

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 70, Number 6

November - December 2016

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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IFA honors Representative Moffitt



Honor was given at IFA Annual Meeting

November-December 2016 Volume 70 Number 6

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The Bulletin

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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,

The Conference is now over and it went off great. I would like to thank all of those who were involved who helped made it a success. Over the last few years, we were able to bring on new sponsors and vendors. We consider them as our partner in fulfilling our mission. I am somewhat disappointed in the registration though, we provide FREE training at our Fire Academy. If firefighters were to pay regular tuition costs for the same classes, you would be paying hundreds of dollars more for the same classes. I do not think the information is getting out to

the right people or they just do not know that the Down & Dirty is free training. I am asking everyone to contact their neighboring fire departments about the Conference and the free training available. As you most probably know already, nothing is free. Our Association, Vendors and Sponsors cover the costs for your training. One third of the costs comes out of the Cornerstone Program that the Institute will get to cover their costs. With all the social media sources, we all deal with, there should not be a problem making contact.

Terry Ford and I just returned from the Nation Benefit's Summit in Charleston S.C and the Mid-West Networking Summit in Des Moines, Iowa. This problem seems to be nationwide. Let's put history into play, over a hundred years ago there were only two organizations that played a part in this state, the Chicago Fire Department and the Illinois Firefighters Association. We have been in the forefront in providing training opportunities for many years now. It was our Association and Chicago Fire that helped start our State Fire Academy and it is the longest running Fire College in the Nation. We were the oldest two fire organization in this state, long before the others were organized. What has changed that may have effected attendance? I think leadership has contributed to some of this. We now have thirteen different fire organizations in this state. Each one plays a vital role according to their own mission statement. I believe this has led to some division between all of us, even though we all belong to the Illinois Fire Services Association. We must do a better job meeting each other's mission.

In other business, the election is over and many of our representatives are new. We need to make sure these new representatives are informed and are asked to join the Fire Caucus. Representative Don Moffitt has retired and he was the chairman of that Caucus. His leadership has contributed to many of the Fire Programs we have today, even though non dedicated programs were not funded in 2016 budget. Our Firefighter Tire Purchase Bill passed the Senate at the last session and it is our hope that it will be passed during the veto session in the House.

We are looking ahead and will be reviewing the Blue Ribbon Report that came out of the Volunteer Firefighter Summit back in 1999. We are going to look at what was accomplished out the that report and what still needs to be done to meet those findings. The Conference is over and this starts a new year for us. Retention and Recruitment will still be issues and the need to provide better benefits to retain firefighters will continue to be a challenge. One way to have a direct benefit is providing a tax credit for volunteers that meet their obligation on their department. As time goes on we will continue to work as an association to meet your needs and provide a benefit as a member.

So, "Train Smart and Be Safe"

John Swan President IFA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

IFA PARTICIPATES in ANNUAL IL FIRE SERVICES ASSOCIATION SUMMIT

On October 28th, Kevin Schott and I represented IFA at the Annual IL Fire Services Association Summit held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign. The purposes of the Summit is for organizations to present their items on the legislative agenda that they feel all members of the fire service would support and a vote is taken to determine whether it will become a “Fire Caucus Bill”. IFA has the support of the Illinois Fire Services Association to continue to work on the \$500 tax credit for volunteers and as well as legislation



to allow volunteers to purchase tires for the personal vehicle at the discounted state purchasing rate. Members of the Illinois Fire Services gather in Champaign on Oct. 28th at the Illinois Fire Service Institute for their Annual Legislative Summit

FIRE PROTECTION FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS

A new issue that was brought to IFA during the roundtable discussions at our Conference involves fire protection for unincorporated areas. The problem is that some unincorporated areas are not covered by either a FPD or a Municipal Department. Though the fire departments are not required to respond to

a call that is not in their service area, it is difficult for them not to do from a moral sense. In some cases, the fire departments have tried to get these property owners to annex into either a municipal department or FPD for coverage but the property owner refuses and there is currently no teeth in the law to force them to do it. Though the property owners are not paying taxes they are often reaping the benefit of the rating of the Fire Protection District though their insurance company is unaware that they are not technically covered for fire protection. As a solution IFA would like to work on legislation so that if a property owner in an unincorporated area is not covered by either a FPD or municipal department and refuses to annex in, they would be charged a fee for services rendered to respond to the call which they would be required to pay. In addition, for a property owner in an unincorporated area, to purchase property insurance, they would have to show verification and proof of fire protection coverage. The Illinois Fire Services Association supports this issue as well and it will be presented as a "Fire Caucus Bill".

ELECTION RESULTS SHAKE-UP STATEHOUSE

You are probably relieved that you won't have to watch another political commercial for at least a year but here is an overview of what the election results may mean at the Statehouse.

