

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 74, Number 2

March - April 2020

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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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



Dear Fellow Firefighters

In this article, I would like to address partnerships, alliances and affiliations. All three should be very important to us. Every Fire Department, Association or Agency that delivers a service or provides for the well being of its members should have a Mission Statement. If we or you want to expand your reach to your members and provide the best possible outcome, you are going to want to create partnerships for a common goal. These partnerships can turn into alliances which supports each others' missions. Through these alliances, we are able to network together expanding each others' messages and grow together. This will help in reducing conflict and create a better understanding of each other's goals. Many times, we create verbal or written agreements so when the administration changes, there will be a better understanding of how the operations were handled in the past. No matter what, in today's world, standing alone does not always get you very far. One word can size it up and that is relationships. People want to buy into what the masses are asking for, whether it is our legislators, community leaders or the people we serve. We must do a better job in communications and reaching out into the social network.

In my forty plus years in the Fire Service, times have changed dramatically. The Fire Service is continually changing and not always for the good. The impact on firefighters because of time restraints, job, family, training and the ever increasing amount of calls are bringing many departments to the breaking point. So, if we are going to survive well into the future, partnerships, alliances and affiliation can help stabilize the Fire Service into the future. I know of no other state in this nation that has as many divisions and groups in the Fire Service than Illinois.

I take great pride in what we have done in Illinois and we have followed those three words in the Illinois Fire Services Association (IFSA). You need to do the same thing on your local level and bring your local leaders and community together for a better understanding of your mission. This may help when the times are tough and everyone could have a buy in on the outcome of your mission.

In closing, the Illinois Firefighters Association takes great pride in our partnership with IFSI and our State Fire Marshal's Office. Together, along with the other Fire Service organizations, we will continue to do our best in meeting the needs of every Firefighter.

Remember, the Firefighter is the greatest asset to any community, without you all other assets doesn't mean much!.

"Train Smart, Be Safe"

God Bless

John Swan President



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

COVID-19 SUSPENDS SPRING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Though the legislature was scheduled to return for business the day after the primary elections on March 18th, the session has been suspended indefinitely but legislators are busy with conferring with the Governor's office, IDPH, IEMA, etc. and getting messaging out to constituents on the best way to handle the pandemic.

10 YEAR SMOKE DETECTOR REQUIREMENTS EXPAND to CHICAGO

Though Chicago was exempted from the 10 year smoke detector law when it passed at the state level, there is movement under way to change that. Sen Omar Aquino (D-Chicago) introduced SB 3701 and HB 5368 introduced by Rep. Jaime Andrade (D-Chicago) to remove the exemption for Chicago in the state law and 36th Ward Alderman Gilbert Villegas has lead the fight at City Hall to make sure Chicagoans have the same level of safety as the rest of the state on this issue. I provided testimony on behalf of IFA in support of Alderman Villegas' ordinance before the Chicago Committee on Building, Landmarks and Zoning Standards where it was passed 9-3 on March 16th. The ordinance to require Chicago to meet the state requirements of the 10-year sealed battery smoke detector by 2023, goes next to the City Council for a final vote. There have been 148 residential fire deaths in Chicago in the past 5 years.

IFA CONTINUES TO FIGHT LEGISLATION to LEGALIZE FIREWORKS

Five bills were introduced this session to weaken the current fireworks laws and expand the sale of fireworks in Illinois. Rep. Joe Sosnowski (R-Rockford) introduced HB 4128, which would remove the licensing and training requirements for Class 1.4 Consumer fireworks, lower the age to 18 and tax them. HB 3862 introduced by Rep. Allen Skillicorn (R-Crystal Lake) would provide that firecrackers, skyrocketers, and Roman candles are not "fireworks" within the meaning of the Act. Sen. Rose reintroduced legislation from last year in the form of SB 3045 which would legalize 1.4 Consumer fireworks and give part of the revenue to the Fire Prevention Fund. There were also two bills HB5064/SB 3445 introduced to legalize certain "fireworks" which are currently illegal for retail sale to the general public. The bill labels them as "non-fireworks" like a novelty item. *IFA and OSFM feels this is not only confusing to the general public but dangerous from a public safety perspective.* The entity behind the "non-fireworks bills" is actually a fireworks company but goes under the deceiving name "US Fireworks Safety Commission", which is NOT a government entity concerned with safety, but a front for a fireworks retailer out of Indiana. Regardless of where they propose to direct the money or how changing the names of an explosive would make it any less dangerous, the fire service is still adamantly opposed to any legislation to weaken current fireworks laws and making it easier for non-professionals to get access to explosives. The IFA is continuing to fight them.

