

# *The* **Bulletin**



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

**Volume 69, Number 3**

**May - June 2015**

**FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**

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## **IFA to celebrate 125th Annual Conference**



May - June 2015 Volume 69 Number 3

The Bulletin is published every other month at Highland, Illinois

Subscription rate - \$15.00 per year

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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,

Memorial Day has passed and that brings us to the start of summer time activities. I hope everyone was able to give thanks to our veterans that have passed on before us. Some of them made the supreme sacrifice so we can remain free, pursuing life, liberty and happiness.

Fire College will be over before you receive this issue of the Bulletin and it is my hope that the attendance continues to increase. I have heard complaints in regards to the costs of registration for these classes. I know your concerns and it is our concern also. As you may know, the Institute receives 12.5% funding through the Fire Prevention Fund that fund is a dedicated fund that the Fire Marshal budgets every year. That budget needs to be protected and appropriated each year to the full extent that reduces the costs that firefighters pay for taking that training at the Academy. It has been in the past that these costs were not fully funded through the Fire Prevention Fund. We need to be more proactive and demand that more money is appropriated for the classes taken at our Fire Academy. The only way I see to do that is to raise the percentage that goes to the Fire Service Institute and to fully budget and appropriate funds to cut the costs for those classes.

By no way am I am advocating that our Academy's Director or Fire Marshal is not concerned with these costs. Our concerns must be brought forward to our state's administration, so every dollar in the Fire Prevention Fund is utilized for the purpose for which it is generated for and not to be swept for other purposes. The Illinois Firefighters Association has been very proactive in trying to find ways to reduce these costs by other means. We have been going after corporate sponsorships and partnerships that will help us meet our mission. This year, CHS has sponsored our Down & Dirty training at this year's conference. We hope that this relationship will continue as time goes on. It is also our hope that we will get funding to help reduce the costs associated with taking training at our Fire Academy. The cost involved with hotel expenses is also a major concern. It appears that if we are going to continue to attend classes at our Fire Academy, we are going to need to ask for support from other sources. It is down right frustrating that funds are not available to support our training, and are not appropriated to fully support that training. We are a sleeping giant in the Fire Service and our voice needs to be recognized as a major player in meeting our training requirements. With that being said, I will do what ever is necessary to make our concerns heard.

This is our 125th anniversary and we want to make this conference special. Our conference committee has been working hard to make this conference stand out. You will be receiving more information about the conference in the next issue of the Bulletin, along with registration and hotel information. As the time gets closer, I am asking all of you to get the word out to all your fellow firefighters and make this year Conference even better.

Hope to see all of you at this year's Conference, so *have a safe summer and God Bless.*

*John Swan President IFA*



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

At press time, the Legislature is its final days with no agreement on a state budget for FY16 in sight. Back in March, up to \$23 million was authorized to be taken from the Fire Prevention Fund to balance the FY15 budget but so far nothing has been taken.

## Highlights of fire service legislation include:

**HB 152** - sponsored by Rep. Kathleen Willis and Sen. Andy Manar would require carbon monoxide detectors or alarms in schools. The bill passed the House and is on 3rd Reading in the Senate.

**HB 219** - Sponsored by Rep. Verschoore and Sen. David Koehler would provide 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). The measure passed the House and Senate and is on its way to the Governor.

**HB 220** - sponsored by Rep. Moffitt and Sen. Sullivan would provide that a board of trustees of a fire protection district may submit a question to increase the current special tax rate for the purpose of providing funds to pay the costs of emergency and rescue crews and equipment to the voters of the fire protection district by referendum. Provides the special tax rate may be raised to a maximum of .10%. Provides the language to be used in the referendum. Effective immediately. The measure is on Concurrence for a Senate Amendment in the House.

**HB 246** – Sponsored by Rep. Stewart and Sen. Koehler would commemorate Dec. 23rd each year as “Scott’s Law Day” to honor public safety workers and remind motorists to slow down and change lanes away from a stationary authorized emergency vehicle. The measure passed both the House and Senate and is headed to the Governor.

**SB 740** – Sponsored Sen. Holmes and Rep Pritchard - Amends the Fire Hydrant Act. Provides that whoever fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Act, after 30 days receiving written notice of noncompliance or violation from a fire protection district or municipality in whose jurisdiction a fire hydrant is located, shall be responsible for all reasonable costs that the fire protection district or municipality incurs to correct the noncompliance, including attorney’s fees and legal expenses incurred by the fire protection district or municipality in recovering the costs from the responsible party. The measure passed the House and Senate and is now headed to the Governor.

