

# *The* **Bulletin**



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

**Volume 70, Number 1**

**January - February 2016**

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

## **Early Morning Fire Claims the Lives of an Elderly Couple**



The Bulletin is published every other month at Highland, Illinois

Subscription rate - \$15.00 per year

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## Bulletin Deadlines:

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

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**On the cover: An elderly couple perished in this early morning fire in Highland IL**

## 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,

Well, our off again and on again Cornerstone Funding is back delivering training. Looks like the address we made to the full House of Representatives paid off. I truly believe they already knew of how important this funding was to us and the people we serve. It's just too bad that this dedicated fund has to go through the budget process. We have enough trouble getting these funds directed to where it is supposed to go. The Fire Marshal's Office, Representative Don Moffitt and the Fire Caucus has done an excellent job directing those funds over the years in meeting our needs. But when it comes to the Budget Process and Appropriations, it all measured on the need to subsidize the General Fund. Our main goal for future legislation should be to establish pass through legislation. This would allow funding to continue to flow out of the Fire Prevention Fund at the same rate, as long as the dollars are there for the Fire Service. The Budget, then could be adjusted according to future needs after the budget passes. Dedicated Funds should not be counted against General Funds. Well, enough about my personal views, but I think most of us agree that this is what should be done.

I hope by now you have registered and are using of the Make-Me-A-Firefighter program that the National Fire Council created. This should help in meeting your recruitment goals. With losing over 15% of Volunteer Firefighters across this nation in the last five years, we need all the help we can in getting these numbers back up. On the career side of our Association, they, too, are suffering from funding. Staffing and their equipment needs are not being met. Cities have been closing fire stations and that means longer run times and that contributes to higher safety issues, including the public. Our state is in a hell of a mess, excuse my language, but it true. I don't know where it is all going to end, but it doesn't look good. The foundation of the fire service, Thank God, is largely supported locally. If you are in a area where the economic conditions are good, you may not feel the financial impact as much. We will function with the equipment and resources we have to mitigate any emergency situation, but we cannot function without the proper training.

Training is the key to keeping our firefighters and the public safe. There is no replacement for the human element that mitigates the threat to the public and us. I challenge all of you to maintain your training, for the ever changing environment in which we operate. This year, we are required to take TIM's Training. (Traffic Incident Management). IFSI has this class in Cornerstone and I suggest that you book this class as soon as you can. When 25% of us are injured and killed along highways and are involved in highway accident, it only make sense to take this training. You should know by now the new requirements for Basic and Advanced Firefighter Certification through the Fire Marshal's Office. The added classes needed to certify were added for your safety and training to meet today's challenges.

In closing, we are a brotherhood and we never work alone, we are a team and to win this threat that a firefighter plays, he must practice. So, we must practice.

So, Train Smart, Stay Safe and God Bless

*John Swan President*





# Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FUNDING FINALLY RESTORED**

Although the state still is operating without a budget for over six months, SB 2039 passed both the House and Senate and was immediately signed by the Governor to release state money for firefighter training. The measure includes \$3,816,200 for the operation of the Illinois Fire Service Institute and the Cornerstone Training Program; \$125,000 for MABAS; \$950,000 for the state training reimbursement program; and \$2,544,200 for the Chicago Fire Department training program.

## **IFA to WORK ON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER DISCOUNT PURCHASING**

IFA is introducing legislation this spring modeled after similar legislation in Colorado which allows volunteer firefighters to purchase tires at the same rate negotiating by the State's purchasing agency for state vehicles. Verification is needed by the fire chief and it is limited to 4 tires per year on the vehicle being used to respond to emergencies. IFA will be working with Central Management Services on this legislation which was supported by the rest of the Illinois Fire Services Association.

## **IFA MEMBERS INVITED TO IL FIRE SERVICES LEGISLATIVE DAY APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>**

IFA is joining forces once again with the IL Fire Chiefs Association, IL Association of Fire Protection Districts, IL Fire Safety Alliance and others to host the Fire Officials Legislative Reception in order to get to know your state officials in a relaxed setting. The reception is being held April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Abe Lincoln Hotel/Double Tree located at 701 E. Adams in Springfield. Please try to join us and let me know if you can make it so I can let your legislators know you are coming [mvaughn@springnet1.com](mailto:mvaughn@springnet1.com) or 217-280-0206. Feel free to reach out to me anytime with any state government questions or if there is a state government concern you would like to see IFA address.

# Consolidation Report Released: Some Implications for the Fire Service

by Brian J. O'Connor  
Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

The Governor's Task Force on Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates approved and released its final report on December 17, 2015, in which it addressed issues of local government consolidation, as well as unfunded mandates in Illinois.

