

The **Bulletin**

Publication of The Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 67, Number 1

January - February 2013

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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Careless Smoking Destroys 2 Highland Buildings

Story Pg. 16



The Bulletin

January - February 2013 Vol. 67 Number 1

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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

As we look ahead this year, the long range outlook does not look good in our state's finances. This only means that our state government will be looking to cut services and sweep funds that support our cause. I want to congratulate our Fire Marshal on being able to maintain his agency's over all budget and providing the funds necessary to support our mission. Let's all make sure when the time comes to support the Fire Marshal's budget that we make those necessary phone calls to our representatives. Our voice should make it clear that lives and property of our residents are at stake if

services are cut. The Fire Prevention Fund must be utilized for which it was designed for. Our state Fire academy is going through some changes in staffing and the command structure. I agree with Director Mortenson's restructuring within the Institute, his background in the military shows with the new organizational command structure that he has formed. I believe that this makes things easier and has accountability built into it. This will be the year that changes are implemented in the certification program and see a recommended minimum standard of training developed for all firefighters to follow. We lose way to many of us while doing our job, and training will always give us that extra knowledge, experience and skills to come home after the call.

Our department just hosted a NFA class, Decision Making for Initial Company Operations. I would recommend that everyone consider taking this class, wether your a veteran firefighter or new on the block. Our job relies on good decision making and risk management. We must also look what our National Fire Academy has to offer.

The National Fire Academy's V.I.P. program is one of the programs that everyone should take advantage of. Your travel, housing and some of your other expenses would be covered. This program has been in jeopardy in the past for lack of attendance. We not only want to support our state's Fire Academy, we also need to support our National Academy. I am also aware of the time restraints that we are all faced with. If we could just get a couple of firefighters per department each year to NFA, that program would be secure.

Our association has partnered with California Causality Insurance to offer you specialized car insurance. Representatives from California Causality will be contacting departments around our state to inform you what they have to offer. Remember, this insurance is designed for firefighters and their families. This insurance specializes in firefighters, and covers things your regular insurance may not cover. Please give them a chance to address you when they make their contact. Our association will also receive a benefit for you picking them as your insurance company.

As always, "Train to be Trained"

God Bless and be Safe

John Swan President IFA



The Bulletin

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA LOBBYIST

Lame Duck Session "Pretty Lame"

In the 8 days between the beginning of the new year and the swearing in of the 98th General Assembly on January 9th, legislators had high hopes of passing pension reform, gaming, gay marriage and gun control initiatives with the support of the high number of legislators who would not be returning but as it turned out nothing of any substance passed except for drivers licenses for illegal immigrants.

Pension reform will dominate the spring session and if no agreement is reached, the many other state programs that rely on the General Revenue Fund will continue to be slashed.

The deadline for bill introduction is not until the end of February, so at press time only a handful of bills have been introduced so far. I will be able to give you a better idea in the next update of the bills impacting the fire service.

MANY NEW LEGISLATORS TO MEET

Between the election and the redistricting there are over 35 brand new legislators. While many of them are highly accomplished and active in their community they need to be educated on fire service issues and a relationship needs to be developed with their local fire officials. Since our editor, Kerry Federer, now sends out electronic copies of the Bulletin, I have asked him to attach with it a guide with the pictures and biographies (beginning on page 2) of all the new legislators, which was published by the Legislative Research Unit. Please take time to review it. It is also available on the IFA website - www.illinoisfirefighters.org, in the Legislation area.

IFA will also be planning a legislative reception later in the spring which is important for you to attend to help cultivate relationships with these new members. You will be notified of the specifics of the event as a soon as they are available.

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Kevin Schott
Named Senior Policy Advisor
to the State Fire Marshal

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. On Dec. 17, I became the Senior Policy Advisor to the State Fire Marshal. I bring to the table a unique perspective having been involved with the Volunteer Fire Service for 30 years; a Fire Protection Specialist with the USAF, Illinois Air National Guard for 22 years; 2 years as the NCOIC of Readiness and Emergency Management for the 217th Engineering Installation Squadron; and 22 years as a career firefighter/EMT with the 183rd Fire Department.

I look forward to serving our State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Fire Service. I will work diligently to ensure every Department throughout the State has the information and access to Grants, Loan Programs and our Equipment Exchange Program so that every firefighter can be equipped to work Safely and Efficiently.

