

# *The* **Bulletin**



*Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.*

**Volume 75, Number 5**

**September - October 2021**

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

## **Chicago 36th Ward Alderman Gilbert Villegas Named Honorary Chief by IFA**



Though he faced an uphill battle, because of his unwavering support and determination, Alderman Villegas successfully passed an ordinance in February to require 10 year smoke detectors in Chicago dwellings, so the requirement is consistent statewide. Back in 2017 when the 10 Year Smoke Detector ordinance was passed in Springfield the City of Chicago insisted they be exempted but Alderman Villegas worked to change that. On July 28th IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn presented Alderman Villegas with an honorary chief's helmet with his name on it from IFA in appreciation for his dedication to the fire service.

## The Bulletin

September - October 2021      Volume 75 Number 5

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## **Bulletin Deadlines:**

**January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15,  
September 15, and November 15**

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## **Mission Statement**

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

## President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters

I get tired of always bringing this Covid issue up, but it does need to be discussed again. With the new executive orders in place now, many fire departments around this State will be required to go through testing procedures. Some departments have mandated vaccinations and some departments will be losing Firefighters because of that mandate. We are already short Firefighters around this State, so I am asking that we all pull together to adhere to what's coming down the tube.

Terry Ford and I just returned from the National Benefits Summit in Indianapolis Indiana. There were about a dozen States that attended and some of them were on zoom. Many topics were discussed and as always, similar problems and solutions were discussed.

We can be proud and thankful for our Fire Service in Illinois. I believe we can boast a little bit about our training programs and the way the training is delivered to all of us. The Cornerstone program is one of the best tools anywhere in this Nation. It's time to start registering for our 130th Conference and Down & Dirty Weekend the 12th thru the 14th of November. It's in this issue of the Bulletin so take the time and get yourself registered. We have a full schedule of training classes and the time to relax and network with the other Firefighters around this State.

IFSI will have the Covid guidelines to follow and that will be addressed. Director Jim Keiken has done a great job informing us all with his monthly IFSI updates. Communication is the key to informing us of all of the changes taking place in operations and classes that are forthcoming.

The BOF program has been quite successful. This program gives Firefighters all over Illinois the opportunity to take this Basic Firefighter course online and do their practical skills during the weekend. A BIG thank you to the Fire Marshal for the grant that made that happen and IFSI for implementing and conducting this training all over this State. In regards to communications it is all our duty to pass on this information to our fellow Firefighters. Please get the word out about our training weekend in November. This Association is working on ways to better communicate with you. We have contracted with a consulting and marketing firm to do upgrades in our website and produce a short video overview of our organization. We hope to bring light to the benefits of belonging to this association. We are the oldest Fire Association in this State and we want to continue our presents well into the future.

*"Train Smart, Be Safe"*

*God Bless*

*John Swan President IFA*





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

## **EMS OSHA RESPIRATOR QUESTIONNAIRE BILL SIGNED by GOVERNOR**

**SB 121 sponsored by Sen Neil Anderson (R-Moline) on behalf of IFA, which will allow EMS professionals to complete OSHA respirator questionnaires for fire service personnel was signed by the Governor on July 9<sup>th</sup> and will go into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>.** After being able to complete the questionnaires for decades, the Illinois Department of Public Health decided 2 years ago that only doctors could sign them, which would put not only a financial strain on fire departments but created a hardship in medically underserved areas in which doctors are in short supply. The Department of Public Health removed their opposition to the bill, which now clarifies under the Emergency Medical Services Act that EMT, EMT-I, A-EMT, Paramedic or PHRN as permitted by their EMS System Medical Director. Special thanks to Sen Anderson and our House sponsors Rep. Dan Swanson (R-Woodhull), Kathleen Willis (D-Addison), Mike Halpin (D-Rock Island) and Tom Morrison (R-Palatine).

## **FIRE SERVICE RELATED BILLS SIGNED by GOVERNOR**

**HB 51- Chicago Smoke Detectors** Compliments Alderman Villegas ordinance by amending state Smoke Detector Act to include Chicago in 10 year smoke detector requirement. **House Sponsors Rep. Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. Senate Sponsors Sen. Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas and Craig Wilcox Signed into law and effective July 9**

**HB 351- Injury Reports to Dept of Insurance** Amends the Downstate Firefighter Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Requires the fire chief of a secondary employer to report any injury, illness, or exposure incurred by a secondary employee during his or her employment to the Department of Insurance. Requires secondary employers to transmit to the Department of Insurance a certified copy of its report accounting for all hours worked by secondary employees. **House Sponsors Rep. Lance Yednock. Senate Sponsors (Sen. Melinda Bush and Karina Villa-Christopher Belt-Robert F. Martwick) Signed into law and effective July 9<sup>th</sup>**