The Task Force, which was composed of State Senators and Representatives, was chaired by Lieutenant Governor Sanguinetti. The Task Force was assisted by Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies. Representatives of various units of government (counties, municipalities, park districts, schools, first responders, etc.) contributed to the Task Force's efforts. In the report, several issues potentially impacting the fire and emergency ambulance services in Illinois were addressed, which will be highlighted below.

The Executive Summary notes facts contributing to the formation of the Task Force with its gubernatorial mandate. Several key points include:

- Property taxes in Illinois are among the highest in the United States, coming in at 2.32% placing Illinois second only after New Jersey (a close 2.38%). (Report, page 2)
- School districts receive 64% of property taxes although in part due to unfunded mandates. (Report, page 3)
- In Illinois, 38 types of special districts, such as fire districts and park districts, receive 11% of property taxes. The report notes that while some special district collect fees for services, other special districts essentially rely on property taxes for revenue. (Report, page 4)
- The report concludes that the high property tax rate is due, at least in part, to the number and multiple layers of local governments (school districts, municipalities, special districts, counties, and to a lesser extent townships) which rely on property taxes. (Report, pages 4 and 6)
- The report notes the impact of unfunded mandates on fire districts from various causes including pension, collective bargaining and arbitration, workers' compensation, health insurance and prevailing wage obligations. (Report, pages 8 and 9)
- The report concludes that the many layers of local government combined with the impact of unfunded mandates are two major drivers of high local government costs, which recall the report earlier noted as largely relying on property taxes for revenue. (Report, page 10)

The Executive Summary includes highlights of its 12 recommendations relating to consolidation (Report, pages 11-13) and 15 recommendations relating to unfunded mandates (Report, pages 13-16). Some of the more fire service significant consolidation recommendations are:

- Enacting a four-year moratorium on creating new units of local government. NOTE: Public Act 99-0353, signed into law on August 12, 2015, and effective January 1, 2016, precludes the General Assembly from passing a law for four (4) years creating new units of local government, but excludes consolidation of two (2) or more existing units of local government.
- Empower citizens to consolidate or dissolve units of local government by referendum.

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- Expand DuPage County's pilot consolidation program to all 102 counties.
- Protect the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.

Some of the more fire service significant unfunded mandate recommendations include:

- Modernize newspaper public notice mandates.
- Repeal or reform Prevailing Wage Act.
- Make collective bargaining permissive instead of mandatory.
- Eliminate minimum manning from collective bargaining.
- Use federal definition of "catastrophic injury" for Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA, 820 ILCS 320/10(a)) purposes.
- Allow arbitrators to use existing financial parameters of local governments as a primary consideration during interest arbitration.
- Merge downstate and suburban police and firefighter pension funds into a single investment authority.
- Institute an "economic feasibility exemption" by which certain local governments may exempt themselves from certain unfunded mandates if determined to be not economically feasible to do.
- Provide local governments authority to provide blended defined contribution/defined benefit plans for new public safety employees.

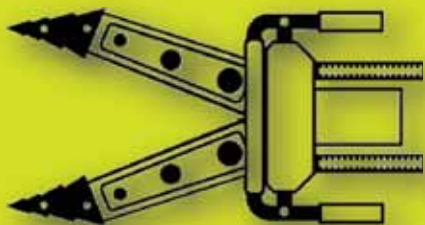
The report proper includes examples of successful efforts at improved efficiencies and costs. First responder examples addressed in the Report included MABAS (Report, pages 51-53) and Tri-City Ambulance Service (St. Charles, Geneva and Batavia in Kane County; Report, pages 53-55). Each provides interesting, real-world examples of success in the respective areas providing relevant background, actions taken, results and outcomes, and cost savings. Other examples with potential application to the fire service describe efforts from information technology sharing, including dispatching (Report, pages 59-61), use of cloud technology (Report, pages 56-57), and regionally focused multi-governmental public safety data networks (Report, pages 58-59).

The report addresses complex and interrelated subjects of consolidation and unfunded mandates and the impact on local governments which consequently impacts the public by way of property tax revenues needed to support those units of government. The fire service officials and officers should review the report for a more thorough analysis of its recommendations. They are obliged to ensure superior service and related fire suppression and prevention and ambulance operations are provided to the public as timely and yet cost effective and efficient manner as is possible. The report's recommendations offer a fertile base of ideas worth consideration.