Please remember that the application period for Small Equipment Grant Program is open until January 31, 2013. If your Department has a need for new or additional equipment, please take the time to apply for a Grant. The application and information on this program is on our web site.

The application open period for the Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program will be available soon. Please check our web site often for that announcement.

If you are not aware of our Equipment Exchange Program, please check out our Web Site for additional information.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you to keep the Illinois Fire Service the best in the Nation!

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Don't forget about the
Illinois Firefighter's Association Website
www.illinoisfirefighters.org

It has a lot of valuable information for our members.

Union bans on volunteer firefighting raise more questions with few easy answers

by Janet Wilmoth in Mutual Aid (A Fire Chief Blog)

A volunteer department in western Illinois proudly displays the phrase “Professionally Staffed by Volunteers” on its apparatus. A nearby department is smarting from the loss of a member who was prohibited from volunteering by his career department.

I thought the two-hatter debate occurred only on the East Coast. But it seems to be moving west, becoming a common concern in Michigan and now in Illinois. The International Association of Fire Fighters supports clauses in employment contracts that prohibit union members from volunteering for another department in their off-duty hours. A union firefighter can be fired for volunteering in his or her own community — a restriction that could close the doors on any potential SAFER Grant applications.

RELATED: Brother vs. Brother

How many volunteer departments trained firefighters who ultimately went on to career departments? The answer is in the thousands. But these same firefighters are unable to work in some of the departments where they live. A career department in a Chicago suburb not only prohibits its firefighters from working as volunteers, it also requires its them to register with the department their off-duty employment.

The age-old thinking career firefighters who volunteer in their communities eliminate the needs for those volunteer departments to hire full-time responders. But is that the only reason?

Joe Pawlis, a union representative in Illinois, explained that the union supports and favors full-time firefighters. Career firefighters must pass background checks and physical agility tests, and meet training and education requirements, which aren’t always offered by volunteer departments. Pawlis told of a responder who could not pass the physical agility test to join a career department; volunteering allowed him to serve as a firefighter.

“Firefighting isn’t a hobby, and we are committed to the job as well as to the training that comes with it,” he said. “It’s about the quality of employees that we’re looking at,” Pawlis added.

Firefighters face dangers beyond the incident scene; research shows higher rates of cancer and other illnesses in firefighters, which has prompted more NFPA standards and presumptive laws. Do volunteers face fewer risks because they have other full-time occupations? Do career firefighters accept that the risks are just part of the job? There are no easy answers.

I recently spent some time at several volunteer and paid-on-call fire departments in communities that would have no coverage without volunteer firefighters. But they don’t get to take advantage of the knowledge and expertise that career firefighters could bring. This is a problem that will not be solved quickly or easily.

I once volunteered answering phones in a surgical waiting room at a local hospital. The hospital workers didn’t like the volunteers; they felt that many of the volunteers were taking jobs that could be paid positions. Perhaps this problem is more widespread than we think.

Volunteering for community service is a very American way of life. Why limit an American’s opportunity to give back to his/her community? If your full-time job can benefit your local community, why not? Yet I can’t imagine a career firefighter watch his neighbor’s house burn as he stands by with his hands in his pockets.

Reprinted by permission of Janet Wilmoth

Recent Illinois Line of Duty Deaths



Captain Herbie Johnson
November 2, 2012 (age 54)
Chicago Fire Department

FF Walter Patmon Jr.
Nov. 11, 2012 (age 61)
Chicago Fire Department



FF Tim Jansen
December 2, 2012 (age 45)
Santa Fe Fire Protection District

THE FIREFIGHTERS PRAYER

***When I'm called to duty God
wherever flames may rage
give me strength to save a life
whatever be its age***

***Help me to embrace a little child
before it is too late
or save an older person from
the horror of that fate***

***Enable me to be alert
to hear the weakest shout
and quickly and efficiently
to put the fire out***

***I want to fill my calling and
to give the best in me
to guard my neighbor and
protect his property***

***And if according to your will
I have to lose my life
bless with your protecting hand
my children and my wife.***



Chaplain's Corner

Kevin Coffey - IFA Chaplain

Good Stuff

OK, I've got this theory. It goes like this: ***The greatest concentration of pure unadulterated good in your town is at the fire station.*** Yes, I'm serious. Sure, I may have a bit of a skewed predisposition from being in the fire service for the past 34 years. But something happens in the heart of the man or woman who puts on the firefighter's uniform. It may not be as outwardly dramatic as

Superman's phone booth transformation, but I believe it is nonetheless an invitation to an inner transformation from God (He's just above Superman). It is a transformation from average citizen to a community doer of good. The seeds of that good were already planted in the soil of your heart when you were initially drawn to the fire service. And that good sprouted to life and continues to grow ever since the first day that you put on the uniform. That good is nurtured by the trust your community places in you and their expectation that you will be there when they call.

