

The **Bulletin**



Publication of The Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 67, Number 4

July - August 2013

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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In Honor and Memory of The Arizona Hot Shots



The Bulletin

July - August 2013

Vol. 67 Number 4

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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

We feel the heart break and pain of the families, friends and community of the nineteen firefighters that were killed in Arizona. It is another reminder how dangerous our job can be. In this last few weeks our job has shown how important we are to our communities. The plane crash in San Francisco and the train explosion in Canada brings new attention to the need of first responders. No matter how we try to make things safer through technology and science, accidents and fires will continue to threaten us in the years ahead. Even with the most advanced equipment and training, the job can be life threatening. No firefighter wants to be injured or killed in the line of duty, but we also know that the danger is always present. With that being said,

each one of us needs to be prepared to go on the next call. We will fall back on our training and equipment to bring us home after the call for duty. Firefighting is not a one man operation. It is a team sport, so to speak and if we are to win that battle, we need to have a game plan. All structure fires need to have a complete size-up before fire operations start.

R.I.T. is a very important aspect of firefighting, but I feel we may be relying too heavily on R.I.T. to protect and rescue us. By no means, am I advocating eliminating R.I.T. It is still a vital branch to our team. What I am stressing is the need to have a better understanding of what you are going into before you go in to fight that fire. Building construction and fire behavior training should be at the top of your thoughts when you go into that structure. The new light weight construction and how long that fire has burned will determine whether you are doing a defensive or offensive attack. Please make that right decision before you go in and maybe the R.I.T. team will not be needed for your rescue. Each year brings new challenges for all of us. Just trying to stay ahead of all changes that are taking place in this nation poses undue risks.

I just got back from the Illinois Fire Service Institute's Cadets/Explorers firefighting training weekend. I saw about three hundred young firefighters enjoying the training and learning from some of the best instructors around. This brings me new hope that the fire service will continue to grow and advance to meet our future needs. Our department took eight explorers down for the training and all eight stated that they wanted to go back again next year. Please consider starting a cadet/explorer program, if you do not have one. This is a great benefit for your community and an excellent retention/recruitment tool. The summer is officially now begun, let's make sure with this summer's heat that we take the time to be properly hydrated. At the fire scene, make sure you go through rehab before you start fire operation again. The heat stresses that your body goes through can be life threatening. Be sure to observe each other for signs of heat stress that could lead to heat stroke.

We want to make sure everyone comes home safe.

God Bless and be Safe

John Swan President IFA

**Don't forget to register for the
IFA Down & Dirty Firefighting Weekend - October 10 - 13
Registration and class information in this issue of The Bulletin**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA LOBBYIST



AUGUST 6th PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED on OSFM CODE UPGRADE

On June 28th the State Fire Marshal's Rules to upgrade from the 2000 to the 2012 version of NFPA 101 were published in the Illinois Register and began the 45 day public comment period. A public hearing is scheduled on the issue on August 6th at 9:00 a.m. at the Office of the 1035 Stevenson Drive in Springfield. We have

lined up a panel of experts to testify but need a crowd to show our support. Please let me know if you can attend mvaughn@springnet1.com. A press conference and live side by side burn are also scheduled.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS WITH PENSION GRIDLOCK

In the waning hours of the legislative session both the House and Senate passed their own version of pension reform but neither version made it through both Chambers. Legislators were called back into session in June to establish a Conference Committee made up of 10 legislators (5 from each Chamber) to tackle the pension mess but at press time no proposals have been presented to be voted on and the Governor recently decided to amendatory veto the legislator's salaries until they pass a pension reform bill.

SB 1545 - INCOME TAX CHECK-OFF for FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

State Senator Mike Noland (D-Elgin) sponsored legislation on behalf of IFA to create a state income tax check-off to fund the production and distribution of the essential firefighter training "Down and Dirty Program" DVDs. For the past decade IFA Foundation has been providing substantial funding through grants to IFSI to make the training DVDs program possible but because of the downturn of the economy IFA is looking for alternative funding opportunities and came up with the idea for the income tax check-off. It is important that the income-tax check off goes hand in hand with a statewide marketing campaign because a minimum of \$100,000 must be raised or the entity is no longer allowed on the tax return. The legislation passed unanimously out of the Senate Revenue Committee but got stalled in the House Revenue Committee with the other income tax check-off bills which were introduced. With many people filing electronic returns and a shaky economy, it might be more productive to go after sources of private sponsorships to support Cornerstone.

Below is an overview of the legislation impacting the fire service and Rural EMS Community. Please feel free to contact me at 217-280-0206 or mvaughn@springnet1.com with questions or if there are any legislative issues you would like to see IFA address.

HB 945 Short Description: FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ELECTED BOARDS –IFA OPPOSES **House Sponsors**

Rep. Sam Yingling

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Adds a Section regarding rural fire protection districts. Provides that rural fire protection districts shall be governed by an elected, rather than an appointed, board of trustees consisting of 5 members with 4 year terms. Provides guidelines for 7-member elected boards to transition to 5-member elected boards. Provides for the continuation of terms of trustees appointed or elected prior to the effective date of this amendatory Act, as well as for filling vacancies. Further provides for the election and terms of trustees elected after the effective

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date of this amendatory Act. Provides nomination requirements for trustees. Effective immediately.

House Floor Amendment No. 1

Provides that the requirements for election of and terms for trustees for rural fire protection districts only apply to fire protection districts with a population of 30,000 or more, based on the most recent federal decennial census.

House Floor Amendment No. 2

Provides that the requirements for election of and terms for trustees for rural fire protection districts only apply to counties that: (i) have a population between 500,000 and 1,000,000, based on the most recent federal decennial census; and (ii) border a county with a population of 1,000,000 or more, based on the most recent federal decennial census. **Last Action: Sponsor of bill did not advance in House at the last minute.**

HB 1206 PROP TX-MABAS PROP EXEMPT

House Sponsors

Rep. Carol A. Sente- **Senate Sponsor** (Sen. Pamela J. Althoff)

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that all property owned by the Executive Board of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System that is used for the public purpose of disaster preparedness and response is exempt from the taxes imposed by the Code.

Last Action: Awaiting Governor's Signature

HB 1349 FIRE PROTECTION ACCESS BOX

House Sponsors Rep. Timothy L. Schmitz

Senate Sponsors (Sen. Terry Link)

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that the board of trustees of any fire protection district may, by ordinance, require the installation of an access or key box if: (1) a structure is protected by an automatic fire alarm or security system or access to or within the structure or area is unduly difficult because of secured openings; and (2) immediate access is necessary for life-saving purposes. Further provides that an ordinance enacted under this Section may specify the type or class of structure that must install an access or key box, but may not apply to single family residential structures. Effective immediately.

