

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 74, Number 4

July -August 2020

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

Save The Date

Down & Dirty Firefighter Weekend

October 1-2-3, 2020

Classes Offered:

- Active Shooter
- Myths & Realities
- Foundations of firefighting
- Essentials of Firefighting
- TIC/Search/RIT
- AG Emergencies

**Attend up to 16 hours of
IFSI training for one
LOW fee**

**\$30 IFA members
\$75 Non IFA members**

--FREE ROOMS FOR ATTENDEES--

Provided by a grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshal

Registration Opens Soon, Go to:

FSI.Illinois.EDU

www.illinoisfirefighters.org

The Bulletin is published digitally every other month and placed online at www.illinoisfirefighters.org.

Please send email addresses and articles to:

The Bulletin

Kerry Federer, Editor

PO Box 77

Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Office 618-882-4783

Fax 618-882-7287

Cell 618-830-3961

editor@illinoisfirefighters.org

www.illinoisfirefighters.org

Bulletin Deadlines:

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

Table of Contents

Chaplain's Corner.....	14
Chief Laskey Presents	24
Conference Classes	5
Conference Class Description	8
Donate IFA PAC Fund.....	10
Exposure Reduction Project	5
FF of the Year Form.....	22
Legal Issues.....	15
Legislative Update.....	4
Notice of Annual Meeting.....	6
Nine Hacks if Power goes out	23
OFSM COVID Pandemic.....	11
President's Message	3
Save the Date	26
Win Stihl Tools from Cal. Cas.....	18

Index of Advertisers

Alexis.....	7
Amboy Fire School.....	9
American Lung Assn.....	16
California Cas.	12,13,21
Conference Sponsors 2019 ..	29
Dinges.....	10
Illinois Fire Safety Alliance ...	19
NIFSAB	20
NIFSI	27-28
SCBAS.....	17
VFIS.....	13

IFA Officers, Directors, Support Staff and Consultants

Officers

President (2020)

John Swan
23288 Green River Rd.
Colona, IL 61241
309.792.3231-station
309.792.3250-fax (station)
309.314.0939-cell
john.swan@colonafire.com

Vice-President (2020)

Terry Ford
6404 Godfrey Rd
Godfrey, IL 62035
618.977.2843-cell
tford9@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer (2021)

Kerry Federer
70 Arbor Crest Dr.
Highland, IL 62249-3899
618.654.3852-home
618.830.3961-cell
kdfederer@gmail.com

IFA Office

PO Box 77
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
Phone 618-882-4783
Fax 618-882-7287
editor@illinoisfirefighters.org

Directors

Roger Agpawa (2022)
16629 Plainview Dr
Markham IL 60426
708-210-1320
ragpawa@countryclubhills.org

Ed Allsman (2020)
1314 Gonterman St
South Roxana, IL 62087
618.781.4630-cell
618.254.1088-station
618.254.8802-fax (station)
callsman@srfire.org

Mitch Althoff (2023)
415 W Kentucky Ave
Effingham IL 62401
217-821-1754
mitchalthoff@yahoo.com

Jeff Bryant Sr. (2021)
PO Box 165
Amboy, IL 61310
815.994.6184-cell
jbryant9962@gmail.com

Joe Heim (2021)
341 Gramercy Street
East Dubuque, IL 61025
563.599.3356-cell
edfire18@yahoo.com

Rosemarie Arvia-Malone (2020)
16056 Crystal Creek Dr
Apt 3A
Orland Park IL 60462
708.600.9896
raarvia@yahoo.com

Joseph Mandarin (2021)
24403 Arrowhead Dr.
Manhattan, IL 60442
815.680.6020 home
708.935.2893-cell
Corky2700@aol.com

Curtis Miller (2023)
3011 Dalmation Rd
Pinckneyville IL 62274
618.237.0900-cell
pvfire19@gmail.com

Ronald Mulach (2022)
304 Wolf
P.O. Box 26
Hamel, IL 62046
618.633.2376-home/fax
618.973.5871-cell
samrjm10@aol.com

Edward Myers (2023)
2171 E. 221st Street
Sauk Village, IL 60411
708.983.9102-cell
708.758.2225 xt. 430-work
708.753.0901-work fax
acmyers502@comcast.net

Bill Offerman (2020)
600 Beattie St.
Elwood, IL 60421
815.423.6967-home
815.423.5224-station
815.423.6323-fax
Chief.offerman@elwoodfpd.com

Robert Reason (2022)
55 North Street
East Peoria, IL 61611
309.265.6472-cell
309.699.5252-fax
breason@sbcglobal.net

Kevin Schott (2023)
1710 N Harrison
Litchfield, IL 62056
217.971.8196-cell
kschott316@gmail.com

Jeff Stuck (2021)
1002 Jeffrey Dr
Carterville, IL 62918
618.925.4915-cell
stuck915@hotmail.com

Support Staff and Consultants

Chaplain

Kevin Coffey
1117 N 1000 East Road
Onarga, IL 60955
773.455.4393
kc9526@yahoo.com

Legislative Lobbyist

Margaret Vaughn
9211 Waterfall Glen Blvd.
Darien, IL 60561
217.280.0206-cell
630.908.7311-fax
mvaughn@springnet1.com

Attorney

Shawn Flaherty
OBKCG&D, LTD
303 N. Main St.
Elburn, IL 60119
630.365.6441 Phone
630.365.6451 Fax
sflaherty@ottosenbritz.com
www.ottosenbritz.com

Mission Statement

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

President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters

Well, fellow firefighters, I know you're tired of this covid 19 virus pandemic. I want to commend all of you that are following the CDC guidelines and doing your best in protecting your communities.