**HB 640 - Additional Members to FAC** Adds the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Illinois in the organizations from which ex officio members of the Illinois Fire Advisory Commission shall serve. **House Sponsors Rep. Kathleen Willis-Daniel Swanson and Tony McCombie. Senate Sponsors Sen. Cristina Castro Signed into law and effective August 8<sup>th</sup>**

**HB 809 – JLMC-FIREFIGHTER APPOINTMENTS** Amends the Illinois Municipal Code and the Fire Protection District Act. In Sections relating to establishing a program for placing persons eligible for placement on a master register of candidates for full-time firefighter placement, provides that nothing in the listed Sections requires the Joint Labor and Management Committee to establish, or operate a community outreach program or master register of eligibles or to contract with a testing agency to establish or operate such program or register, unless the Committee chooses to do so. **House Sponsors Rep. Jay Hoffman Senate Sponsor (Sen. Karina Villa) Signed into law and effective Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

**HB 2860 FIRE CHIEF VEHICLE EQUIPMENT** Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that vehicle of deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet. Provides that deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs are eligible for fire chief license plates. Provides that any fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief operating warning devices upon a vehicle not owned by a municipality or fire protection district shall display fire chief license plates. Provides that, with the exception of permanently issued license plates, upon the resignation, termination, or reassignment to a rank other than fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief, a person issued fire chief license plates shall immediately surrender the license plate to the Secretary of State. Provides that the Secretary of State shall have the ability to recover the license plates. **House Sponsors Rep. Daniel Swanson, Chris Miller, Mark Luft, Jeff Keicher, Mike Murphy, Mark Batinick, Thomas M. Bennett, Tony McCombie, Norine K. Hammond and Dan Ugaste Senate Sponsor Sen. Neil Anderson Signed into law Aug 20<sup>th</sup> and effective Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

**HB 2864 – Volunteer EMS Credentialing** Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Provides that, in a rural population of 5,000 or fewer inhabitants, each EMS System Medical Director may create an exception to the credentialing process to allow registered nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to apply to serve as volunteers who perform the same work as EMTs. Requires that, as part of the volunteer recognition process, EMS Systems shall ensure that registered nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses have an active license issued by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. This system-level recognition shall require documentation and proof of the completion of at least 20 hours of prehospital care-specific coursework approved by the Department of Public Health and 8 hours of observant riding time. Provides that each EMS System Medical Director who creates an exception to the credentialing process may require additional training or documentation and may reject a volunteer applicant for just cause. Provides that each exemption period shall be no longer than one year, after which time a volunteer applicant may apply for another exemption. Provides that each EMS System Medical Director is responsible for ensuring that volunteer applicants meet EMS System requirements for credentialing and authorizing the practice in accordance with the EMS System

## The Bulletin

plan for basic life support. Provides that exceptions to the credentialing process are only allowable for volunteer EMS agencies in Illinois. **House Sponsors Rep. Daniel Swanson, Chris Miller, Mark Luft, Michael T. Marron, Thomas M. Bennett, C.D. Davidsmeyer, Tony McCombie, Steven Reick, Amy Elik, Avery Bourne, Norine K. Hammond and Dave Severin Senate Sponsors (Sen. Neil Anderson-Chapin Rose) Signed into law Aug 20<sup>th</sup> – effective Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

**HB 3763 - FPD Response Time Study** Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that, before a fire protection district may close a fire station or dissolve the district, a response-time study must be conducted that shows, at a minimum, estimated response times to the territory currently served by the fire station or district and estimated response times to that territory after closure of the fire station or district. Requires a response-time study before any territory may be involuntarily disconnected or consolidated with another fire protection district or municipal fire department. **House Sponsors Rep. Daniel Swanson-Frances Ann Hurley, Chris Miller, Mark Luft, Amy Grant and Lawrence Walsh, Jr. Senate Sponsors (Sen. Neil Anderson-Linda Holmes) Signed into law August 24<sup>th</sup> – effective January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**SB 561 – Creates the PFAS Reduction Act.** Provides that a person, local government, fire department, or State agency may not discharge or otherwise use for training or testing purposes a class B firefighting foam containing intentionally added PFAS. On and after January 1, 2022, prohibits the knowing manufacture, sale, offering for sale, distribution for sale, or distribution for use of a class B firefighting foam containing intentionally added PFAS. Provides specified notice and recall requirements for manufacturers. Contains a prohibition and exemption for the manufacture, sale, offering for sale, or distribution for sale of food packaging containing intentionally added PFAS. Requires manufacturers of class B firefighting foam containing PFAS to register with the Environmental Protection Agency and pay to the Agency an annual registration fee of \$5,000. Requires the Agency to administer and enforce the Act and to adopt rules. Requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal to conduct a survey of fire departments and to provide a report of the results of the survey to the General Assembly no later than 90 days after its completion. Provides a civil penalty of \$5,000 for the first violation of the Act and \$10,000 for each subsequent violation. Provides that civil penalties collected must be deposited into the Environmental Protection Trust Fund to be used in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Trust Fund Act. Contains other provisions. Provides that any person who operates a refinery or chemical or ethanol plant, a storage and distribution facility, or a tank farm or terminal for flammable liquids, or who has a fixed foam system in use at a manufacturing facility or warehouse, may extend the date of compliance under specified provisions to January 1, 2027 if, prior to January 1, 2025, the person determines that additional time for compliance is needed and sends notice of the determination to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. **Senate Sponsors Sen. Laura Ellman-Melinda Bush, Suzy Glowiak Hilton-Jacqueline Y. Collins and Laura M. Murphy House Sponsors (Rep. Anna Moeller) Signed into law and effective Aug 6<sup>th</sup>**