Senate Floor Amendment No. 3

In the case of a health care facility that is secured by an electronic code box that is in good working order, provides that, if the owner of the health care facility provides the fire department with a valid access code, then that health care facility is not required to be accessible by an access or key box. Defines "health care facility". Exempts facilities owned and operated by a public utility from the access or key box installation requirement.

Last Action: Waiting for Governor's Signature

HB 2247 FIRE PROTECT CHIEF APPOINTMENT

House Sponsors

Rep. Patrick J. Verschoore

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that no person shall be appointed to the position of fire chief who has been convicted of a felony in Illinois or convicted in another jurisdiction for conduct that would be a felony under Illinois law, or convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. Effective immediately.

Last Action: Bill was not advanced through the full House

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HB 2777 EMS-AMBULANCE-INSPECT-LICENSE

House Sponsors

Rep. Donald L. Moffitt- **Senate Sponsor** (Sen. John M. Sullivan)

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act to make different changes with respect to vehicle service providers. Requires the Department of Public Health to: (i) establish requirements for license renewal at intervals determined by the Department, which shall be not less than every 4 years (instead of every 2 years); (ii) annually inspect all licensed vehicles operated by Vehicle Service Providers (instead of inspect all Vehicle Service Providers at intervals determined by the Department, which shall be not less than every 2 years, and re-license such Providers that have met the Department's requirements for license renewal); and (iii) charge each Vehicle Service Provider a fee per transport vehicle, due annually at the time of inspection (instead of to be submitted with each application for licensure and license renewal).

Last Action: Awaiting Governor's Signature.

HB 2778 EMS-EMT-AMBULANCE-SCOPE PRACTICE

House Sponsors Rep. Donald L. Moffitt-**Senate Sponsors** Sen. Chapin Rose

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act. Defines "rural ambulance service provider". Provides that in the case of an in-field service level upgrade, an ambulance operated by a rural ambulance service provider may be upgraded to the highest level of EMT license held by any person staffing that ambulance. Sets forth items that must be included in an ambulance service provider's proposal for an in-field service level upgrade. Effective immediately.

Last Action: Awaiting approval of final amendment in House.

HB 3233 FIRE PROTECTION-TAX LEVY

House Sponsors

Rep. David R. Leitch **Senate Sponsor** (Sen. Darin M. LaHood)

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that on and after the effective date of this amendatory Act, a fire protection district may propose, by referendum, a special tax levy not to exceed .30% of the value of all taxable property within the district as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue for ambulance services. Effective immediately.

Last Action: Awaiting Governor's Signature

SB 1417 FIRE PROTECTION OPEN BURNING

Senate Sponsor: Mike Noland – House Sponsor: Rep. Don Moffitt

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that the fire chief of any fire protection district may fix, charge, and collect fees associated with the fire department extinguishing an open burning that is prohibited due to atmospheric or other conditions. The fee may be imposed against any person causing or engaging in the prohibited activity, or the owner of the property on which the open burning took place. The total amount collected to compensate the fire protection district shall be assessed in accordance with both the rates provided in another Section of the Act and the fire chief's determination of the cost of personnel and equipment utilized to extinguish the fire. Effective immediately.

Last Action: Sent to Governor



IFA Day at the Illinois State Fair August 17, 2013

As a boy, I can remember the Illinois State fair in my mind's eye. It was like the night the before Christmas. The night before going to the State fair was just as exciting to me, rides to ride, things to see, and all that wonderful food to eat at the fair.

Well, we all are a bit older now and we all don't look at the Fair in the same way as we did then but we have to remember that there are so many of those 6 to 10 year old boys and girls at the State fair that just woke up that morning feeling so much excitement, so eager for the day their mind's wide open and willing to listen.

At this point, it's time for you as Firefighters to open your minds and hearts, and listen as well. Firefighters across the State have a chance to do something that may save the life of one of those 6 to 10 year old boys or girls.

What I would ask is to look in to your child's eyes and say you don't have time as a firefighter to spend one day for that



effort. The Illinois Firefighters Association at the Illinois State fair tent on the last Saturday of the fair, August 17, 2013, needs you as a firefighter to come help us save a life of maybe one or more of those 6 to 10 year old boys or girls from the wrath of fire.

At this time, you would think I would say we really need your help at the state fair, but know what I will say is those 6 to 10 year olds will need your help this year. Please don't let them down.

Contact me or the IFA Director in your area and let them know your going to be there. I will have gate and parking passes that will be mailed to you. **I have to have the names sent to the OSFM so I need the names ASAP!**

We would like for you to spend at least four hours in the tent. And job assignments will be given out at the tent when you arrive.

Feel free to contact me at any time at this numbers.

H- 1-309-694-6678

C- 1-309-265-6472

or e-mail me at: breason@sbcglobal.net

Thank you.

Robert Reason, Director

State Fair Committee Chair

Chaplain's Corner

Kevin Coffey - IFA Chaplain

A Prayer



Dear God,

We have seen numerous firefighter fatalities this year, most recently the 19 of the Granite Mountain Hotshots. We are broken, humbled, and inspired by such demonstrations of courage and sacrifice for the sake of others.

Oh God, we so want “everybody to go home” and are so thankful for the people, inspiration, and tools You have provided to today’s fire service to keep progressing toward that goal. So we grieve, we investigate, we ask the hard questions, we learn lessons, we make recommendations, we adjust our thinking and our tactics.

And yet, there is something in every firefighter’s heart that tells him/her that there is, and always will be, some level of personal risk in our fire service work for the sake of those we are called to serve. Time and time again we hear the grieving family members testify of their lost loved-one: “That’s where they wanted to be – on the front line, taking the risk to protect or rescue others.”

And, Lord, is that not the very heart of the firefighter...that very gut-level willingness to confront danger for the sake of his/her community? And is not that firefighter’s heart rooted in Your own story of rescue and redemption when You walked among us 2,000 years ago? No, Lord, we’ll never fully understand the depth of the fire service redemptive drama that You have called us to live out. But we always sense, especially at times like these, that we are in it with You, and that You will hold us all in Your perfect hands, even when our hearts are breaking.