I believe many more people and, yes, firefighters could have been affected without your help. If you are following the State Fire Marshal's daily statistical reports that he is sending out, you can see those that have been most affected. Please continue to send him this information, if you have any firefighters that are quarantined or tested positive.

This not only shows the affected areas, but the impact on those departments and their ability to provide protection to their community. I want to thank him and his staff for doing an excellent job on keeping us up to date and informed.

One of my main concerns as firefighters is that you are keeping yourself trained and up to date on changes in the workplace. This virus has definitely impacted your training environment. If you are going to advance your knowledge, experiences and skill levels, you are going to need to adjust and adapt to new ways of getting it done. You just can't sit back and wait for things to get better. IFSI, again, has shown the leadership to make that happen. They have broadened their online capabilities to train more firefighters than ever before. They have set the bar for firefighters all over this state and nation to accommodate firefighter training needs. Now, it's up to you to take advantage of what is available to you.

We must also look ahead as your association and anticipate that our Conference and Down & Dirty Training will go on the first of October. As time gets closer we will keep you posted on the status of this event.

We have also partnered with IFSI joining Fire College and the Down & Dirty Training going on at the same time, but both of these events will function separately. You will be getting the information on our Conference and Down & Dirty Training very soon.

Finally, there are three major things that affect your performance as a Firefighter. If you are a volunteer or career firefighter, the Family, Work and Fire Department can wreak havoc on you trying to keep some type of normalcy in your life. Stresses can build up and your mind and body can be deeply affected. Over the last few years, the Fire Service has recognized that we are not robots and firefighters also need support. If you or someone you know needs support, there are peer support groups available. The NVFC has Share The Load program that is available and there is a confidential call to 1-888-731-FIRE (3473). IFSI has a Resiliency class through Cornerstone in which your whole department can take. RE:ACT and Firefighter Peer support are also available.

"Train Smart, Be Safe"

God Bless

John Swan President



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

ANNUAL "DANGERS of FIREWORKS" PRESS CONFERENCE at ALEXIAN BROTHER'S HOSPITAL

Once again IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn spearheaded the Annual "Dangers of Fireworks" Press Conference at Alexian Brothers Women and Children's Hospital in Hoffman Estates on June 30th in conjunction with the start of the July 4th holiday week.

With the number of illegal fireworks complaints up over 700% in Illinois over last year, public safety officials and the medical community gathered to educate the public on the **dangerous and lasting impact fireworks can have on families, pets, and combat veterans suffering from PTSD.**



The Annual Fireworks Report released the end of June by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) showed in 2019 there were 10,000 injuries treated in emergency rooms and 12 non-occupational deaths due to fireworks (*including one in Illinois*), an increase in both categories from the previous year.

Part of the reason, Consumer Fireworks are so dangerous is they are often mislabeled and defective since they are manufactured overseas and difficult to regulate. In random testing by the CPSC & US Customs Border Protection, it was **discovered that 67% percent of imported fireworks were noncompliant with federal regulations.** Violations most often involved overloaded report composition and failure to meet fuse burn-time requirements, which leads to most injuries.

At the end of the press conference, retired Fire Chief Mike Figolah with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, performed a live demo in which a sparkler slightly brushes up against clothing, showing how it can completely engulf the material in flames in a matter of seconds and quickly turned a celebration into a tragedy.

Sadly, this summer there have already been several deaths reported across the country as result of 4th of July celebrations gone bad, as well as horrific injuries leading to amputations of fingers and limbs. It is important the fire service continued to stand united and fight to ensure consumer fireworks remain illegal in Illinois.

The press conference was covered by 4 major Chicago TV news networks as well as local newspapers.

IFA DONATES to APPRECIATION LUNCHEONS FOR CHICAGO POLICE



In these troubled times, IFA came out in support of their fellow first responders by contributing financially to a special appreciation lunch and dinner organized by IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn. Vaughn gathered contributions from family and friends to cover the cost of catered meals and baked goods were donated through her church. Meals were served both on June 20th to CPD Division 11 on Chicago's Westside on July 3rd to CPD Division 5 on the Chicago's Southside.

Scheduled classes for 2020 Conference

ACTIVE SHOOTER
LONG LEAD OUTS/ENGINE OPERATIONS
TIC/SEARCH/RIT
ESSENTIALS OF FIREFIGHTING
FOUNDATIONS OF FIREFIGHTING
AG EMERGENCIES

Friday evening: Myths & Realities

**STATE OF ILLINOIS PRELIMINARY
EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT**



**FREE DECON EQUIPMENT
IS NOW AVAILABLE TO
ILLINOIS
FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

**TO ORDER, VISIT:
FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU**



Notice of Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

**Friday, October 2, 2020
IFSI Auditorium
9 a.m.**

Anyone interested in running for IFA Board, must have Letter of Intent filed with the Secretary/Treasurer by September 1. Letter of Intent can be mailed to IFA, PO Box 77, Glen Carbon IL 62034, emailed to secretarytreasurer@illinoisfirefighters.org or faxed to 618-882-7287.

Annual Memorial Ceremony

Each year, the IFA holds a memorial service in conjunction with the annual conference to honor ALL of the firefighters in the state of Illinois that have gone on before us. We read name of ALL Illinois Firefighters that have passed, not just IFA members.

