

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 77, Number 4

July - August 2023

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



IFA BATTLES AGAINST FIREWORKS BILL

The Bulletin

July - August 2023 Volume 77 Number 4

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Table of Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Attorney Fees for FOIA | 10 |
| Chaplain's Rack | 23 |
| Conference Hotel Change..... | 5 |
| Down & Dirty Training | 17 |
| Firefighter Health & Safety | 11 |
| FM Global Grants..... | 22 |
| Hydration for First Responders . | 12 |
| IFA Partners with SAVVIK | 7 |
| Legislative Update..... | 4 |
| OFSM Update | 28 |
| Motel 6 Discount..... | 25 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| Save the Date | 6, 14 |
| SAVVIK Buying Group | 8 |
| Suicide and Crisis Lifeline..... | 33 |

Index of Advertisers

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Alexis..... | 9 |
| Amboy Training | 33-35 |
| Community Risk Reduction..... | 11 |
| Dinges..... | 31 |
| FirstNet..... | 24 |
| Heath Consultants..... | 30 |
| IFSI..... | 25 |
| Illinois Fire Safety Alliance | 15 |
| Gateway Foundation | 16 |
| NIFSAB | 26 |
| NIFSI | 32 |
| NVFC..... | 18 |
| SCBAS..... | 21 |
| T-Mobile | 19 |
| Tri-State Emergency Responders | 13 |
| University of Chicago..... | 20 |
| Vets in the Fire Service | 27 |
| VFIS..... | 6 |

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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



As I sit here and write this in my nice cool air conditioned house, I think about the firefighters who are working at fires and other emergencies in the heat that is currently in the upper 90's. Not only are they faced with deplorable conditions at these emergencies but their stress and discomfort is compounded by the hot, sultry heat and humidity. I know we can't do much about the weather but we can try to minimize the effects of the heat with a few simple rules.

#1 – HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE! This is the most effective way to keep ourselves from experiencing problems related to heat.

#2 – Work smart, not hard. Our jobs demand a lot from our bodies but if we think before we act there is usually a smarter, not harder way to do the job.

#3 – Take your time. Often we hurry thru tasks to get them done but taking our time can actually give us more energy to get the job done with less risk of "over-doing" it and this will minimize the chances of heat related injuries. Take breaks often if possible.

Please follow these simple rules to keep yourself from becoming a victim of a heat related injury.

The IFA DOWN & DIRTY TRAINING BROCHURES have been mailed and you should have them by now.

If you haven't received one you can get the training information from our website or the IFSI website. Make your plans now to attend the Down & Dirty training. There's training for everyone from chief officers to brand new firefighters and everyone in between. Check out the class schedule on our website, in the brochure, and on our social media pages.

One important change – we have moved our conference hotel to the Holiday Inn – Champaign. The Holiday Inn is closer to the Fire Service Institute and I think it will be much more convenient for our firefighters. The contact number for the Holiday Inn is 217-398-3400. We will have our hospitality room at the Holiday Inn and everyone is welcome to stop by and have a beverage and some eats with us. This is a great opportunity to share information with your peers and learn from their experiences. We will also have entertainment and our charity auction with proceeds going to good causes.

We are beginning to plan for the 2024 Down & Dirty Conference so if you have trainings that you would like to see please let us know. Jeff Stuck is our Training Committee Chairman so share your ideas with him stuck915@hotmail.com

Stay safe and remember HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE!

Terry Ford, President IFA



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

IFA's \$500 TAX CREDIT FOR VOLUNTEERS FINALLY MAKES IT INTO STATE BUDGET

After many years of uphill climbing, persistence and three press conferences, IFA's initiative to provide a \$500 tax credit for volunteer firefighters finally made it across the finish line and into the state budget in the form of SB 1963. Unfortunately in the waning hours of session, we hit another hurdle in that the Senate President wanted to revise it so that in order to qualify, the volunteer would not be able to receive ANY stipends or compensation from their fire department, however I worked to rally the troops again and Sen Belt was at least able to get the Senate President to agree to the volunteer earning up to \$5,000. While not ideal, at least it will apply to some volunteers and once the law is up and running and, on the books, we can always work to raise the threshold. Special thanks to Senator Chris Belt (D-Cahokia), Senator Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City), Representative Lance Yednock (D-Ottawa) and Representative Mike Kelly (D-Chicago) for their unwavering leadership on this issue along with Signal Hill Fire Chief Tom Eliff, Silvis Fire Chief John Winters and O'Fallon Chief Brad White for sharing their expertise and participating in endless negotiating meetings.

FIREWORKS BATTLE CONTINUES

Although the scheduled adjournment date was May 18th, they General Assembly ended up being in session an extra week and in the final 48 hours prior to adjournment, a last minute amendment was filed in the Senate to HB 3857 by Sen Napoleon Harris (D-Dalton) with the fraudulent fireworks bill language on it, removing 500 gram multi-tube explosives in the definition of fireworks and misclassifying them as harmless "Novelty" items. The worst part was that without consulting the rest of the fire service organizations nor CFD, the former political director for Chicago Firefighters Local 2, cut a deal with the lobbyist for TNT Fireworks and included language in the bill to have part of the proceeds of the fireworks sales go to their pensions. A hearing was scheduled with only 30 minutes notice, and I did my best to testify against the bill, but it was obvious a deal had been cut and it was totally mixed signals with the Local 2 advocate telling legislators that firefighters were in favor it and they devices were not dangerous. Unfortunately, the Local 2 Advocate is not an active member of the fire service, has no public safety or pyrotechnic background and no comprehension of the complex and high explosive content of the devices was easily misled by TNT fireworks. The measure passed the Senate Local Government Committee and the full Senate in the fortunately but fortunately did not advance in the House, because the fireworks language had been added to the House bill once it got to the Senate and was not supported by the House sponsor, Rep. Will Davis (D-Hazel Crest). The fire service definitely needs to ban together and continue the fight.