Here's what the Bible says about it: *"For we, (insert your fire department name), are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"*. Did you hear that? God has prepared the good stuff that he wants you and your fire department to do far in advance of when you are actually going to do it! (Please don't ask me how He does that.) In fact, God says that he wants firefighters to be *"thoroughly equipped for every good work"*.

Now the first "good" we naturally think of are the emergency calls we are dispatched to. Responding to fires, EMS calls, extrication, haz mat, etc..., are a major part of the good that God has prepared in advance for us to do. Then there is the non-emergency good stuff that God has prepared for us to do. Much of that is fire-related, like public fire safety education and fire prevention. But so often firefighters and fire departments find that the deposit of good within them won't rest at that. I have seen countless examples of firefighters doing good stuff in their communities and beyond that are completely non-fire-related. They sponsor and coach athletic teams, lead homecoming parades, raise funds for local and/or national charities, build ramps for wheelchair-bound citizens, provide Thanksgiving dinner baskets and Christmas toy drives for struggling families, sponsor children in impoverished nations around the world, support active and veteran members of the military, and countless other acts of good stuff that make a difference in so many lives. Effingham, our feature fire department this issue, recently assigned Luke Johnson, a young boy battling cancer in their community, as an Effingham "Junior Firefighter". They, and a number of other area departments, even provided a fire truck escort to support Luke on his way to St. Louis for a bone marrow transplant. Good stuff.

There's another side to this "good" story. When your fire department lets the good stuff flow, you not only change lives, but you get changed also. Research is showing that suicide, divorce, substance abuse, and heart attack rates among firefighters are the highest in the nation. Protective factors for firefighters that have been identified include a belief in oneself, self-esteem, family and social support, positive coping skills, spirituality and a sense of purpose/belonging. All of these protective factors are strengthened in some way by every good thing that a firefighter and/or a fire department do. So don't limit your good. God has filled your heart with good stuff, so let it flow into every avenue that He has prepared for it. When you do, you are a blessing to others and you are helping/protecting yourself and your fire department from the negative effects of stress inherent in your fire service calling. If I can be of any help or encouragement to you or your fire department (or if you want to invite me to your "good stuff"), please don't hesitate to let me know.

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

**In an effort to save mailing and printing costs
The Bulletin
is going DIGITAL
and the digital version will be available to everyone
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IFA members have a choice of one free hard copy
and/or free digital copies to all members

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to the new edition of The Bulletin.

**If you still want to receive a digital copy of The Bulletin
send an email to editor@illinoisfirefighters.org
with Digital Bulletin as the subject line.**

The IFA is now accepting Credit Cards for any payments due

Contact Secretary Treasurer Kerry Federer
if you want to pay by credit card.

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VISA



IFA starting Weekly News Brief

The Illinois Firefighter's Association is starting a weekly news brief that will be emailed to each and every person that wants to receive it, even if they are not members of the IFA.

The image at right is what the news brief will look like. It will contain information that will be useful to ALL firefighters.

Also, if you have information that you want to pass on to other firefighters across the state, there will be a link on the bottom of the news brief where you can send information to be disseminated in the next news brief.

The IFA has been collecting emails of chiefs and firefighters for a few years and if you have been getting emails from the IFA, your email will be passed along to the news brief company - MultiView.

These emails WILL NOT BE SOLD or available to anyone except the IFA. You can opt out of the news briefs at any time. And please pass the news briefs along to other firefighters so that they can subscribe and be kept up to date with current information.

If you want to make sure that you are included in the Multibrief emails, send your emails to editor@illinoisfirefighters.org.