Oh God, please give Your grace and comfort to the broken-hearted families and fire departments of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Send Your messengers to embrace them and inspire us all to pray for them and do whatever we can to help them. Though they are changed forever, yet we hope and believe that over time their hearts will find Your healing touch.

And, God, grant that every member of the fire service be strengthened by Your gift of faith...faith that You have called us, faith that You are with us, faith that somehow “knows” that Your plan is perfect – even when we face the worse that this broken and dangerous world can confront us with.

Amen.

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

Regional Conference to Bring Emergency Responders to Dubuque

Northeast Iowa Community College is hosting the Tri-State Emergency Responder Conference at the Grand River Center in Dubuque, IA, on Friday and Saturday, November 1 & 2, 2013. The conference provides firefighters and emergency medical responders with a level of educational opportunity and instruction usually found only at national conferences. It is also a great opportunity to network with colleagues who attend from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

This year's speakers include three nationally-known experts: John Mittendorf, Battalion Chief (retired)-Los Angeles City Fire, Mike Gagliano, Captain-Seattle Fire Department and Pete Lazzara, Ambulance Commander-Chicago Fire Department. The combined experience and knowledge of these presenters is sure to provide something valuable to meet each attendee's expectations. Credit for continuing education hours will be available.

John Mittendorf will kick off the conference on Friday, presenting his nationally-recognized program, Fire Ground Academy. This one day seminar covers everything the firefighter needs to consider upon arrival to an emergency scene – from initial assessment to the tactical decisions that must be made during the operations. John will engage the audience in “Madden Style” simulations that reinforce strategies for use in five styles of occupancies often faced by firefighters.



John Mittendorf



Mike Gagliano

Saturday features two program tracks (Fire or EMS) from which attendees may choose. Mike Gagliano leads the Fire track with two presentations. Situational Awareness: The Seven Deadly Sins of the “Situationally Unaware” examines common reasons well-intentioned firefighters make mistakes on the fireground. This highly interactive program encourages participants to use their own experiences, and scenarios provided by Mike, to demonstrate how critical thinking and situational awareness skills can improve performance on the fireground. The afternoon presentation, Strategic and Tactical Air Management for the Fireground, is a dynamic, cutting-edge program that is transforming the way the national fire service views air management, tactical safety and firefighter survival.

The Saturday EMS track is led by Pete Lazzara, whose use of quirky humor provides a bit of levity to medical and trauma issues that first responders face in the field. In Oh, What's the Drama? It's Only Trauma: The Basics of Trauma Assessment, Pete covers the kinematics of trauma and the newest trends in pre-hospital care. EMS Goes to Hollywood utilizes TV and movie clips to set up case studies. Then take a fascinating look at deaths of people like Julius Caesar, Jimi Hendrix, Princess Diana, and Abraham Lincoln, and consider how those folks might have fared with today's EMS, in Resuscitation of the Rich and Famous. That's Not a Missile...That's My Head discusses pediatric head trauma, a leading cause of mortality. And finally, Pete encourages EMS partners to confirm and strengthen their professional relationships in Blood Brothers...EMS Partnering in the 2000's.



Pete Lazzara

Included in the registration is admission to the exhibit hall. The Remembrance Rescue Project, a non-profit entity that has acquired and restored FDNY rescue vehicles, will be on hand with Rescue 4, whose entire 9 member crew perished in the World Trade Center collapse. The Project tours the nation with these vehicles to honor and commemorate fallen first responders.

Vendors and manufacturers of fire apparatus, ambulances, equipment and supplies fill the exhibit hall with energy and enthusiasm, offering excellent opportunities to see and learn about new products and services. These professionals are an integral part of the conference, and value their contact with those working in the field. According to Ken Clasen, Midwest district manager for Akron Brass, “this is one of the Midwest's premier firefighter conferences”.

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Conference attendees will also be receive a special reward this year in a jammed packed entertainment lineup that is sure to have you rocking all night long. On Friday evening, rocker Pat Benatar will perform hits from her long career including Love is a Battlefield, Hit Me With Your Best Shot, Heartbreaker, and many other favorites. Saturday night, The Spazmatics transport the audience “of a certain age” back to the style and dance moves of the 80’s, lending geeky charm to the theme songs and hits that shaped the decade we love to hate!



Conference attendees are afforded special rates on accommodations at the Grand Harbor Hotel, the Hotel Julien, and the Holiday Inn Garden Inn, all located in the exciting heart of the city. Families traveling with attendees will find restaurants, fun shops, history, casinos and the National Mississippi River Museum only steps or a free trolley ride from their hotel. Structured tours and events are available, as are plenty of opportunities for those who wish to explore Dubuque on their own.

This conference is getting bigger and better and previous attendees can attest that when you attend you get the most bang for your buck throughout the entire weekend. For more information, to register for the conference or sign up for the mailing list, go to www.nicc.edu/fireems. For additional questions, please contact:

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Down & Dirty Conference 2013

We are working on this year's conference and have added some new classes, plus Myths & Realities Class on Friday night at IFSI. Brochures have been mailed. So 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

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Hands-On Fire Fighting Classes

Down & Dirty Fire Fighting Skills: Core Competencies **Limited to 50 students - 15 minimum**

Are you ready to get in there and fight the fire? This hands-on class is designed for the new firefighter and covers extensive fundamental fire fighting skills necessary to function on a fire ground. Subjects include basic self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), small tools, hose, ladders, fire stream management and basic fireground operations. Students from this class will participate in the live burn exercise as members of a fire fighting crew.

Down & Dirty Basic Truck Company Operations

Limited to 40 students - 15 minimum **HF HS**

Sharpen your skills or learn new and efficient ways in this intensive hands-on class on the various tasks required of truck company members. Topics covered are ladders – deployment, raising, climbing, and working with/carrying tools. Forcible entry operations, ventilation and overhaul skills are also included. Hoisting equipment and performing search and rescue tasks round out the instruction.

Down & Dirty Basic Engine Company Operations

Limited to 40 students - 15 minimum **HF HS**

This class is designed for firefighters who are primarily assigned to, or respond as members of an Engine Company. In the class, students learn the all-important task of getting water on the fire and practice efficient hose loads and finishes for securing a water supply. Advancing lines through a variety of obstacles – including stairways and ladders – is a vital skill needed for engine company members. Students pull and deploy charged and uncharged hose lines in a variety of situations, both interior and exterior.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL HANDS-ON CLASSES

All firefighters participating in the three hands-on classes and Friday night's Myths and Realities **MUST** have an SCBA (with current hydrostatic test date) and a complete set of their own, properly fitting, protective clothing (as prescribed in NFPA 1971, 1972, 1973, and 1974).