YOUTH FIRESETTER INTERVENTIONISTS

HB 2372 –Sponsored by Rep. Natalie Manley (D-Crest Hill) & SB 1421 sponsored by Sen. Patrick Joyce (D-Essex)
–The bill is supported by IFA. Amends the State Fire Marshal Act. Creates the position of Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator within the Division of Arson. Sets forth applicant requirements for the position. Provides that the Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator shall be compensated at a rate that is comparable to the rate of compensation for a State arson investigator and shall be provided benefits similar to those of a State arson investigator. Provides that the Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator shall also be provided similar means and resources as those supplied to a State arson investigator. Describes the responsibilities of the Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator. Provides that a volunteer certified youth firesetter interventionist may receive a \$250 stipend for a case only if the volunteer certified youth firesetter interventionist is not being otherwise compensated by another employer or entity for that case. Specifies that a Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator shall receive mileage reimbursement for any necessary travel. *Effective immediately. Status: The measure passed both Chamber and has been sent to the Governor.*

LEAVE for STATE EMPLOYEES for FIREFIGHTER TRAINING SIGNED by GOVERNOR

SB 1611 – Sen Patrick Joyce (D-Essex) and Rep. Dan Didech (D-Buffalo Grove) Supported by IFA. Creates the Firefighter Training Leave of Absence Act. Provides that a State employee shall be granted leave from his or her State employment for firefighter training as follows: (1) on one occasion, for up to 200 hours, to participate in training necessary to obtain Basic Operations Firefighter certification from the State Fire Marshal while attending a State Fire Marshal-approved fire academy; and (2) special or advanced training annually, not to exceed 80 hours, after obtaining Basic Operations Firefighter certification from the State Fire Marshal for courses that will lead to additional certification by the State Fire Marshal. Provides that, during leaves for basic, special, or advanced training, the State employee shall continue to receive his or her regular compensation as a State employee, but, if the State employee receives compensation for basic, special, or advanced training, the State employee shall receive his or her regular compensation as a State employee minus the amount of his or her compensation for basic, special, or advanced training. *Status: Signed by Governor. Effective January 1, 2023*

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IFA has partnered with SAVVIK Buying Group to provide our members with access to equipment, supplies, apparel and even vehicles at group buying prices. We have sent SAVVIK a list of our members and their contact information and once SAVVIK has set up the list, our members will be receiving a notification like below. You will not be able to register your account until you receive this notice. The notice is being sent to the main contact the we have on file for our member departments.

If you do not receive your notification or if you are having problems creating your account, contact Secretary Treasurer at 618-830-3961 and he will assist you in setting up your SAVVIK account.

Once you are signed up with SAVVIK, there is another benefit for your members at SAVVIK Perks. SAVVIK Perks provides discounts for your members on entertainment, food, travel and many other personal discounts.

Illinois Firefighters Association- IFA Member

Welcome to the Savvik Buying Group!

Savvik Member # 28828

(Please note, the above Savvik member # 28828 is exclusive to the Association record only. Each member will have their own unique number. This is how we track vendor sales for revenue share back to the Association.)

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Savvik will give back 1/3 of your association sales revenue to the IFA

Member Login Instructions:

Go to <https://savvik.com>

Click on LOGIN, follow the instructions to set up your personal username and password.

About SAVVIK Buying Group

Our Beginnings

The Savvik Buying Group, formally known as the North Central EMS Corporation, is a non-profit organization owned by its members and formed to reduce the financial impact of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 within the EMS industry. Our mission is to provide members with a mechanism to achieve cost reductions, which has evolved into a group-purchasing program. Savvik values quality supplies and equipment for the members, at the industry's best prices.

The phrase "at the industry's best prices" plays an even more important role today than in previous years as the Medicare Fee Schedule took effect on April 1, 2002. Ambulance services across the country have seen a drastic reduction in their Medicare reimbursements which accounts for up to 75% of their revenue. This drastic reduction in revenue decreases their capital budgets and curbs their purchases if not determine their entire existence.

Where We're Going

Membership is comprised of ambulance services, fire departments, first responder groups, police/sheriff departments, industrial emergency response teams, and other organizations related to the EMS industry. Savvik is proud to focus on membership nationwide. Our intent is to offer the Electronic Patient Care Reporting and Data Collection contract to all Savvik members regardless of their physical location.

An amazing result of our success was the formation of The Savvik Foundation in 2000. Savvik invests back into the industry! A portion of our excess revenues are returned to regional, state and national EMS associations as well as being donated to The Savvik Foundation so that it can complete its mission of leading industry efforts in such areas as safety, efficient operations, education, research and national consensus building.

We're dedicated to improving the general wellbeing of the public safety industry as a whole. Our effectiveness increases with commitments from our vendor partners to provide Savvik members with quality products and services at the industry's best prices.

Savvik has enjoyed significant growth over the last few years by developing partnerships (including revenue sharing relationships) with regional, state and national EMS associations. Savvik has fifty-one group affiliates that include membership to the Savvik Buying Group as part of their group dues structure. The associations that participate in our group membership program receive quarterly reports and payments from our office. Payments reflect a portion of the contract management fee of the total sales their members purchased from our vendors.

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Large vendor contracts – save time and money!

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All of this for FREE!

If you have not received your registration email from SAVVIK, contact Secretary/Treasurer Kerry Federer at 618-882-4783 or by email at editor@illinoisfirefighters.org.