**SB 1714 –Removes Labor History Training Requirement.** Amends the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act. Deletes provision that fire fighter training schools must provide training in the history of the fire service labor movement using curriculum and instructors provided by a statewide organization representing professional union firefighters in Illinois. **Senate Sponsors Sen. Cristina Castro House Sponsor (Rep. Daniel Swanson) Signed into law August 6<sup>th</sup> and effective January 1<sup>st</sup>**

## FALL PRESS CONFERENCES for 10 YEAR SMOKE DETECTOR LAW

Thanks to a grant from First Alert, I have been working with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance on continued public outreach and education on Illinois 10 Year Smoke Detector law set to go into effect January 1, 2023. This fall 8 Fire Departments in various parts of the state, were selected to receive 8 installation kits and 100 of the 10 year model smoke detectors. Press conferences are then held at each department.

The two press conference were held Aug 26<sup>th</sup> at the Chicago Heights Fire Department and on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Normal Fire Department. The rest of the press conferences for the fall are in listed below and we are in the process of scheduling on in St. Charles for November.

- Thursday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. – Franklin Park Fire Department
- Tuesday, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. –Dixon Fire Department
- Tuesday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am – Mt. Vernon Fire Dept followed by 11:00 a.m. MABAS 47 Legislative Forum
- Wed Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. – Belleville Fire Dept followed by St Clair County Legislative Forum
- Thursday Oct 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Galesburg FD

Left to right: OSFM Public Information Officer JC Fultz, IL Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski, IFA Lobbyist Margaret, ISU Campus Fire Safety Specialist Adam Streenz and Normal Fire Chief Mick Humer at Sept 2nd Campus Fire Safety Month Press Conference



The Bulletin  
**130th Annual IFA Down & Dirty Firefighting Weekend**

*Illinois Fire Service Institute*

**FREE LODGING IS AVAILABLE!**

**Illinois Firefighter's Association Conference Hotel:**  
**Eastland Suites 217-367-8331**

Other area hotels offering free lodging accommodations:

Best Western Plus	217-355-5566
Best Western/Savoy	217-356-1824
Best Western/University	217-328-4400
Candlewood Suites	217-398-1000
Comfort Suites	217-328-3500
Country Inn & Suites	217-355-6666
Courtyard by Marriott	217-355-0411
Fairfield Inn	217-355-0604
Hilton Garden Inn	217-352-9970
Holiday Inn-Champaign	217-398-3400
Homewood Suites	217-352-9960

**IFA FREE LODGING REQUIREMENTS:**

Conference attendees may receive up to 3 nights of hotel accommodations for FREE. The Illinois Firefighter's Association (IFA) has received a grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshal to cover a portion of the hotel rooms for the annual Down & Dirty Conference. Funded hotel rooms in the IFA/IFSI block are limited and available to registrants on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Lodging Details:**

The IFA will pay for hotel room and hotel room taxes only.

Registrants may reserve rooms only after registering for the conference.

Rooms must be booked in the attendees' name and a personal credit card is required to cover incidental expenses.

Individuals must mention the Illinois Firefighter's Association/IFSI block to receive the accommodation.

Rooms not included in the IFA block will be subject to the current hotel rate.

One attendee per room.

Individuals must attend all registered training, for the room expenses to be covered by IFA.

**Room Coverage Eligibility:**

Thursday night accommodations will only be covered for registrants who attend the annual meeting on Friday morning.

Friday night accommodations will only be covered for registrants who attend the Friday afternoon session

and/or Saturday sessions.

Saturday night accommodations will only be covered for registrants who attend all Saturday sessions.

**TRAINING LOCATION:**

Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) 11 Gerty Drive, Champaign | 217.333.3800

**FREE PARKING:**

Event parking will be available free of charge in a University of Illinois lot. Shuttle service between the designated parking location and the IFSI training grounds is available for the duration of the two-day program.

**GET FREE REGISTRATION:**

Organizations registering multiple attendees will receive one complimentary registration for every 3 members registered.

