

The Bulletin



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 70, Number 2

March - April 2016

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

Illinois Fire Services Association presents Rep. Don Moffitt with a fire axe



March - April 2016 Volume 70 Number 2

The Bulletin is published every other month at Highland, Illinois

Subscription rate - \$15.00 per year

Please send address changes or articles to:

The Bulletin

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Bulletin Deadlines:

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

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Mission Statement

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

President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters,

We're off and running with the new year's legislative initiatives. I met with our legislators in Springfield on those initiatives last week for the Fire Service. Representative Donald Moffitt chaired the meeting of the Fire Caucus asking each Fire Caucus Member to sponsor one of those initiatives. This year, we are trying to get the group State Purchase rate to purchase tires for your vehicle. Volunteers Firefighters use their personal vehicles everyday to respond to emergencies in their communities. What a better way, than to give a little benefit back to each of you in savings for that purchase. The State of Colorado has this benefit in place for their Volunteer Firefighters. This piece of legislation should not be an added cost to our State and will show a little appreciation for a job well done. As you know, as I discussed earlier, our State is in a real financial mess. I worry that we could end up like last year where they cut funding that supports emergency services and programs that keeps our communities safe. The only reason that would happen would be the continued power struggle between our administration and the legislature. The funding dollars are there and its not from the General Revenue Fund.

Moving on, we have raised our Association's dues this year by our memberships approval at the last conference. This should help in the administration and operations in our Association. Our dues haven't been raised in years and are well below the other fire associations dues around this State. We are continuing to attract and gather new partnerships and sponsors, this will assist us with our mission. Last year, we were very fortunate in partnering with CHS as a sponsor of our Down & Dirty Program. Hopefully they will be as generous as last year. I want to pass along a little of my thoughts in regards to our status, that is measured against others Fire Associations. At one time, I thought we were not an equal player in the Fire Service. Today, we can take pride in being a team player with the Fire Service. We have the longest running history in the Fire Service and it shows in the test of time. We will continue to make strides in meeting our mission. Without Firefighters and the Fire Service, we would crumble and fall apart. Every year, we seem to confront new challenges, this year will be no different than last year. We face major fires, tornadoes, flooding and Haz-Mat conditions and we help mitigate those threats. We can only hope that we can have a better year this year.

May is coming fast and this year's Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Medal of Honor Ceremony will be held Tuesday, May 10th at 10 am on the Capitol grounds. Along with this ceremony will be the Firefighter's Memorial Muster. You can go on the Fire Marshal's web site and get information about this event. If you have not attended this event before, you should once in your life time try to be there. You should have received the announcements for the June Fire College. They were sent out to all Fire Departments around this State by IFSI. Sometimes, these announcements do not get where they can be seen by the Firefighters, so if you have not seen it, ask for it. I have been asked why the classes are so expensive. I know things are not getting any cheaper, one reason is the funding issue. I know the Director is doing all he can to keep the costs down and still reach as many firefighters around this state as they can. They can only divide those dollars up so far, until they need to adjust the costs. IFSI only gets 12.5% of the Fire Prevention Fund. The Cornerstone Program gets 2.5% of that fund. They are not flat appropriated amounts in budgeting costs and they rely on the Fire Marshal's Office and the Administration to appropriate the needed funding. I hope, that in the near future, we can at least increase that percentage to 15% and Cornerstone 5% as this would help in possible tuition adjustments. I will be inquiring about this and hope that everyone can jump on board.

As you all know by now, your safety and the protection you give, can only be measured against your training. The PPE and fire equipment that we use, are tools to do our job.

"So Train Smart and be Safe" and God Bless

John Swan President



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

Illinois Fire Service Association presents Rep. Don Moffitt with a fire axe

The members of the Illinois Fire Services Association, which the IFA is a member, have presented Rep. Don Moffitt (R-Galesburg) with a fire axe. Don will be retiring from office at the end of his term. He has been a great asset to the fire service for many years and we will miss his presence.

IFA HELPS COORDINATE FIRE CAUCUS BREAKFAST

On March 2nd, the Annual Illinois Fire Caucus Breakfast was held at the Capitol which gave officials from the Illinois Fire Services Association a chance to present the Illinois Fire Caucus with the bills which were voted on unanimously at the Fire Summit.



Pictured above at Fire Caucus Breakfast left to right Chief Joe , State Fire Marshal Perez, Chief Jim Kreher, Chief John Christian, Rep. Don Moffitt (R-Galesburg), IFCA Director Tim Sashko, Chief Mavrogeorge, Rep. Sente (D-Lincolnshire), Chief Doyle , Rep Kate Cloonen (R-Kankakee), Rep Mike Smiddy (D-Hillsdale) and IFA President Chief John Swan.