SPEAKER MADIGAN LOOSES VETO PROOF MAJORITY in HOUSE

With Governor Rauner spending \$14 million on Illinois legislative races to attack Speaker Madigan's super majority in the House, the GOP was able to net 4 House seats and two in the Senate. Incumbents Representatives Cloonen (D-Kankakee), Deputy Majority Leader John Bradley (D-Marion), Mike Smiddy (D-Moline) and Andy Skogg (D-Spring Valley) all lost and the GOP won the open seat of Jack Franks (D-Woodstock) who ran for county board. The Democrats did defeat incumbent Representative Dwight Kay (R-Edwardsville). On the Senate side, Senate President Cullerton was able to hold onto his veto proof majority, but the GOP picked up the open seat of retiring Senator John Sullivan (D-Quincy) and defeated Gary Forby (D-Benton). To put it in perspective, over \$4 million dollars was spent on Rep. Cloonen's race for a position that pays \$67,000.

IMPACT of NEW COMPTROLLER on STATE BUDGET

Speaker Madigan's candidate for State Comptroller former State Representative Susana Mendoza did defeat Leslie Munger, Governor Rauner's handpicked replacement for Judy Barr Topinka. This could have an impact on the budget because the Illinois Constitution is explicit and courts have upheld that the State cannot issue payments without approval by the General Assembly and Governor of the appropriation (a position backed by Attorney General Lisa Madigan). It would have been impossible for state government to limp along for a year without a budget if no paychecks to state employees were issued. If the new Comptroller follows the Illinois Constitution and refuses to issue checks to state workers without a budget, the whole crisis could come to a head a lot sooner which means concessions will have to be made to get an agreed budget.



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until April 15, 2017, with a minimum donation of \$50,000.

Pictured: St. Jude patient Damien

Benefiting



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Support the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition



Become a Built For Life Fire Department for Free Home Fire Sprinkler Advocacy Resources

More than 2,500 U.S. Fire Departments have been recognized as Built For Life Fire Departments by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC). Each has made home fire sprinkler education a focus of their community outreach and have received free tools to help get them started. With the right information and tools, more fire departments can teach about this life-saving technology. To help, HFSC has developed free resources to simplify any department's sprinkler outreach.

Every Built For Life Fire Department will receive a Fire and Sprinkler Burn Demo Kit, educational outreach materials, a certificate of participation, Built For Life Fire Department window decals, Built For Life baseball caps and much more.

Being recognized as a Built For Life Fire Department can be as simple as adding fire sprinkler messages and materials to existing outreach, or as comprehensive as establishing an education program for local builders and developers. Fire departments must simply agree to implement at least one community outreach activity in: (1) Public Awareness and Public Education, (2) Targeted Outreach to a Key Audience, and (3) Evaluation.

Become educated about the current status of home fire sprinkler issues in Illinois by visiting **www.HomeLifeSafety.com** and then become an HFSC Built For Life Fire Department at **www.HomeFireSprinkler.org** for home fire sprinkler advocacy resources.



*Scan with your
smartphone to sign up
your fire department for
the Home Fire Sprinkler
Coalition's Built For Life
Fire Department Program*



For more information go to:



www.HomeLifeSafety.com



www.HomeFireSprinkler.org

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Illinois Fire Service - Institute Updates

Jim Keiken, Deputy Director

Mark Your Training Calendar

Winter Fire School – January 28th – 29th, 2017

Leadership and Decision Making (*two weekends*) -

February 24 – 26 & March 10 – 12, 2017

Leadership and Decision Making – April 3 – 7, 2017

93rd Annual Fire College – June 1 – 4, 2017

Explorer/Cadet Fire School – July 13 – 16, 2017

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



My gosh, where did the year go? As we close out 2016 at IFSI, I can't help but look back at the year. 2016 has been an exciting time at the Institute with a number of new class offering and expansions such as Traffic Incident Manage Operations, Fire on the Rail, Search and Rescue Techniques for the Fireground and the development of the new Grain Bin Rescue Operation program (see the last issue). Things are truly growing at IFSI. Dr. Horn has continued his research on Cardiovascular & Chemical Exposure Risk in Modern Firefighting this past summer, and we expect this year's research reports out in the first quarter on the results of this study. His team also sent a time up at Underwriters Laboratory studying "Impact of Fire Attack utilizing Interior and Exterior Streams on Firefighter Safety and Occupant Survival." Watch for this report in early 2017. The 2017 IFSI Calendars should be available in print form and on the IFSI website and as always the most up to date information can be found at the IFSI website.