Classroom Fire Fighting Classes

All classroom classes will be held at hotel.

Leadership in the Trenches

Limited to 80 students - 15 minimum **CF CS**

Regardless of your position on the fire department, people look to you to lead. From the public to your colleagues, people look to you to set the example, set the pace and move your

organization forward. Tap into the leadership experiences of Deputy Chief (ret.) Eddie Enright of the Chicago Fire Department and other top fire service leaders.

National Fire Academy Class

NFA Incident Safety Officer - 15 minimum **CF CS**

This class provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to perform the duties of the Incident Safety Officer (ISO) during incident operations and training evolutions. An incident specific, scenario oriented course designed to teach what an ISO needs to know at an incident using instructor-led discussion, multimedia activities and small group discussions to convey instructional points. First responders who may be designated by the Incident Commander (IC) as an Incident Safety Officer during fire, EMS, special operations and training evolutions are the target audience for this class.

NOTE: An SID number is required to enroll in this NFA class. To obtain a SID, register at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>

Special Offerings

Chaplain's Workshop: Friday and Saturday

A Chaplain at the scene of a fire can play a number of roles – from providing information to bewildered onlookers and family members through delivering comfort and guidance to fire victims. This workshop focuses on what you can do at the scene. It covers what you need to know about this business for your own safety. This 12-hour class covers that topic, plus what basic equipment should be on site and the legal responsibilities of the chaplain. Workshop attendees will have the opportunity to practice what they learn at a live fire scenario on the IFSI campus.

Myths and Realities

Limited to 30 students - 20 minimum **HF**

This popular exercise is brought back exclusively for Illinois Firefighter's Association Down & Dirty weekend. Observe and experience first-hand fire behavior, proper stream application, plus the effects of straight and fog streams. Techniques for easily handling 2–1/2" hose and hand tools will be demonstrated. **Anyone may participate in this class even if taking other classes.**

New this year.

**Get a free registration for
every three from
the same organization.**

The Bulletin
Registration Form
IFA Down & Dirty Fire Fighting Weekend
October 11-13, 2013

Step 1

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
(Please print clearly or type)

Driver's License No. _____

State of issue _____

Social Security No. --

SID # (FEMA Student ID) _____
(required for NFA class)

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Sex: Male _____ Female _____

First Name _____ MI _____

Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home/Eve Phone (_____) _____

Day/Work Phone (_____) _____

Student e-mail address _____

Name of your local library _____

Dept./Organization _____

Dept. Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Dept. Phone # _____

Dept. e-mail address _____

Years of Service _____ Rank/Title _____

In case of emergency, notify: _____

Phone # _____

Step 2

REGISTRATION FEES

IFA members before September 27 \$ 50
Non-IFA members before Sept. 27 \$ 75
Received after Sept. 27 and at door \$100
Non-IFA members after September 27 \$125
Get a free registration for every three from the same organization.

Signature Required

All registration forms **must** be signed **on the back side** ► by chief, training officer, or department head, regardless of who is paying the registration.

Step 3

CHOOSE YOUR CLASS

FRIDAY/SATURDAY CLASSES

Please rank your preference for these two days of training from 1 to 3, with number 1 being your first preference. If you choose a Down & Dirty class, you must participate in all portions and have your gear with you. (Maximum number of students per class)

CF = Classroom on Friday **CS** = Classroom on Saturday

HF = Hands-On on Friday **HS** = Hands-On on Saturday

____ Down & Dirty Fire Fighting Skills: Core Competencies (50) **HF HS**

____ Down & Dirty Basic Truck Company Operations (40) **HF HS**

____ Down & Dirty Basic Engine Company Operations (40) **HF HS**

____ Leadership in the Trenches (80) **CF CS**

____ NFA Incident Safety Officer (30) **CF CS**

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

____ Chaplain's Workshop **Fri-Sat**

FRIDAY EVENING CLASS AT IFSI

____ Myths and Realities (30) **HF**

ALL HANDS-ON CLASSES HAVE LIMITED ENROLLMENT, PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE SEPTEMBER 27

For more information, contact:

Joe Mandarino, Conference Director
24403 Arrowhead Drive
Manhattan IL 60442
708-935-2893 corky2700@aol.com

Mail registration form with registration fee to:

Illinois Firefighter's Association
c/o Kerry Federer, Secretary/Treasurer
P.O. Box 77, Glen Carbon IL 62034 618/882-4783

Make checks payable to Illinois Firefighter's Association
Call treasurer to charge your registration on credit card.

You must be 18 years old or older and sign the form on the back side ► of this page to participate in hands-on training.

The Bulletin

Acknowledgement of Risks and Release of Responsibility

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, through its Illinois Fire Service Institute, attempts to conduct its training programs in a safe and efficient manner. However, it is not possible to eliminate all of the potential hazards to a student's safety. Before any student participates in an Institute training program involving the teaching of emergency response skills, he/she should be familiar with the level of physical stress and other hazards involved. Please read the following explanations of the physical and mental requirements of this course and sign the form to acknowledge that you have read and understand the information. Students who cannot comply with these requirements will not be allowed to participate in parts of the training involving physical exertion, or the use of protective equipment. They may attend lectures and observe evolutions from a safe distance.

I acknowledge:

