

The **Bulletin**



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FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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Department Spotlight
Sterling Fire Department

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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,

I hope your department was able to secure a small equipment grant, if you applied. These grants are very important to all of us. In many cases, these grants are the only method to provide the life safety equipment that we all need to operate. Each year, we watch closely that this grant gets the proper funding. This year also brings us to the possibility that we could see a new governor. We will be pro-active and canvass both candidates in regards to what support and what they will give the fire service. We went through some very difficult times in the years past, we sure do not want to go through this again. Most of you should already know that our State Fire Marshal's Office is the back bone of the fire service. We are very fortunate to have a strong State Fire Marshal and a strong Fire Caucus. We will be submitting letters to each candidate asking them their position on the future support of the Fire Marshal's Office and the Fire Service. As this year passes on, we will determine who has the desire to see that our needs are taken care of. As an association, we have never publicly endorsed or funded any one candidate. Our position has always been non partisan supporting any candidate that supported us through our membership. I believe both political parties need the fire service support and will respond accordingly to our wishes.

We are finishing up on this year annual conference Down & Dirty Training Weekend. This year's conference dates will be October 17th, 18th and 19th. It's not too early to mark these dates and pass this information on to the others in your department and neighboring departments . You should be receiving the complete annual conference program in the next copy of The Bulletin, it will be also sent out to every fire department in the state wether or not they are members. It is our duty and obligation to see every firefighter in this state has the information to attend our conference and to fulfill our mission.

In closing, our State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis has taken on quite a challenge on the Fire Sprinkler issue. We have supported his initiative with a resolution stating our position. We were in hopes that this could be resolved in rules be drafted enforcing Fire Sprinklers in those designated structures. Now, legislation has been drafted trying to take the power away from our Fire Marshal to make that rule. Keep in mind if this legislation is passed, it could snow ball and every time someone did not like a future rule, legislation could be past taking more power away from his office. We are very opposed to any legislation that will limit the power of our State's Fire Marshal. It is very clear to me that it is all about money and profit, and not about life safety. Common sense goes down the drain with money and power. The home builders' association and realtors have put profits ahead of life safety. By the time you get this Bulletin, we will see who may win this battle. This battle of power could very well impose greater safety issues for each of you as a firefighter.

God Bless and be Safe

John Swan President IFA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

IFA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION SET for APRIL 9th

Once again IFA is partnering with IFCA, IAFPD, NIAFPD, NIFSAB, and IFSA to host a reception for legislators and their staffs on Wednesday, April 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Abraham Lincoln Double Tree Hotel 701 E. Adams 217-544-8900. If you plan on spending the night, rooms are available there for \$129 plus tax or the Carpenter Street Hotel 525 N. 6th Street 217-789-9100 for \$80 plus tax. With over 50 new legislators being sworn in in the past year it is vital that IFA get acquainted with new folks and maintain relationships with our old friends.

FIREWORKS LEGISLATION SURFACES

HB 5902 introduced by Rep. David Reis (R-Olney) would allow for the legalization of Class C fireworks without any permits or training. Though the Fire Service was vehemently opposed we did have a very gracious meeting with the sponsor and explained that any new revenue brought into the state by fireworks would be offset by the increased cost to local governments for first responders and increased medical bills in emergency rooms and burn units which often fall back to Medicaid payments. Outside of the increased cost to taxpayers you can't put a price tag on the increase in human suffering that would result. We also explained that there is a mechanism in the law already for local units of government to pass local ordinances to allow for the permitting of Class C fireworks as long as the individual completes OSFM approved training and the site is inspected by local fire officials. At this point it does not look like the bill will advance but we will keep you posted.

LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT OSFM AUTHORITY ON SPRINKLERS

HB 4609 introduced by Rep. Sara Feigenholz (D-Chicago), in response to last year's OSFM filing of administrative rules to upgrade the state's Life Safety Code, would prohibit OSFM from adopting any new administrative rules requiring fire sprinklers in any building in the State and instead require any sprinkler requirement to go through the entire General Assembly. The legislation also sets up a Task Force to look at fire safety and sprinklers however though there is some fire service representation on the Task Force it also includes realtors, home builders, apartment and condo owners who would not have the expertise in fire safety and building codes. IFA is fighting to keep OSFM authority to adopt sprinkler requirements in the law and if we must have a Task Force would like more representation from ICC, NFPA, Fire Inspectors, and Code Officials.

SB 3297 SHARED CAMERA FEEDS

At the Will County Legislative Forum which was held last fall, one of the issues that was brought up was the ability for the Tollway and IDOT to share their camera feeds with local 911 dispatch centers so that first responders will be better prepared when responding to an incident. Sen. Mike Hastings (D-Tinley Park) introduced legislation to accomplish this. I participated in several meeting with IDOT, the Tollway and the Governor's office to discuss the logistics. It was determined that the Tollway already has an agreement with Lake County on the shared camera feeds and legislation is not needed to set up new agreements. Sen. Hastings is working with myself and the Tollway to set up a similar agreement in Will County and once that is off the ground look at expanding it to the other collar counties.

The deadline for bills to pass Committee is fast approaching and I will have a better idea of which bills will still be vital for the next newsletter.

State Testing Site Available at 2014 Conference

We are having a state testing site at the 2014 conference. Testing will be available on Thursday and Friday night. Testing time will be in the brochure. We are also working on some new and interesting classes for this year's conference.



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Chaplain's Corner

Kevin Coffey - IFA Chaplain

God's Presence

OK, I admit it – I have been known to tell a “fire story” or two. You know the kind: “...there was fire to the left, fire to the right...”. And yes, I may have embellished a detail or two along the way – not to deceive or overstate my personal heroism of course, just to help make the point. But there is a fire story in the Bible that is so over

the top, so beyond embellishment, that it must be the actual truth (after all, the Bible is known for truth-telling). It goes something like this:

There was this crusty old tyrannical fire chief (sure glad we don't have any of those in Illinois) who was a bit threatened by the professionalism and high standards of a few of his young firefighters. So he told his officers at the next decent working fire to aggressively push these young guys in there, just to teach them a lesson. So there they were at the front door of a 2nd floor apartment that had the whole back bedroom/kitchen down the hall rolling pretty good. The officers yelled to the three young firefighters, “OK you guys, get in there and get that ceiling open” while giving a shove with the knee in their backs. No sooner did they get into the living room of the apartment and dug their pike poles into the ceiling above when someone outside vented at the wrong place/wrong time and the whole place flashed. It all lit up so fast and so hot that the officers in the doorway were blown down the stairs and rolled out onto the front lawn with ears and necks burning. Seeing all that had happened so quickly, the chief was mortified and scurried up a ground ladder to the 2nd floor windows to take a look inside. And what he saw was hard for him to believe. He yelled back down to the guys on the ground, “Hey, weren't there just three firefighters that were in there working?” “That's right, Chief...just three” was the reply. “Well”, the chief yelled back, “I see four guys in there walking around in the fire...I can recognize our three firefighters, but the fourth guy looks like the Son of God!” So they pulled the firefighters out of the window and got them down the ladder only to be shocked that they were completely unharmed! Not only that, but their bunker gear, helmets, gloves, etc. were not even singed and there was no smell of fire or smoke on them at all!

Now there's lots of wrong attitudes and tactics here, but that's not the point of this Bible fire story (from the book of Daniel, chapter 3, check it out!). And I certainly don't want anyone to think that the story teaches that God will always protect them from harm while firefighting. But there is a stirring truth that the story makes very clear – **God is present with us as we fulfill our fire service calling.** His presence is with us at the fire station. His presence is with us in training. His presence is with us on the emergency scene. His presence is with us when we face potential danger. His presence is with us in the emergency room. His presence is with us at the line-of-duty-death (LODD) memorial. In fact, Jesus promised us, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you**”. So He invites each of us to a faith that is always assured of His presence and that accesses His grace and strength to carry out the redemptive drama we know as the fire service. May you embrace that faith every day that you serve.