*Brian O'Connor has been an attorney with Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. since 2004. Mr. O'Connor works closely with Bob Britz, who is the current general counsel for the IFA. Mr. O'Connor has presented at various fire service events such as Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts and the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts conferences and training sessions, as well as to a variety of local fire service related organizations. Additionally, he has authored many articles for various fire service publications and organizations. Mr. O'Connor can be contacted by email at [boconnor@ottosenbritz.com](mailto:boconnor@ottosenbritz.com).*

9<sup>th</sup> Biannual

# AMBOY FIRE AND EXTRICATION SCHOOL



Saturday,  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
at the  
Amboy High School  
11 E. Hawley  
Amboy, Illinois


Check In: 0700  
Opening Ceremony: 0800  
Classes run until 1700

Registration Fees (lunch included):

\$50 BFFA members / \$100 non members

\$100 for all student in First Rung Weekend and Board to Board Workshop

Please register by March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

To register: Please scan QR code with scanner  
app on smart phone or tablet or email   
[beth@illinoisfirestore.com](mailto:beth@illinoisfirestore.com) for registration form.



- F 101. The Truck Company - *Lt Tony Dinges, Byron Fire*
- F 102. Go Big or Go Home, Hose Selection - *Lt Jason Demas, Aurora Fire*
- F 103. SCBA Confidence - *Rick Madsen, Huntley Fire*
- F 104. Smoke Recognition Flashover - *Lt Nick Dinges, Sublette Fire*
- F 105. \*First Rung Junior Fire Camp Weekend - *Training Officer Mike Kucaba, Northwest Homer Fire*
- R 206. Auto Extrication, Life on the Streets - *Captain Mike Huffman, Harlem Roscoe Fire*
- R 207. Extrication Procedures for those "what the" incidents - *Southern Kane Extrication Team*
- R 208. Tools Of All Sorts - *Brian Fortune and Kurt Larson, Byron Fire*
- R 209. Grain Bin Rescue - *Stateline Farm Rescue*
- R 210. Tractor Rollover and Rural Farm Rescue - *Stateline Farm Rescue*
- BB 311. \*Board to Board Workshop
  - Retired Chief John Salka – FDNY
  - Retired Chief Mike Lombardo - Buffalo NY FD
  - Retired Chief Rick Lasky, Lewisville TX FD
  - Lt. Tim Klett - FDNY
  - Retired Lt. Mike Wilbur –FDNY
- EM 412. EMS Responding to Violence Calls - *Ken Bouvier, Deputy Chief of Operations, New Orleans EMS*
- EM 413. EMS Workshop - *Jamie Temple, EMS Coordinator for Eastern Iowa Community College*
- A 514. Retention and Recruitment Workshop (No registration fee)  
Class selection subject to change. Some classes have registration limit. First come, first serve basis.

Questions? Chief Jeff Bryant  
[jbryant9962@gmail.com](mailto:jbryant9962@gmail.com) or (815) 994-6184

Join us after for our Saturday Night Brotherhood Event  
at the Amboy Community Building from 1800-0200  
Gaming, Band, Door Prizes, Food, and Drinks  
\$10 per person





California Casualty

# The Least and Most Expensive Cars to Insure

2015 was a banner year for automobile sales. When it was all said and done, 17.5 million cars and trucks went to our homes. Cheaper gasoline, low interest rates and big incentives helped eclipse the previous record set 15 years ago.

However, if you are in the market for a new vehicle, don't forget to factor in the cost of insurance when you are researching what to buy. The excitement of that new vehicle can quickly fade when you find out the cost to insure it.

Insure.com did some number crunching to determine which new cars will save you money on auto insurance premiums. They created a mythical 40 year old male with a 12 mile commute, a good driving record and good credit, and then checked rates for over 1,500, 2015 vehicles.

They found the least expensive to insure was the Jeep Wrangler Sport 4WD, with an annual cost of \$1,134. The Jeep Patriot 2WD was second at \$1,136. Rounding out the top five were the Honda CR-V LX 4WD, Dodge Grand Caravan SE Plus and the Honda Odyssey LX, all under \$1,200 per year (See the attached list).

Now keep in mind, the actual average per state premiums varied widely, with the driver of the Jeep Wrangler paying as little as \$694 a year in Maine or as much as \$2,012 in Hawaii.

The factors that determine the cost to insure a vehicle are a combination of its price, horsepower, and claims history. From an insurance perspective, the better value vehicles were those that retail for less, cost much less to repair and are less likely to be stolen or involved in a crash. It's no surprise that the most expensive vehicles to insure typically sell for more than \$100,000, reach speeds of 200 miles per hour and cost much more to repair.