**REGISTRATION: [FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU](http://FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU) | PAYMENT: [ILLINOISFIREFIGHTERS.ORG](http://ILLINOISFIREFIGHTERS.ORG)**

Register online through IFSI at [fsi.illinois.edu](http://fsi.illinois.edu). The Illinois Firefighter's Association will process conference payments. Once registration materials are submitted, you will receive a direct link to the IFA event payment page.

**CONFERENCE FEES & REGISTRATION DATES:**

Before October 15, 2021: IFA Member: \$50 | Non-Member: \$75 Payment must be received before 5:00pm on October 15 to receive the advance rate.

After October 15, 2021: IFA Member: \$100 | Non-Member: \$125 Last day to cancel registration for a full refund: October 15, 2021

***\*Organizations registering multiple attendees will receive one complimentary registration for every three members registered.***

***For More information, download the the full conference brochure - [Conference Brochure](#)  
Or contact the IFA - 618-882-4783 or by email [editor@illinoisfirefighters.org](mailto:editor@illinoisfirefighters.org)***



## The Bulletin

### HANDS-ON COURSES:

12 HOURS EACH | FRIDAY, 1-5PM & SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM

#### FOUNDATIONS OF FIREFIGHTING

The Foundations of Firefighting Course was developed for new firefighters. The class is designed to safely place you on the working fire grounds. The course will cover the usage of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), line advancement, ventilation and basic fire ground operations. Material covered will result in your safety as an effective firefighter for your department.

NFPA compliant personal protective equipment and SCBA is required.

#### ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR FIREFIGHTING

The Essential Skills for Firefighting Course incorporates multiple training topics into one convenient schedule. Class topics include forcible entry, RIT training and thermal imaging camera applications. Students will participate in hands-on drills with both inward and outward swinging doors as well as multiple types of tools and locks. Live fire scenarios will address the tactical and strategic operations related to downed firefighters and the operation of the thermal imaging camera.

NFPA compliant personal protective equipment, SCBA, and ear protection is required.

#### AGRICULTURE RESCUE TECHNIQUES

The Agriculture Rescue Techniques Course will teach first responders and rescue personnel the principles and guidelines for safe response to agriculture related incidents. Subject matter covered includes tractor rollovers, grain auger entrapments, farm machinery entrapments, emergencies related electrical malfunctions, and chemical exposure incidents. Confined space and how it relates to incidents that involve manure pits and grain bins will be covered as well. Students will learn extraction methods, machinery stabilization, lock out/tag out of hazardous systems, patient assessment, and packaging.

Turn out gear or coveralls, helmet, gloves, eye and ear protection, and steel toed shoes are required.

#### THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA:

##### APPLICATION FOR SEARCH AND RIT OPERATIONS

The Thermal Imaging Camera: Applications for Search and RIT Operations Course provides in-depth training on the use of thermal imaging cameras on response scenes. Class topics include basic camera function, search techniques, fire behavior, and RIT operations. Students will engage in multiple live fire training scenarios that will connect the usage of the fireground tool to primary and secondary search techniques, RIT operations, and victim removal using webbing. This course will challenge all skill levels.

NFPA compliant personal protective equipment and SCBA is required.

### CLASSROOM COURSES:

4 HOURS EACH | Instructed by NVFC Instructors

#### LEADERSHIP FOR THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES FRIDAY, 1-5PM

Quality leadership is essential for the fire and emergency services to accomplish the mission and improve your department. This course examines leadership styles, qualities, ethics, and best practices to help your department function at a high level and avoid fire and emergency services leadership pitfalls. New retention research will also be discussed to help leaders understand retention concerns and identify solutions.

#### RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES SATURDAY, 8AM-12PM

Many fire and EMS departments across the nation are struggling to find new volunteer members and retain their current members. This session discusses the challenges of recruiting volunteers, presents valuable research collected as part of the NVFC's Make Me A Firefighter campaign, and offers ideas to help overcome recruiting challenges. During the second half of the session, retention challenges, potential solutions, and the importance of leadership will be covered.

#### VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE CULTURE: ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS SATURDAY, 1-5 PM

The NVFC published the textbook Volunteer Fire Service Culture – Essential Strategies for Success as a guide to fire service leaders who desire to change their department's culture and attitude towards personal health and safety. This training delves into key points from the guide to reinforce the need for change and provide a roadmap for implementation of change to improve the health and safety of volunteer fire and EMS responders.

#### FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES, 7-9PM:

##### MYTHS & REALITIES: FOG NOZZLE VS. SMOOTH BORE NOZZLE

(LIMITED TO 30 STUDENTS)

The Myths and Realities: Fog Nozzle vs Smooth Bore Nozzle class will focus on one of the most historic debates in the fire service. Instructors will address the use of the fog nozzle or the smooth bore nozzle during fire attack, the benefits of specific usage, and safety measure comparisons. The course will explore different hose stream selection for the fire attack and the pros and cons of each choice.