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

Because You Answer the Call Every Day, We're Here to Answer Yours



As a first responder, your emotional well-being is just as important as your physical health. Are you or someone you know struggling with persistent sadness, substance abuse, work or life stresses, or other issues affecting your work or home life? The first step is reaching out.

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STERLING FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Sterling Fire Department is located in the Northwestern part of the state of Illinois, 30 miles from Clinton, Iowa, one and a half hours west of Dekalb, Illinois. The department is made up of 18 career firefighters, 4 paid-on-call firefighters, 1 administrative assistant, 1 deputy chief and 1 chief. Operating from two stations, the Sterling Fire Department has 2 front line pumpers, 1 reserve pumper, a 100 ft. aerial, tender, brush truck, and two service vehicles. Working with their neighbors to the south, the Rock Falls Fire Department, they have an automatic aid agreement which provides better customer service to the public served. The department covers 82.6 square miles and serves a population of roughly 28,000 residents.

First organized around 1872 the City of Sterling was protected by four different fire companies spread throughout the city: the Columbia Engine and Hose Company No. 1, the Niagara Hose Company No. 2, Hose Company No. 2 and the Hook & Ladder Company No. 1. At this time there were thirteen hydrants in the city. The city averaged about two working fires a year. As the city grew the departments did also and by 1890 the city installed a Gamewell Alarm box system which remained in service until around 2006. In July of 1896 the public passed a referendum to build a City Hall which would house the fire companies. In 1910 another new fire station was built next to City Hall where all the companies could station their equipment. They remained in this station until 1969 when a new station was built at 110 W. 5th St. This is the Central Fire Station which also houses the administrative offices. In 1972 the expansion of the city became too great and a second station was built at the corner of Lynn Boulevard and 16th Avenue. Over the years the department progressed from horse drawn hose wagons and steamers and in 1912 the department purchased its first motorized piece of equipment - an American La France hose and chemical truck.

The Sterling Fire Department currently provides such services as fire suppression, business inspections, technical rescue, hazardous materials intervention as well as investigation of fires, juvenile firesetters intervention and fire prevention to over 300 kindergarten school children annually. They also provide fire extinguisher training to local nursing homes, factories and businesses upon request. The department runs an average of 1200 to 1300 calls annually with staffing of 6 per shift out of two stations. In 2013, along with emergency responses, the Sterling Fire Department completed 471 inspections. The department administration was changed in 2013 to assist in reducing cost for both Sterling and Rock Falls. The Twin City Joint Fire Command committee was established which combined a deputy chief from both cities and one chief for both departments. The deputy chiefs provide training, prevention and inspections for each city they serve as well as providing command staff for emergency calls in both or either city. They will cross district lines as needed to provide a better service to the public and a safer working environment for the firefighters. The chief divides time between the cities, four hours in each city over the course of the day.

Over the course of a year the Sterling Fire Department trains regularly over such topics as general fire suppression, hazardous materials, river rescue, auto extrication and numerous hours of EMS.

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The officers also log ongoing training on topics such as management, tactics and strategy, prevention and inspection. Each member logs an average 250 to 300 hours of annual training. Each lieutenant is working towards completing Fire Officer I certification and each captain Fire Officer II within two years of appointment to the position. The Sterling Fire Department has six second-generation firefighters who have continued in the footsteps of their fathers and the department hopes that this trend will continue onto the next generation as well.