1. Practical skills training of all disciplines can be a physically and mentally stressful activity, requiring physical exertion; exposure to high temperature and humidity levels; toxic atmospheres; working at heights and in confined spaces; the possibility of elevated body temperatures, increased pulse, respiration, and blood pressures; and the ability to react quickly to emergency situations.
2. Persons with known heart or lung disease, hypertension, who are pregnant (Note: spontaneous abortion will occur with pregnant females when core temperature elevates), or have other medical or mental conditions which may affect their health and safety under these conditions, are advised to check with their personal, or fire department, physician before participating in the activity. The ability to meet the Illinois Department of Labor Respirator Wearers physical evaluation is the responsibility of the sponsoring department/agency and is a requirement for any course requiring the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus.
3. Protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus meeting the appropriate NFPA standards, at the time of manufacture, must be worn during most practical exercises and live fire training as directed by the instructor in charge. Protective equipment must be in serviceable condition.
4. Individuals with facial hair, jewelry, or other impediment to the proper seal of the face-piece on self-contained breathing apparatus will not be allowed to participate in evolutions where the atmosphere is toxic or may become so.
5. The use of alcohol, and other drugs, which affect mental or physical reactions, immediately preceding, or during training, is prohibited.
6. I am 18 years of age, or older, and an active member of a public or private fire department, public sector agency or authorized private corporation pre-approved by the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI).
7. For purposes of promoting the IFSI, I agree to allow IFSI unlimited use of my image, with no compensation.
8. By the signature of the Chief/Training Officer, the department acknowledges extension of its Worker's Compensation coverage to the student. In the event of injury during training, the student is responsible for notifying his or her department to initiate the process. IFSI does not provide insurance coverage for students. Any and all injuries, no matter how minor, will be reported to the IFSI staff who will have the final say in selecting the treatment disposition for the student. This may range from on-site treatment to ambulance transportation to a local emergency department or occupational medicine agency. If a student or department does not accept these terms, or refuses to comply with IFSI's treatment decision and disposition, the student will be dropped from the remainder of the class (or program) and will not be eligible for any refund.
9. IFSI will not sell nor distribute your email to any outside agency, except to Parkland College, as outlined in number 12, below. IFSI will, from time to time, provide you with organization updates, newsletters, surveys and the like. Providing your email address will serve as your approval for these periodic distributions.
10. **In order for the students, or their agency, to avoid being billed for the usual course fees, notifications of withdrawal must be made no later than 30 calendar days prior to the start of the course. This notification must be in writing. Failure to notify the Institute, as noted above, will result in you or your department being billed, regardless.**
11. No unauthorized cameras are allowed at IFSI training or IFSI sponsored training events. The unauthorized use of cameras may lead to confiscation of the camera.
12. IFSI has partnered with Parkland College to provide Vocational Skills and/or Academic Credit for courses attended, where applicable. Formal enrollment information and transcript information will be available for courses delivered by IFSI after July 1, 2010, at the Parkland web site: www.parkland.edu.

Chief/Training Officer Signature: _____
Title & Signature Printed Name

Participant's Signature: _____
Title & Signature Printed Name

Date: _____

*Use of Student Social Security numbers: Furnishing a Social Security number (SSN) is voluntary and not required for enrollment. However, the University of Illinois is required by federal law to report to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) the name, address and SSN for persons from whom class fees and related expenses are received. Federal law also requires the University to obtain and report to the IRS the SSN for any person to whom compensation is paid. Failure to provide such information may delay or even prevent your enrollment. The University will not disclose a SSN for any purpose not required by law without the consent of the student. 1



Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 77, Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034 (618) 882-4783

Registration Form – 2013 Annual Conference *Firefighter Down & Dirty Fire Fighting Weekend*

October 11-13, 2013

**Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center
1001 Killarney Street, Urbana, IL 61801-1036
217-328-7900**

Name _____

Department _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

County _____

Check one ☐ Guest ☐ Delegate (Please complete delegate credentials form)

Conference fees (if received before 5 pm September 27, 2013)

IFA Member	\$ 50
Non-IFA Member	\$ 75

Conference registration fees (if received after 5 pm September 27 and at the door)

IFA Member	\$ 100
Non-IFA Member	\$ 125

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Early registration must be received by 5 pm September 27, 2013

NOTE: GET A FREE REGISTRATION

FOR EVERY THREE REGISTRATIONS FROM THE SAME ORGANIZATION

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM

Registration can be paid by credit card - Credit Card # _____

Name on Card _____ Expiration Date _____

Authorization signature _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Mail completed form with your payment to:

Illinois Firefighter's Association
Kerry Federer, Secretary/Treasurer
P.O. Box 77
Glen Carbon IL 62034
Phone/Fax 618-882-4783

Questions about the conference, contact:

Joe Mandarino, Conference Director
24403 Arrowhead Drive
Manhattan IL 60442
708-935-2893
Email: corky2700@aol.com

Hotel reservations may be made by contacting: Holiday Inn and Conference Center, 217-328-7900. Be sure to mention Illinois Firefighter's Association when making reservations. Rooms have been reserved for \$70 single or double per night (plus 5% city and 6% state hotel taxes).

For Americans with Disabilities: If you plan to attend the IFA Conference and need an accommodation, please contact Joe Mandarino at 708-935-2893 by September 27, 2013.

Spring Bay Fire Protection District

The Spring Bay Fire Protection District is a completely volunteer Emergency Services Organization providing fire protection, rescue, and BLS ambulance service to the Villages of Spring Bay and Bayview Gardens, and surrounding areas of Woodford and Tazewell Counties encompassing 42 square miles, with 17 miles of Illinois River shoreline. The rural area has a population of approximately 5,000 residents, mostly being residential with some commercial and light industry. The main two-lane State Route 26 winds its way from one end to the other, providing countless opportunities for high-speed crashes. The volunteer department was organized in 1952 as subscription based, with the District being formed in 1962 to take advantage of the taxing ability. The roster boasts 35 well trained volunteers, many being Certified Firefighters and licensed EMT-B's. The Department responds from two fire stations strategically located. Training takes place every Thursday evening at Station No.1 in Spring Bay. We have 6 Fire Service Instructors and 3 EMS Lead Instructors. Spring Bay operates an American Heart Association Community Training Center that manages 17 CPR Instructors. Spring Bay is well known in the area for providing quality training programs, and many area Fire Department personnel have availed themselves to our Certified course offerings.



Spring Bay FPD is active in MABAS Division 33, with Chief Dennis Perry serving as the Division President. Spring Bay responded to MABAS deployments to hurricane Katrina and hurricanes Gustav and Ike along with other Division 33 members. The roster includes 3 Captains and 4 Lieutenants to round out the business of running the fire department. The agency responds to 350 call per year, most being for EMS. Spring Bay utilizes 2 BLS ambulances, (2000 and 2006) 3 pumpers, (1986, 1987, 2003) 1 tender, (2010) 1 brush truck (2004) and 1 heavy rescue (2003).

The Department has operated a Cadet program for high school students for many years. Many of these Cadets



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become adult volunteers after graduation, perpetuating the volunteer experience. Several have become career firefighters around the state.

The Department owns a Scotty Fire Safety House and has an active Fire Prevention program complete with Open House and school visits.

Our greatest asset is our staff of dedicated volunteers who answer the call any time of the day or night. These members are the heart and soul of the organization and are well respected in the community. Chief Perry's mantra is: "What we do here, we do together. If we don't do it together, we will not be successful". With everyone on board with that philosophy, we have been able to achieve greatness in the way we operate, train, and provide professional service to our citizens. We have created a firehouse family, made up of parents, sons, and daughters serving side by side.