FIRE CAUCUS BILLS

HB4647 Rep. Bryant Amends the Governmental Joint Purchasing Act. Provides that a volunteer firefighter in good standing with a municipal fire department or fire protection district may, during his or her term of service as a volunteer firefighter, purchase 4 vehicle tires every 3 years under a contract established by the State. Effective immediately.

HB5608 Rep. Verschoore Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that the voters of the entire fire protection district may vote on whether a territory of that district may be disconnected and transferred to another district (rather than just the voters of the territory sought to be transferred). Effective immediately.

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HB5610 Rep. Moffitt Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that no fire protection district will be required to assume responsibility for the fire protection of any municipality which discontinues its fire department unless the fire protection district's Board of Trustees has agreed to do so. Effective immediately.

HB5611 Rep. Beiser Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that a fire chief has authority to enforce the provisions of any rules adopted and promulgated by the State Fire Marshal under the provisions of the Fire Investigation Act or to carry out the duties imposed on local officers under the Fire Investigation Act. Provides that the fire chief shall order removal or remedy of dangerous conditions including that the fire chief may order that the property be vacated until an inspection occurs and the dangerous condition is no longer present. Provides notice requirements and procedures for dangerous conditions. Effective immediately.

HB5647 Rep. Nekritz Amends the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. Provides that the Illinois Emergency Management Agency shall establish guidelines by rule for the expenditure of the funds in the Homeland Security Preparedness Fund with input provided by a statewide interagency organization and public safety multidisciplinary organizations established to advise the Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency regarding public safety preparedness. Provides that the Illinois Emergency Management Agency shall spend the moneys in the fund to enhance State and local homeland security preparedness, all risk disaster response readiness, and statewide public safety mutual aid. Amends the State Finance Act to create the Homeland Security Preparedness Fund. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2015 registration year, a \$3 surcharge shall be collected in addition to other registration fees for motor vehicles of the first division, motorcycles, motor driven cycles, pedal cycles, and vehicles registered in the 8,000 lb. and less flat weight plate category to be deposited into the Homeland Security Preparedness Fund for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to use as directed under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. Provides that this surcharge shall not apply to registration of vehicles by units of local, State, or federal government and other specified organizations.

HB6039 Rep. Moffitt Amends the Toll Highway Act. Provides that in an agreement between the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority and a fire district for services provided to the Authority, the fees paid to the district shall increase annually based upon the current consumer price index.

HB6041 Rep. Moffitt Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that a petition to disconnect territory from a fire protection district that would cause serious injury to a fire protection district shall be dismissed. Defines serious injury. Effective immediately.

SB2439 Sen. Sandoval Amends the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that certain police officers and firefighters who participate in IMRF may be granted Sheriff's Law Enforcement Employee (SLEP) status with the approval of the employing municipality. The approval resolution must specify that SLEP status shall be applied to employment occurring on or after January 1, 2017. Provides that the resolution is irrevocable, but shall automatically terminate upon the establishment of an Article 3 or 4 fund by the municipality. Effective immediately.

SB2592 Sen. Althoff Amends the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. Provides that the Illinois Emergency Management Agency shall establish guidelines by rule for the expenditure of the funds in the Homeland Security Preparedness Fund with input provided by a statewide interagency organization and public safety multidisciplinary organizations established to advise the Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency regarding public safety preparedness. Provides that the Illinois Emergency Management Agency shall spend the moneys in the fund to enhance State and local homeland security preparedness, all risk disaster response readiness, and statewide public safety mutual aid. Amends the State Finance Act to create the Homeland Security Preparedness Fund. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2017 registration year, a \$3 surcharge shall be collected in addition to other registration fees for motor vehicles of the first division, motorcycles, motor driven cycles, pedal cycles, and vehicles registered in the 8,000 lb. and less flat weight plate category to be deposited into the Homeland Security Preparedness Fund for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to use as directed under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. Provides that this surcharge shall not apply to registration of vehicles by units of local, State, or federal government and other specified organizations.

SB3025 Sen. Haine Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that a petition to disconnect territory from a fire protection district that would cause serious injury to a fire protection district shall be dismissed. Defines serious injury. Effective immediately.