Additional Bills Impacting Fire Service

HB 4080 Public Safety Health Insurance - House Sponsor: Rep. Daniel Didech - Amends the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act. Provides that any full-time law enforcement, correctional or correctional probation officer, or firefighter that suffers a catastrophic injury or is killed in the line of duty, as well as their spouse or child, shall be offered by the employer of the law enforcement, correctional or correctional probation officer, or firefighter the choice of any health insurance plan available to currently employed full-time law enforcement, correctional or correctional probation officers, or firefighters. **Status: The bill is assigned to the Personnel & Pensions Committee. IFA is a proponent**

HB 4213 Animals-Confinement in Vehicle - House Sponsor: Rep. Mike Murphy - Amends the Humane Care for Animals Act. Adds firefighter and paramedic to the list of persons who are authorized, after making a reasonable effort to locate the owner or person responsible for the animal, to enter a motor vehicle by any reasonable means if he or she has probable cause to believe that the animal's health or safety is at risk. **Status: The bill passed Committee and is awaiting passage on the House floor. IFA is a proponent.**

HB 4502 Labor-Fire Fighter Supervisor – House Sponsor: Rep Lawrence Walsh - Amends the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. Modifies the definition of "supervisor" under the Act. Provides that in fire fighter units (rather than new fire

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fighter units), employees shall consist of fire fighters of the highest rank of company officer and below (currently, highest rank not specified). Provides that a company officer may be responsible for multiple companies or apparatus on a shift, multiple stations, or an entire shift. Provides that there may be more than one company officer per shift. Provides that all other ranks above that of the highest company officer shall be supervisors (currently, highest rank not specified). **Status: Assigned to Labor & Commerce Committee.**

HB 4508 JLMC-Firefighter Appointments – House Sponsor Rep. Jay Hoffman - Amends the Illinois Municipal Code and the Fire Protection District Act. In Sections relating to establishing a program for placing persons eligible for placement on a master register of candidates for full-time firefighter placement, provides that nothing in the listed Sections requires the Joint Labor and Management Committee to establish or operate a community outreach program or master register of eligibles, or to contract with a testing agency to establish or operate such program or register, unless the Committee chooses to do so. **Status: The bill passed the House and is pending in the Senate.**

HB 4511 Pension Code-DNST Fire-Tier 2 - House Sponsor Rep. Kathleen Willis - Amends the Downstate Firefighter Article of the Illinois Pension Code. In a provision concerning firefighters with service credit in more than one fund, provides that the benefits under the provision are available to a Tier 2 firefighter who has a total of at least 10 years of service under the various pension funds established under the Article, has attained the required age, and meets other qualifications. Makes a conforming change. In a provision concerning the calculation of the pension amount for Tier 2 firefighters with service credit in more than one fund, provides that the salary calculation shall be the average monthly salary obtained by dividing the total salary of the firefighter during the last 48 consecutive months of service within the last 60 months of service in which the total salary was the highest by the number of months of service in that period, regardless of which fund service was earned under. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement by the State. **Status: Assigned to Personnel & Pensions Committee**

HB 5096 Pension Code-Fire Investment Board – House Sponsor Rep Steven Reick - Amends the Firefighters' Pension Investment Fund Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Adds a member, to be appointed by the Governor, who is recommended by a statewide association representing fire protection districts to the transition board of trustees of the investment fund and the permanent board of trustees of the investment fund. **Status: Assigned to Personnel & Pensions Committee. IFA is a proponent**

HB 5157 Emergency Telephone System – House Sponsor Rep. Kathleen Willis - Amends the Emergency Telephone System Act. Extends the repeal of the Act from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2023. Makes various changes to definitions. Provides that within 12 months of the awarding of a contract under the Public Utilities Act to establish a statewide next generation 9-1-1 network (rather than July 1, 2020), every 9-1-1 system in Illinois shall provide next generation 9-1-1 service. Amends various other Acts to make conforming changes. Effective immediately. **Status: Assigned to Public Utilities Committee**