Annual Memorial Ceremony is held at the conclusion of the IFA annual meeting, held on October 2, 2020 in the IFSI auditorium.

To have a member's name read at the memorial service, the name must be submitted to the IFA. Names can be emailed to memorial@illinoisfirefighters.org.

Names are read from firefighters that have passed away between September 1 of the previous year and August 31 of the current year.

SPECIAL PROJECT #2395: *FIRE WORKS*



CUSTOM SIDE CONTROL PUMPER
KNOXVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT / KNOXVILLE, IA



At Alexis Fire Equipment, if you can dream it, we can build it. Our quality custom-built fire apparatus are engineered specifically for each of our customers to enable them to fight the battles ahead in full capacity. Built to endure for optimal efficiency and safety, Alexis trucks are completely customer driven. From brush trucks and mini pumpers to tankers, pumpers and aerials, your needs are our commands.

OUR TRUCKS. OUR TEAM. OUR CUSTOMERS.
ONE DRIVE.

Contact your AFE Sales Representative
or Certified Dealer for more information
at 1-800-322-2284.



FEATURES: SPARTAN METRO STAR MFD 10" RAISED ROOF CHASSIS, HEAVY DUTY STAINLESS STEEL BODY AND SUB-FRAME, 1500-GALLON POLY TANK WITH 20-GALLON FOAM TANK, WATEROUS CX 1250, 1500-GPM PUMP, FOAMPRO 1600 FOAM SYSTEM, AKRON APOLLO TOP DECK GUN, FIRECOM INTERCOM SYSTEM, WHELEN LED TRAFFIC ADVISOR ARROW STICK, WARNING LIGHT PACKAGE, AND LED SCENE LIGHT PACKAGE, PLUS MORE.

SPECS / PHOTOS / VIDEO TOUR ► ALEXISFIRE.COM



ALEXIS

DRIVEN TO SERVE.



ALEXISFIRE.COM | 1-800-322-2284 | SHOP 24/7 AT ALEXISFIRESTORE.COM

Oct. 2-3, 2020 COURSES: 12 HOURS EACH | FRIDAY, 1-5PM & SATURDAY, 8AM-5PM

FOUNDATIONS OF FIREFIGHTING

The Foundations of Firefighting Course is designed for firefighters who are new to the fire service or have limited experience with live fire conditions. Course topics will include the basic and fundamental skills necessary to operate effectively and safely on the fireground. This class will address firefighter orientation and safety, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), personal protective equipment (PPE), tools, apparatus, hose, ladders and basic fireground operations.

NFPA compliant personal protective equipment and SCBA is required.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR FIREFIGHTING

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

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

ENGINE COMPANY OPERATIONS – LONG LEAD OUTS

The Engine Company Operations – Long Lead Outs Course provides the opportunity to hone your skills at making the long stretch. When your pre-connected hose line is not going to reach, what is your plan, is it the most efficient method, have you and your crew trained and drilled on making the long leadout? This class allows repeated opportunities to manufacture lines off the rear hose bed to reach the tactical objective. Increasing your proficiency at building lines will result in getting water on the fire as quick as possible.

NFPA compliant personal protective equipment and SCBA is required.

AGRICULTURE RESCUE TECHNIQUES

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

Required equipment/gear: Turn out gear or coveralls, helmet, gloves, eye protection, ear protection, steel toed shoes.

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA: APPLICATION FOR SEARCH AND RIT OPERATIONS

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

NFPA compliant personal protective equipment and SCBA is required.

FRIDAY EVENING COURSE | 7PM - 8PM - LIMITED TO 30 STUDENTS

MYTHS & REALITIES: FOG NOZZLE VS. SMOOTH BORE NOZZLE

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

CERTIFICATION COURSE

TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE/ RESCUE TASK FORCE TRAINING

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

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

The 11th Bi-Annual Amboy Fire & Extrication School

(In Coordination with Bi-Annual BFFA Fire School)

May 1st, 2021

**Complete Training Package with *Saturday Night Brotherhood Event*
\$100 per class per student**

Contact : Sr - jbryant9962@gmail.com or Jr - jbryant@firenuggets.com

Engine Ops – Beyond The PreConnect - Hands-On

Instructor: Brothers In Battle – Cody Trestrail

Truck Company Operations - Hands-On

Instructor: Lt. Joe Solcani – Chicago Fire & BC Jason Demas – Aurora Fire

Search & Rescue Essentials - Hands-On

Instructor: Nick Ledin – Eau Claire Fire & Jeff Rothmeier – Milwaukee Fire

Auto X Extrication Training-Hands-On

Instructor: Captain Mike Huffman – Harlem-Roscoe Fire

1st Rung Recruit Training - FF for the newbie- Hands-On

Instructor: Lt. Kucaba - Northwest Homer FPD

Large Vehicle Extrication- Hands-On

Instructor: Bill Puckett - Auto X

Strategic Planning for Creating Future Excellence and Juggling Hats- Lecture

Instructor: Chief Craig Haigh, Hanover Park Fire

EMS Topics for the next generation- Lecture

Instructor: Retired Chief of EMS Operations, New Orleans Ken Bouvier

Thermal Imaging & Max Firebox Demonstration- Hands-On

Instructors: Andy Starnes - Insight Training & John Schott - Max Fire Training

To Register - www.firenuggets.com

TASK BUILT.



