

# *The* **Bulletin**



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

**Volume 77, Number 2**

**March - April 2023**

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

## **HELPING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN UKRAINE**



***Collecting firefighting supplies to  
be shipped to Ukraine***

Pictured from left to right: OSFM Chief of Operations Dale Simpson, IFA President Terry Ford, State Fire Marshal James Rivera, MABAS Mike Young

# The Bulletin

March - April 2023 Volume 77 Number 2

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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



First and foremost, on behalf of the Illinois Firefighters Association membership, I'd like to congratulate and welcome James Rivera as our new State Fire Marshal. James spent over 30 years with the Chicago Fire Department before retiring this month to become our Fire Marshal. The Officers and Directors of the IFA will be working closely with the Fire Marshal to make sure the needs of the entire fire service are met. Having spent some time with James, I think he is very eager to learn about the fire service outside of the City of Chicago.

The classes for our Down & Dirty Firefighters Weekend at IFSI have been established and I think there will be something for everyone, from rookie firefighter to seasoned firefighter and officers. The IFA annual meeting and memorial service will be held on Friday morning. We will be offering classes on Friday afternoon and evening, Saturday all day and on Sunday. Look for the save-the-date notice in the Bulletin, on our website, and on our social media pages for more information.

We are excited to announce that John Deere is sponsoring the space at FDIC for our GO GREEN CLEAN firetruck. We will be in front of the Firehouse of the Future exhibit. If you're in Indy stop by and say hi. This will be our National debut of the GO GREEN CLEAN Initiative for Firefighter Cancer Awareness and Prevention. More information on this initiative can be found on our website as we continue to expand and promote the program.

IFA has coordinated with the Fire Marshal's Office and MABAS to send a truckload of hose and other equipment to our brother and sister firefighters in Ukraine. IFA collected the hose and equipment and took it to OSFM. With the items already at OSFM there were 8 pallets of equipment. MABAS picked up the equipment and delivered it to a warehouse in Northern Illinois where volunteers will prepare it for shipment to Ukraine. It just goes to show that fire service organizations working together can accomplish great things. A special thanks to Venice FD (Madison County) for donating over 5000 feet of surplus hose and other equipment to this humanitarian effort.

STAY SAFE!

*Terry Ford, President IFA*





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

## IFA CONTINUES TO FIGHT FRAUDULENT FIREWORKS BILLS

Sadly for the past 3 years, out-of-state fireworks companies keep paying two lobbying firms to get deceptive legislation through to highly potent explosives (500 grams of pyrotechnic content, the highest allowed, before needing an license pyrotechnic operators' license )and calling them "non-fireworks" and putting them under "Novelty Items" like a snake or party popper not only to confuse legislators but to skirt federal

and state standards and the their transportation, sale and distribution. This year's legislation is HB 2121 sponsored by Rep. Bob Rita (D-Blue Island) and SB 1256 (D-Harvey)

Although HB 2121 did pass the House Consumer Protection Committee (at the last minute, several "no" votes were swapped out and replaced for the bill sponsor and another legislator who would vote "yes"), I have lead a major fight against it and organized a press conference at the Capitol on March 8<sup>th</sup> to educate the media on how dangerous and deceptive the legislation is. In addition to fire officials, I secured Dr. Doug Carlson, the Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at St. John's Hospital along with Kelly McElligott, the Burn Outreach Coordinator from Loyola to speak. Our fight is never over on this issue but we seem to be making headway.



## INCOME TAX CREDIT for VOLUNTEERS SB 2253

Sen Christopher Belt (D-Cahokia ) has once again introduced legislation on behalf of IFA to SB 2253 to provide an \$500 state income tax credit for volunteers. There will be a subject matter hearing on it before the Senate Revenue Committee. Co-sponsors include Sen. Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City), Sen Adriane Johnson (D-Buffalo Grove), (D-Sen. Doris Turner (D-Springfield) and Sen Patrick Joyce (D-Essex). Rep. Lance Yednock (D-Ottawa) has agreed to be the House sponsor as he did last year.