No matter what new vehicle you choose, there are ways you can lower the insurance costs:

- 1. Clean up your credit.** Many insurance companies look at your credit score, the better your credit the better rate you are likely to receive.
- 2. Increase your deductibles.** The savings will add up, especially if you are incident free for a number of years. Just make sure you have an emergency fund to cover that higher deductible.
- 3. Check for good driver/good student discounts.** Speaking of incident free, when's the last time you had an accident or a moving violation. Most insurance companies will give you a good driver discount, but make sure you tell them. The same goes for students with good grades.
- 4. Cut your driving.** Ride a bike, take mass transit or move closer to where you work. How many miles you drive each year can affect your auto insurance rates; the less you drive, the greater the possible discount.
- 5. Get a policy review.** Has your commute changed? Did you install a security device? Did you get married? All of these can lower the rate you pay for insurance. Talking with your insurance advisor at least once a year is the best way to make sure you get the discounts you're entitled to.
- 6. Compare your current insurance to California Casualty.** We are a 100 year old, policyholder owned company that provides auto and home insurance to firefighters with exclusive benefits not available to the general public. This means:

- Deductibles waived or reduced for vandalism or accidents that occur when your vehicle is parked at work
- \$500 coverage for personal property that is damaged or lost in a collision, fire or taken from your



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car (including turnout gear)

- Rates guaranteed for a full year (not six months)
- Free identity theft protection comes with each policy
- Multiple payment options including EZ Pay and holiday or summer skips
- Superior customer service – 99 percent with a claims satisfaction rating of 96 percent.

If you're in the market for a new car, truck or SUV, contact a California Casualty advisor today. You might be surprised at the savings and all the benefits you qualify for as a firefighter at 1.800.800.9410 or visit [www.calcas.com/IFA](http://www.calcas.com/IFA).

### The least and most expensive 2015 cars to insure (from Insure.com)

1	Jeep Wrangler Sport 4WD	\$1,134
2	Jeep Patriot Sport 2WD	\$1,136
3	Honda CR-V LX 4WD	\$1,160
4	Dodge Grand Caravan SE Plus	\$1,162
5	Honda Odyssey LX	\$1,163
6	Jeep Compass Sport 2WD	\$1,164
7	Subaru Outback 2.5i	\$1,176
8	Ford Edge SE 2WD	\$1,176
9	Smart ForTwo Pure	\$1,186
10	Ford Escape S 2WD	\$1,190

### The most expensive 2015 cars to insure

1	Nissan GT-R Nismo	\$3,574
2	Mercedes-Benz SL65 AMG Convertible	\$3,573
3	Dodge SRT Viper	\$3,318
4	Porsche 911 Carrera S Cabriolet	\$3,216
5	Audi R8 5.2 Spyder	\$3,206
6	Porsche Panamera Turbo Executive	\$3,174
7	BMW 760Li	\$3,147
8	BMW M6 Convertible	\$3,115
9	Mercedes-Benz E63 AMG 4Matic Wagon	\$3,042
10	Mercedes-Benz CLS63 AMG 4Matic Sedan	\$2,972

This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to firefighters for over 40 years. Get a quote at 1.800.800.9410 or [www.calcas.com/IFA](http://www.calcas.com/IFA).



*Supporting Those Who Serve*

# The NVFC: A Look Back at the First 40 Years

*By Kevin D. Quinn, NVFC Chairman*

2016 marks a milestone for the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – we celebrate 40 years as an organization. I want to take a few moments to reflect on where we've been and what lies ahead.

The fire service looked quite different in 1976 than it does today. A firefighter's primary operational responsibility was just that – fighting fires. The U.S. Fire Administration and National Fire Academy had only recently been created, and the field of EMS was in its infancy. There was no Congressional Fire Service Caucus to focus on legislation affecting the fire service. There were less safety precautions to protect firefighters, and risks such as heart attack, cancer, and PTSD weren't part of the discussion. And while 85% of firefighters were volunteers, volunteers had virtually no representation in national matters of importance to the fire service.

It was in this climate that the NVFC emerged. A group of fire service leaders from around the country realized there was a need for the volunteer to have a dedicated and unified voice at the national level. They knew it was critical for the needs of volunteers to be heard in Congress, in federal agencies, in developing standards, and when working with other national organizations.

On March 15, 1976, representatives from 18 states met in Memphis, TN, and the NVFC was officially organized. The idea was that representatives from every state's primary volunteer fire service organization would comprise the NVFC Board of Directors and speak as a unified voice for the volunteer in national matters.

We now have a board comprised of 49 state fire service associations (one state doesn't currently have an association representing volunteers). We also have nearly 20,000 individual and department members.