Winter Fire School

Registration is open for Winter Fire School which will be held January 28 – 29 at IFSI. This year's offering once again include a number of hands-on classes. Basic Engine Company Operations, Basic Truck Company Operations, Search and Rescue, Forcible Entry, Elevator, Window and Door Frame Anchoring System's for Rope Rescue, Derailment Management for First Responder and Active Shooter Training for EMS. We also have an assortment of classroom programs including, Modern day Building Construction, Fireground Simulations and Intro to Wildland. Saturday Nights feature speaker is Chief Patrick Kenny presenting Mayday for Mental Health. Don't miss out on this great weekend of training. For details and registration go to IFSI website @ <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/>

New NIMS/ICS Program Director

JP Moore will take over as the NIMS/ICS Program Director at the first of the year (in addition to also being the LDDM Program Director). James P. Moore, a 35-year veteran of the fire service, served as the Fire Rescue Chief / Emergency Manager of the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (IL) for 9 + years. Prior to Chief Moore's service in Crystal Lake, he served the Naperville Fire Department (IL) for 21+ years, where he rose through the ranks from firefighter/paramedic to District Chief. He is known as an energetic leader who is focused on professionalism, training, and education. Prior to his service in Naperville, Chief Moore served as a member of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District.

During his career, Chief Moore has received numerous commendations for rescues and innovative program development in Emergency Medical Service, Training, Specialized Rescue, Fire Suppression and Emergency Management. He was recently honored to receive the 2015 Fire Service Instructor of the Year by the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors.

Chief Moore serves as the Co-Chairman of the Office of the State Fire Marshal – Fire Officer State Certification Advisory Committee and was recently appointed as the Program Director of the Illinois Fire Service Institute's Leadership Development and Decision Making Program.

Chief Moore holds a Master's of Science degree in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University, a Baccalaureate degree in Fire Service Management from Western Illinois University and an Associate's degree in Fire Science Technology from College of DuPage.

The Bulletin

Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM)

If you are part of the fire service who is willing to embrace the challenge of personal and professional leadership development, the Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) program provides a one-of-a-kind training experience.

As a student, you will be immersed in topics through a Socratic teaching style that features highly interactive, small group discussions, ethical and moral discussion groups/decision games, tactical decision games, sand table exercises/discussions, and practical application exercises. Each student is challenged to reach outside of their comfort zone through discovery learning, rather than the classic lecture and directed learning format. Students work with their own rank levels - firefighter, company officer or chief officer - for the first four days. On the fifth day, the three rank levels come together for a live-burn exercise.

The class is over both as a two-weekend class and also as a five-day 40 hours long and has limited enrollment to allow a balanced attendance of the three rank levels: firefighters, officers, and chief officers. Each level experiences a totally interactive learning environment. The class encourages students to learn from their peers, as well as their instructors. The LDDM Program incorporates seven “lines of education” in each rank level:

- Leadership and followership
- History and traditions
- Communications
- Morals and ethics
- Professional development/tactics, techniques, and procedures
- Decision-making and critical thinking
- Command climate and culture

The last day of class includes eight hours of practical, hands-on application of what was learned.

The individual Line of Education are also available for delivery independently from the 40-hour program. For more information about the LDDM program, contact: James P. Moore Program Director – Leadership Development and Decision Making - 217-300-3463

Just a reminder, if there is something you think IFSI would be providing or you have ideas for the next great program please feel free to contact me at the Institute.

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Northwest Region:	Ray Palczynski,	563-468-8385
Chicago Metro Area:	Richard Stack,	773-988-0259
East Central Region:	Tim Meister,	217-202-4760
Central Region:	Jim Vaughn,	309-275-2499
Southwest Region:	John Nichols,	618-973-2059
South Region:	Ron Rains,	217-300-4657

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

*Helping Firefighters do their work through
Training, Education, Information and Research*



Departments in MO and KY

Latest Recipients in 2016 Globe Gear Giveaway

Globe, DuPont, and NVFC teamed up to award 52 sets of gear in 2016

Globe, DuPont Protection Solutions (DuPont), and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) are pleased to announce the latest round of winners in the 2016 Globe Gear Giveaway. This is the fifth year that Globe has partnered with DuPont and the NVFC to provide volunteer departments with critically needed sets of turnout gear. The Brindle Ridge Fire Department in Mount Vernon, KY, and the Eastern Douglas County Fire Department in Drury, MO, will each be outfitted with four sets of new, state-of-the-art Globe turnout gear.

“We appreciate of the opportunity to partner with Globe and DuPont to help volunteer departments enhance the safety and effectiveness of their firefighters,” said NVFC Chairman Kevin D. Quinn. “Since the Globe Gear Giveaway program began four years ago, over 300 sets of gear have been awarded to departments across the U.S. and Canada. This program is having an immense impact on the safety and readiness of boots-on-the-ground volunteer firefighters in North America.”

To be eligible to apply, departments had to be all-volunteer or mostly-volunteer, serve a population of 25,000 or less, be legally organized in the U.S. or Canada, and be a member of the NVFC. To help departments meet this last requirement, Globe sponsored NVFC Department Memberships for the first 500 applicants.