**HJR 1** – Sponsored by Rep. Willis and Sen. Rose. Creates the Emergency Responder Roadway Safety Task Force to address coordination between the fire service, first responders and law enforcement to prevent first responders from being injured when responding to emergencies on roadsides. The measure passed the House and is waiting for final approval in Senate.

# **New Freedom of Information Act provisions became effective January 1, 2015**

by Brian J. O'Connor

Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

This past year, the Governor approved changes to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.) with which fire departments must comply. Public Act (P.A.) 98-1129 made three noteworthy changes to FOIA which took effect December 13, 2014. Other changes to FOIA effective January 1, 2015 -- such as P.A. 98-0806's addition of state and regional youth advisory boards to FOIA -- are less relevant to fire departments and will not be addressed here.

**Online records** -- Public records available (and maintained) on a fire department's website need not be immediately provided pursuant to a FOIA request (5 ILCS 140/8.5). This new provision allows the fire department to notify the requester that the requested public records are available on the department's website and direct the requester to the website where the records can be reasonably accessed. Note that the fire department still needs to respond to the requester within five business days, but now it need not provide copies of the requested documents. Note that if the requester cannot access the document from the website, the requester may re-submit the FOIA request for copies of the documents noting his or her inability to reasonably access the records on the website, in which case the fire department would have to provide a copy of the requested documents.

**Fees** -- Fees may be charged for staff time to search for and retrieve documents, and now for time spent to review/redact requested records (5 ILCS 140/6(f)). A fire department may charge up to \$10 per hour spent by personnel searching for, retrieving and examining the records for necessary redactions. Note that the fee for searching for and retrieving requested records can only be charged after the first eight hours of staff effort. However, the \$10 per hour fee for staff time to review documents for redactions can be assessed for all hours spent on that task. The department should provide the requester an accounting for any fees charged.

**Voluminous requests** -- If requested documents meet the definition of voluminous requests, the fire department may get additional time to respond to the request (See 5 ILCS 140/2)(h) -- new definition; 140/3.6 -- new process to handle voluminous requests; 140/6(a-5) -- fees allowed for voluminous requests).

- **Requests** -- The fire department's FOIA Officer should first determine if the request meets the criteria. A "voluminous request" is defined as a request that (1) includes more than five individual requests for more than five different categories of records or a combination of individual requests that total more than five different categories of records in a period of 20 business days; or (2) requires the compilation of more than 500 letter or legal-sized pages of public records unless a single requested record exceeds 500 pages.

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There are exceptions: non-profits, news media, and scientific or academic organizations are exempt from the voluminous request classification if the request's principal purpose is: (1) to access and disseminate information about news or current and passing events; (2) for articles or opinion pieces of public interest; or (3) for academic, scientific or public research or education.

- **Process** -- The FOIA Officer must respond to a voluminous request within five business days, just as with any FOIA request. This response must notify the requester:

1. that the fire department is treating the request as a voluminous request;
2. the reasons why the request is being considered voluminous;
3. that the requester has 10 business days to respond to the fire department's response and state whether the requester would like to amend the request to avoid being classified as a voluminous request;
4. that if the requester fails to respond to the fire department's response within the 10 business days, the fire department will respond to the request and assess fees in accordance with Section 6 of FOIA;
5. that the public body has five business days after receipt of the requester's response or the end of the time period for the requester to respond (whichever is sooner) to respond to the request;
6. that the public body may request an additional 10 business days to respond to the request;
7. that the requester has the right to review of the public body's determination by the Illinois Public Access Counselor ("PAC") and provide the address and phone number of the PAC; and
8. that if the requester fails to accept or collect the responsive records, the public body may still charge the requester for its response pursuant to Section 6 of FOIA and any failure to pay will be considered a debt due and owing to the public body and may be collected in accordance with applicable law.

If the requester amends the original request but the fire department's FOIA Officer still deems the amended request to be a voluminous request or the requester fails to respond, the public body must notify the requester of one or more of the following: (1) identify when and where the requested documents may be obtained; (2) provide an estimate of fees for documents to comply with the request, noting that the fire department can require payment in full before copying the requested documents; or (3) denying the request and stating the reason for denial, i.e., the request is unduly burdensome, etc.