The District is governed by three Trustees, Robert Reason, President, John Schaer, Treasurer, and Leonard Johnson, Secretary. The current tax levy is around \$260,000.



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*.



Tri-State Emergency Responder Conference



November 1-2, 2013
Grand River Center
Dubuque, Iowa
www.nicc.edu/fireems



Fire Speakers



Mike Gagliano
Captain
Seattle Fire Dept.



John Mittendorf
Battalion Chief (retired)
Los Angeles City Fire Dept.

EMS Speaker



Pete Lazzara
Ambulance Commander
Chicago Fire Dept.

Friday, Nov. 1, 2013

- **Fire Track** (John Mittendorf)
- National, local and regional vendors
- Network with fire and EMS colleagues from IA, IL, WI and MN
- Concert: Pat Benatar
Mississippi Moon Bar-Diamond Jo Casino

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013

- **Fire Track** (Mike Gagliano) or **EMS Track** (Pete Lazzara)
- National, local and regional vendors
- Network with fire and EMS colleagues from IA, IL, WI and MN
- Concert: Spazmatics
Mississippi Moon Bar-Diamond Jo Casino



Conference Fee:

Before October 1: \$79/one day or \$138/two days
On or after October 1: \$99/one day or \$178/two days

For More Information or to Join Our Mail List:

Visit www.nicc.edu/fireems or contact
Phil Arensdorf at arensdop@nicc.edu or
563.557.8271, ext. 327.

**Earn continuing education hours in
Fire or EMS by attending.**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NATIONAL SPEAKERS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDED |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SNACKS AND MEALS INCLUDED |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FREE ACCESS TO VENDOR EXHIBIT HALL |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NO HIDDEN CHARGES |

This is the one
they'll be talking
about all year—
Don't miss out!

Sponsored by:





Illinois Firefighter's Association Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 77 Glen Carbon, IL 62034

2013 Scholarships

Regional Firefighter Association*: 2 - \$2000 Reverend Weidlich Memorial Scholarship

*Must be an IFA member association

INDIVIDUAL –

DECLARED FIRE DEGREE

1 - \$4,000 Marvin Behrhorst Memorial Scholarship

2 - \$1,000 Clifford Lee Memorial Scholarship

2 - \$1,000 Robert Rogers Scholarship

Fire Department:	\$1,000	\$1,000	Individual:	\$500	\$500
	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$500	\$500
	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$500	\$500
	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$500	\$500
	\$1,000	\$1,000		\$500	\$500

IFA Scholarship Selection Process

1. Scholarship Applications will be reviewed at the conference by the scholarship committee
2. Scholarship applications must clearly define the Scholarship being applied for from the selection above and indicated in the box below. Departments may apply for 1 (one) Scholarship only. Individuals may apply for 1 (one) Scholarship only.
3. Individual Declared Degree Scholarships to be awarded to individual firefighters that have declared their studies in Fire Service degree studies only. **Bachelors to Masters Degree.**

2013 Scholarship Application

CHECK ONE: ☐ Regional Firefighter's Association ☐ Fire Degree ☐ Fire Department ☐ Individual

Name of Organization: _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Scholarship Category

(Please mark all applicable categories.)

Education _____ Training _____ Degree _____

Applicant shall follow the rules of the Scholarship Program set by the Illinois Firefighter's Association Foundation, Inc.

1. Eligible applicants include regional firefighter associations (must be IFA member associations), fire departments, or active members of a fire department in good standing with the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

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2. Applications are available in *The Bulletin*, on our website www.illinoisfirefighters.org, or by contacting the Secretary Treasurer by email at editor@illinoisfirefighters.org
3. All scholarships are awarded for fire service related programs and shall be used only for the purposes indicated by the applicant on this application.
4. Regional organizations may only submit one application per organization; departmental organizations may only submit one application per department; individual applicants may submit one application per active firefighter *as further detailed in paragraph number 1 above*.
5. Original application must be submitted on this Foundation form (or copy) and must be fully completed, and POSTMARKED no later than September 15, 2013. **(Email or fax applications will not be accepted.)** *(Additional information may be provided on additional sheets attached to this form)*
6. Secretary/Treasurer and Credentials/Scholarship Committee will verify that the applicant is a member in good standing (all current annual dues paid on time), that the application is fully and legibly completed, and complies with scholarship award guidelines.
7. Qualified applications will be announced during the Annual Conference General Membership Meeting.
8. PAID Invoice/receipts for scholarships awarded must be submitted to the IFA Foundation Treasurer for payment. *(you must pay for all classes before scholarship money is provided)*
9. All Scholarships awarded will expire one year from award date.

Briefly describe your personal career in the fire service, departmental history or regional firefighter association history.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Title of education or classes requested: _____.
2. Number of anticipated persons attending: _____.
3. Anticipated starting and end dates: _____.
4. Describe certification or college course and credit hours attained after completion of course:

_____.
5. Name of College or Certifying agency providing classes _____
6. Anticipated cost: _____.

Print Name of Applicant: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Print Name of Fire Chief or Assoc. President: _____ Phone #: _____

Signature of Fire Chief or Association President: _____ Date: _____

IFA2013

Recent Line of Duty Deaths



Arizona Hotshots

Granite Mountain Hotshot firefighter Anthony Rose, a former resident of Beach Park, IL, was one of 19 Hotshot firefighters that died in the line of duty on June 30, while battling the Yarnell Hill wildfire in Arizona.

The Hotshot's Prayer:

*When I am called to duty, Lord
To fight the roaring blaze,
Please keep me safe and strong
I may be here for days.*

*Be with my fellow crewmembers,
as we hike up to the top.
Help us cut enough line,
For this blaze to stop.*

*Let my skills and hands
be firm and quick.
Let me find those safety zones,
as we hit and lick.*

*For if this day on the line,
I should lose my life,
Lord, bless my Hotshot Crew,
my children and my WIFE.*

-Patricia Huston, Hotshot wife

Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Roger D. Lunt, Deputy Director



Mark Your 2013 Training Calendar

- Tactics & Strategy I, IFSI Champaign, August 16, 17, 18, and 23, 24, 25. Free Registration / NFA Grant Supported. (contact Fire Officer Prog. Director Lew lake 217-300-1808)
- Management IV, Marion, August Weekends (contact Fire Officer Prog. Director Lew lake 217-300-1808)
- Management II, Mt. Vernon, September Weekends (contact Fire Officer Prog. Director Lew lake 217-300-1808)
- Firefighter Down & Dirty Firefighting Weekend, Urbana /IFSI Champaign, Oct. 10 – 13th.