Maintaining well-being and handling consequences for unfit firefighters

by Karl R. Ottosen and Hannah Henkel
Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

Many questions arise when evaluating the wellness and fitness of firefighters such as what fitness for duty means, and when a fire department should implement medical examinations of its firefighters, as well as take steps to maintain well-being. Perhaps, however, the hardest issue to understand is the difference between being "fit" and being "fit for duty."

A firefighter must be "fit for the job" because his or her body is part of the "equipment" used on-site at an emergency. A firefighter should aim to be "fit" because it helps maintain his or her body and works against illness or injury. The best option for standards of wellness is to include these concepts in a fitness policy. Overall wellness standards include blood pressure, weight, regular care and nutrition, and preventive care or exercise. Initially, testing for overall wellness starts with Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT); however, once this is passed, there is no recertification. To maintain the health of others, a fire department must implement its own standards for judging its firefighters and make sure the fire department only asks for enough to maintain the safety of the community.

Since incumbent firefighters cannot be judged on the CPAT, the best approach is to create certain policies within the fire department or district. A good policy will assess health and ability of firefighters, and maintain records on how often a firefighter needs to implement certain actions and what is needed for this. In addition, departments should look at accident report information for initial and urgent needs from a firefighter to access the physical nature of the job. On a departmental basis, policies should hold others accountable and create all the resources necessary for maintaining overall wellness. On a personal basis, a firefighter should communicate often with his or her doctor about his or her health and how best to maintain fitness. The point is to be proactive about wellness, not reactive when a person is no longer able to function on the job or has health issues.

To maintain wellness, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Fire Service Joint Labor Wellness/Fitness Initiative program designed a good way to assess current employees.¹ The Joint Initiative rates incumbent firefighters on medical evaluation, fitness evaluation, injury and medical rehabilitation, behavioral health, and the cost justification for aiding a firefighter and implementing standards.² Although only thoroughly implemented in ten counties, it is a good standard to help set effective wellness programs in every fire department and district.

Under a medical evaluation and checking for "fitness for duty," doctors should look at cardiovascular systems, muscular systems, and overall wellness. In addition, the fire station can implement job functionality tests, such as drills, O₂ consumption, and live fire drills to show the person is fit for duty overall. These tests help watch for warning signs to see if a firefighter needs more stringent testing or fitness evaluations. In addition, it helps the fire department see if there are overarching issues it must take care of in its policies. If a department does not

¹ See *THE FIRE SERVICE JOINT LABOR MANAGEMENT WELLNESS- INITIATIVE* (3d edition),
https://www.iafc.org/files/healthWell_WFI3rdEdition.pdf.pdf

² *Id.*; see also <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2013/01/firefighter-wellness-and-fitness-is-it-about-time-for-a-mandator.html>.

see improvement, it could terminate based on the previous-set wellness and fitness policies.

Under general fitness, where a fire department or district has a union, management and labor should work together to make sure there are individualized fitness programs. The program should indicate a person should be able to use equipment and work out while on duty.³ Equipment for resistance and cardiovascular work should be on-site, as well as implementing a peer fitness trainer who can help in designing fitness programs, counseling, and lifestyle coaching for those who struggle within the department. In addition, fitness programs should focus on looking at overall nutrition, portion control, and variety of foods. This healthy meal planning may be beneficial. Overall fitness relies on fitness evaluations. Although “non-punitive,” these programs, such as conditioning the body and committing to training, ascertain a person’s ability to work as a firefighter and target places to improve.

Besides health issues, there are various medical issues for a firefighter. The Illinois General Assembly recognizes “service in the fire department requires firefighters in times of stress and danger to perform unusual tasks; that firefighters are subject to exposure to extreme heat or extreme cold in certain seasons while performing their duties; that they are required to work in the midst of and are subject to heavy smoke fumes, and carcinogenic, poisonous, toxic or chemical gases from fires; and that these conditions exist and arise out of or in the course of employment.”⁴ Because of the potential issues, a full-time firefighter who is harmed in the line of duty can obtain disability pension.⁵ However, these health concerns can be monitored through the firefighter’s communication with a doctor.

Medical problems, work injuries and off-job injuries can be a sign of fitness and performance concerns. When looking at different injuries and dangers, a policy should try to maintain discipline, and have early intervention with those who could be a problem. The policy and professionals should be specific on what the person must do, and look at the overall picture. There should be annual evaluations as well as check-ins throughout the year, with a focus on risk factors such as smoking, sedentary lifestyles, diet, and family history.

It is important to note these policies and strategies are suggestions on how to keep a firefighter both fit and fit for duty. The overall goal is to develop a strategy for proactive health maintenance, and to keep firefighters fit in their day-to-day work life. As long as the policy encompasses the overall scheme of wellness and is maintained, it can lead to positive results with less injuries on the job.