#### ADVANCED AND COMMERCIAL FORCIBLE ENTRY

(LIMITED TO 15 STUDENTS)

The Advanced and Commercial Forcible Entry course is an accelerated training opportunity for students proficient with residential forcible entry techniques. This class provides in-depth training on forcible entry tools by applying the usage to simulated fire scenes including working through obstructions. Students will engage in hands-on scenarios that require forcible entry in limited visibility and zero visibility conditions. Commercial course topics will include advanced cutting techniques for fencing, chains, burglar bars, carriage bolts, and locks.

NFPA compliant personal protective equipment, SCBA, ear and eye protection is required.

#### TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE/ RESCUE TASK FORCE TRAINING

16 HOURS | FRIDAY, 1PM-5PM & SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM &  
SUNDAY, 8AM-12PM

The Tactical Emergency Casualty Care/Rescue Task Force Training (TECC/RTF) Course is an EMS-based class designed for all skill levels. The class covers topics that decrease preventable deaths from active shooter, hostile, or mass casualty events. The TECC program includes discussions, table top, and full immersion exercises. Upon successful completion of the course, students will receive TECC certification from the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT).

[Register here on IFSI Website](#)



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

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

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

### **Illinois Firefighters Association- IFA Member**

#### **Welcome to the Savvik Buying Group!**

#### **Savvik Member # 28828**

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

#### **Savvik Membership:**

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

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

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

#### **Member Login Instructions:**

Go to <https://savvik.com>

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



## About SAVVIK Buying Group

### Our Beginnings

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

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

### Where We're Going

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

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

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

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

### *Membership Includes:*

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

Large vendor contracts – save time and money!

Online marketplace – 5.11 Gear at the lowest prices!

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

**All of this for FREE!**

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

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## Office of the State Fire Marshal



The Illinois State Fair is in the books for 2021 and it was great to be back in person helping share the fire safety message with fairgoers. A big shout out to the Illinois Department of Agriculture for hosting a successful and safe fair. I want to personally thank the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, Illinois Professional Firefighters Association, International Association of Arson Investigators Illinois Chapter, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, MABAS, Chicago Fire Department, Illinois Fire Service Institute, Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors, Associated Fire Fighters Association, Illinois Fire Inspectors Association and the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts, along with the staff from our agency for making the fire safety tent a success again this year. We have faced numerous challenges during the pandemic, and still do, but once again we have come together and proved that our One Team One Fight slogan always rings true amongst the member of the Illinois Fire Service!

The Small Equipment Grant Program application period has opened again this fall. I highly encourage all departments, districts and EMS providers that are eligible, to apply. This program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment. This is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for the fire departments and not-for-profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase. The OSFM understands that budgets are tighter, and we continue to work hard to help find funding for the Illinois fire service community. Visit our website [www.sfm.illinois.gov](http://www.sfm.illinois.gov) and click on the link to the Small Equipment Grant Program, located in the current focus section. Applications must be postmarked by October 23rd. There is 2.5 million dollars available during this grant cycle.

Registration is now open for the State of Illinois Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Conference that will be held on October 22nd at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. The day will feature national and state CRR updates, along with resources to successfully move forward with helping create a CRR plan for your department and community. The OSFM is proud to work with the Chicago Fire Department and the State of Illinois CRR taskforce to provide this day of education which will help departments and communities from all over the state to identify ways they can implement CRR to help make their communities a safer place for residents to live and work.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of September 11th, and I wanted to take a minute and reflect upon this day that changed our lives forever. The fire service community is a brother and sisterhood, it showed that day as members dropped everything to rush to the scene to help. Some of our brothers and sisters didn't come back, but their legacy still lives on to this day. Take a moment and remember all those who lost their lives that fateful day. Never forget!



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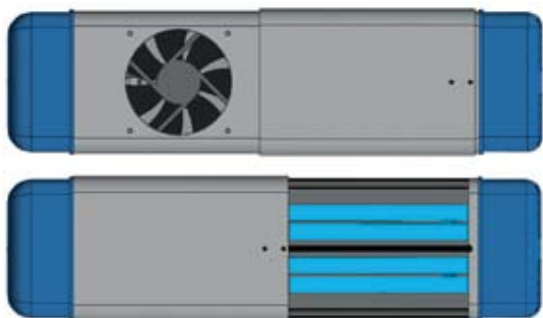
## Unique Dual Sanitizing UV For Your Mobile Unit



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

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

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



Patent No. US 10,893,990

### MOBILE AIR AND SURFACE UV SANITIZING

## DuoGuard

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

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



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

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



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



## MOBILE AIR AND SURFACE UV SANITIZING

# DuoGuard

## How Does It Work?



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

### AIR CLEANING

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

### SURFACE CLEANING

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

## Safety Features

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

### PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

2.25" H x 6" W x 24" L

Designed for mobile units.

Disinfects both air and surfaces.

Ceiling mounted and direct wired.

Integrated fan.

Specular reflectors for increased UV-C efficiency.