The Brindle Ridge Fire Department (BRFD) serves 1,700 people over 91 square miles in Rockcastle County, KY. Department fundraising proceeds are used for purchasing equipment and essential tools as well as helping pay for basic utilities. BRFD attempts to replace old turnout gear on a yearly basis, but with 38 members on the roster and only eight sets of gear that are National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliant, the department has a large number of members that do not have the gear required to fight fires. This reduces their ability to provide training to their volunteers, as the state requires all members to have compliant gear in order to work in live fire training situations. This gear donation will provide BRFD members desperately needed protective equipment, enabling them to better protect their community.

Eastern Douglas County Volunteer Fire Department (EDCVFD) is a small rural department providing fire and medical services to approximately 2,200 citizens in Drury, MO. They are a membership-based department, receiving no tax funding. More than half of their annual budget is dedicated to insurance coverage. Their 24 volunteers have only 14 sets of gear among them, all of which are more than 10 years old. Even with this obstacle, EDCVFD is very active in the community; they were named a national Firewise Community in 2015 and 2016. “Departments like ours depend on companies like Globe to provide grant programs to acquire new gear,” said Chief Chris Hammett.

The final two 2016 Globe Gear Giveaway awards will be announced in December. Stay tuned to the NVFC web site, Dispatch newsletter, and page on Facebook, as well as the Globe page on Facebook, for additional information and announcements regarding the Globe Gear Giveaway.

About Globe

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

About DuPont Protection Solutions

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

About the NVFC

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



Chaplain's Corner

Faith-Based Support For Firefighters

We know that unaddressed and unresolved problems in a firefighter's personal life will eventually spill over into his/her fire service experience and can often overload the ever-present trauma-based stress experienced there. But personal problems – which we all experience at various times – are not always a bad thing when seen in the context of God's involvement and activity in our lives. In fact, it is the times of challenge and struggle in our lives that will often wake us up to our need for God and invite us to an initial or deeper experience of faith. The

Bible says this about problems and trials that come into our lives: *"These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed"*. So where can a firefighter turn for the kind of faith-based support that can lead him/her to that faith worth more than gold? I will highlight here in their own words a number of supportive programs that are usually available right in your town or in one nearby:

Celebrate Recovery: A Christ-Centered Recovery Program Celebrate Recovery offers a person the opportunity to participate in a group fellowship where love and hope combine with God's purpose to mend our lives. If you struggle with any kind of hurt, habit, or hang-up that gets in the way of living the full life Christ has for you, we invite you to come to Celebrate Recovery. Website www.celebraterecovery.com

GriefShare: Grief Recovery Support Group It hurts to lose someone. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. That's the reason for GriefShare, a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. This group is sponsored by people who understand what you are experiencing and want to offer you comfort and encouragement during this difficult time. Website www.griefshare.org

Financial Peace University You CAN take control of your money! No matter where you are with your money, this local nine-week class will teach you to create a budget, pay off debt, spend and save wisely, and so much more! Learn God's way of handling money with Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. This changes everything! Your money. Your story. Your life. Website www.daveramsey.com

Marriage Weekend Getaway I won't highlight any particular marriage getaway program here. There are many options and different churches offer a variety of approaches. I would suggest that you contact local churches in your area or scan their website for what is available. Marriage getaways give couples the opportunity to sign off, get away, and examine their lives together in a focused and realistic way.

Small Group Involvement Most churches have supportive small group opportunities for relationship and learning. These might be called Life Groups, Care Groups, Home Groups, Focus Groups, etc. If a firefighter is not involved in some sort of faith-based small group involvement then he/she is missing out on regular personal encouragement and support in every practical area of life. Firefighters often withhold from small group involvement and local church involvement because they cannot attend every meeting. Please don't let that happen to you. Get involved and be there when you can to receive the support and strength of the gift of faith that God has for you!

Fellowship of Christian Firefighters I have been involved in FCF for many years and have benefited from the encouragement of fellowship with other firefighters seeking to find and grow in their faith through their fire service calling. You can join a chapter if one is nearby, start a new chapter, or just access all the helpful resources found on the FCF website www.fellowshipofchristianfirefighters.org

Each of the websites listed above can lead you to a group meeting in your area. I have only highlighted a small sample of the type of faith-based resources and support available to firefighters. Please let me know if I can help you find support in these areas or any other. God is involved and active in your life circumstances and wants you to find a genuine faith that is more valuable than gold! Merry Christmas to you, your family, and your fire department!

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

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Coming to a Town Near You: Preparing for the Next Hazmat Accident

By William E. Offerman

September was National Preparedness Month, which means a lot of different things depending on who you talk to. For many communities and emergency responders, a critical part of being prepared is being ready to respond to an incident involving hazardous materials. As we have seen with several high profile incidents over this past year, being prepared for these types of disasters is extremely important to protecting the people that live in your community.

For me, every day is about helping people be prepared. Over the past year I have had the pleasure of representing the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) on the National TRANSCAER Task Group (NTTG). TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident.