PUMPER • HUNTLEY, IL



Office of the State Fire Marshal

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal continues to face many challenges that are being presented due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The OSFM has been and continues to provide agency functions and communications while taking into account the safety of our staff and the public. As of Monday, July 13th, the OSFM began to phase staff back into the Springfield office while other staff will remain on remote work status. The OSFM continues to provide the latest communications, updates and highest

quality of service that the industry has come to expect.

OSFM has a phased recovery strategy to bring back operations to normal or at least to meet the needs of the “new” normal during the COVID-19 pandemic. OSFM will continue to review operations to ensure that the agency is providing as many of its normal services as possible and will work closely with all the Illinois fire service organizations in order to keep the State Emergency Operation Center, IDPH and the Governor’s office up to date on all issues faced by the fire service as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

The OSFM’s Arson Division has been providing uninterrupted fire investigations in support of local police and fire departments. Although they have had to alter their personal protective equipment (PPE), and how they conduct business, all Arson Division Special Agents have continued to respond to requests for investigations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The division welcomed two new canines to the team, Gunny and Ginger. They will be replacing recently retired canines Dollar and Gemma. Sadly, retired canine Rusty has passed away. “Rusty was one of a kind! He never knew a stranger, worked as hard as any I’ve seen, mainly because he wanted to make everyone there happy, and loved with everything he had.” -Special Agent Arndt

The OSFM’s Personnel Standards and Education Division has worked through difficulties to resume certification testing so that the Illinois fire service can still have access to the training that is essential to doing their jobs safely and effectively. For the latest information about results or testing, visit the PS&E Web portal. An update to the portal has also been completed and has changed the way roster updates are completed. A tutorial is available by visiting the portal or here: <https://youtu.be/9XkS2XwKZmM>. Make sure to visit the portal and double check to see if your rosters are current.

The Boiler Safety Division, Fire Prevention Division, Petroleum and Chemical Safety Division, and Elevator Safety Division are resuming many activities with proper PPE, social distancing, and following guidance set by the CDC, IDPH and the Governor’s Office. OSFM can halt an inspection if proper criteria aren’t met. Everyone needs to wear a mask, even those who are in the building, proper social distancing isn’t being followed, occupancy load is over the limit, along with other criteria laid out in the Restore Illinois Plan. OSFM Fire Service Outreach Divisions continues to provide assistance to IEMA through the state’s emergency operations center. Technical Services Division is working remotely and are still responding to requests. They will resume onsite reviews to assist OSFM personnel and will be wearing proper PPE.

Information shows that first responders are at risk of contracting COVID in the firehouse or workplace from peer to peer contact due to lack of social distancing. In late June, the number of departments with firefighters or EMS personnel in quarantine had dropped to only a couple departments. Unfortunately, the numbers began to rise again in early July. It’s very important to consider requiring mask use while working in the fire station, consistent cleaning of frequently touched areas, use of single serving food products and eating/exercising in shifts in order to minimize this risk. Stressing the importance of the consistent use of PPE, good hygiene and following safety protocols and guidelines will help to limit exposure risks. OSFM encourages firefighters and EMS workers get tested. A link to current testing sites can be found by visiting: <https://dph.illinois.gov/testing>.

The Bulletin

OSFM continues to keep Governor Pritzker, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and Illinois Department of Public Health updated daily on the number of firefighters in quarantine or COVID positive. Continue to send your departments/districts latest statistics to Fire Marshal Perez by emailing Matt.Perez@Illinois.gov. These updated statistics allows for resources to be allocated to areas that may need extra assistance.

Unfortunately, this year's Illinois State Fair and DuQuoin State Fair were cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic. The OSFM Fire Service Outreach Division and our Public Information Officer are working hard to create a virtual fire safety tent. They will be reaching out to different fire service organizations and departments to highlight the groups and provide them with an opportunity to share a fire safety message.

The Small Equipment Grant Program received 540 applications this year, but unfortunately 160 of those applications were ineligible due to not filling out forms correctly or not being NFIRS compliant. There was \$3.5 million awarded to 154 department/districts and EMS providers across the state. The OSFM plans to offer the program again this fall and encourages those who didn't receive funding this time around to apply! If there are any questions while filling out the application, please reach out and the OSFM will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

Impacts from the COVID-19 crisis are hitting everyone hard, especially local fire departments. OSFM and IFA are working on a two-year extension on existing Fire Truck Revolving and Ambulance Revolving Loans. This would defer payments for two years and make the next loan payment due in November of 2022.

If there are positive stories that departments are looking to share or information that the Illinois Fire Service would like to promote, please email jc.fultz@illinois.gov; OSFM's PIO. Make sure to continue to visit the OSFM facebook and twitter pages, along with the website for agency updates and information.



\$5,000

STIHL®

GIVEAWAY

California Casualty is
105 YEARS
old and
STIHL GOING STRONG!

Let us help you tackle your tough projects with power, expertise and precision. Enter to win \$5,000 worth of STIHL tools from California Casualty. Don't quit until the job's done. ENTER TODAY!

ENTER TO WIN: Contest4Heroes.com

No quote or purchase necessary. See website for complete terms and conditions. ©2020 CCMC

California Casualty
WE PROTECT AMERICAN HEROES®

Our promise:

To be responsive to our nation's first responders.

That's why we've partnered with The Illinois Firefighters' Association to provide access to **auto and home insurance** designed exclusively for you and your fellow firefighters.