HB 5285 Vehicle Code-Scott's Law-Slow Down – House Sponsor Rep. Daniel Swanson - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle, the approaching vehicle shall reduce the speed of the vehicle to 20 miles per hour lower than the posted speed limit. **Status: Assigned to Transportation: Vehicles & Safety Committee**

HB 5485 First Responders-PTSD – House Sponsor Rep. Bradley Stephens - Amends the First Responders Suicide Prevention Act. Provides that peer support advisors shall also receive appropriate training in identifying the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and to respond appropriately to individuals exhibiting those symptoms. Provides that "post-traumatic stress disorder" has the meaning defined by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board in its implementation of its training in post-traumatic stress disorder under the Illinois Police Training Act. **Status: Assigned to Human Services Committee**

SB 2325 Raffle/Poker Run-Fire Agency – House Sponsor Rep. Michael Zalewski Senate Sponsor Sen. Neil Anderson Amends the Raffles and Poker Runs Act. Authorizes fire protection agencies and statewide associations that represent fire protection agencies to organize raffles. Provides that raffles organized by a fire protection agency or statewide association that represents fire protection agencies must only be licensed by the governing body of the county or municipality in which the key location for that raffle is located, even if raffle tickets are sold beyond the borders of that governing body of the county or municipality. Provides that raffles organized by a fire protection agency or a statewide association that represents fire protection agencies must abide by any restrictions established by the governing body of the county or municipality in which the key location is located. **Status: Passed Senate Arrived in House. IFA is a proponent.**

SB 2547 Municipal Code-TIF Redevelopment Plan Senate Sponsor Sen. Linda Holmes - Amends the Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act of the Illinois Municipal Code. Revises the definition of "redevelopment project costs" by

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providing that redevelopment project costs for a redevelopment project area includes all or a portion of a taxing district's capital or operating costs reasonably incurred or to be incurred within a redevelopment project area as a result of fire protection services. Provides that the provisions do not apply to municipalities with a population of 1,000,000 or more or to a redevelopment project area located within a transit facility improvement area. Effective immediately. **Status: Assigned to Revenue. IFA is a proponent.**

SB 2749 Municipal-Foreign Fire Ins. Board – Senate Sponsor Sen. Robert Martwick - Amends the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that the fee that must be paid to a foreign fire insurance board by a corporation, company, or association that is not incorporated under the laws of the State and which is engaged in effecting fire insurance in the municipality or fire protection district shall be 2% of the gross receipts received from fire insurance upon property situated within the municipality or district (rather than a sum not exceeding 2%). Allows a foreign fire insurance board aggrieved by a violation relating to foreign fire insurance board fees to file suit. Provides that a department foreign fire insurance board may: (i) establish, manage, and maintain an account for the holding and expenditure of all funds paid to the board; (ii) contract for the purchase of goods and services; and (iii) sue all parties necessary to enforce its rights. Limits home rule powers. Makes other changes. Effective immediately. **Status: Postponed-Local Government**

SB 3097 Line of Duty Claim Deadline – Senate Sponsor Sen. Chapin Rose, House Sponsor Rep. Kathleen Willis Amends the Line of Duty Compensation Act. Provides that a claim for a death benefit for a death occurring after December 31, 2016 and before January 1, 2021 may be filed no later than December 31, 2021. Effective immediately. **Status: Passed Senate and is pending in House. IFA is a proponent.**

SB 3160 Vehicle-Scotts Law-Community Service – Senate Sponsor Sen. Julie Morrison - Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that, in addition to other penalties imposed for a violation of provisions concerning operation of a vehicle while approaching an authorized emergency vehicle, the court may order a person to perform community service as determined by the court. **Status: Passed Senate, pending in House. IFA is a proponent.**

SB 3333 First Responder Mental Health Data – Senate Sponsor Sen. Robert Martwick - Amends the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrative Act. Provides that the Department of Human Services shall create and maintain an online database and resource page on its website. Provides that the database and resource page shall contain mental health resources specifically geared toward first responders with the goal of connecting those persons with mental health resources related to crisis services, wellness, trauma information, nutrition, stress reduction, anxiety, depression, violence prevention, suicide prevention, and substance use and of encouraging information sharing among families of first responders, first responder organizations, first responder professional organizations, and first responders. Effective immediately. **Status: Placed on Calendar for 2nd Reading**