TRANSCAER members, including companies that manufacture, distribute, store, and transport hazardous materials, provide free training to emergency responders all across the country. The NVFC, which represents the nation's volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services, routinely hears from our members that they need better access to training. So the partnership between TRANSCAER and the NVFC is pretty straightforward: they put on training events and we promote the events to the volunteer fire and emergency services.

Anyone in the fire service who is not familiar with TRANSCAER should be. TRANSCAER resources, available at no charge to emergency services personnel, include classroom and hands-on training, emergency planning assistance, support for community drills and exercises, technical information, reference and training materials, and national conferences and workshops for sharing best practices and networking.

In 2016, TRANSCAER celebrated its 30th anniversary. To recognize this milestone, TRANSCAER held 70 training events in May on a variety of topics, such as tank car awareness, advanced tank car specialist, rail safety and hazmat emergency response, ethanol response train the trainer, railway crude by rail response, chlorine emergency response, fire considerations and foam tactics for rail emergency response, and methanol safe handling.

I was fortunate to be able to attend one of the events in Newark, NJ, held as part of the DOW Chemical North East TRANSCAER Training Tour. First responders were trained using the new API/Association of American Railroad's Crude by Rail Safety program, railcar and locomotive anatomy, chlorine emergencies, Indian Springs A, B, C Capping Kits, Midland Capping Kit, hand-on leak mitigation, and tank truck emergencies. TRANSCAER's goal is to provide improved community awareness and emergency preparedness along highly hazardous chemical transportation routes by providing communities with significantly enhanced outreach, education, and training in coordination with national, regional, and state TRANSCAER programs.

The amount of hazardous materials being produced and transported throughout the country has increased dramatically in recent decades. Since 2008, NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications has included hazmat awareness and operations training. Increasingly, hazardous materials emergency response is becoming a core service provided by fire departments. This presents a number of challenges, particularly in rural areas where resources are scarce and advanced or specialized training can be difficult to access. By utilizing TRANSCAER resources, fire departments can train and prepare their members to deal with critical hazardous materials threats facing their community at no-cost to the agency.

Do yourself and your community a favor and go to TRANSCAER.com to register for a TRANSCAER training event near you.

William E. Offerman joined the fire service in 1981. He is employed by Elwood Fire Protection District and has served as fire chief since 1996. William is a director with the Illinois Firefighters Association, serves as Illinois Director for the National Volunteer Fire Council, and works with the National TRANSCAER Task Group. In addition, he has served as mayor for the Village of Elwood since 2009. William holds a Master of Science in Public Safety Administration. He has served with the Will County Board of Health and worked as an adjunct professor for Loyola University.



Ways to Avoid Holiday Grinches

The holidays are a time for family, gifts and joy. They are also one of the best times of the year for thieves.

Nothing steals the joy of the season like a home burglary. Unfortunately, the FBI warns that they increase during the holidays with nearly 400,000 break-ins occurring during November and December. Most of those are crimes of opportunity from criminals looking for an easy target.

Here are things you can do to reduce your risk of being a victim, some of these may also result in a reduction in your home insurance premiums:

Make your home less vulnerable

- Trim back bushes or hedges that block visibility and give thieves areas to hide
- Install outdoor lighting (motion sensitive are best)
- Put indoor lights on timers
- Have a security system installed
- Get a dog (crooks say a barking dog is a huge deterrent)
- Keep garage doors closed
- Always lock doors and windows
- Install a high tech security device with a camera that alerts you when someone comes to your door even when you are not home
- Keep watch of your neighbors' homes and ask they do the same for you

Don't advertise to criminals

- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries if you are going away
- Arrange for your neighbors to accept any home deliveries when you are not home
- Don't leave garbage cans out while you are away
- Never leave notes on doors telling someone you are out and when you will return
- Do leave a radio or TV on while you are away
- Have a trusted friend, neighbor or relative make trips to your home or park a car in the driveway to make it look lived in while you are away
- Conceal valuables and don't leave Christmas trees and presents visible from the outside
- Break down and conceal boxes for expensive items and electronics when putting out the trash (boxes for the new 60" HD TV or the latest computer are like shopping flyers for thieves)
- Don't advertise on social media that you are going away to grandma's house or on a wonderful vacation (this also applies to your spouses and children)

Protect yourself

- Make a complete home inventory of your possessions to assist if you need to file a police report, help speed up an insurance claim and help with a tax-loss write off
- Be sure to have an identity theft protection and recovery service if burglars get access to your personal or banking information
- Protect your possessions with homeowners or renters insurance

Not only do you feel violated after someone breaks into your home, but it can be expensive to fix the damage and replace items. That's why you need homeowners and renters insurance. We can't stop all criminals, but California Casualty is here to protect you with quality auto and home insurance with exclusive benefits not available to the general public. Every policy also comes with free ID theft protection. Call an advisor today for a policy comparison or review at 1.800.800.9410, or visit www.calcas.com/IFA.