For 100 years, California Casualty has delivered trusted, personalized insurance.

Because at California Casualty, it's our policy to do more for the people who give more, starting with you.

Exclusive Discounts

Fallen Hero Benefit

Turnout Gear Reimbursement*



California Casualty
Auto and Home Insurance
WE PROTECT AMERICAN HEROES®

For a free, no-obligation quote,
call 866-680-5137
or visit www.CalCas.com/IFA



CA Lic#0041343 *Coverages described are subject to availability and eligibility. ©2013 California Casualty

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



A Division of Glatfelter Insurance Group

Insuring America's Heroes

VFIS/Midwest
Ideal Insurance Agency
100 W. 22nd St., Suite 101
Lombard, IL 60148
(800) 422-1431 • (630) 889-3512
www.idealinsil.com



Chaplain's Corner

I have written the following 12 Firefighter Soul Supports out of my 40+ years experience in the fire service. The Soul Supports represent a structure of faith that supports and anchors the soul of a firefighter through the trauma and threat induced stress that he/she is sure to encounter. The uncertain times ahead will almost certainly continue to bring new types of threats to firefighters such as we have most recently seen with the corona virus. Read through these 12 slowly and reflect on your own faith and experience. You may embrace all 12, you may embrace just #1 or up to any other number, or you may not be buying in at any place. Whatever the case, please feel free to contact me with any questions/comments. Remember, faith is the currency of the soul. May your faith be enriched and your soul strengthened by consideration of these Soul Supports.

Kevin Coffey, IFA Chaplain

The 12 Firefighter Soul Supports

1. I am/have a non-material soul created by God.
2. By God's design my soul's basic experience = *intellect* (I think), *emotion* (I feel), and *will* (I choose/act).
3. As a firefighter I must suppress trauma or threat induced *emotion* in order to act competently and professionally on the emergency scene. I learn how not to *feel* what I am experiencing.
4. This unfelt/unexpressed emotion tends to fill and pressurize my soul's storage bag as a traumatic stress burden.
5. This traumatic stress burden can – and often will – present itself through any number of emotional and behavioral difficulties such as: uncontrolled anger, confusion, alcohol/substance abuse, other addictive behaviors, broken and dysfunctional relationships, personal moral compromise, and/or depression possibly leading to despair and suicide.
6. I am invited to cast my traumatic stress burden on God by faith, who promises to carry it for me and give rest to my soul.
7. I can find a small group of others in the fire service where I can give and receive faith-based soul support in safety, understanding, and confidentiality.
8. I can also find targeted soul-supporting resources for particular difficulties I may be facing from time to time.
9. Jesus, like me, bore a weighty load of traumatic stress.
10. Jesus willingly suffered a line-of-duty-death (LODD) and rose again to forgive and rescue me.
11. By trusting Jesus with personal faith I can experience new life and soul renewal from God.
12. This new life will give my soul a desire for God's truth and the experience of fulfilling God's will in my personal and fire service life.

Health care providers may charge more for third-party record requests

by Ryan R. Morton
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

In 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a rule that effectively capped how much medical providers could charge to provide copies of health records. Earlier this year, a federal court in Washington, D.C. threw out that rule, deciding that it was improperly adopted. As a result, EMS providers can once again charge more when a third-party requests someone else's medical records.

Personal health information ("PHI") is often sought by third-parties in the course of litigation, insurance disputes, and other medical care. Gathering these records can be time-consuming and expensive, so many health providers ("covered entities") contract with outside companies ("business associates") to facilitate the requests. Either covered entities or business associates then charge a fee for retrieving and delivering the PHI.

Charging fees is allowed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. Prior to 2016, when a patient requested his or her own medical records, covered entities and business associates could only charge a reasonable, cost-based rate: the "Patient Rate." However, when anyone other than the patient requested those records, those entities could charge a higher fee to help recover their costs.

In 2016, though, HHS issued new instructions for calculating fees. This guidance document informed all other health record providers—including fire departments—that the "Patient Rate" must be applied if a patient directs the provider to send the records to a third-party. Attorneys, insurance companies, and other third-parties thus began using patients to request the records, so that the maximum \$6.50 Patient Rate would be charged.

One of those companies affected by this amended rule was the plaintiff in *Ciox Health, LLC v. Azar*, 435 F. Supp. 3d 30 (D.C. Dist. January 27, 2020). Ciox sued HHS, claiming that the Department violated the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, which mandates certain steps that must be taken before a rule can be changed. Ciox alleged that HHS did not provide any notice of the proposed rule change, nor did it solicit comments from interested parties.

In its opinion, the court explained that HHS did have rulemaking authority, by virtue of Congress not creating its own HIPAA regulations. That was the genesis of the Privacy Rule. However, that authority was limited to clarifying existing law, not changing the law. Nothing in HIPAA, assigns the Patient Rate to third-party directives, therefore the 2016 rule goes beyond clarifications.

In fact, the 2016 rule contradicts HHS's initial determination on this subject. When the Privacy Rule was adopted, HHS stated that the Patient Rate was not intended to affect the fees charged "to anyone other than the individual." Thus, the 2016 rule changed the existing law without following the required procedure to do so.

The court also addressed the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which became law in 2009. The HITECH Act provides for a similar cap on fees for electronic health records. HHS created a rule in 2013 that required providers to supply electronic records in any "producible form and format" requested, even though the HITECH Act only applies to electronic records. The court threw out that supplemental rule as well, because the HITECH Act as ratified did not apply to non-electronic records.