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

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



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

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



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Rep's Cell

Rep's Email



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**Details are available at: [www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms](http://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms)**



Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



## **Appellate Court Rules Firefighter Forced to Retire at Age 65 Is Ineligible for Unemployment Benefits**

by James G. Wargo

Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

By law, full-time firefighters in Illinois must retire at age 65. Sometimes, this separation is less-than-voluntary, which prompts the question of whether such firefighters are entitled to unemployment benefits. Recently, the Illinois Appellate Court ruled firefighters who are required to retire upon reaching age the statutorily mandated retirement age of 65 are not eligible for unemployment benefits under the Illinois Unemployment Insurance Act ("Unemployment Act").

In *Prospect Heights Fire Protection District v. Department of Employment Security*, firefighter Robert Pyzyna was employed by the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District from June 2005 until he retired in October 2017. 2021 IL App (1st) 182525. His retirement "was predicated on his reaching the age of 65, the mandatory retirement age for active firefighters" set by statute. Upon retirement, Pyzyna began receiving pension benefits from the District's firefighters' pension fund.

Nevertheless, Pyzyna also filed a claim for unemployment benefits under the Unemployment Act claiming that he had been "laid off" from his employment with the District.

The Unemployment Act provides unemployment benefits to individuals who become unemployed through no fault of their own. However, an individual will become ineligible for unemployment benefits for the period "in which he or she has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable" to the employer or for misconduct connected with his or her job.

The District challenged Pyzyna's claim and argued he was not eligible for unemployment benefits because he had *not* been laid off. In fact, he was receiving retirement pension benefits.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security ("IDES") ruled in favor of Pyzyna and concluded that his "separation from the District was neither voluntary nor the result of misconduct." Indeed, IDES found that Pyzyna did not voluntarily leave his employment with the District—the District caused Pyzyna's unemployment when it required him to retire upon reaching age 65. IDES also noted that the District had failed to introduce any evidence that Pyzyna had engaged in misconduct that would make him ineligible for benefits. Because there was no evidence that Pyzyna left his job voluntarily or that he was discharged for misconduct, IDES thus found him eligible for unemployment benefits.

The District appealed IDES's ruling to the circuit court, which overturned the decision. In the circuit court's view, Pyzyna had voluntarily agreed to the "statutorily prescribed mandatory retirement age" of 65 when he accepted his employment with the District. This made Pyzyna ineligible for unemployment benefits.

The appellate court agreed. It held that "an Illinois firefighter who leaves his or her employment upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 65 does so voluntarily absent good cause attributable to the employer and is not eligible to seek unemployment benefits" under the Unemployment Act. The mandatory retirement provision at issue was not set by the District but was required by statute and is applicable to fire departments and firefighters. Therefore, "Pyzyna and all other firefighters thus know that their careers as firefighters are finite and will terminate when they reach mandatory retirement age of 65." Upon accepting employment with the District, Pyzyna "accepted and agreed to abide" by this mandatory retirement requirement. Since Pyzyna left his employment with the District "in accordance with the terms of his employment that he accepted when he commenced his career as a firefighter, he did so voluntarily." And since "the mandatory retirement policy at issue was set by statute and not by the District, Pyzyna's separation from his place of employ cannot be considered good cause attributable" to the District.

The decision in *Prospect Heights* makes clear that statutorily mandated retirements are considered "voluntary" and, thus, retirees are not eligible for unemployment benefits. Importantly, the decision did not address part-time firefighters who are not hired under the board of fire commissioners' provisions of the Fire Protection District Act or the Illinois Municipal Code that contain the mandatory retirement age requirement. Although it stands to reason that part-time firefighters should be subject to the same mandatory retirement requirements applicable to full-time firefighters, the law is not clear on this issue. It is also uncertain whether the logic of *Prospect Heights* would apply where a fire protection district or municipality affirmatively adopts a mandatory retirement age *under* 65. In these situations, fire protection districts and municipalities should ensure their mandatory retirement age policies are acknowledged by all firefighters at the time of hire.

**James G. Wargo** is an associate with the law firm of Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in the firm's Naperville office. Mr. Wargo concentrates his practice primarily in local government law. He has a broad range of experience representing municipalities, fire protection district, public pension funds, park districts, libraries, and school districts on both transactional and litigation matters.