Illinois Firefighter's Association

Organized January 8, 1889

IFA eBulletin



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NFPA to implement health, safety standards changes in 2013 revisions

Fire Chief [Share](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#)

To address overall personal protective equipment safety, National Fire Protection Association technical committee is expected to include significant changes in 2013 edition of several standards. The changes are expected to include improvements to voice intelligibility, face piece thermal performance, reserve air requirements, and performance requirements for optional EBSS (buddy-breathing systems). [MORE](#)



Blue Island to require fire sprinklers in new construction

The Business Ledger [Share](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#)

Blue Island officials recently updated the city's fire and building codes to require fire sprinkler protection in all new construction one- and two-family homes and townhouses effective immediately. The new residential fire sprinkler requirements were adopted as part of the 2012 editions of NFPA 1 Fire Code and the International Residential Code. [MORE](#)

USFA, IAFC plan to study risk-taking behaviors

Firehouse [Share](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#)

The U.S. Fire Administration and International Association of Fire Chiefs have teamed up to identify behaviors that negatively impact firefighter health and safety. The study, which will be led by the IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section, will focus on individual and organizational behaviors and how to develop strategies to mitigate them, according to a news release. [MORE](#)

Firefighters raise money in Warren for children's burn camp

The Journal-Standard [Share](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#)

The day was warm and sunny, perfect for a motorcycle ride. Firefighters and emergency personnel took time to enjoy the weather, ride the rolling hills of Jo Daviess County and raise money for a good cause — the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance burn camp for children, now known as Camp "I am Me." One hundred and eighty motorcycles and about 400 riders descended on the village of Warren for the first stop of the charity ride. [MORE](#)

Product Showcase

All-American Hose



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Polyester Outer Jacket

80 hose is a premium quality, industrial grade, double jacket hose with a lightweight EPDM rubber liner that can handle pressures up to 375 psi. The outside jacket utilizes a tight weave that is less likely to "catch" while dragging through the work site.

American Fire & Safety Equipment



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Tempest Technology



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Quincy firefighter serves in Antarctica

FireRescue [Share](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#)

An Illinois firefighter looking for a change of scenery found just that when he took a break from his regular job to spend six months training, supervising and performing fire inspections in one of the coldest places — if not the coldest place — on earth: Antarctica. How do you find such an unusual job? Alan Munger, a lieutenant with the Quincy Fire Department admits, "I feel like





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Department Spotlight - Effingham Fire Dept.

Since officially forming the Effingham Fire Department in 1867, the Fire Department has been providing quality emergency services to residents and visitors in the area. Henry Alt wrote the by-laws and first constitution and organized the Effingham Volunteer Fire Department in 1883. Alt began his career with the fire department at the age of 12 as a “torch boy”. In addition to lighting the way for firemen by the blaze of an oil lamp, the boys were used as messengers. Back before telephones, the “torch boy” was given a message, which perhaps told of a special meeting coming up, and was sent to deliver same to the homes of firemen. Once all messages were delivered, the boy was paid 25 cents.

In 1876, the City Council made an appropriation of \$1,200 for the building of an engine house and City Hall, which was accordingly built on the right-of-way east of the Illinois Central Freight Depot. In 1910, the city constructed a building housing the police station, city offices, and the fire department at the intersection of Fayette Avenue and Banker Street (Illinois Route 33 and Illinois Route 45). The building served as City Hall until 1997 and as Fire Station #1 until 2004.

Firemen once wore an elaborate badge with clasp inscribed with the Effingham Hook and Ladder Company or Deluge Engine Company name. To the Hook and Ladder Company clasp was attached a red, white, and blue ribbon bearing a button depicting the hook and ladder unit. The motto, “Always Ready” was inscribed in gold lettering. Reverse the ribbon was black and firemen turned this side up for attendance at funerals. Once a member died, the black bunting draped the fire hall for a month’s time.



In 1937, the fire department purchased a new 750 gpm pumper from Central Fire Truck Corporation in St. Louis, Missouri. This pumper, nicknamed The Caladonia, would later pump for over twelve consecutive hours at the most disastrous fire in the history of the City of Effingham. It remained in service until 1971.

Just before midnight on April 4, 1949, a fire erupted at St. Anthony Hospital, claiming the lives of 77 people, 14 of them infants. This tragic fire is still known today as the second, most deadliest hospital fire in the United States. The fire department at the time consisted of twenty-six men, including the Chief,



all whom battled the raging fire throughout the night and into the early morning - with the exception of one firefighter, who was in Chicago at the time.