SB 3478 Fire Competitive Bidding – Senate Sponsor Sen. Chuck Weaver - Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that any procurement by a board of trustees involving the acquisition, by direct or beneficial ownership, of improvements to real estate by a fire protection district which results in an expenditure of district funds in excess of \$20,000 must be competitively bid. **Status: Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading. IFA is a proponent.**

SB 3562 Open Meetings-Session Minutes – Senate Sponsor Sen. John Curran - Amends the Open Meetings Act. Provides that each public body shall periodically (currently, specifies no less than semi-annually) meet to review minutes of all closed meetings. Provides that meetings to review minutes shall occur every 6 months, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the public body. Provides that committees which are ad hoc in nature shall review closed session minutes at the later of (1) 6 months from the date of the last review of closed session minutes or (2) at the next scheduled meeting of the ad hoc committee. Provides that when a public body is dissolved, disbanded, eliminated, or consolidated by executive action, legislative action, or referendum, the governing body of the unit of local government in which the public body was located shall review the closed session minutes of that public body. **Status: Assigned to Local Government.**

SB 3563 Motor Fuel-Fire Department – Senate Sponsor Sen. John Curran - Amends the Motor Fuel Tax Law. In a provision concerning refunds, allows claims for taxes paid for undyed diesel fuel used by vehicles operated by a municipal fire department or a fire protection district recognized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Effective immediately. **Status: Referred to Assignments**

SB 3824 Fire Advisory Commission – Senate Sponsor Sen. Christina Castro - Amends the State Fire Marshal Act. Corrects typographical errors and includes the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators in the organizations from which ex officio members of the Illinois Fire Advisory Commission shall serve. Effective immediately. **Status: Assigned to State Government. IFA is a proponent.**



Pictured at left: IFA participated in the Annual Fire Caucus Breakfast held at the Capitol on February 18th; Pictured left to right seated: State Rep. Darren Bailey (R-Xenia), , State Rep. Terri Bryant (R-Murphysboro), State Presentative Patrick Windhurst (R-Harisburg). Left to right Standing: IFA President Chief John Swan, IFA Vice-President Terry Ford, and Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski

Pictured at right: Retired Springfield Fire Marshal Chris Richmond and IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn testify before the Chicago City Council Committee on Building, Historic Sites and Zoning Standards in favor of Alderman Villegas' 10 year smoke detector ordinance.



IFA commends 36th Ward Chicago Alderman Gilbert Villegas, sponsor of the ordinance to bring Chicago to compliance with Illinois 10 year smoke-detector battery requirements.

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Saturday Offerings:

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Instructor: Jeff Rothmeier, Milwaukee Fire Department

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

Instructor: Lt. Kucaba - Northwest Homer FPD

Auto X Extrication Training-Hands-On

Instructor: Captain Mike Huffman – Harlem-Roscoe Fire

Rapid Task Force – Hands-On and Lecture

Instructor: Mercy Health Prehospital and Emergency Services

Strategic Planning for Creating Future Excellence and Juggling Hats- Lecture

Instructor: Chief Craig Haigh, Hanover Park Fire

Fitness - Hip Boots to Bunkers, Recliners to Rowers, the motivation to create a fit fire service. (Bring Reasonable Workout Clothing)

Instructor: Xercise Science

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

Sunday Offerings

Engine Tactics- Hands-On

Instructor: Jonathon Brumley, Denver Fire Department

Command Tactical Priorities - Hands-On (Recommended Day 2 of Strategic Planning for Creating Future Excellence and Juggling Hats)

Instructor: Chief Craig Haigh

Large Vehicle Extrication- Hands-On

Instructor: Captain Mike Hoffman - Auto X

EMS the *WOW*- Lecture Only

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

Taking Care of Ourselves - Lecture Only

Instructor Sara Gura, Selfcare Path

Harassment, PTSD, Bullying

To Register - www.firenuggets.com

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Please support IFA's advocacy efforts by donating to our Political Action Fund. We need to continue to strengthen our voice at the Capitol but can only do so with your help.