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Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Jim Keiken, Deputy Director



Mark Your 2014 Training Calendar

- **Annual Fire College**, June 5 - 8, 2014
- **Annual Explorer / Cadet “HOT” Fire School** June 19 – 22, 2014

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

In October of 2012 The Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and other leaders in the Fire Service asked Director Mortenson to improve Leadership training in the state. As part of the request IFSI created a Leadership Development Working Group composed of IFSI instructors from a wide spectrum of the Illinois Fire Service representing all fire service ranks. They were tasked with creating a “Cradle to Grave” fire service leadership development/decision making training program.

As you read this article IFSI will have completed a Workshop to review our new Leadership Development/Decision Making curriculum. This workshop/conference will have taken a “first look” at the curriculum for this new program. The workshops objective was to critique and review the Lines of Education (LOEs), activities and overall content to assure that we have “hit the target” of developing a program that fosters the development of leadership and decision making skills for the fire service. This program will utilizing hands on activities and discovery learning methods in addition to short classroom lectures. These techniques will help develop leadership decision making skills or “muscle” that create “time pressure” decision making opportunities when given minimal information -- making students comfortable with this concept/environment.

The “Working Group” has worked for over 18 months to develop the materials and identify the Lines of Education. The LOEs include:

- Leadership and followership
- History and traditions
- Communications
- Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs)
- Morals and ethics
- Professional development
- Thinking critically, decision-making/ Recognition Primed Decision-making (RPDM)
- Nature of the environment, Command climate & Culture

This is not the typical leadership lecture program. You cannot teach effectively leadership via PowerPoint and lecture. You must exercise the decision-making “muscles” with the same rigor

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you do firefighting skills or they will atrophy and become weak. This program will use some classroom presentation but will be based upon discovery learning instead of the traditionally used directed learning. To do this we have developed a number of Small group discussions, Ethical and moral decision games/discussions, Tactical decision games, Sand table exercises/discussions and Practical application exercises. These are designed to:

- stimulate thought
- drive development of courses of action
- generate individual and group introspection
- generate analysis of behavior
- create “friction” (real and perceived) that must be overcome

We will be using the Socratic method of teaching for this program extensively. Socratic Teaching is the oldest, and still the most powerful, teaching tactic for fostering a person’s ability to think critically in both a group and on-on-one setting. In Socratic teaching the focus is on giving students questions, not answer that are then discussed and critiqued by peers. The instructor models an inquiring, probing mind by continually probing into the student with questions. The abilities gained by focusing on the elements of reasoning and problem-solving in a disciplined and self-assessing way, and the logical relationships that result from such disciplined thought, are an essential building block for developing the confidence in the student. When this confidence of reason and thought is built in an individual that is well trained in the skills of his profession---the leader can emerge.

We very excited about this new program and we expect to be running pilot course later in the fall with a formal rollout of course early in 2015. Look for future information later in the year.

February Instructor of the Month

Steve Williams, was February’s Instructor of the Month, has been an instructor for IFSI for more than 40 years and

- Steve holds the distinction of being the longest current serving instructor.
- He is best known for teaching SCBA and basic skills to new firefighters at IFSI’s annual Fire College, plus coordinating more than 100 classes during his tenure with the institute.
- He is retired from the Cairo, Illinois Fire Department.



March Instructor of the Month

Keith “Doc” Patterson, is March’s Instructor of the Month.

- Doc has been an instructor for IFSI since 2007.
- Doc is best known for teaching Management and Fire Prevention classes.
- Doc retired from the Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection
- Prior to that, Doc was with the Monmouth Fire Department for 25 years



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HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS



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

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- But the Realtors Associations and Home Builders Associations oppose updating our codes to include fire sprinklers and are voicing erroneous information in the installation cost and function of fire sprinklers.
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New law provides for service upgrades on rural ambulances

by Steve DiNolfo and Ashley Folk

Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

Recently a new Illinois law was passed which permits ambulance service upgrades in rural populations. P.A. 98-626, which amends the Illinois Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act, became effective on December 27, 2013 (210 ILCS 50/3.87). The goal of the amendment is to improve the emergency medical care offered in rural areas. The law allows for ambulances to upgrade their available level of services to that of the highest level of training or licensure any EMT staffing the ambulance holds.