## EXEMPTION RAISED FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING

**HB 1626** – Sponsored by Rep. Dan Swanson (R-Woodhall) . The bill is an initiative of the IL Association of Fire Protection Districts and supported by IFA. The bill would raise the exemption for competitive bidding for FPD contracts from \$20,000 to \$30,000. **Status: The bill passed Committee and is waiting House floor vote.**

## 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. Establishes, subject to appropriation, the Division of Certified Youth Firesetter Interventionists within the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Provides that the Division shall consist of certified youth firesetter interventionists who conduct youth firesetter interventions when local authorities cannot do so on their own or when multiple local authorities in separate jurisdictions are involved. **Status: Passed Committees each bill waiting passage on House/Senate floor**

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANT FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

**HB 3827**- Sponsored by Brad Halbrook (R-Shelbyville). Supported by IFA. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to establish a grant program for volunteer firefighters or volunteer EMS personnel who are enrolled in an associate degree program at a public community college. Sets forth eligibility requirements. Requires a grant recipient not to have an outstanding balance with the public community college and to maintain satisfactory academic progress to remain eligible for a grant assistance. Provides that the grant may be renewed for up to a total of 2 years of full-time enrollment. Provides for rulemaking. Effective immediately. – **Status: Hearing in Higher Ed Appropriations Committee**

## LEAVE for STATE EMPLOYEES for FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

**SB 1611 – Sen Patrick Joyce (D-Essex)** 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: An amendment has been filed to set a timeline for requested leave. Original bill passed State Government Committee**

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## Save The Date



Down & Dirty Firefighter Weekend  
October 27-28-29, 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.)

#### **Savvik Membership:**

Your agency is a new member of the Savvik Buying Group through the IFA. This membership is FREE as a benefit from your association.

Savvik is a Public Safety GPO with over 13,000 agency members who have access to volume discount pricing on various products and services. Our vendor programs are competitively bid and publicly awarded. As a Savvik member you now have access to over 80+ vendor programs.

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.

### *Membership Includes:*

Access to National Public Bids – you can piggyback for free!

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**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](mailto:editor@illinoisfirefighters.org).**



# SPECIAL PROJECT #2485 THE VAPORIZER



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## Court Overturns City's Decision to Use 8-On, 24-Off Shifts

by Ericka Thomas

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Retaliation is one of the most reported complaints made against employers. Retaliation happens when an employer makes an employee suffer a negative consequence because of the employee's partaking in some type of protected activity. Retaliation against employees can take many forms, such as being fired, being harassed, having their hours changed, or being demoted.

The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals recently addressed a claim of retaliation made against the City of East Chicago by its firefighters in *International Assoc. of Fire Fighters, Local 365 v. City of East Chicago*, 56 F.4th 437 (7th Cir. 2022). In that case, 38 firefighters and their union filed suit against the City of East Chicago, its mayor, and the fire department's former chief, alleging that they were retaliated against after they actively and publicly supported the mayor's opponent in the 2019 election and opposed the mayor's policies. The mayor subsequently won reelection and some of the firefighters protested at the mayor's inauguration. The mayor commented that he found the behavior disrespectful. Several months later, the union and the city council negotiated a new salary ordinance for the firefighters, which lifted some salary freezes and returned some benefits that the mayor had taken away when he was first elected. Although the city council approved the ordinance, the mayor vetoed it and the changes could not take effect.

Several months later, the mayor directed the new fire chief to develop a new schedule for the fire department. Instead of the traditional 24 on, 48 off schedule that the fire department had been using, the mayor decided that the fire department should use an 8 on, 24 off schedule, which is not used by any other fire department in the country. Due to the constant change in sleep schedules demanded by such a schedule, the firefighters struggled with lack of sleep, difficulty concentrating, and weight gain, not to mention facing significant struggles with their home lives because they could not consistently be available to care for their children and families.

After the firefighters expressed these problems to the union, the fire chief met with the union president concerning the issues. Wearing a wire, the union president secretly recorded the fire chief admitting that the schedule change was done in response to the proposal of the ordinance to lift the salary freezes. The chief actually said, "[y]ou can call it retaliation."

The firefighters filed a federal lawsuit claiming that the mayor's actions were done in retaliation for exercising their First Amendment right to back the mayor's opponent. The court granted a preliminary injunction in favor of the firefighters and returned them to their 24/48 schedule while the lawsuit proceeded through the court system.

The City appealed, but did not prevail. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals found that the mayor's decision to change the work schedule was motivated by the firefighters' First Amendment activity. This was easy, given the fire chief's admission that the mayor was retaliating.