Over the past 40 years, the NVFC has been there to meet the challenges volunteers face and address the critical issues head-on. The organization helped get the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program established, which has provided over \$10.5 billion to the fire service through AFG and SAFER since the programs were created. We have representation on AFG/SAFER/FP&S criteria development and peer review panels, NFPA Technical Committees, and other emergency service task forces, work groups, and committees to make sure the voice of the volunteer is heard.

We've done groundbreaking work in the areas of firefighter health and safety, recruitment and retention, and public education. Our programs include the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, Fire Corps, Share the Load, the National Junior Firefighter Program, the Wildland Fire Assessment Program, and our new Make Me A Firefighter recruitment campaign – the first national campaign of its kind.

As the organization has grown and evolved, so has the fire service as a whole. The number of fire calls per year is less than half of what it was in 1980, while the number of EMS calls has quadrupled. The fire death rate per million population declined by 70% from 1977 to 2013, according to the NFPA.

On-duty firefighter fatalities have dropped from an average of 152 per year in the late 1970s to an average of 72 per year from 2010-2014. Technological advances have changed how we are equipped and how we respond, significantly enhancing firefighter safety. We also have much greater awareness of the dangers we face – not just from fighting fires, but from cancer, PTSD, vehicle crashes, and heart attacks.

Fire departments today are offering increasingly diverse services, from EMS, to HazMat response, to search and rescue, to fire prevention education, and more. Volunteers still make up a majority of the fire service at 69%, but with changing economic and social climates and increased training requirements, many departments are struggling to recruit and retain enough volunteers. Age is also an issue – departments are finding it increasingly harder to recruit younger members as the older volunteers look towards retirement.

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As we move ahead, fire service leaders need to be focusing on:

- **Marketing:** 40 years ago, firefighters often shied away from the limelight. We need to change our mindsets to adapt to today's environment. We must raise our public image by promoting the importance of our fire departments and market the great work they do. We must be willing to ask for quality candidates to join our team instead of expecting them to come to us.
- **Research and Data:** There is a lot of data available these days, but it doesn't do any good if we don't use it. We need to use data and research to assist our departments in being safe, progressive, and in good standing.
- **All-Hazards Fire Department:** Fire departments serve communities in more ways now than ever before. Therefore, we must prepare our volunteers as an all-hazards fire department. Clearly defined mission statements, training, and portrayal to the public will enhance safety and growth.
- **Today's Fire Danger:** Fires today are burning faster and hotter, and we need to stay current on fire service trends in keeping volunteers safe. Strategies, tactics, and tools have changed – we must all work to ensure that Everyone Goes Home.

I also challenge each volunteer to be an active participant in the national voice. If you are not already a member, join the NVFC and be part of our efforts. Our strength is in our numbers, and together we allow the voice of the nation's over 788,000 volunteers to be heard.

Through all the changes, one thing remains certain. The NVFC will continue to serve the boots-on-the-ground volunteer firefighter, EMT, and rescue worker, and we will never shy away from the big issues facing our constituents. I know our organization's founders must be proud of how the organization has evolved and how it fulfills the mission they formulated in 1976. As we pass this milestone, I am excited to see what lies ahead.



## Always ready.

You never know when the call will come in - you just know that you need to be ready when it does. As the largest provider of insurance to over 15,000 emergency service organizations throughout the United States and Canada, we look at it the same way. We're ready to help when the need arises.

- Insurance
- Benefits
- Education and Training



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## Department Spotlight

# Evergreen Park Fire Department

The Village of Evergreen Park, population 19,850, is located on the southwest side of the City of Chicago. Incorporated in 1893, the village is approximately 4 square miles in size.

The Evergreen Park Fire Department was created by village ordinance in 1926. The fire department was served by volunteers until 1972 when the part-time program was established. On duty staffing began with 4 personnel, when the department began providing Advanced Life Support Services. In 1983 staffing was increased to 7. Additional personnel were added over the 3 year period from 1999 – 2001 to bring daily staffing to 10 personnel working 12 hour shifts. Current staffing is 1 career fire chief, 1 part time assistant and deputy chief and 102 firefighters and paramedics. Shift staffing is; 1- shift commander, 1 company officer, 1 engineer, 3 firefighters and 4 firefighter paramedics.

The main fire station was located next to the village hall at 94<sup>th</sup> St. and Kedzie Ave. with a second station located at 98<sup>th</sup> Pl. & Washtenaw Ave. A new station was built in 1999 at 9000 S. Kedzie Ave. At that time the fire department re-located to the new building and station #2 was closed and turned over to the village. It is now utilized for the village food pantry and equipment storage.