Though your donations are not tax deductible, they allow IFA to participate in fundraisers for legislators who support our causes, which is critical.

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Thanks for your generosity!

Office of the State Fire Marshal



OSFM Stresses the Importance of Fire Safety for Older Illinoisans

People over the age of 65 face the greatest risk of dying in a fire. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) encourages older Illinoisans to think about fire safety, while keeping their limitations in mind when creating a fire escape plan. In 2018, out of the 118 fire deaths in Illinois, 44% of those deaths were people over the age of 60. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) on average, over 1,000 Americans 65 and older die in home fires and 2,000 are injured in fire-related incidences yearly. The leading cause of residential fire deaths among older adults is careless smoking.

“Decreased mobility, health, sight and hearing may limit a person’s ability to take quick action needed to escape during a fire,” says Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez. “Create an escape plan that considers your limitations. Don’t isolate yourself, speak to your caregiver, building manager or family members to make sure your smoke alarms are working, and they understand your fire escape plan. Finally, if possible, live near an exit or plan to sleep on the ground floor if your home has multiple levels.”

“In addition to discussing and creating an escape plan with your loved ones is important, the Illinois Department of Aging offers an Emergency Home Response Service - available to individuals over the age of 60 - that provides an extra level of protection and peace of mind,” said Paula Basta, Director of IDoA. “Our Emergency Home Response Service is a 24-hour, two-way voice communication system that, when activated, links to assistance outside the home. Once you press the button, help will be on its way in any home emergency.” For more information on our Emergency Home Response Service, call our Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966.

OSFM has seen an alarming increasing trend in accidents with people who depend on oxygen in Illinois. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 89% of deaths related to fire and home oxygen use are caused by smoking. Never smoke or allow someone to smoke around oxygen tanks. Post NO SMOKING signs in every room of your home. Keep oxygen containers at least 5-10 feet away from any heat source. Store oxygen canisters safely and securely in the upright position, away from any type of heat source in an approved oxygen storage cart.

Keep these tips in mind to create a fire safe home:

- Know two ways out of every room. Practice using both ways.
- Remove any items that may block your way out of the room or your home.
- Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping.
- Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reaching next to your bed.
- Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.



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Chaplain's Corner

I could hope that by the time you are reading this article that the corona virus is becoming a thing of the past in Illinois. But as I write that is far from the case – in fact the spread and negative health effects are worsening day by day with no real bright spots on the horizon. Of course all Illinois firefighters are at risk for exposure and so I offer you this prayer. Please feel free to use it – or something like it – to call out to God for yourself, your fellow firefighters, and your fire department.

COVID-19 Prayer

O God, You are our Creator and have designed our bodies in Your own image with strength and health so that we might know You and serve You. You designed the code of life and embedded it in every one of our cells. You implanted an army of immunity within us so that we can do battle and destroy all enemy invaders – from whatever evil source – that would seek to infest, promote disease, and spread to others.

Jesus, You showed us that to love our neighbors means that we must go to them in their time of need – when they are in danger, trapped, hurt, or sick – and so we continue to go, responding to each 9-1-1 plea for help even in the face of the current corona virus threat to ourselves.

So we pray for each other and for all firefighters throughout Illinois. We ask You, Lord, to be powerful and gracious on our behalf as we serve in the midst of this viral threat. We are so limited, but You, O God, see and know all things. There is not a single microscopic virus that escapes Your notice or takes You by surprise. Please put a wall of Your protection around each of us so that we may remain healthy and strong, continuing to bring Your gifts of compassionate rescue to those we are called to serve. Please guard our families – our spouses and precious children that You have blessed us with – as we go to our homes between each tour of duty or after responding to each alarm. We pray especially for the elderly and others in our families and community whose health may already be compromised and so stand most vulnerable to this virus. And as always we pray, “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me”!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

I'm praying for you all – pray for each other. Give me a call if I can help/support in any other way.