WF101

[SPECIAL PROJECT #2483]

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Watchdog Group Not Entitled to Attorneys' Fees Under FOIA

by Meganne Trela
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

A municipality recently avoided the Edgar County Watchdogs' attempt to recover attorney fees, costs, and civil penalties following the conclusion of a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") lawsuit.

In *Edgar County Watchdogs v. Joliet Township*, 2023 IL App (3d) 210520, the Third District Appellate Court reviewed the standard for an award of attorney fees, costs, and civil penalties in FOIA disputes travelling through the courts. There, the Edgar County Watchdogs requested a copy of "the hard drive contents" of a specific Joliet Township computer under FOIA. They additionally requested the records be returned electronically. The township supervisor responded that, to make a copy of the hard drive, it would require two hours of I.T. time from an outside company at \$150 per hour, plus the cost of the device chosen for the information (\$50). Three days later, the township sent the invoice from the outside IT company for \$350.

The Watchdogs and the township went back and forth about the costs and eventually, the group asked for the statutory basis for the fees. The Watchdogs then filed a lawsuit alleging the township violated FOIA by willfully and intentionally failing to comply with FOIA. The trial court determined there was confusion about what the Watchdogs were actually requesting. It was not clear whether the group wanted just the documents, or the metadata contained within the documents. The group clarified that they just wanted the documents. Thus, the court ordered the township to provide the documents on the computer within 28 days.

After receiving the documents, the Watchdogs filed a petition seeking attorney fees, costs, and civil penalties under the prevailing party provision found in Section 11 of FOIA. This Section provides that an individual who "prevails" in a proceeding for failure to provide information under FOIA may be awarded attorney fees and costs. Further, if a court determines that the public body willfully and intentionally failed to comply, the court can also assess a civil penalty between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

The trial court determined that the Watchdogs failed to make it clear to the township that they only needed the *documents* and not the actual hard drive itself. As a result, the lawsuit was unnecessary and the judge determined that "if [the group] would have made a reasonable attempt to clarify [their] request before bringing it, we wouldn't be here today."

The appellate court agreed. In its decision, the court reasoned that the fee-shifting provision contained in the law was not meant as a reward for success, but to avoid unnecessary litigation. In addition, there were four requirements to meet the definition of "prevail": (1) a lawsuit against a public entity; (2) the document's production; (3) the lawsuit caused the production of the document; and (4) the lawsuit was necessary to obtain the documents. The Watchdogs failed to meet the fourth requirement because they failed to clarify their FOIA request before bringing their suit. The court determined the group could have avoided litigation all together by clarifying their request before resorting to the court system.

With respect to the request for civil penalties, the appellate court determined there was no evidence of any willful or intentional conduct on the part of the township. The township sought the resources to provide the requested information and was ready and willing to turn it over once the fees were paid. That request for fees was likely reasonable under Section 6 of FOIA, as that provision allows for the assessment of fees to reimburse for the actual cost of reproducing public records. Accordingly, there was no need to assess any civil penalty.

Unfortunately, miscommunication can result in a costly legal battle in the world of open records laws. Public bodies are reminded to seek legal counsel when dealing with unusual FOIA requests that might result in the assessment of fees or require special technical assistance. While the township in this case was not required to pay any fees, costs, or penalties; a simple clarification from either party could have avoided several thousand dollars in legal costs. Therefore, it is imperative to take FOIA requests seriously and to involve counsel where appropriate.

Meganne Trela is an associate with the law firm of Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in the firm's Naperville office. Meganne concentrates her practice in the areas of municipal and school law. She assists clients with legal matters involving collective bargaining, contracts, employment issues, insurance, property disputes, public pensions, and litigation.

Firefighter Health & Safety Corner

Joseph M. Heim, CFO

The health and safety of our firefighters is of the utmost importance and should not be taken lightly. In today's environment we face many challenges when it comes to emergency response and it is the duty of all of us to make sure to make it home to our families after each call or shift worked.

This article is going to look at being prepared for the heat stress firefighters face during the summer months. Research is showing us that firefighter core body temperature and heart rates increase during emergency response and activities being completed on the emergency scene.

Here are things firefighters can do to help keep themselves from becoming one of the statistics:

- Stay hydrated - drink plenty of water everyday and limit intake of caffeine and alcohol
- Get plenty of sleep - this should be self explanatory, but we as emergency responders sometimes lack getting the proper hours of sleep needed to function properly
- When on emergency scenes or after returning don't be afraid to let people know if you are not feeling well, this could be a sign of heat stress or another potential medical condition
- Get out of your gear as soon as safe to do so to fully cool down

Here are things fire departments can do:

- Ensure rehabilitation is utilized on emergency scenes
- Call early and often for mutual aid
- Ensure EMS is on scene
- Allow members to take off protective gear when safe to do so

The above are just some of the steps that firefighters and departments can do to help ensure that we all make it home safely.

Be safe and always keep learning!

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Hydration for the First Responder:

Before we talk about why hydration is important, let's look at some facts about dehydration and hydration.

75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated, how can you tell if you're dehydrated?

1. Are you thirsty? – if you are, this is the body's way of telling you that you are dehydrated.
2. What is the color and odor of your urine? – your urine should be relatively odor free. There are some things that will change the color and odor (like asparagus and vitamin packs), but aside from that, there should not be an odor. The color should fall in the 1-3 zone of the color chart. The darker it is and the stronger the odor, the more dehydrated you are.