The fire was fought with the equipment at the time, which included two 500 gpm pumpers, and a 750 gpm pumper – as they had no ladder trucks or other apparatus. The department had a limited amount of good hose and fittings but had no life net and was deficient in heavy duty appliances. Most of the fire was fought with 1 ½” hose wyed off a 2 ½” hose. The nearest aerial ladder at the time belonged to a department twenty-seven miles away. Mutual-aid was received from 11 area departments, the furthest being sixty-six miles away. Witnesses said that the fire spread like a ball of fire and a majority spoke of



The Bulletin

its rapid spread. Within three hours, floors, roofs, and part of the walls had fallen, leaving little but a rubble-filled skeleton, in which were buried the bodies of many victims. The hospital consisted of a basement and three floors.

In the aftermath of the St. Anthony's Hospital fire, many states and municipal governments set about overhauling their regulatory measures designed to prevent duplication of such disasters. Governor Adlai Stevenson directed the Illinois State Fire Marshal to immediately re-examine the fire protection of all state and private hospitals.

In 1950, Fire Station #2 was constructed at 200 S. Merchant Street, as a direct result of the hospital fire, in order for a station to be on both sides of the railroad tracks. In 1975, Fire Station #3, located on the south end of the City, was constructed in order to provide services to the businesses on that end of town. Through the years, the needs of the City were such that a combination of full-time and part-time (paid-on-call) firefighters was warranted to provide emergency services.

Today, the department consists of seventeen full-time employees, including the Chief and Executive Secretary, and twenty-one part time (paid-on-call) firefighters. The full-time firefighters are divided up into three platoons, which are supported by the part-time firefighters. In 2004, a new Central Fire Station was dedicated, replacing Station #1 downtown and Station #2 on Merchant Street, and currently serves as Administration and Station #1. The Effingham Fire Department is a member of MABAS Division 54 and has several firefighters on the MABAS Division 54 Hazardous Materials Team.

The Effingham Fire Department, in conjunction with the Illinois Fire Service Institute, also maintains a Regional Training Center, located on the east end of the City of Effingham. Students of the MABAS 54 Fire School and firefighters from across the state are able to use this facility in order to train and test their skills in a safe, controlled environment. Over the last 8 years, it is estimated that close to 1,000 firefighters have trained at this facility.



You can have your department featured, too. Just email a story and some photos about your department to editor@illinoisfirefighters.org and your department can be in *The Bulletin*.

Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Roger D. Lunt, Deputy Director



Mark Your 2013 Training Calendar

- “Down and Dirty” Fire Explorer and Fire Cadet Training
O’Fallon Fire Department March 9, 2013,
Galesburg Fire Department, April 13, 2013.
Quincy Fire Department, May 11, 2013
All training sessions are scheduled 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM.
Registration forms located on the IFSI website.
Contact IFSI East Central Representative for greater details, Tim Meister, 217-202-4760

New CD mailed to 1201 Fire Departments

Down & Dirty Fires on the Farm is offered in two formats.

The first is an online course where students, upon successfully completing the course, will receive an IFSI certificate. Online course information and registration can be found at this link. <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/distance%20learning/courses/fof.cfm>

The second format is provided via Down & Dirty Fires on the Farm CD. This has been mailed to all Illinois Fire departments as part of our partnership with the Illinois Firefighter’s Association. We suggest you add this CD-ROM format to your training library.

Viewers can use the CD-ROM training package for group fire department attendance or use it for individual training. You can view the training modules in the order that they are provided in the training package or select the sections of special interest.

Down & Dirty Fires on the Farm provides an overview of farm fires and brings strategies, tactics, operations and water supply logistics together. Today, rural fire departments can extinguish most farm fires. Emphasizing pre-planning, thinking “beyond your own back yard” and encouraging joint training and practice, rural fires can have successful outcomes. The training covers response capabilities, strengths and weaknesses of the department as well as considerations for farm fires in buildings, areas involving common farm chemicals, machinery, fields and/or crops.

IFSI to Expand Fire Academy

The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) is expanding the Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter 1 Academy from six weeks to seven weeks. The change and the additional integrated classes are at the request of fire chiefs across Illinois. Beginning with the Spring 2013 Academy, six additional topics are being added: Courage to be Safe, HazMat Awareness, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Service Vehicle Operator and NIMS 100 and NIMS 700. The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has received a grant from the Motorola Foundation to help offset the cost of IFSI’s Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter 1 Academy. The seven week program will be \$900 less per student for the Spring and Fall 2013 academies, making tuition \$2100 per student per academy (**for 2013 only**).