Kevin Coffey, IFA Chaplain
773-455-4393, kc9526@yahoo.com

New legislation requires concurrent fire employers to share information

by Ericka Thomas
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

On August 23, 2019, Governor J.B. Pritzker approved Senate Bill 37, now codified as Public Act 101-0522, which amended Article 4 of the Illinois Pension Code. The changes can be found at 40 ILCS 5/4-110.2 and 40 ILCS 5/4-118(a)(2). Initially, this bill would have required secondary employers to make pension fund payments directly to primary employers. That draft was significantly amended so that the adopted version simply requires information sharing, though it could be precursor to more forceful legislation in the future.

The stated purpose within the new legislation is to ensure that the primary employer's pension fund is aware of the additional liabilities and risks to which firefighters with secondary employment are exposed. The Act kept the familiar distinction between "primary" and "secondary" employers, but established reporting requirements between the two employers. Section 4-118(a)(2) defines "primary employers" as those who have established a pension fund under Article 4 of the Illinois Pension Code and employ a full-time firefighter. "Secondary employers" are defined as municipalities that have at least 5,000 residents that employ, on a part-time basis, a full-time firefighter of a primary employer (also known as "secondary employee firefighters").

Within thirty days of the end of its fiscal year, a secondary employer is required to prepare a report for each secondary employee. This report must include a list of all hours worked by the secondary employee and the corresponding compensation paid to them in the prior fiscal year. The secondary employer must then send the report to the primary employer's pension fund each year. Additionally, according to Section 4-110.2, if an employee suffers any injury, illness, or exposure while on duty with the secondary employer, the secondary employer's fire chief must report the exposure to the primary employer's pension fund within 96 hours. Such a report must be in accordance with Chapters 4, 13, and 14 of the NFPA 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program.

Although the stated purpose of this Act is to help the primary employer's pension fund assess liabilities, etc., the effect of the Act will unquestionably be felt in not only areas of pension, but also with regard to applications for benefits pursuant to the Public Safety Employees Benefits Act (PSEBA). It remains to be seen what effect this shared information may have on these benefit applications.

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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.

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NIFSAB@NIFSAB.org to request one at no cost.



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FireSprinklerInitiative.org



HomeFireSprinkler.org



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To-Do List

Get everything ready
for tomorrow

Eat a healthy breakfast

Set alarm for
tomorrow morning

Boost Your Health: Start a Morning Routine.

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

NVFC Expands Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund to Help Responders Financially Impacted by COVID-19

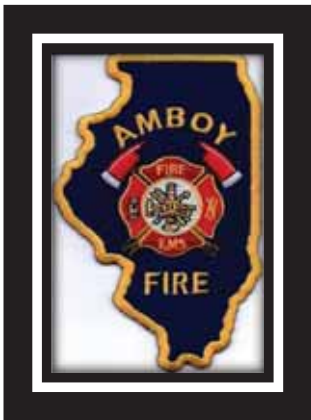
Many volunteer firefighters, EMS providers, and rescue workers are feeling the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. To provide immediate assistance to volunteers in need, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has expanded the Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund to allow eligible responders who have suffered loss of wages as a result of COVID-19 to apply for a \$350 stipend to meet essential needs.

“Our nation’s volunteer firefighters and EMS providers are on the frontlines of this national emergency, yet many of them are under great financial strain or struggling to make ends meet as their paying jobs are affected by the pandemic,” said NVFC Chair Steve Hirsch. “The Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund was created to help volunteer responders during times of need, so it makes sense to open up eligibility to include the financial impact of COVID-19.”

To be eligible to apply under the expanded criteria, applicants must be an NVFC member or a member of an eligible state association; be an active volunteer firefighter, rescue worker, or EMS provider; and have incurred loss of wages in excess of \$500 as a result of COVID-19. Applications for assistance must be received by the NVFC within 60 days of when the lost wages occurred. One-time stipends of \$350 will be provided to eligible responders as funds allow. View full criteria and apply for support at www.nvfc.org/support-fund.

The Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund relies entirely on the generosity of individuals and companies to assist volunteer first responders in need. The NVFC donates all administrative costs so that 100% of donations go to volunteer responders. If you would like to make a contributions, click [here](#) and choose “SupportFund” as your donation type, or contribute through our [GoFundMe](#) page.

The NVFC created the Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Since then, the fund has donated over \$600,000 to help volunteer responders whose homes have been damaged or destroyed to do a state or federally declared disaster or a home fire.



Chief Jeff Bryant Sr.

AMBOY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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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-
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