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³ *Id.* at 25.

⁴ 40 ILCS 5/4-110.1.

⁵ 40 ILCS 5/4-110.



California Casualty

Be Aware of the Ides of Spring

Springtime; for many of us it means we can start hanging up the cold weather gear and begin getting out the gardening equipment. However, the pleasant change in weather can often lull us into a false sense of security. In fact, I'm reminded of the warning Julius Caesar was given, "Beware the Ides of March."

So what does that warning have to do with you and me? While March marks the end of winter, it starts a dynamic time of year with a clash of late season cold fronts and warm gulf air leading to dangerous thunderstorms, flooding and even tornadoes.

Many scientists warn that between climate change and El Nino, we are facing some of the most extreme and unpredictable weather patterns ever seen: record flooding in Texas, Missouri, Illinois and South Carolina, rare deadly December tornadoes across the Midwest and South and unprecedented holiday warmth in the Northeast.

Maybe we should change Shakespeare's line to "Beware the Ides of Spring."

Springtime Dangers

Flooding

Flood season begins in spring as winter snow and ice melt. Severe thunderstorms can add tremendous amounts of water to the runoff, often inundating cities and towns located in flood zones. Unfortunately, Illinois has seen more than its fair share of flooding in recent years.

Flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster in the United States, causing an average of \$50 billion in economic losses each year. Anyone living in a low-lying area near a lake, river or stream should make sure they are protected. Homeowners and renters insurance don't cover floods from rivers, streams, or other runoff; if you want your home and valuables protected, you need flood insurance that often has a 30 day waiting period.

Flooding caused by a damaged roof or broken water pipe is covered by most homeowners insurance. While it can happen any time of year, springtime thawing can be the culprit. Do you have enough coverage if water should destroy your valuable possessions? The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that just two inches of water can cause more than \$10,000 for repairs and replacement of flooded items. Six inches of water can add up to more than \$30,000.

Fires

While a house fire can happen any time of year, spring marks the start of wildfire season. More than 4,600 structures were destroyed by wildfires in 2015, 2,667 of those were homes or apartments.

Fuels such as grasses and brush, start to dry out as temperatures warm. Before they become a threat to your home you should mow and trim back any grasses, trees or bushes to create a 30 foot defensible space. Don't forget to move gas grills, firewood and other combustibles 15 to 30 feet away from your home. You can find more wildfire prevention tips at https://www.calcas.com/documents/10326/0/wildfire_pamphlet_residential_CA.pdf/4c476835-55f4-4a70-a208-0f7930218e90.

Tornadoes

The volatile mix of warm and cold usually results in tornadic activity. Almost every state has experienced a tornado, and just a year ago one of the strongest tornadoes to hit Illinois killed one and caused severe damage. Living in the Midwest you should know about these tornado preparedness actions:

- Identify a safe place in your house (basement, storm shelter or sturdy interior reinforced room on the lowest floor of the home)
- Prepare an emergency kit with first aid supplies, food, water and sanitary needs (include important medicines, eye glasses, etc.)
- Practice tornado drills

Severe Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are the top cause of insured loss each year in the United States due to high winds, large hail and dangerous lightning. When a thunderstorm approaches, immediately move indoors and away from windows and avoid electrical equipment and corded telephones. Preparations for severe thunderstorms are much the same as tornadoes.

How to Protect Your Property

Before wild weather has a chance to threaten your home, here are some key tips to help prevent damage:

- Check roofs and shingles for damage, lifting or other signs that they might leak
- Clean gutters and drain spouts and make sure they direct water away from your home's foundation
- Look for loose boards, cracking or other damage on decks and porches to avoid tripping, falls or other hazards
- Inspect the exterior of your home for cracks, holes or exposed wood or siding that could allow water, insects or small wildlife to get in
- Make sure chimneys and vents are well sealed and sturdy to prevent water or wind damage
- Trim back trees and bushes, looking for weak or broken branches or other damage, to protect against them falling into roofs or siding

Check Your Insurance

Before a catastrophe strikes, the Insurance Information Institute says you should:

- ✓ Purchase homeowners or renters insurance
- ✓ Get flood insurance if you live in a flood prone area
- ✓ Purchase comprehensive auto insurance to protect your vehicle from hail, falling trees and limbs or flooding
- ✓ Review your policy so you understand your coverages (replacement costs, replacement of personal possessions, and additional living expenses)
- ✓ Make a full inventory of everything you own

After a Disaster

If the unexpected should occur, you should take these steps:

1. Secure your property from further damage or theft
2. Contact your insurance company as soon as possible
3. Catalogue your losses and take pictures
4. Save receipts of meals, purchases and hotels while you are unable to live at home
5. Be careful of fraudulent contractors

Now is good time to reevaluate your protection against the unpredictable moods of spring; contact a California Casualty advisor to purchase flood insurance, get a review of your policy or add any coverage that you might need. Give a call today at 1.800.800.9410 or visit www.calcas.com/IFA.