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

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

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

## Share the Load™ Program

### [nvfc.org/help](https://nvfc.org/help)

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

## Directory of Behavioral Health Professionals

### [nvfc.org/phfd](https://nvfc.org/phfd)

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

## Psychologically Healthy Fire Departments Toolkit

### [nvfc.org/phfd](https://nvfc.org/phfd)

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







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

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

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

---

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



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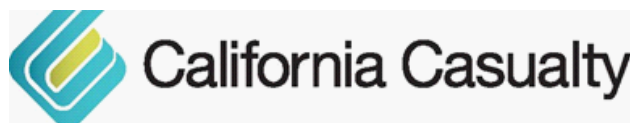
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## Seven Tricks for Unmasking Halloween Risks

This can be a spooky time of year with ghosts, witches and other characters. It's also scary for homeowners and renters; the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) warns that Halloween is now the number one day for insurance claims from vandalism. Damage to autos and property add up to \$2.8 million from Halloween pranks, with the average cost per claim tagged at \$1,660. With that in mind, here are [seven common sense ways](#) to keep your holiday fun and full of treats:

1. Park your vehicle in a well-lit area or in a garage
2. Lock vehicles, close windows and turn on alarms
3. Keep your property well-lit to discourage vandals
4. Don't decorate with objects that can easily be thrown at your property
5. Don't use expensive decorations that could be stolen
6. Use battery operated candles
7. Have a security system for your property and post signs alerting others



With children and others darting around in costumes, we all need to be extra vigilant too. Staying safe at Halloween isn't much of a trick if you follow some simple tips.

For [kids](#):

- Don't trick or treat alone
- Use reflective tape on costumes
- Always cross at corners and cross walks, don't run into roadways

For [Adults](#):

- Make sure costumes are safe, made with fire resistant materials and don't restrict vision
- Keep walkways and paths well-lit and clear of obstacles to avoid trick-or-treater falls
- Have an adult accompany children under 12
- Inspect the candy and treats before your children consume them
- Drive slowly and look out for kids running across streets
- Don't let any party guests who have been drinking drive home

For [Pets](#):

- Keep treats and candy well away from pets
- Put overly sensitive pets in a separate quiet area
- Keep dogs on a leash and don't let aggressive or over-exuberant dogs rush trick-or-treaters at the door
- Avoid costumes on pets that can cause stress and injury

Don't put yourself in a scary situation when it comes to your vehicles and property. California Casualty can help unmask any potential Halloween insurance nightmares. Contact one of our advisors today to make sure your auto and home insurance is up to date, and you have enough liability and vandalism protection, at 1.833.989.3597, or visit [www.readyforquote.com/justine](http://www.readyforquote.com/justine).

Justine Sallee is excited to serve Illinois first responders as a California Casualty representative. She is dedicated in helping members access the benefits available to IFA member. She has worked for California Casualty as a Marketing Manager since 2012 and covers Northern Illinois.



Sources for this article:

<http://www.pciaa.net/pciwebsite/Cms/Content/ViewPage?sitepageid=43051>

<https://www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safety-tips>

<http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/>

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/halloween-safety-tips>

**This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to educators, firefighters, law enforcement officers and nurses. Get a quote at 1.833.989.3597, or visit [www.readyforquote.com/justine](http://www.readyforquote.com/justine).**





U.S. Fire Administration  
Working for a fire-safe America

## NFA FIRE INSPECTION PRINCIPLES I (48 HOURS)

*presented by*

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



### DATE:

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH  
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2021**

### LOCATION:

**BILL DALTON TRAINING CENTER  
AT LOCAL 281 UA**

11900 S. Laramie Avenue, Alsip  
(right next to the **Alsip Fire Department**)

### SCHEDULE FOR EACH DAY:

**7:00AM CHECK-IN** \* Continental breakfast provided

**8:00AM CLASS**

**11:30AM LUNCH PROVIDED**

**12:30PM CLASS**

**4:30PM OVERVIEW**



Fire Chief  
Tom Styczynski

## CLASS INFORMATION

This six-day course introduces the student to the fundamental methodology for application of fire and life safety codes and standards. Although it contains many of the basic principles of code enforcement, more experienced code inspectors and officials might find it useful as a review of essential methodologies and as a useful update to current code enforcement applications. It is not the intent of this course to present specific code requirements, however this course focuses more on the methodology of the use of these requirements.

## PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites to taking this course.

If you have specific questions regarding the course, contact:

**James Moore, Assistant Director**  
[jpmoore1@illinois.edu](mailto:jpmoore1@illinois.edu)

**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER ONLINE**

**CLICK HERE FOR  
PRINTED REGISTRATION  
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Through Training, Education,  
Information, and Research.*

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U.S. Fire Administration  
Working for a fire-safe America

## NFA BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

*presented by*

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



### DATE:

**DECEMBER 2 & 3, 2021**

### LOCATION:

**BILL DALTON TRAINING CENTER  
AT LOCAL 281 UA**

11900 S. Laramie Avenue, Alsip  
(right next to the **Alsip Fire Department**)

### SCHEDULE FOR BOTH DAYS:

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



Fire Chief  
Tom Styczynski



## CLASS INFORMATION

**Course Instructor: Scott Barthelmass**

This two-day course is designed to help fire and emergency services learn what community risk reduction is and how to build organizational support for it.

This course includes three units of instruction:

- Unit 1: Components of Community Risk Reduction.
- Unit 2: Community Risk Reduction as a Service Priority.
- Unit 3: Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction.