IFSI Staff travel to Quantico Marine Base

In support of the IFSI Fire Service Leadership training development project on December 9th a team from IFSI traveled to the Quantico Marine Base, Quantico Virginia. The IFSI team was represented by Deputy Director Lunt, Associate Director Brauer, Fire Officer Program Director Lake, and Chicago Metro Regional Representative Stack. The goals of the trip were to identify consistent leadership themes, consistent curriculum areas, and ways to “train” leadership and complex pressurized decision making. We were able to learn from the USMC a cradle-to-grave leadership development, training and education concept and the process that goes from the enlisted ranks through the ranks of Lieutenants, Captains, Majors and Lt Colonels, Colonels and General.

We were exposed to numerous training and educational methods such as tactical decision games, ethical decision

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games, moral decision games/dilemmas, small group discussions, and sand-table exercises including small unit decision training.

You can expect to hear much more about this trip and the Leadership development training from Director Mortenson.

IFSI Burn Team Development

It is the policy of the Illinois Fire Service Institute to provide Live Burn Training in acquired structures in the safest possible manner and under the safest possible conditions. This includes providing qualified, well trained, and experienced instructors to conduct live fire training in acquired structures

The Illinois Fire Service Institute has been conducting live fire training in acquired structures safely for over 50 years. In 1986, the NFPA published Standard #1403 Live Fire Training Evolutions in Structures in response to concerns related to incidents involving firefighter deaths during live fire training.

While IFSI was not involved in any of the fatal incidents, it does recognize the need for strict guidelines for instructors and students participating in live fire training. IFSI provides this document to all instructors who meet the qualifications for approval to be a member of the Live Burn Team.

The first Live Burn Team was established in 1990's, and all members were provided with live burn procedures, training, and equipment needed to conduct live burns in acquired structures. In November of 2012, Director Royal P. Mortenson requested that this policy/procedure be updated.

On January 1, 2013 new training and education requirements were implemented for acquired structure live fire training instructors. The requirements follow the already established IFSI 5-step learning model.

While never minimizing the value of properly prepped structures, fuel loads, water supplies, etc. The success of these training sessions is rooted in responsible, knowledgeable, and safety conscious instructors.

It is our intent to continue a tradition of safe and realistic training with acquired structures, and better support our instructors responsible for the live fire training environment.

IFSI New Program Managers

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Truck Company Operations Program
Smoke Divers Program
FAST Program
Light & Fight On Campus Program
FAE/FSVO Program
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Program
RIT Program

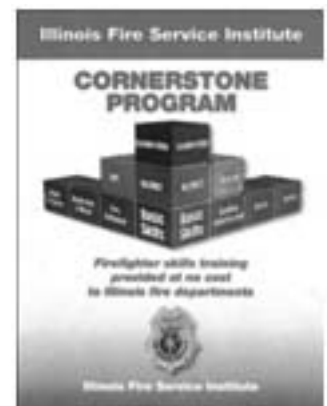
Tim Meister
Jim Vaughn
Jason Demas
Mike McCastland
Tom Rushing
Tal Prendergast
Ralph Webster
Cary Coney

New Cornerstone Program Brochure

If you have not received your copy, or if you have any questions regarding the training opportunities offered via the Cornerstone Program please contact your IFSI Regional Representative.

Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representatives:

Northeast Region: Randy Schlichter, 847-343-4039
East Central Region: Tim Meister, 217-202-4760
Chicago Metro Area: Richard Stack, 773-988-0259
Central Region: Jim Vaughn, 309-275-2499
Metro-East Region: John Nichols, 618-973-2059
South Region: Tim Bragg, 217-962-1597
Northwest Region: Ray Palczynski, 563-468-8385



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

Careless Smoking Ruled as cause for Fires that destroyed 2 Highland Buildings less than 1 month apart

The first fire occurred on Christmas eve. As the photos show, the lower level of the home was fully involved on fire department arrival and quickly spread to the rest of the structure. The home was a 2 story split level home with a walk out basement in the rear of the home. Home and contents were a total loss. Highland-Pierron and St. Jacob Fire Protection Districts provided mutual aid.

Fire investigators determined that careless smoking in the lower level caused the blaze.