The Court also rejected the City's assertion that the new schedule would produce a cost savings. Indeed, there was no evidence that the mayor or former chief had consulted with any of the City's financial administrators about any cost savings before implementing the change. The Court also agreed that the schedule change would cause irreparable harm to the firefighters, both because it infringed upon their First Amendment rights and because of the detrimental effect that the schedule change itself would have on the firefighters' health and families. In balancing the equities, the Seventh Circuit agreed that the 8/24 schedule could not stand while the lawsuit was being litigated.

Although the Court ruled in favor of the firefighters, it is important to note that the decision was not simply based upon the fact that the firefighters spoke out against the mayor's policies and exercised their First Amendment rights. Elected officials often take actions that will upset lobbying groups, employees, or citizens. That alone is not retaliation—so long as a controversial policy choice is backed up by a reasonable basis, the courts will not interfere. However, the difference in this case is that the mayor's actions were blatantly retaliatory and lacked a valid basis. Accordingly, while elected officials need not ordinarily fear retaliation lawsuits for policy choices, clear retaliatory conduct may land them in court.

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## Get Your Home Ready for Spring

The birds are chirping, the flowers are budding, and after a long winter it's time to prepare your home for spring and summer. Doing regular home maintenance and repairs not only protects the value of your most valuable asset, but may also make you eligible for discounts on your home insurance. To help you get your home "spring ready," here's a list of essentials every homeowner should check and repair:

- Roofs and shingles for winter damage
- Gutters and drain spouts to be sure they are cleared of debris and direct water away from the home's foundation
- Central air conditioning (now's a great time for a tune up before summer's heat)
- Decks for loose boards, worn spots or peeling painting
- Exterior for cracks, holes, or exposed wood or siding
- Attics for discoloration, stains or leaks
- Basements for damp areas or cracks
- Chimneys for damage and to clean the flue
- Concrete slabs for cracks or shifting soil
- Trees and bushes for weak or broken branches and other damage

Spring is also a great time to finally complete that home inventory you've been putting off; almost 60 percent of homeowners say they have not made that important list. Doing so helps prove you owned the items, speeding up claims payments. California Casualty has a wonderful guide and checklist for doing a home inventory at our resource page, <https://mycalcas.com/resources/>.

### ABOUT CALIFORNIA CASUALTY:

*Headquartered in San Mateo, CA, with Service Centers in Arizona and Colorado, California Casualty provides auto and home insurance to educators, higher education employees, firefighters, law enforcement, nurses and United MileagePlus members across the country. To learn more about California Casualty, please visit <http://www.calcas.com/ifa> or call 1.800.800.9410.*

Sources for this article:

<http://www.hgtv.com/design/decorating/clean-and-organize/10-home-maintenance-tips-for-spring>  
<https://disastersafety.org/rain/protect-your-home-from-heavy-rain/>  
<https://www.homeadvisor.com/r/spring-maintenance-checklist/>





# Save The Date

## Down & Dirty Firefighter Weekend October 27-28-29, 2023

**CEU's Available FOR ALL CLASSES**

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Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



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- Family Involvement & Support
- Treatment for Co-Occurring Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
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# HELPING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN UKRAINE



The Illinois Firefighters Association (IFA), Office of the State Fire Marshal and MABAS recently joined forces to collect and deliver much needed firefighting equipment including fire hose, nozzles, SCBA, fire gear and other items for Ukrainian firefighters in desperate need of these items.

IFA Director Jeff Bryant introduced Yana, a Ukrainian immigrant, to IFA President Terry Ford and Past President John Swan. She explained that much of the firefighting equipment used by Ukraine firefighters has been destroyed as a result of the war. Due to those circumstances, firefighters in Ukraine could not perform their duties as firefighters. The IFA took her plea for help to heart and began a campaign to ask Illinois fire departments to donate used equipment for our brother and sister firefighters overseas.

The Illinois Firefighters Association was founded in 1889 to “promote good will among firefighters “. President Ford explained that “whenever our brother and sister firefighters are in need, no matter where they are from, the IFA will step forward and do everything in our power to meet those needs. The Office of the State Fire Marshal and MABAS will also do what they can to help.”

Through this collaboration of organizations, our brother and sister firefighters in Ukraine will get the equipment needed to perform their duties and tasks.