As little as 1% dehydration can result in:

1. 10% decrease in your performance
2. Increased Risk of Kidney Stones
3. Fatigue, foggy memory, irritability, anxiety, & headaches
4. Increased risk for musculoskeletal injury

In extreme cases this can result in loss of consciousness. When someone's urine color is getting to the color of 7 or 8 on the chart above, this is typically when you will start to feel some of the above physiological symptoms. So always best to monitor your thirst and color/odor in order to make sure you are staying hydrated.

On the other hand, being hydrated can:

1. Boost your metabolism
2. Improve soft tissue healing
3. Increase the softness of your skin and silkiness of your hair.
4. Increase blood viscosity
5. Reduced Plaque formation for reduced risk of heart disease and stroke

The human body is simply one huge chemical reaction after another. One thing that is vital to all those chemical reactions taking place and the body not breaking down is a balanced PH throughout your body. Water or H₂O helps to neutralize your PH and allows for these chemical reactions to take place more readily. This allows the body to heal faster following a workout, hard shift or from an injury (musculoskeletal or a disease).

Who would have ever imagined that hydration is that important? Hydration becomes even more important for the first responder who has zero control over the busyness of their day to day schedule nor the situations they will be exposed to. Not to mention the fact that the people who called them in are depending on them to be ready to handle the situation.

So how are you supposed to stay hydrated? There are a few simple ways that dramatically increase hydration levels without a lot of effort.

1. Hydrate BEFORE caffeine intake. You heard me, I said before! It's not as hard as it sounds. Fill up a glass of water and chug it. Then sip your coffee or energy drink of choice guilt free.
2. Drink 90-127oz of hydrating liquids through out the day. Caffeinated beverages don't count (and should prob actually take a few oz off your tally) so you're just gonna have to make a habit of drinking water all day.
3. Get a clear 25-32oz drinking apparatus that you can see the level of so you have a constant reminder.
4. Get your electrolytes in. Check the bottle and avoid any "sports" drinks that are high in sugar and make sure they contain more than one electrolyte (sodium & potassium are awesome) in the ingredients list.

Those are the top 4 recommendations for easily getting in your daily hydration. It will soon become a habit and you won't even have to think about it. That way you will show up on the call ready for whatever gets thrown at you that day.



Author: **Logan Cobb, ATC, CSCS**

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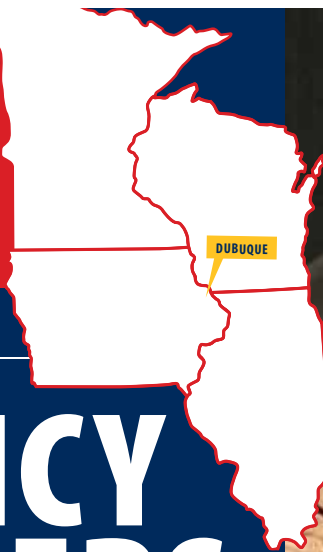
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The Bulletin

Get your department involved with the Be Alarmed! smoke detector installation program to install 10-year battery smoke alarms in home 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



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Being a firefighter or EMS provider is tough. Remember that you're not alone.

Most people are aware of the physical demands that emergency responders face. But it's important to realize the impact on your mental wellbeing, too.

Taking care of your mental health is just as important as managing your physical health. The National Volunteer Fire Council is here to help with resources to Share the Load.

Share the Load™ Program

nvfc.org/help

A program that provides access to critical resources and information to help emergency responders and their families manage and overcome personal and work-related behavioral health challenges.

Directory of Behavioral Health Professionals

nvfc.org/phfd

A listing of local providers who are equipped and ready to help emergency responders, rescue workers, dispatchers, and their families with their behavioral health needs.

Psychologically Healthy Fire Departments Toolkit

nvfc.org/phfd

A comprehensive toolkit designed to help fire department leaders promote and support mental wellbeing among their members and create a successful, high-performing department.





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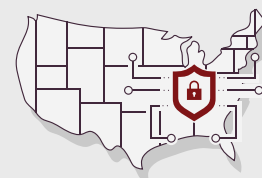
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FM Global



Fire Prevention Grants

Mark Blank, and Jed Bowen from FM Global worked with NIFSI during our fire safety classes with the AFFI in our pilot classes on “Fighting Fires in Fire Sprinkler Protected Buildings” classes earlier this summer. They are encouraging our Illinois Fire Service friends to apply for the fire service grants from FM Global. Take a little time to think of items, products, or systems that can help improve your fire prevention efforts in your community. Hope you can give it a try!

Tom Lia NIFSI

Because FM Global believes that the majority of fire can be prevented, FM Global is pleased to offer financial support to organizations working to combat fire. Through our Fire Prevention Grant Program, fire departments and brigades, as well as national, state, regional, local and community organizations can apply for funding to support a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness and control efforts, including pre-incident planning, fire prevention education/training and arson prevention/fire investigation.

To fill out an online application follow this link
<https://fs20.formsite.com/fmglobal/form14/index.html>

[For Questions firepreventiongrants@fmglobal.com](mailto:firepreventiongrants@fmglobal.com)

From the Chaplain's Rack

IFA Chaplain Josh Ehrler



The fire service is built on tradition. My fire department, like yours, honors and practices several traditions, and one of our biggest (as far as effort and impact to others) is our Pancake Breakfast.

Every year since time began, our entire department is rallied about a week before July 4 to do a full cleaning of the fire house, which will become our dining room. We prep the kitchen, test griddles, and scrub floors. On July 4, as the sun is beginning to wake up, the entire department arrives with our coffee to pull out the equipment, set up tables and chairs, fire up the grills and griddles, and assign roles. We have our fire department personnel and lots of family buzzing around

all morning as we feed and greet our neighbors.

It is a long day. With a parade at 2pm, there is not much down time between the last chair being folded and line up at the start of the parade. And sure, we grumble a bit because it's early and some of us are more introverted than others and we serve a lot of people. So many people.