The end result of this opinion is that health providers are once again permitted to charge third-party requesters more than patients for records. This higher fee can apply even if the patient directs records be sent to someone else. The maximum \$6.50 fee only applies to requests directly from a patient, sent directly to the patients. Additionally, when records are only available in electronic format, providers do not need to give those in a different format, even if requested.

Securing and providing confidential health records is complicated enough without agency rule changes and court challenges. Additionally, Illinois has its own privacy laws, not to mention the Freedom of Information Act, which make navigating this area challenging. If you encounter any questions while responding to a records request, be sure to contact your attorney.

Ryan R. Morton is an associate with the law firm of Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in Naperville. He graduated from the John Marshall Law School in June 2017 and holds an undergraduate degree in journalism from Northwestern University. Prior to earning his law degree, Ryan worked for six years as a radio news director, covering local governments throughout Northern Illinois. He focuses his practice in the areas of municipal, school, and fire district law, as well as public pension and public labor and employment law.



FIGHT FOR AIR
CLIMB 



We have a tremendous appreciation for our first responders now more than ever, they are tirelessly providing care for patients with coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Thank you to all the first responders who are on the frontlines.



Thank you for your service!

*Serving the
Fire Industry
Since 1974*

SPERIAN FIRE

Self-contained breathing apparatus sales and service
Nationwide Factory Authorized Warranty Service Center



EAGLEAIR.



Breathing air compressor systems and fill enclosures
Factory Authorized Warranty Service Center



Other Products Offered

- High-pressure booster pumps
- Breathing air cascade systems
- Individual storage cylinders
- Custom 6000 PSI hose
- Regulators
- Fill hoses
- Hundreds of fittings and adapters
- Check, shut-off and relief valves
- Gauges and much much more



Other Services Offered

- Hydro-testing cylinders
- Cylinder valve repairs
- On site quantitative SCBA facepiece fit testing for all Survivair®, all Scott® and MSA Millinium®

SCBAS INC.

Helping You Breathe a Little Easier

403 Peoria Street
Washington, IL 61571
800/747-7442 or 309/444-7442
309/444-3180 Fax • scbas@omnilec.com



IFA Members Can Enter to Win \$5,000 Worth of STIHL® Tools from California Casualty

California Casualty wants to thank Illinois first responders once again with a new Work Hard/Play Hard Sweepstakes. IFA members can enter for the chance to win \$5,000 worth of STIHL® tools at www.contest4heroes.com.

First responders depend on the right tools to reduce their risk of injury and to get the job done quicker. That's why California Casualty, the trusted auto and home insurance provider of firefighters, EMTs and law enforcement officers across the country, is offering a prize pack of STIHL tools, the equipment that first responders count on.

"We're 105 years strong," said California Casualty Sr. Vice President Mike McCormick. "Our strength comes from the dedicated professionals who protect our communities. We owe them this thank you for all that they do."

California Casualty also congratulates Pennsylvania firefighter Kyle Albrecht, who was presented with a [\\$7,500 Garage Makeover](#) from California Casualty in December. Kyle, who volunteers with the Nancy Run Fire Station, serving Bethlehem Township, is also a full-time 911 dispatcher. The award couldn't have come at a better time – Kyle and his wife recently bought their forever home and purchased a storage shed so that he could make the garage more useful.

Other Work Hard/Play Hard sweepstakes from California Casualty have awarded public safety personnel Liberty Safes, DeWalt Tools, motorcycles, and cash. Past winners include an Oregon Police officer, Colorado Sheriff's captain, Firefighters from California, Nebraska, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and a California Highway Patrolman.

With a selection of chainsaws, trimmers, blowers, drills and safety equipment, what tools would you choose? California Casualty wants to give you the chance with the Work Hard/Play Hard \$5,000 STIHL Tools Giveaway. The drawing is open to police officers, EMTs and firefighters – American heroes who work hard and risk their lives. Entries are being taken now through October 31, 2020, at www.contest4heroes.com. One lucky \$5,000 STIHL tools winner will be announced in November.

Headquartered in San Mateo, California, with Service Centers in Arizona, Colorado and Kansas, California Casualty has been providing auto and home insurance to firefighters since 1974 and to IFA members since 2002. Founded in 1914, California Casualty has been led by four generations of the Brown family. To learn more about California Casualty, or to request an auto insurance quote, please call 1.800.800.9410 or visit www.calcas.com/IFA.

* STIHL does not sponsor or endorse this promotion

Get your department involved with the Be Alarmed! smoke alarm installation program to install 10-year battery smoke alarms in homes in your community.

This program combines fire prevention education and action to help keep Illinois citizens safe.

Help make your community safer by becoming a partner for local smoke alarm installation today.

Details are available at: www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms



Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



IT TAKES TWO...

TO PROTECT OCCUPANTS & FIREFIGHTERS FROM FIRE.



Fire Marshal Mary Kay Ludemann & Fire Chief Jon Stratton
of the Plainfield Fire Protection District

BOTH SMOKE ALARMS AND HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS SHOULD BE PART OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OUTREACH

There is no better opportunity to have an effective educational impact than at the fire scene or immediately post fire to explain the impact of both fire sprinklers and smoke alarms working together to prevent fire deaths and injuries. Be prepared to educate the media by keeping a fire sprinkler in your command vehicle and hand it to them to reinforce the message.