The fire equipment is being collected in several locations around the state and then transported to a warehouse in Northern Illinois where the items are sorted and packaged in shipping containers to be sent to Ukraine.



Eight pallets of hose and equipment were recently collected by IFA and OSFM and delivered to the warehouse by MABAS members.

The MABAS members were treated to home-made Ukrainian cookies as a “thank you “ for our efforts.

A special thanks to Venice FD (Madison County) who without hesitation donated over 5000 feet of fire hose and other equipment for the Ukrainian Firefighters.





# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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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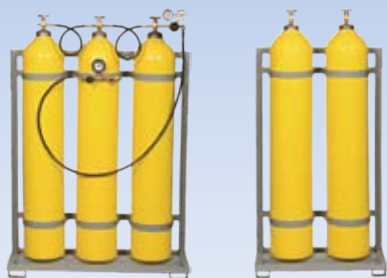
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# FM Global



## 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



I have been asked by a firefighter more than once, “Is it okay that I don’t feel anything [bad] after that call?”

Yes, it’s totally normal.

Part of the role of chaplain in the fire service is to address crisis and traumatic situations. I am well trained thanks to so many chaplains and crisis managers who came before me who have passed on their wisdom. I strive to help an individual address and make steps through trauma with a hope that it does not become paralyzing. Because of that, after certain “bad” calls, I will do my best to check in with the personnel who responded to it. That’s all it is, a phone call, a text, a

quick “how’s it going” between drills. If and when it is warranted, we will implement a CISM plan.

I say that because the goal, and my role on the department, is not to make people feel things they aren’t feeling. Or think things that don’t otherwise cross their minds. I can’t actually tell anyone what is traumatic. That is up to the individual to recognize within themselves. There are clues, signs, and patterns to notice, and I will gladly talk to folks about how to notice them.

But I don’t want my personnel, or anyone at all, to presume that because a scene has this or that aspect to it, that everyone involved has been permanently impacted.

Life is messy. Hard. Ugly. And as we know too well, tragic. We in the fire/EMS profession see the sides of humanity that most do not. However, for the vast majority of our days, the calls we take come and go. They become good stories around the table or training opportunities down the road. They can become a chance for neighboring departments, or stations, to work together and widen our relationships in the fire service.

Not every “bad” scene leaves a mark. Whether for us as the responders or for the individuals impacted. It turns out, humans are quite resilient. As I check in with our personnel, I will also do check ins with family members a month or two after the event. Most are still sad or frustrated or mad or struggling to accumulate supplies if they were displaced. But, often they have not been paralyzed by the event.

Maybe what I’m getting at is this: you are more normal than you think you are. Wherever you find yourself emotionally, spiritually, or physically. We humans are remarkably good at carving ourselves out of the crowd, or convincing ourselves that the person next to us is too different from us. My friend, they are not.

That firefighter in the B seat is just as much of a hot mess as you are. And you’re just as normal as they are. Yes, everyone is unique. No one shares the specifics of your story, and no one can tell it for you. At the same time, there are lots of overlap in how we walk in the world. This common ground is where we stand with each other, serve alongside each other, and support each other.

We don’t have to go looking for “bad” scenes, they will call for us. Our strength and resilience are in our training, our wisdom, and our fire service community. When we lean on each other and learn from each other, we can endure, and accomplish, a lot. Take care of yourself, take care of your company, call me if you need.