And at the same time, 99% of those people, maybe 99.5%, are appreciative, thankful, and enjoy telling us that they are glad we are there for them. They retell old stories and sometimes remind us that we responded to their call back when. We are offering pancakes, sausage, and eggs, food that people can get anywhere and easily make for themselves, and they will stand in line for 30-40 minutes just to get a quick serving from us and express their gratitude. To us. For us.

My guess is your fire house does something similar. I have yet to be in a rural volunteer department or a city house in a dense neighborhood that doesn't do something for their local community. We do it for the good PR, to open our doors, aid in recruitment, and build trust. We give kiddos a chance to crawl around in the cab, try on a coat and hat, maybe spray some water at a cone. We often describe it as "giving back."

There is also another benefit to all of our community events. Its good for the fire fighters and EMS personnel. You've probably heard of protective and risk factors. These are the aspects of our lives that give us mental and spiritual resolve, or can put us at risk for mental distress. Community, specifically a sense of belonging within a community, is considered a protective factor.

All those people who come to our pancake breakfasts, block parties, water fights, blood drives, and Santa visits are part of the web of social support that sustains us. They offer their appreciation, sometimes offer us their hard earned money when we put out the boot, and they are grateful to know that there are women and men who are willing to show up when they pick up the phone.

Maybe all I'm thinking about, in the midst of summer and pancakes, is how good it is to be reminded that we do not serve in a vacuum. The fire service is one of giving and helping and responding; we do it whether or not we are thanked by anyone. At the same time, we are often thanked, and our presence is appreciated. We are fundamentally community based, even in neighborhoods and cities, and this embeddedness is good for our mental health. Have fun with your neighbors and allow yourself to enjoy the praise they give. Its good for you. Take care of yourself and take care of your company.

Safe Call Now (24-7 crisis hotline for first responders)

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

Chaplain Josh's Phone

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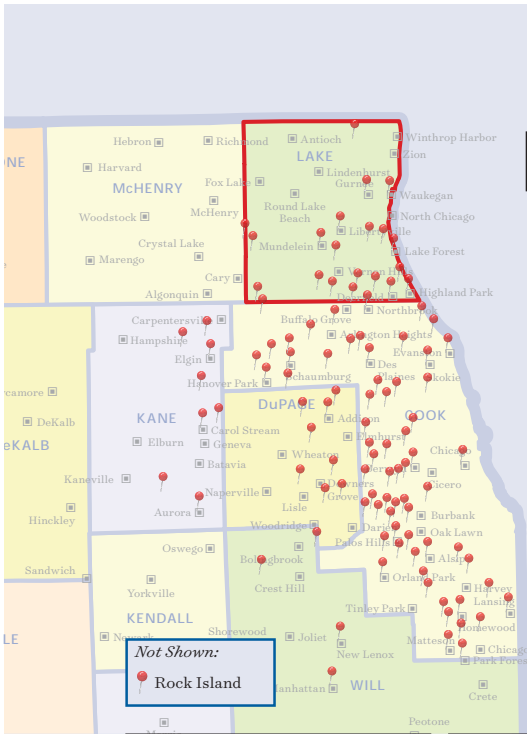
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Put Your Community on the Map with Home Fire Sprinklers

We are excited to announce that Lake County adopted the 2018 International Residential Code, requiring fire sprinklers in all new homes in unincorporated Lake County. The county joins more than 110 fire-safe communities in Illinois that protect the lives of residents and firefighters with fire sprinklers in new homes.



| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Addison | Flossmoor | Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD | Plainfield FPD |
| Alsip | Forest Park | Lincolnwood | Pleasantview FPD |
| Aurora | Glen Ellyn | Lisle-Woodridge FPD | Prospect Heights |
| Barrington | Glencoe | Long Grove | River Forest |
| Barrington Countryside FPD | Glenview FPD | Long Grove FPD | Riverdale |
| Barrington FPD | Glenwood | Manhattan FPD | Riverside |
| Bedford Park | Green Oaks | Matteson | Riverwoods |
| Bellwood | Gurnee | Mount Prospect | Rock Island |
| Berkeley | Hanover Park | Mundelein | Rolling Meadows |
| Berwyn | Harwood Heights | New Lenox FPD | Roselle |
| Bloomington | Hazel Crest | Newport Township FPD | Roselle FPD |
| Bloomington FPD | Hickory Hills | Niles | Schaumburg |
| Blue Island | Highland Park | Norridge | Skokie |
| Bridgeview | Highwood | North Maine FPD | South Holland |
| Brookfield | Hodgkins | Northbrook | St. Charles |
| Burlington Community FPD | Hoffman Estates | Norwood Park FPD | Streamwood |
| Carol Stream | Homewood | Oak Brook | Sunnycrest FPD (Flossmoor) |
| Central Stickney FPD | Huntley FPD | Oak Forest | Vernon Hills |
| Chicago | Island Lake | Oak Park | Warren-Waukegan FPD |
| Chicago Ridge | Indian Creek (Countryside FPD) | Orland FPD | Wauconda |
| Clarendon Hills | Justice | Palatine | Wauconda FPD |
| Country Club Hills | La Grange Park | Palatine Rural FPD | West Dundee |
| Countryside | Lake Barrington | Palos FPD | Westchester |
| Countryside FPD | Lake Bluff | Palos Heights FPD | Western Springs |
| Crestwood | Lake County (unincorporated) | Palos Hills | Westmont |
| Deerfield | Lake Forest | Palos Park | Wheeling |
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VETERANS

IN THE FIRE SERVICE

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IFSI TRAINING GROUNDS, CHAMPAIGN

TWO DAY, CHALLENGING TRAINING EVENT

An Opportunity for Firefighters Past, Present, and Future

This annual event is a unique, personal and professional development program designed for US Armed Forces Veterans who have also served, are serving, or may be interested in serving as a member of the fire service.