Sources for this article:

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This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to firefighters for over 40 years. Get more information at 1.800.800.9410 or www.calcas.com/IFA.

Plans are underway for Conference 2017 Tentative dates: October 19 - 22, 2017



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Firefighters play a critical role in keeping communities across the country safe. While freight railroads strive to do everything they can to prevent accidents from occurring, we rely on the hard work and tireless dedication of your members to keep people safe when accidents do occur. This is why we want to ensure all first responders have the tools they need to respond to railroad emergencies, including the AskRail mobile app, which we encourage your members to explore by visiting AskRail.us.

AskRail gives first responders the real-time information they need about what is being carried by a train in the event of a rail incident. Through use of the app, first responders can:

- Use a simple railcar or locomotive ID search to see if any railcars on a train are carrying hazardous material;
- Access the Emergency Response Guidebook; and
- View emergency contact information for all Class I railroads and Amtrak.

The app supplements the train crew's shipping papers, potentially saving your members precious time by putting crucial information at their fingertips as soon as they arrive at the scene of an accident. Here is what first responders should know:

- Due to security reasons, select railcar contents are highly sensitive. Therefore access to the information through the app requires a short approval process.
- To be approved for AskRail, an applicant just needs to email the local railroad (contact information available at AskRail.us), presenting the applicant's credentials and reason for downloading the app.
- Once approved, applicants will receive instructions to download and access the app via email.

AskRail can be an important tool for communicating crucial information to the men and women of your organization whose job is to help keep the public safe. Please consider encouraging your members to visit AskRail.us to understand the app and complete the straightforward process to gain access. We are here to answer your questions. On behalf of the freight rail industry, thank you for the work you do every day to keep all Americans safe in times of emergencies.

The Illinois Firefighter's Association Honors Representative Don Moffitt

State Representative Donald Moffitt was a State Legislator who represents the 74th District. He is retiring after his current term. Rep. Moffitt is the Republican Spokesperson for both the Police & Fire and Counties & Townships Committees. He also serves on the Agriculture & Conservation Committee, Appropriations-Public Safety Committee, Public Safety Committee, Elementary & Secondary Education Committee, Museums, Arts, & Cultural Enhancement Committee and Veterans' Affairs Committee.



Throughout Rep. Moffitt's legislative career he has acquired several prestigious awards including; Legislator of the Year, Illinois Optometric Association, 2000; Legislator of the Year, Illinois Association for Fire Protection Districts, 2002; Legislator of the Year, Illinois Firefighters Association, 2003; Legislator of the Year, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, 2003; and Legislator of the Year, Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts, 2004.

Representative Moffitt will be missed by the fire service personnel. He has been a strong supporter of the IFA and its legislative initiatives. The IFA gave Don (and his wife) the following resolution along with some mementos at the 2016 Annual Meeting and Convention.

Resolution honoring Representative Donald L. Moffitt

WHEREAS, 23 years ago Donald L. Moffitt realized a desire to serve the Citizens of Illinois by running for State Office and

WHEREAS, Donald L. Moffitt was a great supporter of the Firefighters of Illinois;

WHEREAS, Donald L. Moffitt has sponsored numerous fire service bills for the past 23 years;

WHEREAS, Donald L. Moffitt has represented the Firefighters of Illinois on numerous advisory boards, committees, and organizations in the State of Illinois;