SWMD Class Tuition Waived:

Effective July 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014, ALL tuition for the following classes will be covered by the ITTF grant, regardless of a person's team status. This pertains only to the tuition, and only to the following courses

SWMD RESPONSE: CONFINED SPACE OPERATIONS
SWMD RESPONSE: CONFINED SPACE TECHNICIAN
SWMD RESPONSE: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS
SWMD RESPONSE: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN A
SWMD RESPONSE: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN B
SWMD RESPONSE: ROPE RESCUE OPERATIONS
SWMD RESPONSE: ROPE RESCUE TECHNICIAN
SWMD RESPONSE: STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE OPERATIONS
SWMD RESPONSE: STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE TECHNICIAN
SWMD RESPONSE: TRENCH RESCUE OPERATIONS
SWMD RESPONSE: TRENCH RESCUE TECHNICIAN



New Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs Added to IFSI:

The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has hired Chief James Keiken to serve in the newly-created position of Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs. Keiken is responsible for overseeing the management of all firefighting programs, including the Cornerstone classes via IFSI Regional Representatives, and program areas for fire officers, wildland, liquid propane (LP), investigation, agriculture, and on-site firefighter training. Chief Keiken provides strategic leadership and will directly oversee the Annual Fire College, Explorer-Cadet school and Winter Fire School.

Chief Keiken comes from Wisconsin where he was Assistant Fire Chief of Administration and Operations for the City of Madison Fire Department. Before taking on his latest role with the Madison Fire Department, he served as Assistant Fire Chief of Personnel, Planning and Training with the department for eight years. Since 2010, he has also served as a Health Technician/Paramedic for the Wisconsin-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, which is part of the National Disaster Medical System. In all, Chief Keiken has more than 33 years of experience in firefighting and emergency medical services.

Chief Keiken has completed the Executive Fire Officer program from the National Fire Academy and has achieved Chief Fire Officer Designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). He is also a Member Institution of Fire Engineers. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale and Masters of Science in Management from Cardinal Stritch University.

"We are honored to have Jim come aboard and bring a solid background in firefighting, personnel training and leadership," Royal Mortenson, Director of IFSI, said. "The new position was created to bring all seven of the principal firefighting programs



The Bulletin

delivered by IFSI under a senior executive leader reporting directly to the Director and Deputy Director.”

Chief Keiken began at IFSI on June 3rd.

IFSI Fire College

We have completed our 89th Annual Fire College. It was another successful training event where once again the



attending firefighters and officers represented states beyond the boundaries of Illinois. Even prior to the completion of the 89th Annual Fire College, plans were being discussed for the 90th Annual Fire College. The IFSI Fire College planning group will work to make next year an IFSI Fire College of greater class offerings on and off site. Next year you can expect to see the basic traditional offerings, that are always requested, as well as new classes that have not been offered in the past or at least in recent years.

IFSI Explorer-Cadet Training Opportunities

On June 27th through the 30th we hosted the 11th Explorer-Cadet Fire School. This annual event was attended by 225 Cadets and 109 Advisors, and traveled from as far away as Boston, Massachusetts. Fire Service Cadets and Explorers had the options of attending four 12 hour training sessions: Entry Level Recruit, Core Competencies, Coordinated Fire Attack, and Cadet Officer. This is a Hands On Training Fire School so those attending benefited from classroom as well as considerable amount of time in turnout gear with tools and low visibility live fire environments. Registration costs were lower this year from previous years because of grant support from the OSFM. The same grant support has been made available for the 2014 Explorer-Cadet Fire School.

For the second year in a row the OSFM will support one day hands-on field training for Explorer-Cadets. This past year an OSFM grant supported 8 hour training sessions hosted by four fire departments across the state. Those locations were, Quincy, Galesburg, Scott Air Force Base and Frankfort.



The one-day training is key to introducing aspiring young firefighters to a hands-on firefighting skills lab, in which they will be educated on fire hose and appliances, self-contained breathing apparatus, search and rescue, ladders, forcible entry, and hand tools. The objectives for this training follow the NFPA 1001 and Illinois OSFM Basic Firefighter objectives

We look forward to participating in four more training sessions scheduled through this fall and next spring.

Contact IFSI East Central Representative for greater details, Tim Meister, 217-202-4760

“Making Yourself Hard To Kill”

A separate event scheduled on Friday evening of Fire College this year was a presentation provided by Maj. Jason Brezler of the New York Fire Department. The presentation was made possible through the mutual support of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Proceeds from the over 200 attendees were used to cover presentation costs, as well as support the Illinois Fire Chiefs Educational and Research Foundation, and the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fund.



National Fire Academy In Illinois:

Once again NFA has approved the training requests submitted by the Illinois Fire Service Institute. The requests were initiated by local fire departments expressing an interest in taking the leading role and hosting the two day training sessions. The training is supported by the NFA FY 2014 (Oct. 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014), and has the same requirements of last year. You can register through the NFA or IFSI web sites.

NFA requirements for their direct delivery courses:

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- Minimum Students: 15
- Maximum Students: 30
- Registration Policy: Roster must be submitted to NFA 40 days prior to course start date.
- Class hours: 2 days (16 hours)

Host: Quincy Fire Department

NFA Class: F/W 0209 – Courtroom Preparation and Testimony for First Responders

Date: October 8 & 9, 2013

Host: Hanover Park Fire Department

NFA Class: Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change F/W 0521

Dates: October 22 & 23, 2013

Host: Pekin Fire Department

NFA Class: F/O 0455 Strategy and Tactics for Initial company Operations

Date: October, 22-23, 2013

Host: St. Louis Downtown Airport Fire Department

NFA Class: F/W 0457 – Decision Making for Initial Company Operations

Date: October 26 & 27, 2013

Host: Hanover Park Fire Department

NFA Class: Leadership II F/W 0804

Dates: November 14 & 15, 2013

Host: Shumway Fire Protection District

NFA Class: F/W 0457 – Decision Making for Initial Company Operations

Date: January 18 & 19, 2014

Host: Peoria Fire Department

NFA Class: F/W 0804 - Leadership II for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Personal Success

Date: February 13 and 14, 2014

Host: Pekin Fire Department

NFA Class: F/O 0458 Preparation for Initial Company Operations.