Here's something that will help with any home repair or preparation – California Casualty's Work Hard/Play Hard "All In" DeWALT® sweepstakes. One lucky first responder will win the ultimate tool kit filled with \$10,000 worth of DeWALT tools. We are talking everything from a generator, compressor and all the saws, wrenches, drills and accessories anyone could ever need or use. Register for your chance to win at <http://go.calcas.com/dewalt>.

This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to firefighters for over 40 years. Get a quote at 1.800.800.9410 or www.calcas.com/IFA.

Recruitment in the Fire Service: Understanding the Marketing Funnel

By The National Volunteer Fire Council

Finding and recruiting potential volunteers to a fire or EMS department is a multi-step process that requires dedication, follow-up, and follow-through. A marketing funnel helps to identify and breakdown those steps. A department's recruitment and retention tactics should aim to move potential recruits down this funnel to increase the likelihood of success.

The National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) new *Make Me A Firefighter* recruitment campaign helps departments do just that.

The Marketing Funnel

First it is important to understand the marketing funnel for volunteer recruitment.

Step 1: Interest

A national survey conducted as part of the NVFC's recruitment and retention campaign revealed that 79 percent of those polled did not know if their local department was seeking volunteers, and 41 percent were unsure if their department was volunteer, combination, or career. Yet 29 percent of respondents indicated an interest in volunteering as an emergency responder. That number was even higher among the highly sought-after 18 to 34 year old age group, with 45 percent indicating an interest in volunteering as an emergency responder.* It's difficult to foster interest or expect potential volunteers to take action when the majority are unaware of the need. Educating the public and raising awareness that your department utilizes volunteers and needs more volunteers is an important first step.

Step 2: Invite

Current recruits are almost always invited, and effective invites are typically personal. Oftentimes, interested participants cite a lack of invitation as one reason they never considered becoming a volunteer emergency responder. Finding ways to reach target audiences and providing them with a specific invitation to join your department or learn more about the volunteer opportunities available is a key step in increasing your pool of potential volunteers.

Step 3: Sample

Interested individuals often get involved after having a chance to sample what it's like to be a volunteer. Sampling activities such as ride-alongs, Explorer programs, open houses, and other recruitment events can help interested individuals connect with departments and build the confidence and excitement that is needed to truly consider the opportunity. Be creative!

Step 4: Commit

At this stage in the marketing funnel a potential recruit will have an opportunity to decide if they are willing or unwilling to commit to the department. Follow-up is key at this stage. Don't let interested individuals fall through the cracks due to a lack of follow-through. Let them know they are wanted, and that your department is a place they can belong.

Step 5: Train

Now it's time to train your new recruits. Training is time intensive and can be overwhelming. Offer flexibility whenever possible. It's also a good idea to assign mentors to help new recruits acclimate and learn. Recruits that feel a personal connection to the department through a mentor program and/or bonding with other recruits through shared training



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experience are more likely to want to remain an active member. Feeling like part of the fire service family can help make the necessary hours of training feel less burdensome.

How the NVFC Can Help

The NVFC received a federal SAFER grant to implement the first national volunteer fire service recruitment campaign. Through the Make Me A Firefighter campaign, the NVFC has developed free, ready-to-use, customizable resources to help local fire and EMS departments get and keep new recruits. In addition, the organization is conducting national outreach to help raise awareness among the public of the need for volunteer firefighters.

Departments can register for free at <http://portal.nvfc.org/state>. From there you can access tools to help with every step of the marketing funnel. Post your department's volunteer opportunities in the national MakeMeAFirefighter.org database and use ready-made PSAs and customizable outreach materials to let your community know you need volunteers. Use the invitation generator to invite potential volunteers to recruitment events. Find ideas on sampling events you can hold in your community. Use the recruit tracking tool to monitor potential volunteers through every stage of the application process and ensure that you are following-up when needed.

The department portal is designed to be your one-stop shop to implementing and managing your local recruitment campaign. It will help you translate interest into service by providing the tools and support that make recruiting volunteers as simple as possible. Additional tools and resources will continue to be released throughout the year. Learn more and register for free at <http://portal.nvfc.org/state>.