Following fatal residential fires, fire officials of the past would often talk about smoke alarms with the media and say, "Smoke alarms could have prevented the fire death." Those types of statement generally get the full attention of the public, but doesn't fully describe the other combined potential.

Smoke alarms are important because they alert occupants of a fire, reducing the chances of dying in a fire by half. Fire sprinklers actively work to control or extinguish the fire while it is small and provide occupants with the time to escape. The life and property protection benefits of fire sprinklers cannot be ignored.

Now imagine the impact if the fire officials also held up a fire sprinkler and stated, "When smoke alarms are combined with fire sprinklers, the risk of dying in a home fire is decreased by 80 percent."

Smoke alarms and fire sprinklers together are the perfect fire protection duo. Keep both in your command vehicle.

NEED FIRE SPRINKLERS FOR YOUR
PUBLIC RELATIONS OUTREACH?



Please call 708.403.4468 or email
NIFSAB@NIFSAB.org to request one at no cost.



HomeLifeSafety.com



FireSprinklerInitiative.org



HomeFireSprinkler.org



FireSprinklerAssoc.org

©2019, Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board. All rights reserved. A not-for-profit organization.



Boost Your Health: Start a Morning Routine.

For more tips just for firefighters
visit www.MyCalcas.com/Fire

Qualifications Required: Fire Department must be current IFA Member

Date:

I wish to nominate _____ of the _____

Fire Department. Department address: _____

Fire Service Occupation or Rank: _____ Years of Service: _____

Please list and explain the major contributions the nominee has made to the fire department. Use a second sheet if necessary.

[illegible]

Member of Organization making nomination: _____

Phone #: _____ Signed: _____

All nominations must be received by July 31st

Award will be presented at the IFA Down and Dirty Weekend.

Please return the completed form to:

Curtis Miller
3011 Dalmation Rd
Pinckneyville IL 62274
618-237-0900



9 Handy Hacks if the Power Goes Out

- Severe weather is the single leading cause of power outages in the U.S. Whether it's from a blizzard, tremendous thunderstorm or tornado, hurricane or even a car or tree taking out a power line or box, simple preparations can make the difference of avoiding spoiled foods, lack of water and stumbling around an unlit home. A loss of power can literally leave you in the dark if you are not prepared. Here are some hacks from Kohler Generators that can make [weathering a lack of electricity](#) a little easier:

1. Strap a headlamp facing into to a clear plastic jug filled with water to light an entire room
2. Keep a bag of stuffed animals, games and toys that don't require electricity to occupy and entertain children
3. Turn cell phones off or to airplane mode to extend the battery life
4. Put ice in a clothes washer to make a great cooler with a drain
5. Have a propane or briquette grill or camp stove with fuel for cooking (and make sure to have extra fuel or bags of briquettes)
6. Store milk jugs with frozen water in your freezer to be used to keep food cold and for drinking water when they melt
7. Insert a cotton ball or string into a can of cooking oil to make a usable candle
8. Use boxes of baby wipes to clean bodies if showers don't work
9. Consider installing or buying a standby generator



Other [disaster prep](#) includes:

- Stocking an [emergency kit](#) with food, water, flashlight, medicines, cash and important documents
- Have a [family evacuation and communications plan](#)
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio
- Know how to turn off propane tanks and gas lines
- Keep your car's gas tank full in case of evacuation

It's also a good idea to review your insurance policy before a disaster hits. You should:

1. Know that flood insurance is **not** covered by most home or renters insurance policies

The Bulletin

2. Get an annual insurance review to make sure you have enough coverage for the dwelling and possessions
3. Complete or update your home inventory (http://www.naic.org/documents/index_disaster_section_inventory_checklist.pdf)
4. Understand whether you have actual cash value or replacement cost coverage, how much living expenses coverage you have or if you have coverage for spoiled foods from power outages
5. Store copies of your inventory and insurance information in a safe location away from home
6. Contact your insurance company if you have any questions

And here is what to do if there is [damage to your property](#):

- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible
- Secure the property from further damage or theft
- Keep or document receipts and other expenses if you are evacuated or forced to find another place to live because of damage to your home or apartment
- Be wary of unscrupulous contractors following a natural disaster California Casualty is ready to help before or after the storm. Contact an advisor today for a policy review, to arrange for flood insurance or upgrade coverages at 1.800.800.9410 or visit www.calcas.com. It's also our policy to call customers in a disaster area to make sure you are okay and help start a claim, and our Claims department is available 24 hours a day, even on holidays if you have an emergency.

Resources for this article:

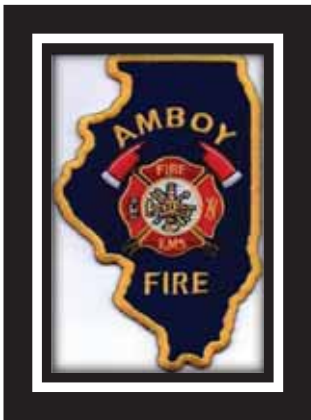
<http://www.brandpointcontent.com/PrintSite/parenting/10-smart-power-outage-hacks-for-homeowners,22913>

www.ready.gov

http://www.naic.org/documents/consumer_alert_disaster_prep.htm

<http://www.pciaa.net/pciwebsite/cms/content/viewpage?sitePagelId=41455>

This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to educators, law enforcement officers, firefighters and nurses. Get a quote at 1.800.800.9410 or www.calcas.com.



AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT

25 N. East Ave.
P.O. Box 165
Amboy, IL 61310
Phone (815) 857-2325 * Fax (815) 857-2066

Chief Jeff Bryant Sr.

Chief Rick Lasky Presents

Date: September 12th -8am-4pm

Part 1: Great Leaders Make Difficult Decisions

Great leaders understand how to balance emotion with reason and make decisions that positively impact themselves, their employees, their customers, and stakeholders, and their organizations. When we think of what makes someone a great leader, one characteristic that comes to mind is decisiveness. Standing behind a decision that everyone agrees with is easy to do. Having the guts to make the difficult one is what separates true leaders from those who are just along for the ride.

Part II: The Three Degrees of Mayday

This program is a discussion about 3 categories or situations that firefighters can find themselves in that could result in a Mayday operation. Not every Mayday is the same and as a result not every RIT operations is will be the same. Rapid Intervention Teams need to prepare for various urgent and dangerous situations of increasing difficulty.

Join Chief Lasky as he discusses the new perspective on Mayday and RIT operations and learn how to prepare your firefighters to handle any mayday situation with confidence.

**Register before June 1st Special-
3 members for \$200**

After June 1st-Cost: \$100 per person

Location: Amboy Fire Station

How to Enroll: email: jbryant9962@gmail.com

"Everyone Goes Home"

Our Mission is to protect lives and preserve the property of all citizens of Amboy, their guests, and travelers coming through our community, in the most professional, courteous and efficient manner possible.



Save The Date

Down & Dirty Firefighter Weekend

October 1-2-3, 2020

Classes Offered:

- Active Shooter
- Myths & Realities
- Foundations of firefighting
- Essentials of Firefighting
- Commercial Building Forcible Entry
- Ventilation/ Ladders
- Engine Operations
- RIT (Outside)
- Firefighter Rehab
- Firefighter Resiliency

And MUCH MUCH MORE!

--FREE ROOMS FOR ATTENDEES--

Provided by a grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshal

Registration Opens Soon, Go to:

www.FSI.Illinois.EDU

Illinoisfirefighters.org

SIDE-BY-SIDE BURN DEMONSTRATIONS

Work with NIFSI to Improve Your Public Outreach

The Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative is your full-service partner to deliver impactful side-by-side demonstrations to raise public awareness in your community. We're ready to work with fire and public information officials to display the dramatic differences between flashover and the quick response of residential fire sprinklers.

Our side-by-side demonstration units can be featured at community events, fire department open houses, and other locations that powerfully showcase how fire sprinklers can save lives and protect property.

We provide full-service demonstrations, with staffing, build assistance, furniture, drop-off and pick-up.



Conventional Side-by-Side Units

- Two 10-panel rooms assembled on site
- Full-service includes furniture, sprinkler pipe and sprinklers, smoke detector, drapes/curtain cloth, digital clock



Side-by-Side Mobile Trailer

- Easy to transport/move after demonstration, perfect for street fairs, community events, fire department open houses, village board meetings
- Full-service includes matching furniture, sprinkler pipe and sprinklers, smoke detector, drapes/curtain cloth, digital clock, delivery and pick-up



Lake County Roll-off Side-by-Side

- Mobile unit delivered/picked up on site
- For members of Lake County Fire Chiefs Association (Must be approved by Lake County Fire Chiefs Association, which will deliver and pick up. NIFSI will provide furniture, clock, etc.)
- **Scheduling:** 847-587-8012 or www.srtillinois.org/equipment/sprinkler-side-by-side



Contact: Tom Lia

(m) 708-878-8658 (o) 708-377-7754 (e) sprinktoml@aol.com www.nifsi.org

SIDE-BY-SIDE BURN DEMONSTRATIONS

Work with NIFSI to Improve Your Public Outreach

The Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative is your full-service partner to deliver impactful side-by-side demonstrations to raise public awareness in your community. We're ready to work with fire and public information officials to display the dramatic differences between flashover and the quick response of residential fire sprinklers.

Our side-by-side demonstration units can be featured at community events, fire department open houses, and other locations that powerfully showcase how fire sprinklers can save lives and protect property.

We provide full-service demonstrations, with staffing, build assistance, furniture, drop-off and pick-up.



Conventional Side-by-Side Units

- Two 10-panel rooms assembled on site
- Full-service includes furniture, sprinkler pipe and sprinklers, smoke detector, drapes/curtain cloth, digital clock



Side-by-Side Mobile Trailer

- Easy to transport/move after demonstration, perfect for street fairs, community events, fire department open houses, village board meetings
- Full-service includes matching furniture, sprinkler pipe and sprinklers, smoke detector, drapes/curtain cloth, digital clock, delivery and pick-up



Lake County Roll-off Side-by-Side

- Mobile unit delivered/picked up on site
- For members of Lake County Fire Chiefs Association (Must be approved by Lake County Fire Chiefs Association, which will deliver and pick up. NIFSI will provide furniture, clock, etc.)
- **Scheduling:** 847-587-8012 or www.srillinois.org/equipment/sprinkler-side-by-side



Contact: Tom Lia

(m) 708-878-8658 (o) 708-377-7754 (e) sprinktoml@aol.com www.nifsi.org

2019 Conference Sponsors



ALEXIS

SCBAS
INC.

West Peoria
Firefighters
Association

South
Roxana
Fire Department