The department operates the following apparatus;

- 1 – 2014 E-ONE 100' Aerial Ladder
- 1 – 2014 E-One 1500 GPM Engine
- 2 – 2000 E-ONE 1500 GPM Engines
- 1 – 1974 Seagrave 55' Snorkel Squad
- 1 – 1972 Ford Light Wagon
- 1 – 1992 Ford Mobile Communications and Command Vehicle
- 1 – 2000 Wheeled Coach ALS Ambulance
- 1 – 2005 Wheeled Coach ALS Ambulance
- 1 – 2008 Wheeled Coach ALS Ambulance
- 1 – 2015 Ford Expedition Shift Commanders vehicle
- 1 – 2012 Ford Expedition Chiefs vehicle
- 1 – 2013 Ford Expedition Assistant Chiefs vehicle
- 1 – 2012 Ford F-250 Pick-up Truck w/Snowplow
- 1 – 2013 Ford F-350 Pick-up Truck (Mechanics vehicle) w/Snowplow
- 1 – 2008 Ford Explorer / Training and Public Education
- 1 – 2009 Ford Explorer / Training and Public Education
- 1 – 2010 John Deere Gator equipped with Med-Bed and EMS equipment for special events and snowplow for winter operations
- 2 – 2008 Suzuki 4 Wheel ATV's with EMS equipment for special events and snowplows for winter operations

As a member of MABAS Division #21, the department provides mutual aid within the division as well as inter-divisionally and has automatic aid agreements with the Oak Lawn and Hometown Fire Departments. The department also houses the MABAS Division #21 Air/Cascade Unit and Generator/Light Tower.

In 2014 the department responded to 1983 EMS incidents and 898 Fire incidents for a total of 2881 responses.

All firefighter and EMS training is conducted on shift. A training facility utilizing intermodal shipping containers was constructed adjacent to the fire station in 2010.

The department has a comprehensive public education program which includes fire department personnel instructing NFPA programs in our 6 elementary schools, age specific programs in the middle and high schools, as well as programs





## The Bulletin

conducted at our community center for senior citizens. The department hosts child and senior health fairs and an open house on an annual basis and community CPR training on a monthly basis.

In April of 2015 our Snorkel was featured as an “Extra” on the NBC TV show “Chicago Fire” when it was used in the filming of the last episode of the season at the scene of a factory fire on Chicago’s north side.



# Illinois Fire Service - Institute Updates

Jim Keiken, Deputy Director

## Mark Your 2016 Training Calendar

**Leadership and Decision Making** - March 14 – 18 May 23 – 27 and October 3 - 7

**92<sup>nd</sup> Fire College** - June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

**14th Annual Explore Cadet Fire School** – July 7 - 10

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

Welcome to 2016!! I am happy to announce that Cornerstone funding has been re-established and you can once again schedule programs. Just as a reminder, Cornerstone classes are classes that are foundation education for firefighters.



## **They are core skills that fall under one of three categories**

- They are NFPA 1001 standards objectives.
- They are basic or advanced skills supportive of today's most frequent type of fire department response.
- They are Hands-on Officer Training

Cornerstone classes are schedule through your IFSI regional Representative with a minimum of 15 students in attendance to the program. Cornerstone class are available at no cost to local department and are delivered at the local department.

These class are taught by IFSI instructors.

## **New IFSI Courses for 2016**

**Search Techniques for the Fireground** is a 24 hour course designed for students who may be involved in conducting primary and secondary searches of single family, multi-family, and commercial structures. This class focuses on the primary search, secondary search and final searches. Not only in residential buildings but, multi-family and commercial setting as well and goes further to include Vent Enter Search (VES), Rope Assisted Search Procedures (RASP) and Wide Area Search. Students also spend time learning and practicing the critical component of victim removal procedures. Each student is encouraged to develop and refine this skill set that will prove invaluable for the rest of their career. Program modules include:

- Building Construction
- Fire Behavior
- Reading Smoke Conditions
- Rescue profiling
- Single Family Dwelling Search
- Vent, Enter, Search (V.E.S.)
- Victim movement and removal
- Utilizing Thermal Imaging Camera for Search
- Firefighter Fatality Case Study – San Francisco
- Multi-Family Search
- Orientated Search Operations
- Firefighter Fatality Case Study - Dallas
- Rope Assisted Search Procedures (RASP)
- Large Area Search
- Commercial Search
- Firefighter Fatality Case Study - Worcester

**The Crude Oil and Other Flammable Liquids by Rail Awareness: Online** class will introduce students to the recent increase in crude oil shipments by rail. This course will cover the basic chemical and physical properties of the types of crude being transported. In addition, we will discuss basic railcar design features, unit vs. manifest trains, common railroad

## The Bulletin

terminology, and techniques for contacting and working with the railroad. The course will touch on tactics and strategies for handling crude oil train derailments, but will not teach the student how to employ these tactics. Lastly, the course will look at case studies of recent crude train derailments and discuss lessons learned.