The Veterans in the Fire Service Weekend will offer two training schedules for students: future firefighters and current firefighters.

All Veterans (whether currently in the fire service or looking into a future with the fire service) will benefit from a day of hands-on, live fire training activities. Students will engage with an elite group of IFSI instructors who will introduce essential firefighting skills while participating in rigorous training rotations.

- ★ **NO COST TO ATTEND**
- ★ **PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
- ★ **INCREASED ESPRIT DE CORPS FOR VETERANS IN THE FIRE SERVICE**
- ★ **MEALS AND LODGING ARE PROVIDED**

Loaner firefighting personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) will be available to students. **Advance reservations for gear are preferred.**

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Office of the State Fire Marshal



Pools are a popular summer destination for people to beat the heat, but they can pose some hidden dangers. The number of residential pools has increased over recent years raising the risk for accidental drownings meaning homeowners and parents need be extra vigilant to protect kids who have access to the water.

According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), child drownings continue to be the leading cause of death among children ages 1 to 4 years old. Where location was known, 80% of reported fatal child drownings occurred in residential settings such as the victim's home, or that of a family member, friend, or neighbor, with 91% of those drownings occurring in children younger than 5 years of age. Between 2018 and 2020, there was an average of 371 pool- or spa-related fatal drownings reported per year. On average, from 2020 through 2022, there were an estimated 6,300 pool- or spa-related, hospital emergency department treated, nonfatal drowning injuries each year. Seventy-six percent of these nonfatal drowning injuries involved children younger than 5 years of age.

Every year in the United States there are an estimated 4,000 fatal unintentional drownings—that is an average of 11 drowning deaths per day and 8,000 nonfatal drownings—that is an average of 22 nonfatal drownings per day according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Statistics from the American Red Cross show a four-sided isolation fence (separating the pool area from the house and yard) reduces a child's risk of drowning 83% compared to three-sided property-line fencing.

Pool chemicals, like chlorine, are needed to protect swimmers' health. However, mishandling pool chemicals can cause serious injuries. Pool chemical injuries lead to about 4,500 U.S. emergency department visits each year, and over one-third of these preventable injuries are in children or teens.

Below are some simple steps to keep children safer in and around the water:

- Install a four-sided fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate around all pools and spas.
- Check to make sure the gate is locked or closed when leaving the pool or spas.
- Keep the pool and deck clear of floats, balls, and toys after leaving the pool.
- Always ensure children swim with an adult or buddy.
- Designate an adult Water Watcher to supervise children at all times around the water. Stay off your phone, put your book down, and pay attention to whoever is in or around the water!
- Never leave a child unattended in or near water.
- Learn how to swim and teach your child how to swim.
- Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults.
- Teach children to stay away from pool drains, pipes, and other openings to avoid entrapments.
- Ensure any pool or spa has drain covers that comply with federal safety standards. If you are unsure, ask your pool service provider about safer drain covers.
- If you are installing a new pool, hot tub, or spa, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirement for these types of installations.
- Install door alarms and locks that are out of the reach of a child on all doors and windows with direct access to the pool or spa area
- For above-ground pools, secure, lock or remove steps, ladders and anything that can be used for access (such as outdoor furniture and toys) whenever the pool is not being actively supervised by an adult.
- Empty or flip over inflatable pools when you are finished using them for the day.

Take the Pool Safety Pledge by visiting: www.poolsafety.gov/pledge.

TIM KLETT

Retired Lt. FDNY, Fire Department
Training Network Lead Instructor, Author



Amboy Fire Department
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program in
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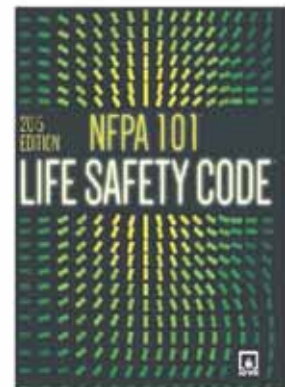
Regular Fire Sprinkler Testing is Required by the International Fire Code

Chapter 9, Fire Protection Systems of the 2018 International Fire Code
requires water based fire protection systems to be inspected, tested and
maintained at regular intervals in accordance with NFPA 25: Standard for the
Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

**Regular testing is also required through the Illinois Office of the State
Fire Marshal's adoption of NFPA 101: Life Safety Code, Section 9.11.1
(2015 edition).**

All automatic fire sprinkler systems, stand-pipe systems and fire pumps must be
inspected and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25.