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

**National Suicide Prevention Hotline**

**Chaplain Josh’s Phone**

**206-459-3020**

**Text 988**

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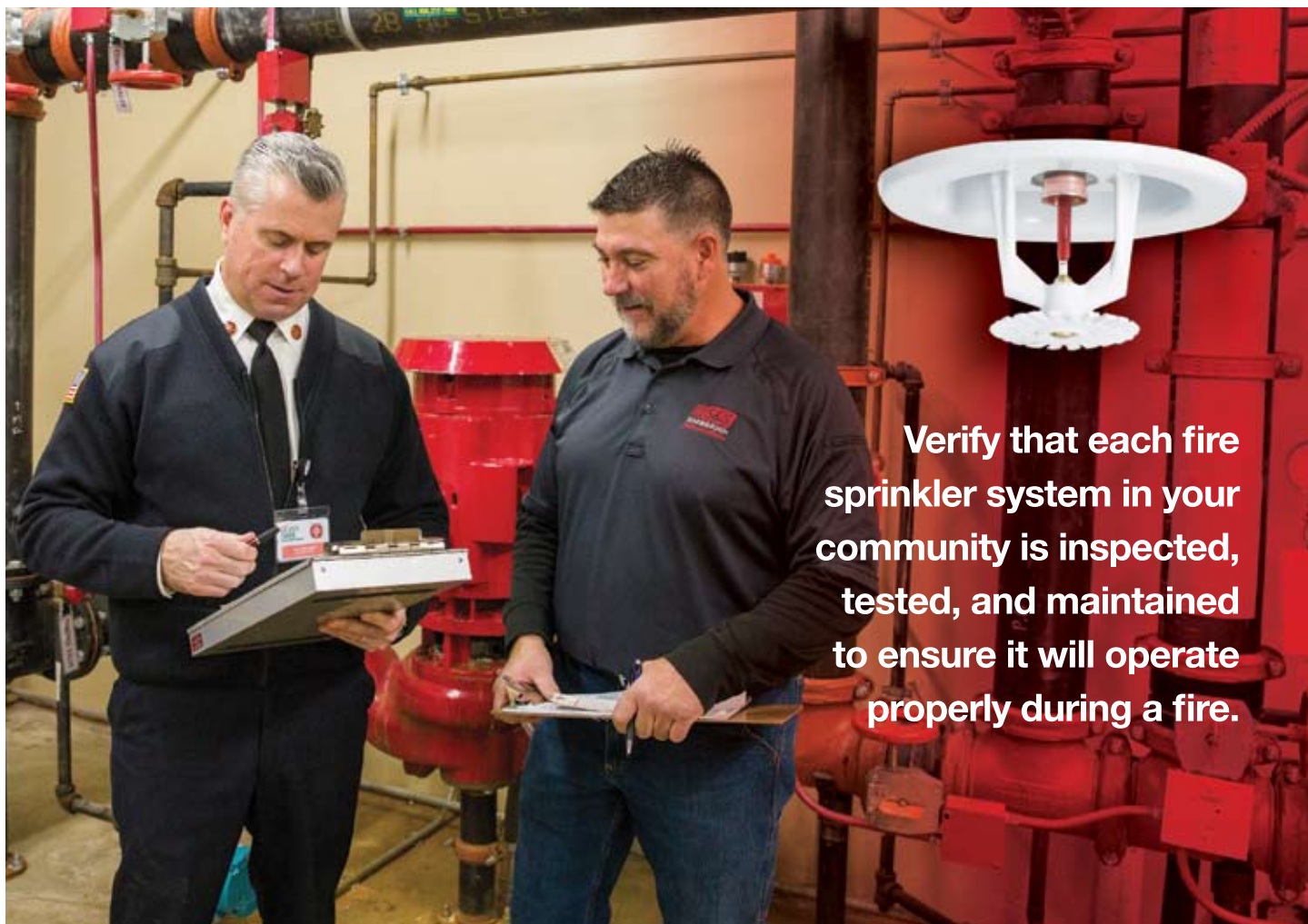


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However, just like other systems in a building, it's essential that a fire sprinkler system is inspected, tested, and maintained (ITM), especially since lives are dependent on it.

Don't let a devastating fire happen in your community. Ensure your local building owners and managers comply with state requirements by incorporating fire sprinkler system ITM programs in their buildings.

Illinois state code, NFPA 101: Life Safety Code (2015 edition), requires all automatic fire sprinkler systems, standpipe systems, and fire pumps to follow ITM procedures according to the NFPA 25 standard.

And in accordance with state law (225 ILCS 317/17), **building owners must utilize an inspector who is employed by a state-licensed fire sprinkler contractor and has appropriate credentials** through completion of a certified sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or certification through NICET III, ASSE 15010, or NFPA Water-Based ITM (WBITM).



**Northern Illinois Fire  
Sprinkler Advisory Board**  
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**For more information:**

**[FireSprinklerAssoc.org/itm](https://firesprinklerassoc.org/itm)**

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**SAVE** *the* **DATE** → **JULY 27-30, 2023**



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## Office of the State Fire Marshal

**Welcome Fire Marshal Rivera**

Governor JB Pritzker has appointed James A. Rivera to serve as Illinois State Fire Marshal. Rivera most recently served as Deputy District Chief for the Chicago Fire Department.