### **Blended Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter1 Fire Academy**

Basic Fire Fighting / NFPA Firefighter I Academy is offered in a blended format to assist fire departments in training their new members. This is a three month program with online class activities every week and practical skills sessions two weekends each month (Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday) at IFSI in Champaign. The course covers the subjects required for NFPA 1001 certification, as well as incorporating a fire department atmosphere into the training.

The candidate's routine includes quizzes on cognitive information, online lectures/presentation, online discussion sessions, weekly student assignments (both academic and skills), Skills demonstrations, hands-on practice on individual skills training, training responses that incorporate these individual skills into fireground evolutions, night drills, team work, and a Line-of- Duty-Death project, where the student will be able to learn from a tragedy in our profession to enrich his or her career. The program emphasizes developing the skills and knowledge necessary for entry-level personnel to become functioning members of a fire company.

This program includes with the following IFSI programs: Technical Rescue Awareness, Hazardous Materials Awareness, IS-100 and 700, Courage to be Safe, and Fire Service Vehicle Operator.

Hazardous Materials Operations is offered in an Online / Blended format for those students needing the course for certification.

IFSI Hazardous Materials Operations Online / Blended meets all objectives for Office of the State Fire Marshal Basic Operations Firefighter

### **Integrated Fire Response – available later in 2016**

The intent of this new program is develop decision making on the fire ground in the real world, real time, exercise based training here at IFSI. This 8 hour training day is to create, as much as possible, scenario based training exercises that require the student to make decisions on their own and as a team in an emergency setting. The goal is not to teach Engine Company or Truck Company operations rather the goal is to allow the student to apply their knowledge and skill in scenario based exercise (s). Instructors at IFSI are to act as "shepherds" and not teach during the exercise but rather monitor for safety and guiding the student to refine their knowledge and skills. Each student will be assigned a role as a responder, IFSI fire apparatus will respond in to a reported emergency and the first in officer will begin to make decisions based on the situation they are presented with. Additional units responding and a Chief Officer will also be added, in real time, to help support the initial companies on scene. This class is designed to further develop the student to raise the level of their situational awareness and challenge their existing knowledge base, mental models, pattern recognition skills, attention, workload capacity and their working memory to solve problems in the fast paced, dynamic and emergent emergency scenario.

Please watch the IFSI web site for information on these other exciting IFSI classes @ <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/>

### **Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representatives:**

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

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

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# Chaplain's Corner

**Please feel free to join me in this prayer for 2016:**

Dear God, please bless Governor Rauner, the Illinois state legislature, Fire Marshall Perez and all that work in and from his office, and Director Mortenson and the Illinois Fire Service Institute. May their efforts and decisions which will affect the Illinois fire service in 2016 be guided by Your hand. May they have the strength and wisdom to always do what is right and best in the face of constant political and financial realities and pressures.

We pray also for all the Illinois fire service organizations. Give them clarity of purpose as they pursue the individual goals of their organization as well as a spirit of unity as they bind together where they can for the good of all Illinois fire departments and firefighters. Especially, Lord, we pray for our Illinois Firefighters Association. Bless President Swan and all our officers, directors, and support staff. Encourage their hearts with the reality of their calling to leadership and bless their efforts as they meet, as they strategize and plan, and as they selflessly give of their time and energy to bring those plans to fruition for the benefit of all our member fire departments. With Your blessing, Lord, may the Illinois Firefighters Association be a strong force for good and progress in the issues that face the Illinois fire service in 2016 – as it always has been.

Lord, please bless the (your fire department name) Fire Department. You see and You know all that they will face in the year ahead. Help them, Lord, to address their training needs and requirements with diligence and passion. Grant them the skill and the equipment, tools, and rigs they need to be best prepared to respond and successfully address the emergency needs of their community this year. Bless the chief, assistant chief, and the officers as they lead. Encourage them with Your presence, lead them with Your wisdom, and empower them with Your strength – especially when they get fatigued or discouraged. May each firefighter take the next step of growth that is laid out before him/her this year. May the entire fire department and all that are attached to it have a renewed spirit of unity and commitment. Add to their department roster in 2016 those whom You are calling to the fire service pathway of selfless and sacrificial service – and reveal to all department members that You are the model of that pathway as demonstrated when You, Jesus, walked among us.