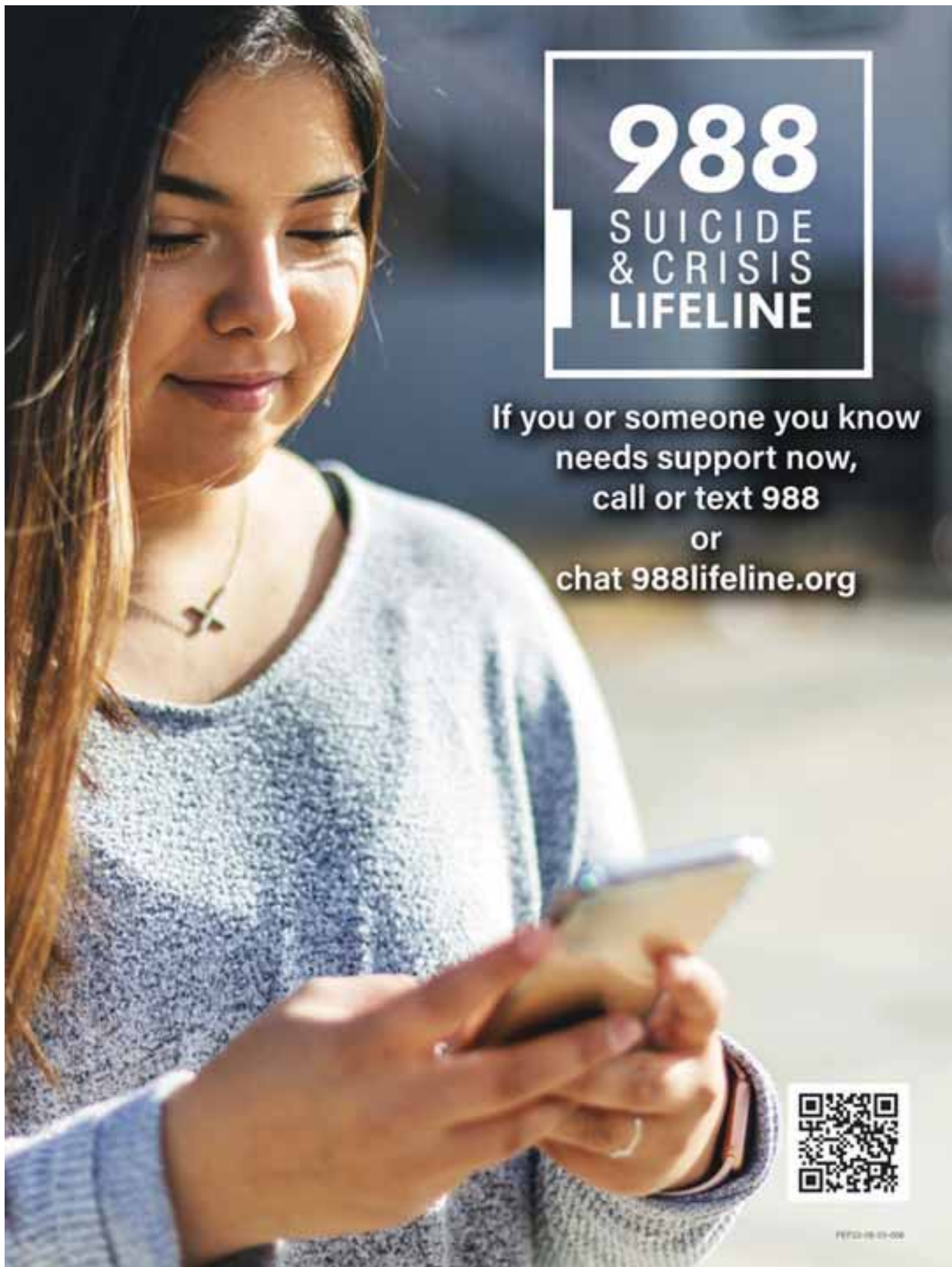
Help educate the contractors working in your town or district by giving them a copy of the
state contractors licensing act.



For more information:




**Is your fire sprinkler testing program for your commercial and residential
occupancies in progress? Any company must be licensed by the State Fire
Marshal and anyone testing a fire sprinkler system, fire pump, or standpipe
must have (1) satisfactorily completed a certified sprinkler fitter
apprenticeship program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, or (2)
have current ASSE 15010 certification in inspection, testing, and
maintenance for water-based fire protection systems by ASSE, or (3) current
NICET III certification or equivalent nationally recognized program. Are
you checking these items before work begins? Stop any job violating this
state law and/or call the state fire marshal.**



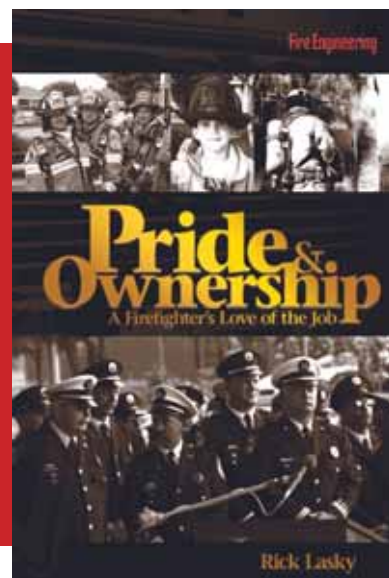
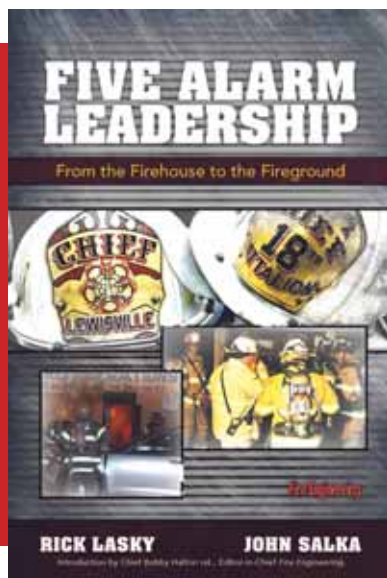
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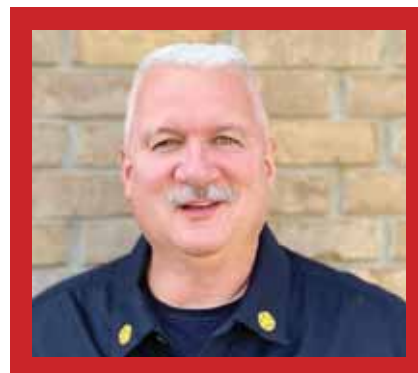