“With more than thirty years of service with the Chicago Fire Department, I am proud to appoint James Rivera as our state’s next Fire Marshal,” said Governor JB Pritzker.

“James has dedicated his life to public service, gaining the trust and confidence of everyone around him. I am confident he will serve the state of Illinois with honor, ensuring our residents are safe, informed, and prepared. I want to thank Dale Simpson for serving as our acting State Fire Marshal, and deeply appreciate his continued dedication to our state.”

Rivera has worked for the Chicago Fire Department since 1990. He began his service as a firefighter, working his way up to become Deputy District Chief. In 2014, Rivera served as the Chief of Operations for the U.S. Security and Protective Services in Chicago. Along with his extensive experience in the field, Rivera has accumulated numerous certifications and honors from institutions ranging from the Department of Homeland Security, Louisiana State University, and the State of Illinois.

“I am truly honored and want to thank Governor JB Pritzker for selecting me to be the next Illinois State Fire Marshal. His incredible staff has made me feel welcome and has helped make this transition very seamless. I look forward to working with the staff at the OSFM, Illinois fire service leaders, members from across the state, and our industry partners to continue to build upon and grow the agency’s mission,” said incoming Illinois State Fire Marshal James Rivera. “We have a lot of great things ahead for the OSFM thanks to the hard work and dedication by my predecessors, and I look forward to continuing and expanding this positive momentum. The Chicago Fire Department has been my home for 33 years and I have worked for 10 different fire commissioners, along with numerous other brothers and sisters who have helped shape me into the person and leader that I am today. Thank you to everyone at the Chicago Fire Department for an amazing career and I have truly enjoyed serving the city I love.”

Rivera is a member of the City of Chicago Community Advisory Board and the Chicago Firefighter Union. While serving, Rivera received both his Master of Science in Public Administration & Management and Bachelor of Arts in Fire Service Administration from Lewis University.

**Small Equipment Grant Recipients**

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has announced the recipients of the 2023 Small Equipment Grant Program. A total of \$1.5 million was awarded to 64 fire departments/districts and EMS providers across the state. The program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 each for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment.

This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for fire departments and not-for-profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase. The OSFM received 296 applications, requesting around \$4.5 million in funding for this grant period.

“The OSFM continues to remain committed to our mission of helping departments and districts purchase essential firefighting or EMS equipment that will help not only their members to stay safe, but continue to provide lifesaving services to their communities,” **said Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson.** “Budgets remain tight, and the cost of firefighting equipment continues to rise, that is why programs such



## The Bulletin

as our Small Equipment Grant are a great resource, especially for our smaller and rural volunteer fire departments across the state.”

“As we all know, volunteer fire departments all around the state are struggling to maintain a safe work environment due to the lack of funding. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal’s Small Equipment Grant Program has provided us the opportunity to purchase a thermal imaging camera we desperately need that will help keep our firefighters safe,” **said Colona Fire Chief John Swan.**

“The Harristown Fire Protection District is thankful to receive the OSFM Small Equipment Grant. With this grant, the Harristown Fire Protection District will be purchasing 8 sets of turnout gear (Coats & Pants) which will be free of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In addition, the district will be purchasing 8 particulate blocking hoods which cover the head, ears & throat to protect our firefighters from harmful fireground carcinogens. Three firefighter helmets will also be purchased to replace helmets that have passed the 10-year life. With the rising costs of PPE, this grant will reduce the strain on the district’s budget allowing replacement of other items needed to continue daily operations,” **said Harristown Fire Protection District Chief Steven Gambrill.**

“The Salem Fire Protection District covers approximately 124 square miles. That includes U.S. Highway 50, two state routes, and thirteen- and one-half miles of Interstate 57 that have significant personal and commercial traffic. This results in our department responding to numerous motor vehicle accidents with occupant entrapment. Receiving this small equipment grant will provide us with the funding needed to purchase rescue tools that will enable us to perform life-saving motor vehicle extrications,” **said Salem Fire Protection District Chief James Cerny.**

Most Illinois fire departments, fire protections districts, township fire departments, and stand-alone, nonprofit ambulance service providers were eligible to apply. All fire departments, fire protections districts and township fire department applicants were required to have participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years prior to applying.