**Source: NVFC and Salter>Mitchell Survey of Americans 18+, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2014, n= 1,224*



Always ready.

You never know when the call will come in - you just know that you need to be ready when it does. As the largest provider of insurance to over 15,000 emergency service organizations throughout the United States and Canada, we look at it the same way. We're ready to help when the need arises.

- Insurance
- Benefits
- Education and Training



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Department Spotlight

Homer Fire Protection District



Homer is a small town in East Central Illinois located approximately halfway between Champaign and Danville. The Homer Fire Protection District, established in 1939, serves roughly 2500 people in a 52 square mile district with a roster of 33 volunteer firefighters. This includes one chief, one assistant chief, a fire captain and lieutenant, and an EMS captain and lieutenant. Homer has two fire stations due to the railroad tracks which divide the town in half. The main Station 1 was opened in 2004 at the north edge of town after

outgrowing the old 3-bay station. Station 1 has 5 bays, chief's office, radio room, and meeting room. Behind Station 1 there is a two-story training facility. Station 2, south of the railroad tracks, now has 6 bays due to an addition in 2013 and holds a brush truck, several trailers and the Explorer's equipment.

Apparatus of the Homer FPD includes:

2005 Alexis Fire Engine – 1250 gpm pump / 1000 gallon tank

1992 Alexis Fire Engine – 750 gpm pump / 1500 gallon tank

2012 International Tanker – 750 gpm pump / 3000 gallon tank

2014 Alexis Brush Truck – 250 gpm pump / 450 gallon tank

1996 Alexis Heavy Rescue – light tower / cascade system / seats 11

2004 Ford Mini-Rescue – BLS and ILS equipment, pulls gator

2010 Ford F350 Chief's Truck

2010 John Deere Gator – skid unit / med-bed

2014 Special Operations Enclosed Trailer

1999 Smokehouse

1939 International Antique Fire Truck

On order is a 2016 Alexis/HME custom top-mount fire engine. It will have a 1500 gpm pump, 1000 gallon tank and will seat 6.

Homer FPD provides both fire protection and basic level EMS. Being 20 minutes from the closest ambulance, several members have volunteered to become advanced providers. When those members are available service can be upgraded to ILS. As a member of MABAS 28, Homer FPD works closely with neighboring departments and runs automatic mutual aid on structure fires with St. Joseph, Ogden, Royal and Sidney. Current training goals include members – including several new members – working towards completing the Essentials 1-4 program through Cornerstone at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. In 2007 the department started an Explorer's post which currently has 6 active members. This helps young people interested in the fire service to get started and receive training.

A most memorable night for the Homer FPD was September 22, 2009. At approximately 2:00 a.m. they were toned out for a garage fire. Enroute to the garage they spotted a fully-engulfed truck on fire. That night there were seven fires at once: one garage, one house, and five vehicles! Needless to say, it was a busy and memorable night for the Homer Fire Protection District!



The Bulletin



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Support the Illinois Fire Sprinkler Coalition



Become a Built For Life Fire Department for Free Home Fire Sprinkler Advocacy Resources

More than 2,500 U.S. Fire Departments have been recognized as Built For Life Fire Departments by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC). Each has made home fire sprinkler education a focus of their community outreach and have received free tools to help get them started. With the right information and tools, more fire departments can teach about this life-saving technology. To help, HFSC has developed free resources to simplify any department's sprinkler outreach.

Every Built For Life Fire Department will receive a Fire and Sprinkler Burn Demo Kit, educational outreach materials, a certificate of participation, Built For Life Fire Department window decals, Built For Life baseball caps and much more.

Being recognized as a Built For Life Fire Department can be as simple as adding fire sprinkler messages and materials to existing outreach, or as comprehensive as establishing an education program for local builders and developers. Fire departments must simply agree to implement at least one community outreach activity in: (1) Public Awareness and Public Education, (2) Targeted Outreach to a Key Audience, and (3) Evaluation.

Become educated about the current status of home fire sprinkler issues in Illinois by visiting **www.HomeLifeSafety.com** and then become an HFSC Built For Life Fire Department at **www.HomeFireSprinkler.org** for home fire sprinkler advocacy resources.