PEP20-08-03-006



Chief Rick Lasky (ret.) a 40-plus year veteran of the fire service, served as chief of the Lewisville (TX) Fire Department for 12 years, prior to that as Fire Chief in Coeur d'Alene Idaho. Rick followed in his father's footsteps beginning his career as a firefighter in the suburbs on the southwest side of Chicago and while in Illinois received the 1996 International Society of Fire Service Instructors "Innovator of the Year" award for his part in developing the "Saving Our Own" program. He served as the co-lead instructor for the H.O.T. Firefighter Survival program at FDIC for over 10 years, is a long-standing editorial advisory board member for Fire Engineering Magazine and also serves on the FDIC advisory board. Rick is the author of the best-selling books "Pride & Ownership: A Firefighter's Love of the Job" and "Five Alarm Leadership: From the Firehouse to the Fireground" published by Fire Engineering Books and is the co-host for the podcast "The Command Post" heard on FireEngineering.com as well as the podcast "Old School." Rick has served as both a career and volunteer firefighter and in 2017 was the

recipient of the Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award.



**CHIEF
RICK
LASKY**

Did you ever wonder what it takes to be THAT fire department? The fire department that others wish they worked for? The fire department that gets it right? With a foundation built upon core values, passion, strong leadership and a love for the job, the only result can be greatness. This program looks at what's needed to achieve this and what it takes to stay on top.

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Program with Chief Rick Lasky

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Creating a Combination Emergency Service Agency: Triumphs and Pitfalls

with Chief Craig A. Haigh

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Time: 8 am - 4 pm

Cost: \$100

Contact Chief Bryant to register.

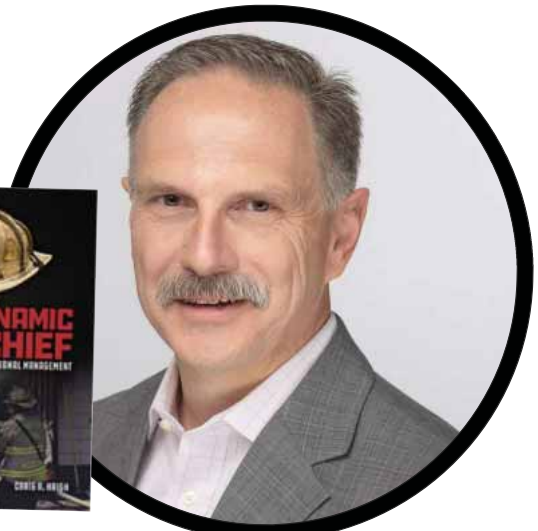
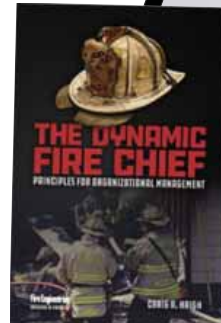
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jeffbryant@amboyfire.com



Amboy Fire Department
25 N E Ave.
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The Dynamic Fire Chief:
Principles for Organizational
Management (2022) will be
available for sale and autograph.



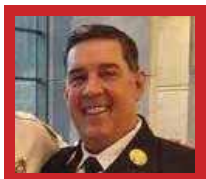


The Functional Fire Company series of programs is based on the book *The Functional Fire Company: Positioning Small Groups for Success and Survival* published by Fire Engineering Books and Videos. The book is the product of thirty-five years of exposure to the fire service and nine years of subject specific research and analysis.

From the First Whip to the Chief of Department, each and every member of the organization contributes to the success of the organization. The focus of The Functional Fire Company is on creating an environment that allows firefighters to be firefighters and positioning the fire company mentally and physically for success and survival in the firehouse and on the fireground.

8-Hour Program: The Functional Fire Company

- Functional v. dysfunctional
- Defining success
- Preparedness and positioning for success and survival
- Purpose and mission
- Fire first philosophy
- Why performance standards are essential
- Company level training tips
- Suburban fire operation considerations
- The Six Cs of Functional Success
- 16 Commitments of the functional fire company
- Improvement and continual learning
- Modifying and managing the culture
- Functional Leadership
- Training basics and essentials
- Coaching and mentoring
- Safety v. managing risks



**CHIEF
SCOTT
THOMPSON**

Chief Scott Thompson joined the volunteer fire service in 1981. He began his paid career in Plano, Texas in 1986. Over the course of his career, he has worked with several progressive fire service organizations. Chief Thompson is passionate about suburban fire operations and positioning firefighters and fire companies for success and survival. He has a Bachelors of Science in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning and is a certified public manager (CPM). Thompson has been a hands-on, workshop, and classroom presenter at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) since 2002. In addition to writing *The Functional Fire Company: Positioning Small Groups for Success and Survival*, he has written numerous published articles. Thompson is currently the fire chief in The Colony, Texas Fire Department and he owns and operates Functional Fire Company LLC and fireserviceleadership.com. Thompson has two sons in the fire service.

THE FUNCTIONAL FIRE COMPANY

Program with Chief Scott Thompson

Course Location:
Amboy Fire Station
25 N. East Ave
Amboy, IL 61310

Date: December 10, 2023
Time: 8a-5p

Cost: \$100 per Student
Register 5, Get 1 Free

To Register, Email:
info@dingesfire.com



Legal Issues in the Fire Service

with Chief Craig A. Haigh



Date: November 1, 2023

Time: 6- 10 pm

Cost: \$50

Contact Chief Bryant to register.

815-994-6184

jeffbryant@amboyfire.com



 **25 N E Ave, Amboy, IL 61310**



The Dynamic Fire Chief: Principles for Organizational Management (2022) will be available for sale and autograph.
