captain or lieutenant. Although the requests are made on an as needed basis, specific arrangements for mutual aid should still be defined by a prearranged, signed contractual agreement between the communities.

In contrast to mutual aid, under automatic aid, the closest resource is automatically dispatched to all first alarm structural fires by contractual agreement between two communities or fire districts. The nearest available unit will always respond, regardless of the jurisdictional boundaries. Automatic aid agreements offset a visible need and must be prearranged for all first alarm fires according to a definite plan. Equipment from a responsible department can only be matched, not exceeded. In addition, ISO guidelines dictate that fire departments and automatic aid companies train and drill together.

The key advantages to an automatic aid agreement over a mutual aid agreement are reductions in travel distances and response times of the first apparatus to emergencies, and practiced and experienced joint response teams. However, each agency is unique. Staffing, geographical aspects, and internal and external politics all play a role in determining whether automatic aid agreements will work. Disadvantages to both mutual aid and automatic aid agreements include a failure to provide for clear and seamless incident command, consistent communication between operating units and command posts, and compatible equipment, including thread sizes.

Regardless of the type of agreement constructed, NFPA 1201, Section 4.6 on Intercommunity Organization, recommends that both mutual and automatic aid agreements address: indemnity, liability for injuries, reimbursement for costs of service, authorization to respond, level of staffing, resources to be made available, and the designation of the incident commander.

Communities in Illinois are fortunate to have a proven and robust system for mutual aid already in place. The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, known as MABAS, was created in Illinois in 1970 by a group of fire captains and chiefs to automate mutual aid from other fire departments in their region. MABAS has

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now grown to a statewide, non-discriminatory mutual aid response system for fire, emergency medical services (EMS) and specialized incident operational teams. It coordinates the deployment of resources, including special operations teams, with various local, state, and federal agencies and/or municipalities, and manages and administers various grants for resource funding. The special operations teams -- including hazardous material teams, water/ice rescue teams and technical rescue teams -- respond to catastrophic events with specially trained personnel, equipment and support resources. MABAS's cache of support resources include: specially outfitted decontamination trucks, a fleet maintenance and refuel vehicle, electrical generator light tower trailer units, mobile ventilation units, air compressors, ATV's, tent city systems, and field shelter trailers.

MABAS has modest annual dues based on the size of each agency. All MABAS members sign a standard agreement, which provides the ground rules for all departments. Each MABAS agency agrees to standards of operation, incident command, a minimum level of equipment staffing, safety procedures and on-scene terminology. This allows MABAS agencies to operate seamlessly on any emergency scene. MABAS, however, does not relieve communities of their responsibility to provide an adequate first line of defense for local emergencies. Its 80/20 rule provides that no department shall provide more than 20% of its resources in aid to other communities.

The MABAS system is on call 24/7 and is used daily in Illinois, with approximately 800 annual activations. MABAS currently includes approximately 1,175 of the state's 1,246 governmental agencies and 38,000 of the state's 40,000 firefighters. MABAS has a signed Memorandum of Agreement with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) establishing MABAS as the exclusive fire/EMS/special operations disaster coordinating agency for Declarations of Disaster and Management of Fire/EMS Statewide Response Plan. MABAS also has MABAS state systems in Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and limited agencies in Missouri and Iowa.

The obvious advantage to MABAS is that it is an existing proven system with resources and agreements already in place to address incident command, communication standards and equipment consistencies. An additional advantage to MABAS over mutual aid arrangements is that it has a tiered approach for deployment that is predetermined and reliable.

MABAS starts with the box card – a document that the fire chief uses to determine the mutual aid resources the department or district will need when its resources are exhausted. The card allows the chief to plan for different levels of response, namely, the first box alarm, the second box alarm, third box alarm, and upward. It lists the equipment and personnel needed from other nearby departments for each level of alarm. Requested resources may include specialized items, such as personnel and equipment for hazardous material events or water rescues. The box alarm system ensures that members will know in advance precisely the type of resources that they will receive and provide.

Although each agency has a host of unique factors to consider before determining the best method of cooperation for the community it services, there is no reason for an agency to make its decision in a vacuum. Illinois has a long history of successful aid arrangements and emergency cooperation to use as a foundation.

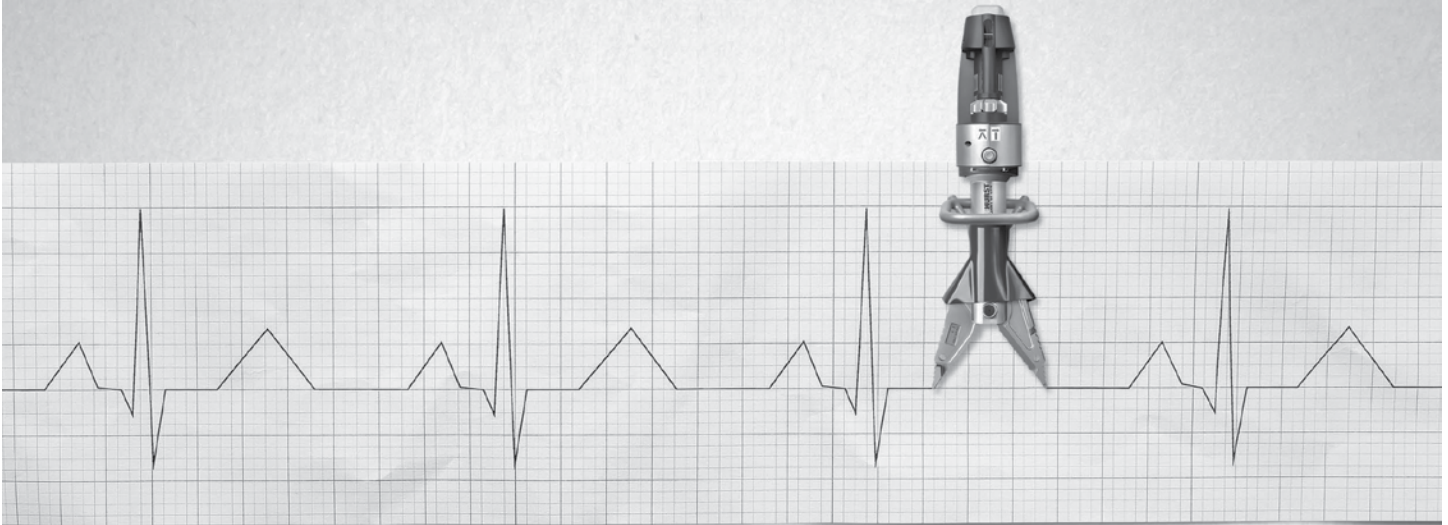
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