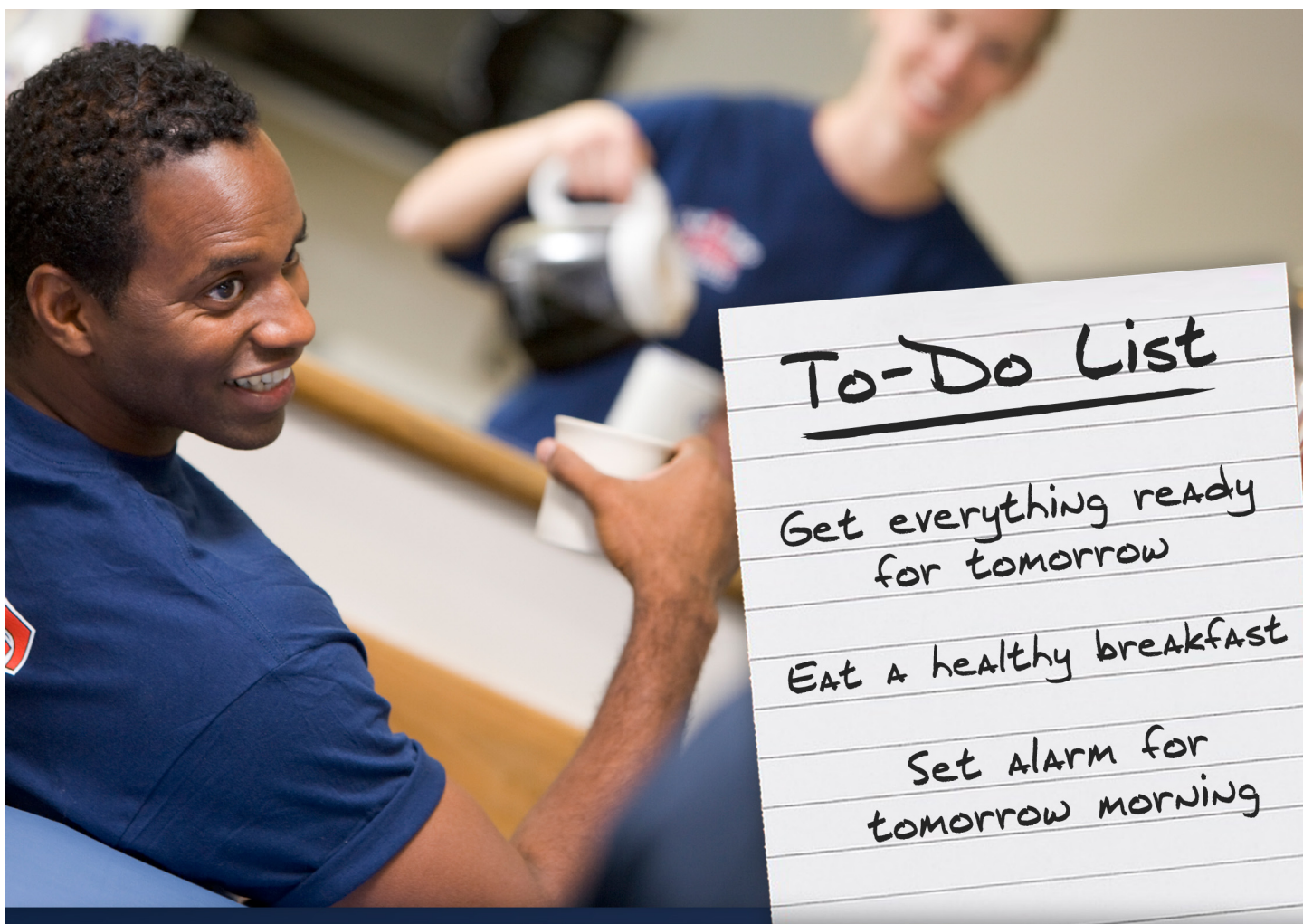
Furthermore, let it be recognized that Representative Donald Moffitt could not have carried out his leadership without the support from his wife, Carolyn, and family

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the membership of the Illinois Firefighters Association, Inc. recognize Donald L. Moffitt's unselfish efforts in representing the firefighters of the State of Illinois over the past 23 years as a member of the State of Illinois Legislature and hereby extend unanimous thanks and blessings to Donald L. Moffitt.

RESOLVED this 14th day of October 2016.

**John Swan, President
Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.**

(Photo on cover: L to R: IFA Director Bill Offerman, IFA Director Joe Heim, IFA Director Ed Allsman, IFA Director Kevin Schott, IFA Director Bob Reason, Carolyn Moffitt, IFA President John Swan, IFA Vice President Terry Ford, Representative Don Moffitt, IFA Secretary Treasurer Kerry Federer, IFA Director Ron Mulach, IFA Director Jeff Stuck, IFA Director Gary Turnbaugh, IFA Director John Schott)



Boost Your Health: Start a Morning Routine.

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The duties of the OMA and FOIA officer

by Vladimir Shuliga, Jr.
Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

The Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), with its most recent update in 2010, aims to ensure that the public has access to information about government and its decision-making process. Its policy is grounded in the principle that “public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of people’s business and that people have a right to be informed as to the conduct of their business.” (5 ILCS 120/1) Public bodies include all types of fire protection districts, and fire departments -- full-time, part-time, combination, and volunteer.

Similarly, the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) seeks to provide the public with “full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts and policies of those who represent them as public officials and public employees.” (5 ILCS 140/1) FOIA applies when a member of the public is seeking access to public records, while OMA is intended to ensure that the actions of public bodies are conducted in the open, through public meetings, and that the public can observe the deliberations behind those actions.

To accomplish these goals, both OMA and FOIA rely on the permanent position within the Attorney General’s Office known as the Public Access Counselor (PAC). The PAC helps people access public meetings and obtain public documents by:

- providing educational material to the public;
- responding to informational inquiries;
- issuing advisory opinions and binding opinions on OMA and FOIA requests by public bodies;
- mediating disputed between members of the public bodies concerning FOIA requests and compliances with the OMA;
- investigating and issuing opinions in response to requests for review submitted by the public and
- providing electronic training to all FOIA officers and OMA designees.