Front of Residence prior to FD arrival



View from back of residence

The second fire occurred on January 16. Two men were carrying a live Christmas tree down the steps while one of them was smoking. The cigarette dropped into the tree igniting it. They were forced to drop the tree at the bottom of the steps by the doorway (which was the only way out of the building for 6 apartments). Upon FD arrival, several residents were hanging out the windows on both sides of the building waiting to be rescued as there only escape route was blocked by smoke and flame. The initial fire was quickly knocked down, but because of the way the building was constructed, fire got into some hidden void between two walls and was spreading up the voids. The building contained 18 units, 5 units were unoccupied at the time of the fire. Mutual aid was provided by Highland-Pierron, St. Jacob and Grantfork Fire Protection Districts.



NVFC Launches Enhanced Web Site

If you haven't been to the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) web site recently, check out its new look and navigation! The NVFC recently redesigned its site at www.nvfc.org to create an enhanced user experience and make tools and resources even easier to find.

In addition to an improved look and streamlined structure, the NVFC site has many exciting new features. These include easier navigation, the ability to print and share pages, expanded Health and Safety section, the capability to sort news articles by category of interest, and more.

The NVFC web site offers many resources to help first responders and their departments thrive. The Health and Safety section provides guides and tools to keep first responders at their B.E.S.T. and ready to respond. The Cost Savings Calculator helps departments determine the monetary value of their department to the community. The Recruitment and Retention Guide and 1-800-FIRE-LINE campaign assist departments in finding new members and keeping their ranks strong. Legislative resources help first responders become grassroots advocates for the fire and emergency services. The News section keeps first responders informed and up-to-date on the latest grants, resources, training opportunities, and issues that affect the fire and emergency services.

In addition, the NVFC offers online training covering a variety of topics ranging from leadership to recruitment and retention to health and safety. New Incident Safety Officer training has recently been added.

Find all these resources and much more on the new NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org. Join the NVFC and become a part of the voice of the national fire, rescue, and emergency medical services.



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Illinois lawmakers have six months to rework concealed carry law after Seventh Circuit's decision in *Moore v. Madigan*

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

When Wisconsin lifted its ban on the carrying of a concealed weapon last year, Illinois was left as the last state in the country with such a prohibition. Under the Illinois law, it was illegal for someone to carry or possess a firearm in a vehicle or conceal one on his or her body, except on the person's own land or place of business. There were exemptions for law enforcement, licensed hunters engaged in hunting, or at established target ranges.

On December 11, 2012, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the Illinois law, meaning there are no longer any states with complete bans on the public possession of guns. Rather than thrusting Illinois into a concealed carry free-for-all, the court has given Illinois lawmakers six months to rework the law, changing it from a complete ban in *Moore v. Madigan*, ___ F.3d ___, 2012 WL 6156062 (7th Cir. Dec. 11, 2012).

Attorney General Lisa Madigan has sought rehearing from the entire Seventh Circuit or appealing the decision to the United States Supreme Court. Nonetheless, the decision to seek rehearing has no effect on the six month timeline the Court gave the legislature to write the new law. However, the decision to seek rehearing creates additional legal uncertainty because the ruling could be either affirmed or overturned. Either way, an appeal to the United States Supreme Court would still be an option after the decision by the entire Seventh Circuit.

This decision adds to the United States Supreme Court ruling in 2008 which upheld the constitutionality of using guns in the home. *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008). After *Moore v. Madigan*, Illinois must allow the possession or carrying of firearms outside of the home, in some form or fashion.

Some Illinois legislators unsuccessfully attempted to pass concealed weapons legislation with significant restrictions prior to the decision in *Moore v. Madigan*. That legislation restricted the carrying of weapons to when a person was in a car, walking into a house and out on a sidewalk. It also specifically prohibited guns being carried in churches, schools, gymnasiums, sporting events, bars and businesses. After receiving the support of the Seventh Circuit, it will be interesting to see if pro-gun legislators will be willing to accept such a significant amount of restriction in the new law.

The Seventh Circuit acknowledged that significant restrictions are possible while still protecting Second Amendment rights. The court referenced a New York state law which requires an applicant for a concealed-carry license to demonstrate "proper cause." Rather than forbidding everyone from carrying a handgun in public, the New York law only allows individuals that have a bona fide reason to possess handguns in public. That begs the question of what a "bona fide reason" for possessing a handgun is. Nonetheless, it offers an example of a law which protects people's Second Amendment rights while providing the state with a significant amount of regulatory power.

In addition, the increased presence of guns in public creates unique challenges for the fire service. Emergency scenes, whether they are traffic accidents or medical emergencies, are often in public places.