Scan with your smartphone to sign up your fire department for the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's Built For Life Fire Department Program



For more information go to:



www.HomeLifeSafety.com



www.HomeFireSprinkler.org

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Illinois Fire Service - Institute Updates

Jim Keiken, Deputy Director

It that time of the year again the 92nd Fire College will be June 2 – 5 at IFSI. This year like last we have a number of new offering along with many traditional classes. New for this year **“Leadership Development and Decision Making for Fire Officers”**. Fire Officers of every rank are challenged to provide quality leadership and make sound decisions in all kinds of situations – whether emergency or non-emergency in nature. This class introduces the student to decision making in pressurized scenarios. After a short classroom presentation, students will be immersed in leadership and decision-making scenarios/challenges through small group discussions and simulated exercises.

“Overhaul to Fireball”, This class was developed, with the assistance of the City of St. Charles Missouri Fire Department, to share lessons learned from a residential basement fire that nearly cost the lives of four veteran firefighters.

The significance of this class is that it involves four firefighters with an experience level from 10 years to 25 years. Because of this experience level, these firefighters were interviewed only days after the fire, and asked some tough questions about their escape and their thought processes during their escape. Portions of these tapes, with the addition of cell phone and helmet camera video taken from three separate cameras on the scene, provide students with an intimate sense of what these firefighters experienced. Lessons learned involve: size-up, radio communications, ventilation, “truckwork”, incident command structure, wind driven fire tactics and strategy, RIT or RIC, Mayday procedures, and post-incident responsibility.

“Active Shooter Training for EMS” are you ready to serve victims of an active shooter? This 12-hour EMS-based class focuses on triage of patients involved in an active shooter event.

The class is being held in conjunction with the University of Illinois Police Department, members of the Orland Park Fire Protection District and the Illinois Fire Service Institute. The first four hours focuses on bandaging, chest seals, tourniquet and other trauma care skills. The second four hours focuses on law enforcement movement within a warm zone and the importance of communications between those first responders and EMS teams. The final four hours takes what is learned and applies it to a full-scale, real-time exercise. The class is built especially for first responders, EMTs and Paramedics.

Also new for this year is **“Auto Extrication Command”**, Step up to a command position. This new eight-hour class is being piloted through the extrication program during Fire College. This course will be four hours of classroom and four hours of hands-on, real-time decision-making in predesigned scenarios. Students will be challenged by assuming the ranks of safety officer and incident commander on multi-vehicle incidents.

Friday night’s special presentation **“Moments Matter”** is from Dave Sanderson. When US Airways Flight 1549 ditched into the Hudson River on January 15, 2009, Dave Sanderson knew he was exactly where he was supposed to be. The last passenger off the back of the plane on that fateful day, he was largely responsible for the well-being and safety of others, risking his own life in frigid water to help other passengers off the plane. Despite the hazards to himself, Sanderson thought only of helping others, and emerged from the wreckage with a mission: to encourage others to do the right thing.

In his stirring presentation, Sanderson shares the story of Flight 1549, revealing the inner strength it took to make it through the day, and how teamwork, leadership, and state management can help overcome any obstacle.

We will again be offering along with Fire College two program that conclude at Fire College. **Fire Instructor 1 Blended** and **Rope Operation Level 1 Blended** which are approved for OSFM certification. The “Blended” offerings begin prior to fire college and require separate registration. Please refer to the IFSI web site for more information.

KUDO FROM THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND DECISION-MAKING PROGRAM IN MARCH:

“Good morning all:

Have to tell you I thought about you all last week and the energy you were putting forth could be felt all the way up here. I wanted to quickly weigh in and tell you from a Fire Chief’s perspective, not a biased “love who you are and what you are doing” angle how this class is evaluated going forward.



The Bulletin

I sent 2 of my own folks (FF and Chief Officer Level) and convinced my old department to send a company officer. So we hit all the levels along with the expense for the time away, hotel lodging, per diem etc. all things that factor in to a Chief/Training Officer's decision to support or deny an educational opportunity. So as a Chief you are obviously looking for a return on your investment not a course completion certificate or frankly even state certification. I want to know you are better equipped to do your vocation than before you took the class.

I have already spoken to 2 of the 3 attendees (my two) and can tell you the feedback as to your goal to exercise those things that make true leaders question and stretch hit a home run. Things not previously exercised in any of the other state wide curriculum that are out there. My poor DC said he didn't sleep well all week re-running things in his mind and then he got home and hoped to rest and said he couldn't turn it off! Now that's what I call a good investment, one that keeps on giving as that's what you all do!

I wanted to do this quickly, before I even had time for more intense conversations, as knowing all of you and the fact you are all perfectionists and probably spent the weekend going "what the hell did I do/say that for?" and while I'm sure there is always room for improvement and the Colonel will remind you of that; I wanted you to know Job Well Done and couldn't be prouder to know you all!!!!