With regard to OMA, a public body must appoint a designated officer to receive training on compliance with OMA. Newly appointed designees are then required to complete training within 30 days after designation; annual training takes place thereafter. Following that training, the designee acts as the public body’s OMA officer. The training includes: general background of the legal requirements for open meetings; applicability of OMA to public bodies; procedures and requirements regarding quorums, notice and record keeping; procedures and requirements for holding an open meeting and for holding a closed meeting; and penalties for failing to comply with OMA. (5 ILCS 120/1.02)

After training, the OMA officer is responsible for distinguishing between open meetings and closed meetings. The OMA officer should know that a meeting, in general, is “any gathering, whether in person or by video or audio conference, telephone call, electronic mail or chat, or a majority of the members of a public body held for the purpose of discussing public business.” (5 ILCS 120/1.02) Because all meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public, *unless* provided by an exception allowing for a closed meeting, the OMA officer should be conscious of long list of exceptions that generally exclude categories involving: personal information, security information, classified information, litigation affecting or on behalf of the public body, etc. (5 ILCS 120/2)

Second, the OMA officer must know the procedures and requirements regarding quorums, notice and record keeping because all public meetings shall be held at specified times and places which are to be convenient and open to the public. (5 ILCS 120/2.01) As such, the quorum of members of a public body must be physically present at the location of an open meeting. There must also be a public notice of the schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal calendar year, stating the regular dates, times and places of such meetings. The agenda for each regular meeting should also be posted at the principal office of the public body and location where the meeting is to be held at least 48 hours in advance. If the public body has a website, then it the agenda

The Bulletin

should be posted there as well. Record keeping includes a written log of minutes of all the public body's meetings, open or closed, and a verbatim record of all their closed meetings in form of audio or video. The record should also include: date, time, place of meeting; members of the public body recorded as present or absent; and a summary of discussion, including any votes taken. (5 ILCS 120/2.06)

Third, the OMA officer needs to know the penalties for failure to comply with the act. OMA provides that any person who violates OMA shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and may be subject to a civil action in the circuit court in which the alleged noncompliance has occurred. Any trustee serving on any public board would be well served to go through the OMA training at least once regardless of whether they serve as the public body's OMA officer. Maintaining the knowledge and best practice of open meetings minimizes any potential claims by the public that the board is engaged in backroom dealings. If all the trustees are familiar with OMA, then the overall burden falling on the OMA officer would be significantly lightened.

Moreover, the process to become a FOIA officer is similar to that of the OMA officer -- the public body designates FOIA officers, who then must successfully complete an annual FOIA training prepared by the PAC within 30 days of assuming their position. The FOIA officer should ensure that the public body, if it has a website, posts information regarding how to submit a FOIA request and a brief description of the office, including its purpose, budget, number of employees and names of FOIA officers.

The overarching duty of the FOIA officer is to facilitate the process of providing the public access to public records. Public records include: all records, reports, forms, writings, letters, memoranda, books, papers, maps, photographs, microfilms, cards, tapes, recordings, electronic data processing records, electronic communications, recorded information and all other documentary materials pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of any public body. (5 ILCS 140/2) The FOIA officer must be aware of the exceptions that do not fall into the category of public record. These exceptions include: private information; personal information; law enforcement records; preliminary drafts; business trade secrets; proposals and bids; and requests that are unduly burdensome.

There are, however, specific duties of the FOIA officer. (5 ILCS 140/3.5) First, the FOIA officer is to receive requests submitted by the public body. Upon receiving a request for a public record, the FOIA officer shall note the date the public body receives the written request. Second, the FOIA officer must ensure that the public body responds to requests in a timely fashion. To do so, the FOIA officer must compute the period on which the response will expire and make a notation of that date on the written request. The FOIA officer needs to maintain an electronic or paper copy of a written request. From there, the FOIA officer also must create a file for the retention of the original request, a copy of the response, a record of written communication with the requester, and a copy of other communications. Third, the FOIA officer must issue responses to FOIA requests.

The OMA officer and the FOIA officer are frequently the same person, but that is not required by law. Having a board member serve as the OMA officer is common and a reasonable practice. A FOIA officer, on the other hand, should be present at the fire station more regularly than once a month for board meetings. A FOIA officer should be available to receive and respond to FOIA requests on a regular basis. Therefore, an employee, whether it be the fire chief or another employee, is often a good choice for a FOIA officer because their services may be called upon more regularly than those of the OMA officer. While many FOIA requests or OMA issues are, routine and may be handled by the FOIA or OMA officer, some complex issues may also arise which go beyond the standard training received by those officers. In those instances, it is important to work closely with legal counsel to appropriately address the issue as it arises and to create a protocol to follow if a similar issue arises in the future.

Vladimir Shuliga, Jr., is an associate with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper & Gilbert, Ltd. in Naperville. Mr. Shuliga focuses his practice on local government law, and employment and labor law especially as it relates to police and fire departments and park districts. Mr. Shuliga can be contacted by email at vshuliga@ottosenbritz.com.



Illinois Firefighters Association

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