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No matter what the new concealed-carry regulation is, it must allow for the possession of guns in public in some form or fashion. This means that firefighters and paramedics will encounter firearms in more and more of their emergency responses. The presence of guns puts firefighters and other emergency responders in greater danger. After all, guns can discharge both intentionally and inadvertently, and anyone present when the gun fires is put in danger. By allowing guns to have a greater presence in Illinois, the new concealed-carry law will certainly result in more incidents of accidental and intentional firing of guns.

Moreover, it initially appears as though the new concealed-carry law should have a minimal effect on workplace “no weapons” policies because most workplaces are not public places. Again, this creates a unique challenge for fire departments. In general, a fire station is not considered a public place; the public cannot come and go as they please. However, most fire departments hold “open house days” in which the public is invited to tour the station and interact with the crew. On these days, or at other times when the public is invited to the fire station, it may very well be considered a public place where guns may be allowed. This is another example of increased contact with guns that the new law will create and new dangers that firefighters must be aware of and prepared for.

When the Illinois legislature passes the new concealed-carry law, we will have more clarity on the implications of *Moore v. Madigan*. Since the fire service involves so much contact with the public, emergency responders must be aware of the dangers that guns pose and how this new law will increase the frequency with which they encounter these dangers. Right now, it is uncertain exactly how this case will affect employer “no weapons” policies or if the reworked Illinois law will include restrictions on non-law enforcement public employers. However, the issue of school safety will certainly be on the minds of legislatures as they pursue changes to the Illinois concealed-carry law. For now, *Moore v. Madigan* serves as a warning: changes to Illinois gun laws are coming.

Vladimir Shuliga is a law clerk with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. in Naperville. Vladimir is a third year law student at Chicago-Kent College of Law and graduated from DePaul University with an undergraduate degree in political science.

Down & Dirty Conference 2013

We are working on this year's conference and want to know what classes you would like for the next conference. Contact Conference Chairman Joe Mandarino by email at corky2700@aol.com or email any of the IFA directors listed in the front of The Bulletin.

Start planning NOW for the IFA 123rd Annual Conference, October 10-13 at the Holiday Inn, Urbana, IL. Let's make this year's conference the best ever. Keep the DOWN & DIRTY weekend on your agenda. Hope to see everyone there.

Joseph Mandarino, Conference Chair

Register for Free Fire Corps Training

Fire Corps offers free online training through the Fire Corps Academy. A series of webinars are scheduled this winter on a variety of topics, including starting and implementing a local program, recruiting members, funding and support, and activity-specific courses like disaster preparedness and public education.

Fire Corps is a national program that connects community members to their local fire/EMS department to perform non-emergency tasks, increasing the department's capacity and allowing first responders to focus on operations. The Fire Corps Academy webinars are designed to help departments, Fire Corps program managers, and citizen volunteers to start, expand, and recruit for a local program.

Register now for the following courses:

- **FC-200: Starting and Implementing a Fire Corps Program** - Friday, January 25, 11am ET
- **FC-205: Building the Relationship with Suppression** - Friday, January 25, 1pm ET
- **FC-203: Program Assessment** - Tuesday, January 29, 11am ET
- **FC-204: Funding and Support** - Wednesday, January 30, 11am ET
- **FC-301: Fire Corps in Disaster Preparedness** - Friday, February 8, 11am ET
- **FC-302: Providing Rehab** - Tuesday, February 12, 11am ET
- **FC-303: Fire Corps in Public Education** - Wednesday, February 13, 11am ET
- **FC-304: Conducting Home Safety Checks** - Thursday, February 14, 11am ET
- **FC-305: Community Assistance Program** - Friday, March 15, 1pm ET
- **FC-400: Marketing Your Program** - Tuesday, March 19, 11am ET
- **FC-401: Engaging Youth Volunteers** - Wednesday, March 20, 11am ET
- **FC-402: Engaging Senior Volunteers** - Friday, March 22, 1pm ET

View course descriptions and register at www.firecorps.org/academy. Participation is limited, so sign up today!

2013 Dues Are Due!!!

Did you receive your renewal?

If not, they are available online at

www.illinoisfirefighters.org

under the Membership Forms tab

or contact the IFA Secretary Treasurer Kerry Federer

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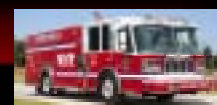
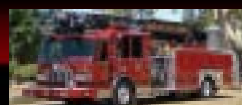
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