As always, the fire department and requester can agree in writing to extend the time for compliance beyond the time restraints contained in FOIA without penalty.

- **Fees for voluminous records** -- Fees for paper copies of requested records have not changed (5 ILCS 140/6(b)). However, new provisions identify the fees that can be charged for voluminous requests for electronic records. The fire department's FOIA Officer should review this provision



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(5 ILCS 140/6(a-5)) to determine if fees are warranted or practical.

The fee depends on the format of the electronic record. If the requested electronic records are not available in a portable document format (“PDF”), the public body can charge up to \$20 for two megabytes or less of data, \$40 for more than two but no more than four megabytes of data, and \$100 for more than four megabytes of data. If the electronic records are in a PDF format, the public body can charge no more than \$20 for 80 megabytes of data or less, \$40 for more than 80 megabytes of data but not more than 160 megabytes of data, and \$100 for 160 megabytes of data. If a fee is assessed under this provision the public body must provide a detailed accounting of the fees, costs, and personnel hours associated with the request. Fire department FOIA officers will want to review and ensure compliance with these changes.

***Brian O’Connor** has been an attorney with Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. since 2004. Mr. O’Connor works closely with Bob Britz, who is the current general counsel for the IFA. Mr. O’Connor has presented at various fire service events such as Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts and the Northern Illinois Alliance of Fire Protection Districts conferences and training sessions, as well as to a variety of local fire service related organizations. Additionally, he has authored many articles for various fire service publications and organizations. Mr. O’Connor can be contacted by email at .*



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Fire/EMS Helpline: 1-888-731-FIRE (3473).

Find resources to Share the Load at [www.nvfc.org/help](http://www.nvfc.org/help).

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The Fire/EMS Helpline is in partnership with American Addiction Centers. | Have questions about the Share the Load™ program? Dial 202-887-5700.



# Share the Load Story

On Monday, May 4th, a very small rural fire department in the eastern part of Kansas made our Share the Load campaign all the more real in Kansas. One of their volunteers was an ordained minister and the department's CISD resource person. He had suffered burns in a fire a couple years ago while he was not wearing appropriate PPE. The family was suffering financial problems which caused a stress on the marriage. He had served as Chaplain to EMS in our state's largest county as well for a time. Despite all of these qualifications, his mind set was that he had no other alternative than to end his life. A tragic end to a very fixable situation. A 45-year old man ended his life; his family will continue to suffer including the four children left behind. This is exactly the reason that our Share the Load campaign is so important. If we save one firefighter, one firefighter's family and one fire department from having to deal with this, the campaign will have been worth every penny. I beg of you to please get out in your states and promote the Share the Load program.

Steve Hirsch, 1st Vice Chairman, NVFC

For more information about Share the Load, visit <http://www.nvfc.org/hot-topics/share-the-load-support-program-for-fire-and-ems> or call 888/731-FIRE (3473).

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## Plan Now For 2015 Illinois State Fair

Help is needed staffing the Fire Services Association tent on Saturday, August 22. It takes a lot of help for all of the people that go through the tent. If you or any other members of your department are available to work that day, please contact me at least 45 days prior to the day for the IFA day at the State Fair, August 22, at the phone numbers or email below, so that I can get enough parking passes and admission tickets mailed to you prior to the work date.

Home- 309-694-6678 - Cell- 309-265-6472 - E-mail me at: [breason@sbcglobal.net](mailto:breason@sbcglobal.net)

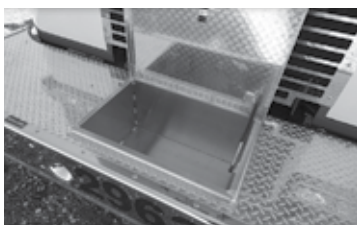
Robert Reason, Director

State Fair Committee Chair





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## Illinois Firefighters Association

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- You are likely overpaying for your prescriptions even if you have a low insurance co-pay. The Illinois Firefighters Association offers you the opportunity to purchase your prescription at the guaranteed lowest price by comparing your insurance co-pay price to a negotiated discount price through the Discount Drug Network (DDN). *Pricing examples are on the back of this page.*
- **You are eligible to participate in this free program simply by presenting the card below to your pharmacist.**
- This program is accepted at almost every pharmacy in the U.S.
- There is no cost to the patient and there is no patient information required to participate.
- Discounts are available to all participants regardless of current insurance status. (Insured, Uninsured, Medicare)
- All FDA approved brand name drugs and generics are covered by the plan.
- The program is HIPAA compliant requiring no patient data for participation.
- Generic drugs offer substantial savings over their brand equivalent. Ask your doctor if there is a generic drug alternative that provides you with the same medical benefit of the brand drug.