### Grant recipients and awards are listed below:

#### **Boone:**

North Boone Fire Protection District 3- \$23,225

#### **Brown:**

Brown County Fire Protection District- \$25,740

#### **Cass:**

Chandlerville Volunteer Fire Department- \$25,984

#### **Champaign:**

Sidney Fire Protection District- \$11,725

Gifford Fire Protection District- \$12,750

#### **Champaign/Douglas:**

Broadlands-Longview Fire Protection Dist - \$25,950.97

#### **Christian:**

Morrisonville-Palmer Fire Protection Dist- \$14,901.95

#### **Clark:**

Martinsville Fire Protection District- \$25,000

#### **Cook:**

Village of Flossmoor Fire Department- \$25,785

#### **Edwards:**

West Salem Fire Department- \$7,183.80

#### **Fayette:**

Brownstown Fire Protection District- \$23,850

#### **Fulton:**

Astoria Fire Protection District- \$17,487

#### **Hancock:**

LaHarpe Fire Protection District- \$23,703.40

Warsaw Rural Fire Protection District- \$23,672

West Point Fire Protection District- \$25,000

#### **Hardin:**

Rosiclare Fire Department- \$26,000

#### **Henry:**

Clover Township- \$19,542

Colona Fire Protection District- \$8,568

#### **Iroquois:**

Martinton Fire- \$19,505

## The Bulletin

### **Jackson:**

Elkville Volunteer Fire Department- \$25,400  
Gorham- \$25,944.25

### **Johnson:**

Goreville Fire Department- \$26,000

### **Kane:**

East Dundee & Countryside Fire Prot Dist- \$17,488.97

### **Knox:**

Rio Township Fire Protection District- \$26,000

### **LaSalle:**

Cedar Point Fire Department- \$10,580  
Tonica Volunteer Fire Department- \$18,500

### **Lee:**

Amboy Fire Protection District- \$26,000  
Compton Community Fire Protection District- \$26,000

### **Macon:**

Harristown Fire Protection District- \$25,841

### **Madison:**

Grantfork Fire Protection District- \$25,900  
Madison Fire Department- \$16,295.65  
Rosewood Heights Fire Protection District- \$5,355  
Worden Fire Protection District- \$26,000

### **Marion:**

Sandoval Fire Protection District- \$25,273.25  
Salem Fire Protection District- \$25,008

### **Marion/Clinton:**

City of Centralia- \$23,664

### **Mercer:**

Rivoli Fire Protection District- \$25,993

### **Montgomery:**

Fillmore Community Fire Protection District- \$16,978  
Taylor Springs Fire Department- \$9,020  
Witt Volunteer Fire Department- \$25,014

### **Morgan:**

Waverly VolFire Dept & Rescue Squad- \$25,966.95  
Woodson Community Fire Protection District- \$25,895

### **Moultrie:**

Lovington Community Ambulance- \$26,000

### **Ogle:**

Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District- \$23,016.80

### **Piatt:**

Bement Fire Protection District- \$26,000  
Cisco Fire Protection District- \$25,620

### **Pike:**

Pleasant Hill Fire Protection District- \$18,859

### **Pike/Adams:**

Barry Fire Protection District- \$26,000

### **Pulaski:**

Olmsted Fire Department- \$26,000

### **Randolph:**

Ellis Grove Volunteer Fire Department- \$25,800  
Village of Evansville Fire Department- \$25,837.62

### **Richland:**

City of Olney Fire Department- \$25,526.32

### **Sangamon:**

Divernon Fire Protection District- \$26,000  
Pleasant Plains Fire Protection District- \$26,000

### **Schuyler:**

City of Rushville- \$26,000

### **Shelby/Christian:**

Moweaqua Fire Protection District- \$22,091.50

### **St. Clair:**

Sauget Fire Department- \$25,992.55

### **Stephenson:**

Rock City Fire Protection District- \$9,033

### **Tazewell:**

South Pekin Fire Department- \$13,517.95

### **Union:**

Ware-Wolf Lake Fire Protection District- \$22,775

### **Washington:**

Okawville Community Fire Protection Dist- \$26,000

### **Whiteside:**

Prophetstown Fire Protection District- \$26,000

### **Williamson/Saline:**

Stonefort Fire Department- \$25,615

### **Winnebago:**

South Beloit Fire Dept - \$24,003.50

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by ensuring fire code and ISO compliance and sending notices to building owners as to what is required. A 3rd party inspection compliance management company like Brycer and IROL can help you carry out your fire sprinkler testing program at no cost to the fire department.