Father, we ask that you bless FF/Paramedic/Lt./Capt./Chief/Other (your name) this year in a deep and personal way. May he/she be aware as never before that it is You that has called him/her to the fire service. Bless his/her family as they support that calling with all of its commitments. Please keep him/her safe in the midst of so many unforeseen dangers and bring him/her back to the station and back home in health after each call. May the eyes of his/her heart be opened this year in a new way that he/she may see and experience the gift of faith that You give to those You have called to the fire service. Take his/her fire service hopes, dreams, intentions, efforts, and actions and use them for Your glory as You love and care for the people of their community through him/her in 2016 and beyond.

And, Lord, it is with broken hearts that we continue to pray for the families of FF Mark Zielinski (Matteson FD) and FF Dan Capuano (Chicago FD) who gave the ultimate sacrifice in a line-of-duty-death at the close of 2015. The months ahead will be unimaginably difficult as they continue to grieve the loss of their precious husbands and fathers. Catch their tears in Your hand Lord, surround them with love and support, and bring healing in Your time. Help their fellow firefighters also to heal and give them faith to trust You with those things that we can never fully understand or control.

Amen.

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

# FIRE FIGHTERS

**TIPS  
FOR  
FIRST  
RESPONDERS  
TO  
HANDLE  
STRESS**

*Find a  
Hobby*

*WHAT ELSE IS  
YOUR PASSION?*

**JOIN A  
SUPPORT  
GROUP**

**\*EAT  
HEALTHY  
FOODS**

**Start a  
Routine  
Exercise  
Regularly**

**TAKE TIME OFF**

*GIVE YOURSELF  
A BREAK*



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

In an effort to clarify the role of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), I will soon be sending out a letter to all fire departments and fire protection districts relating to fire investigations and fire safety inspections conducted within the State of Illinois. The letter will cover a number of topics, including the following:

## Fire Investigations

Through the Fire Investigation Act (the “Act”) (425 ILCS 25), the legislature specifically selected the OSFM to investigate and to supervise the investigation of fires conducted by the Chiefs of all legally organized municipal fire departments and fire protection districts within the State of Illinois. The Act also assigned local Fire Chiefs the responsibility to determine if fires occurring in their respective communities were accidental or by design (cause and origin determinations).

If it is determined that the fire may have been intentionally set (arson), the Chief can take one of two paths: (1) conduct an arson investigation, or (2) request that the OSFM conduct an arson investigation if the local department does not have the capability and resources. The OSFM reserves the right to conduct an arson investigation in any venue and at any juncture where circumstances deem it appropriate.

## Fire Safety Inspections

The Act also requires the State Fire Marshal to adopt and promulgate rules to protect the public from fire hazards (425 ILCS 25/9). The right of entry for the purpose of inspecting properties is granted to *both* the OSFM and the Chiefs of all municipal fire departments and fire protection districts. The OSFM’s jurisdiction to inspect properties for fire hazards is *not exclusive*. While the OSFM is required by the law to inspect all state public buildings, public schools, and occupancies licensed by the state, its jurisdiction to inspect private and commercial occupancies is *concurrent* with our local fire service partners.

The OSFM depends on local departments to be vigilant in pre-planning and identifying hazards in all buildings within their respective communities. This does not mean that every department/district is required to conduct *regular* safety inspections of buildings within their areas. While regular inspections would be ideal, I understand that it is not realistic in some areas of our state. The Act does require, at a minimum, that Fire Chiefs or their designees report safety violations when discovered and take appropriate enforcement action to address them as necessary. The OSFM may be able to assist with this task in certain instances.

The OSFM understands that fulfilling our duties as spelled out in the Act will require teamwork on both our parts and the OSFM is dedicated to helping you through partnership.

## New Tools and Training Coming Soon

In an effort to help municipal fire departments and fire protection districts that do not have a fire inspection program, we will soon be offering a sample inspection checklist that can be modified or tailored to fit the demands of your department/district along with an instructional video on how to utilize the sample inspection checklist. At some point in the future, we are also planning to offer online and onsite inspection training that will further enhance your ability to recognize hazardous conditions and carry out an inspection program that will address the requirements of the Act.

Finally, I want to personally thank each of you for the work you do to keep Illinois safe. Stay tuned for my forthcoming letter that will contain more details on the above and I look forward to working with all of you in furtherance of improving fire safety within our state.

Matt Perez  
State Fire Marshal





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