There is a pre-course assignment to complete before class that should take about one hour to complete.

If you have specific questions regarding the course, contact:

**James Moore, Assistant Director**  
[jpmoore1@illinois.edu](mailto:jpmoore1@illinois.edu)

**CLICK HERE  
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Helping Firefighters Do Their Work  
Through Training, Education,  
Information, and Research.

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# FM Global



## Fire Prevention Grants

Mark Blank, and Jed Bowen from FM Global worked with NIFSI during our fire safety classes with the AFFI in our pilot

classes on "Fighting Fires in Fire Sprinkler Protected Buildings" classes earlier this summer.

They are encouraging our Illinois Fire Service friends to apply for the fire service grants from FM Global.

Take a little time to think of items, products, or systems that can help improve your fire prevention efforts in your community. Hope you can give it a try! **[Click Here](#)** for a list of past grant recipients and frequently asked questions.

Tom Lia  
NIFSI

**Because FM Global believes that the majority of fire can be prevented, FM Global is pleased to offer financial support to organizations working to combat fire. Through our Fire Prevention Grant Program, fire departments and brigades, as well as national, state,**

# From the Chaplain's Rack

IFA Chaplain Josh Ehrler



Throughout the week leading to September 11<sup>th</sup>, we were bombarded with all the images and video clips we've lived with for 20 years. We vowed we would never forget.

We will never forget.

We keep the stories of the 343 firefighters close to our thoughts and hearts because their lives deserve it. Our firehouses have helmet fronts, banners, and posters adorning our training rooms and public spaces. We have tattooed "343" on our arms and "FDNY" on our backs. Some have made the trip to see the memorials in Manhattan, Shanksville, or the Pentagon. Our apparatus may bear the image of

the twin towers near the cab or the tailboard so that we, and everyone we serve, can see that the fire service stands together.

We will never forget.

We cannot forget because that day and the seemingly endless, arduous months of recovery that followed, have become part of our psyche. Like the dust that would not settle, the faces of the women and men of the fire service, the rescue efforts, and the debris cover our minds and cause our still grieving hearts to beat harder when we relive those days. And pray for the survivors. And feel every emotion that passes across our bodies.

Because vowing to never forget means feeling all that haunts us and inspires us. September 11<sup>th</sup> is a day in our lives when our passion to serve that stretches from big city departments to rural districts was brought together at the base of the towers. Twenty years later, we still find ourselves standing there.

These were our sisters and brothers who did what we all do wherever we serve: they heard the tone, grabbed their gear, climbed into their seats, and donned their packs. They carried hose lines and irons and carefully escorted thousands down stairwells to safety while simultaneously ascending. The coordination of duties was incredible and from command to rookie, they did their jobs without fail and without fulling knowing.

We will never forget.

Which means we will get angry. We will feel guilt wondering why we survived when others did not. We will wrestle old demons and we will shed tears. We may relapse. All of this is part of remembering, and proof that the 343 and the thousands who died are woven to our lives. I encourage you, friends: do not deal with your distress alone. Talk to someone, whether a chaplain, peer support, or a counselor, because you are not alone.

We will also feel pride that we have the privilege of telling the stories from the perspective of the ones who can no longer tell it themselves. We will feel inspired each time we don our gear, climb into a seat, and answer the call. We will trust our training and lean on the solidarity of the countless firefighters and medics who respond alongside us across the country. We will continue to have hope. Because we will never forget.

As we carry on for those who have earned their rest, I offer this prayer from Father Mychal Judge, FDNY chaplain, whose death continues to haunt me with sadness and hope. *"Lord, take me where you want me to go. Let me meet who you want me to meet. Tell me what you want me to say. And keep me out of your way."*

Take care of yourself, take care of your company, watch out for each other.

**Chaplain Josh's Phone 608-234-3793**





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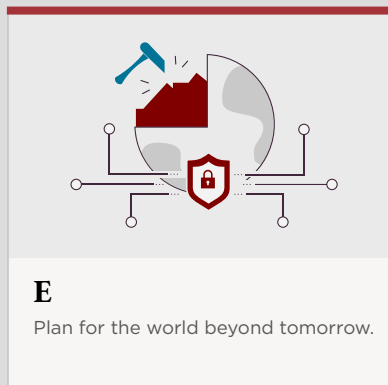
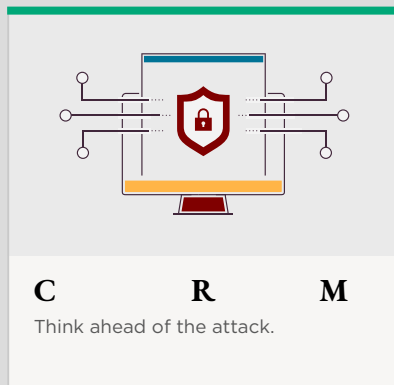
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