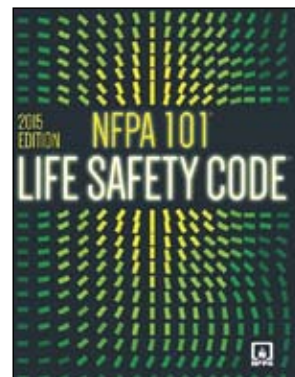
**Regular Fire Sprinkler Testing is Required by the International Fire Code**

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.

**Beginning in January 2023, be ready to enforce the NICET III minimum requirement by showing the legislation to your contractors who work in your town.**



For more information:



Any company must be licensed by the State Fire Marshal and anyone testing a fire sprinkler system, standpipe or fire pump 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 II (NICET III by Jan 2023) 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.





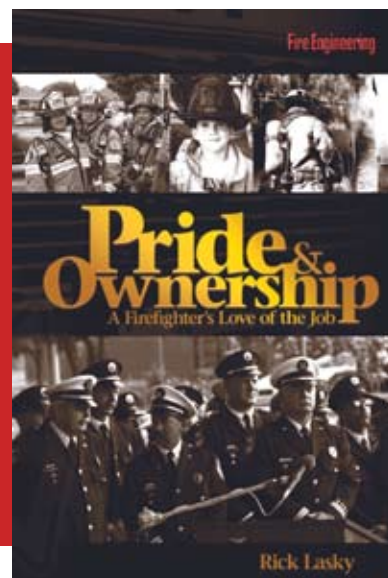
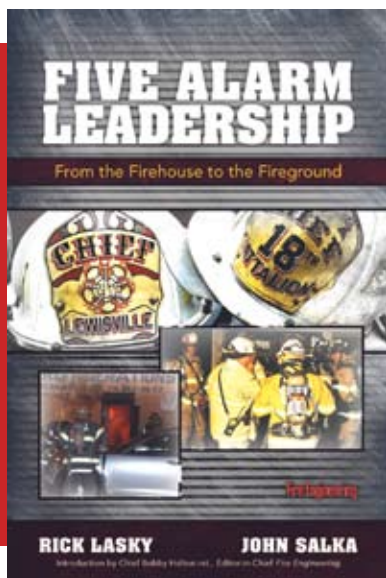
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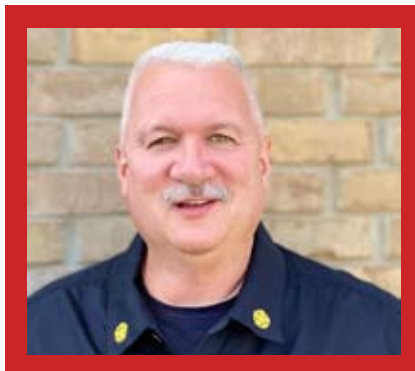
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PEP22-09-03-006



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

To Register, Email:  
info@dingesfire.com





# BFFA SCHOOL

SATURDAY - APRIL 15, 2023

Bi-annual fire & EMS conference offering classes designed for the students using local, regional, and national instructors who are passionate masters of this craft.

**CLASSES**

HANDS-ON

LECTURE

Auto X Extrication  
First Rung Firefighter  
Pump Operations  
RIT Survival & SCBA

Command Control  
Don't Be The Target  
Dynamic Fire Chief  
Rehab Essentials



## Cost

\$50  
Includes lunch

## After Party

-Abbynormal Band  
-Cash Bar & Dinner

## Contact

Jeff Bryant Sr.  
815-994-6184

For registration questions - email [info@amboyfire.com](mailto:info@amboyfire.com)



[firenuggets.regfox.com/23-bffa-school](https://firenuggets.regfox.com/23-bffa-school)



# TIM KLETT

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

 Amboy Fire Department  
25 N East Ave | Amboy, IL 61310



## ENGINE COMPANY OPS

### FROM ENTRY TO EXTINGUISHMENT

\*Full PPE & SCBA required  
Hands-On Training

October 21 | 8am-4pm  
\$100 per person | lunch included

Email to register: [info@amboyfire.com](mailto:info@amboyfire.com)