The fire service leadership train we have been waiting for has left the station and look out either get on board or it's going right over you!!"

Also from the LDDM program

"As I have reflected on the recent LDDM class, I just wanted to take a moment and commend all those involved that had a hand in putting the program together. There was definitely an enormous amount of passion demonstrated by the instructors for the class, and the Fire Service as a whole. Well done!

In addition, I have replayed the last scenario countless times in how I would have done that differently. Reminds me of a story I heard from a good Colonel the last day of a RIT Under Fire class relating it to being our "Super Bowl". The class had its Super Bowl Friday afternoon.

The reality is we never know when our Super Bowl will be. We must be ready. We must prepared. Being in those situations Friday with the friction definitely helps to prepare us for the battle ground. In those combat situations, feelings must be put aside as we make decisions to accomplish the mission safely and efficiently.

My favorite topics of discussion were culture, climate, and philosophy of command. The conversation spurred some introspection for me regarding where I am at in my position as well as our department as a whole.

I have had many classes at IFSI, and have never been disappointed in the training. LDDM is no different in that regard. I will promote the program to those I have contact with. If there is anything I can do in support of the class, please let me know".

Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representatives:

Northeast Region:	Randy Schlichter,	847-343-4039
Northwest Region:	Ray Palczynski,	563-468-8385
Chicago Metro Area:	Richard Stack,	773-988-0259
East Central Region:	Tim Meister,	217-202-4760
Central Region:	Jim Vaughn,	309-275-2499
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The Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representative can be your important link to bringing State Fire Academy training to your Fire Department.

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Chaplain's Corner

Redemptive Purpose

You and I have been called to the fire service by God for His own redemptive purposes. Redemption is needed whenever there is someone in big trouble that needs help fast...someone whose health and possibly their very life are at risk... someone who does not have the resources or power or skill to manage this dangerous situation on their own...someone who is totally dependent on someone else showing up that is willing and able to “redeem” them and their emergency. Redemption means that someone is willing to pay a price and even put themselves at personal risk in order to rescue those in mortal danger. The fire service has God’s redemptive signature all over it and you have been called by Him to participate in His redemptive purposes...

You are part of God’s redemptive purpose in your community. A person in your community that is experiencing an emergency beyond their control that presents danger – a fire, an accident, a medical emergency – will do two things almost simultaneously. They will invariably cry out to God in desperation: “Oh my God, Oh my God...!” They may be a person of faith or they may not have prayed for years, but either way they now pray the prayer of desperation, calling out to heaven for help. At the same time they will be reaching for their phone in order to dial 9-1-1 with trembling hands. And who soon shows up on the scene? It’s you, the fire department – you are God’s answer to the most desperate prayers of those in your community. Time and time again you redeem the situation and you mitigate the danger as though it’s the most natural thing in the world to do – and it is because you have been called to the fire service by God for His own redemptive purposes. When we pray “Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” we are affirming again and again our faith that when God in heaven hears the desperate prayers of those in our community in danger that He sends us to accomplish His redemptive purpose on earth in rescuing them.

You are part of God’s redemptive purpose in your fire department. You are not only called by God to the fire service in general, but you are specifically and individually called by God to your fire department in the very position that you now serve. That is because your fire department is a redemptive *body* that God has bound together for His purposes. There are times that you as a firefighter act individually in an emergency situation, but more often than not a unified effort is how the job gets done. God has individually gifted you and your fellow firefighters so that He might build you together to be an effective redemptive unit in His hands. Your skills, your experience, your perspective, your personality, and your faith are gifts that are custom-designed to make you a good fit on your fire department team. God sovereignly builds unity from diversity in order to accomplish his redemptive purpose in and through your fire department – and you are an integral part of that purpose. That is why you faithfully show up each week for trainings, for work days, for meetings, for public education, for fund raisers, etc. Redemption always involves a price to be paid and so you and your fire department are always paying that price with selfless personal sacrifices of time and effort to be prepared.

You ARE God’s redemptive purpose. You are called by God to the fire service ultimately because that is His chosen pathway for you to experience His redemption *personally*. The brokenness, danger, and even death that you see and handle in your community are revelations of the same in our own hearts and lives. Just as we pay the price of redemption in our communities and fire departments, Jesus has paid the redemptive price of our personal brokenness and has rescued us both now and eternally. May your faith firmly grasp that redemptive purpose which God is accomplishing in you and through you as you serve.

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

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