Date: March, 25 & 26, 2014

Host: McLean County Division 41 Annual School

NFA Class: F/W 0457 – Decision Making for Initial Company Operations

Date: September 6 & 7, 2014

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.



MOVE ILLINOIS INTO THE FUTURE

Support our Illinois State Fire Marshal's efforts to upgrade the State's usage of the "NFPA 101: Life Safety Code" from the 2000 edition to most recent 2012 edition.



homelifesafety.com

Stay informed. Sign up for the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition at:
HomeLifeSafety.com/join-the-coalition.html

For additional educational information go to:



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FireSprinklerInitiative.org

NIFSAB
FireSprinklerAssoc.org



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COALITION
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HomeFireSprinkler.org

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BREAKING NEWS: FIREFIGHTER SAVES

HUNDREDS

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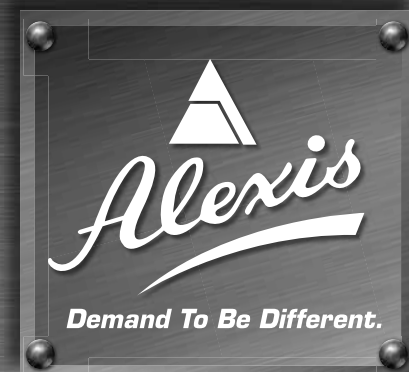
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Is your retirement safe from creditor suits and bankruptcy?

**by Robert Britz and Jessica Fese
Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.**

Last year, 1.3 million Americans filed for bankruptcy. That number is down 14% from 2011, but Americans continue to struggle during the slow economic recovery. That said, many people worry about how filing for bankruptcy will affect their retirement. For firefighters and paramedics, bankruptcy can seem especially daunting. Part-time and career firefighters and paramedics can have a range of retirement plans including pensions, individual retirement accounts (IRA's), and 401(k)'s and similar plans. When an individual files for bankruptcy under Chapter 7 or Chapter 13, or is sued by a creditor, it is important to consider what creditors can and cannot attach for repayment of debt.

Traditional retirement plans including pensions, 401(k)'s, and similar plans offered by an employer are protected from bankruptcy under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) ERISA prevents retirement benefits from being "assigned or alienated." (29 U.S.C. 1056(d)(1)) The U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted this non-alienation clause to mean that retirement benefits that fall under ERISA are not part of a debtor's estate in bankruptcy and are safe from creditors. (Patterson v. Shumate, 504 U.S. 753 (1992))

In 2005, Congress passed the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (BAPCPA). BAPCPA addressed which assets creditors could access for repayment. BAPCPA was intended to make filing for bankruptcy more difficult. It also provided additional protection for a debtor's retirement benefits. Under BAPCPA, employer retirement plans including pensions, 401(k)'s as well as similar plans, and IRA's are exempt from bankruptcy creditors. However, BAPCPA allows states to opt out and create their own exemptions. (11 U.S.C. Sec. 522(d)) Illinois has done just that. (735 ILCS 5/12-1201)

Illinois law prevents any retirement benefits a debtor receives or will receive from becoming part of a bankruptcy estate. (735 ILCS 5/12-1006) This includes pensions, IRA's, 401(k)'s and similar plans regardless of whether these benefits are offered through an employer or created independently by the debtor. In Illinois, retirement benefits cannot be included in a debtor's bankruptcy estate and are safe from creditor suits. There are some exceptions to this rule, however. The Internal Revenue Service can issue a lien against retirement benefits and plans for non-payment of taxes. Illinois law allows a spouse, former spouse, child or other dependent to receive all or part of the retirement benefits or accounts as a means of familial support. (40 ILCS 5/1-119)

Under BAPCPA, an IRA is exempt from a bankruptcy estate up to \$1,095,000. Illinois law protects IRA's without limit. It is unclear at this time if the BAPCPA cap will be enforced despite Illinois' intent to protect IRA's from bankruptcy.

The Great Recession has placed heavy financial burdens on municipalities as expenses continue to

The Bulletin

rise and property tax revenue stagnates. Villages, towns and cities across the nation have attempted to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 9. Chapter 9 allows municipalities to restructure their financial obligations and renegotiate contracts in the process. Under federal bankruptcy law, States law must explicitly authorize their municipalities to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 9, or a governmental officer or organization empowered by State law can give the municipality permission to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 9. (11 U.S.C.S. § 109(c)(2)).

Two Illinois municipalities -- Slocum Lake Drainage District and Washington Park -- both filed for Chapter 9 in Federal Bankruptcy Court in recent years. Both cases were dismissed. In Slocum, the court stated that there is no express authorization by the State under current law to allow municipalities to file for bankruptcy. In *Re Slocum Lake Drainage District of Lake County*, 336 B.R. 387 (N.D.Ill. 2006) However, an Illinois municipality might be able to successfully file for bankruptcy if a commission or financial advisor appointed under the Illinois Local Government Financial Planning and Supervision Act recommends that the municipality file under Chapter 9. (50 ILCS 320/9(b)(4)) This has not been the case with recent Illinois municipalities filing for bankruptcy.

Even if an Illinois municipality did successfully file for Chapter 9 in the future, the Illinois State Constitution provides express protections for State and local governmental retirement plans and benefits. (Ill. Const. Art. XIII, Sec. 5) Similar constitutional protection of pension benefits is likely to be tested in the near future in other states where communities have gone bankrupt, such as in California. Thus, the impact of municipal insolvency on pension benefits is an evolving legal issue across the United States.

Both federal and Illinois law offer extensive protection for retirement benefits in bankruptcy and from creditor suits, although retirement benefits are not necessarily protected from tax claims or court orders for familial support. In Illinois, firefighter retirement benefits are likely protected from municipal bankruptcy, as well. Bankruptcy and creditor suits can be intimidating, but it helps to know that your retirement benefits are protected.

Robert J. Britz is a shareholder with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. at the firm's Elburn office. Mr. Britz engages in the general practice of law with an emphasis in municipal and local government law, as well as real estate, estate planning, probate, and business matters. You can contact Mr. Britz by e-mail at rbritz@ottosenbritz.com

Jessica Fese is a law clerk with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. Jessica currently attends DePaul University College of Law.



Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

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2013**

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This certifies that _____ and _____ are

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Dated this _____ day of _____ A.D. 2013

Secretary (signature)

Fire Chief (signature)

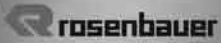
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