The overall goal of the EMS Act is to provide minimum standards for how emergency medical services should be provided in Illinois. However, Section 2 of the Act acknowledges that various factors cause diversities between different areas of the State, such as the difference between urban and rural areas. Therefore, when implementing and enforcing the Act, the Illinois Department of Health must accommodate the differences and subsequent needs of different areas, while still maintaining appropriate standards of medical care. New Section 3.87 of the Act aligns with this policy by responding to the specific and unique needs that rural areas present in order to effectively provide emergency services within their boundaries.

The new section amending the EMS Act centers around the availability of ambulance service upgrades in rural areas (210 ILCS 50/3.87). A “rural ambulance service provider” is defined as an ambulance service provider licensed under the EMS Act that serves a rural population of 7,500 or fewer inhabitants. Thus, fire protection districts, fire departments and other ambulance service providers who meet this criteria fall under the scope of this new section of the EMS Act. The new law benefits rural ambulance crews by providing that a licensed emergency medical technician (EMT) may perform emergency and non-emergency medical services in accordance with his or her level of education, training and licensure, regardless of the State designated level of service of the ambulance the EMT is on when performing those services. Thus, if an ambulance is only designated for Basic Life Support (BLS) or Intermediate Life Support (ILS), an EMT who is authorized to perform Advanced Life Support (ALS) is authorized to provide ALS services while on that ambulance.

Under Section 3.87, rural ambulance service providers are authorized to submit proposals for in-field service level upgrades. The proposal must be submitted and approved by the EMS System Medical Director in order to provide the upgraded service. Both the EMS System Medical Director and the Illinois Department of Public Health must approve the proposal. Once approved, the ambulance will need to be equipped to operate at the level corresponding with the highest level of EMT licensing held by any person staffing on the ambulance. The statute also provides that the EMS System Medical Director can issue a policy or procedure defining what constitutes an in-field service level upgrade. This may include an upgrade to a licensed ambulance, alternate

response vehicle, or a specialized emergency medical services vehicle.

The statute provides that three elements must be included in an upgrade proposal, which include: 1) the manner that the provider will secure ALS equipment, supplies, and medications; 2) the type of quality assurance that the provider will perform; and 3) an assurance that the provider will only advertise the level of care that is available 24 hours a day.

If the upgrade is approved, the statute mandates that all of the ALS supplies, durable medical equipment and medications must be secured and locked away. Only the personnel who have been authorized to utilize ALS supplies can have access to the equipment. Further, quality assurance must be routinely performed in order to ensure that the upgrades are compliant with the plan approved by the Department of Public Health.

The legislative history indicates that it is important to understand that Section 3.87 focuses on the individuals staffing the ambulance being able to provide higher medical care, as opposed to the ambulance itself. The law recognizes an individual's licensure and training, and creates the potential for providing a higher level of service to patients on the ambulance. The chief sponsor of this legislation, Representative Don Moffitt, stated: "The more we can do to enhance the level of care provided by volunteer ambulance services, the more lives will be saved."

There have already been a few bills introduced to amend Section 3.87 of the EMS Act. One bill is seeking to expand the scope of the statute to include individuals who have Pre-Hospital RN certification. If this bill, as well as the others proposed, pass and subsequently amend Section 3.87, the scope of the law will broaden and effectively operate to achieve the goal of providing better quality services in rural areas.

Overall, this new piece of legislation has promise to effectively provide better medical care to patients in rural settings but it also places some new obligations on fire protection districts and fire departments concerning quality control. It is clearly in the best interest of the patient to allow licensed EMTs and paramedics to function at their highest capacity, regardless of the level of service the ambulance is designated which in turn should save a greater number of lives.

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