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on your prescription drugs!***

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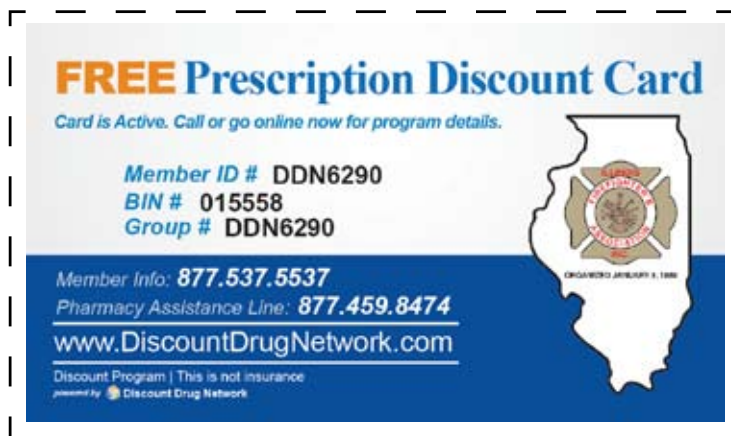
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The pharmacies with the lowest price  
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No patient information required.

Don't have internet access?  
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provide you with the same information.



Illinois Firefighters Association receives a donation from the Discount Drug Network each time a patient receives a discount. Everyone participating in this free program benefits. Thank you for your participation.

The Bulletin  
Department Spotlight  
**Amboy Fire Protection District**

The Amboy Fire Protection District is a volunteer fire department consisting of volunteer firefighters and EMTs that provides fire, rescue, and EMS services to a community with a population of 8,000. This population swells to 50,000 during the summer months due to 4 camp resorts in our fire district. The Amboy FPD also provides services to the unincorporated areas of Maytown, Walton, Shaw Station, and Binghampton. The District has three major roadways: US Route 52, Illinois Route 26, and US Route 30 with all of their many potential hazards and roadway safety issues. The Amboy FPD is a primary response agency for 298 square miles providing fire, rescue, wildland firefighting, and EMS services. The demand is felt even more due to



Auto Aid Agreements with the Sublette Fire District, the Harmon Fire Department, and the West Brooklyn Fire Department. The Amboy FPD also provides contracted EMS Services to West Brooklyn and Ohio. The Amboy FPD is a member of MABAS 38 which could be deployed to other affected parts of the state of Illinois or nationally as in the State of Illinois MABAS response to Hurricane Katrina and Gustav.

**Our primary response area has the following critical infrastructure:**

- \* 40 miles of major roadways, which sees 8,950 (ADTC) Average Daily Traffic Count.
- \* 20 miles of Pipeline, which sees 1 million cubic feet per day.
- \* The Green River which leads to the Mississippi
- \* Two bridges which pass over the river.
- \* One tower used for Emergency Broadcast System.
- \* One pre-school, one elementary school, and one junior high school totalling 500 students.
- \* A long term nursing facility with 75 patients.

**Critical infrastructure that lies in our automatic aid, mutual aid or MABAS response area is as follows:**

- \* An additional 10 miles of pipeline and 24 Wind Turbines.
- \* A bulk petro storage facility.
- \* Numerous miles of additional major roadways which see 32,000 (ADTC) Average Daily Traffic Count. Included within that total are approx. 4,500 trucks.
- \* 8 miles of major fiber optic cable which provides vital information to the FAA in areas such as Chicago.
- \* 4 bridges which pass over major waterways such as Rock River, which flows into the Mississippi River.
- \* A hydroelectric facility producing 814 MW of power.
- \* 2 miles of natural gas pipeline.
- \* 2 miles of railroad line, which runs through a residential area of our town, with one train passing by every 15 minutes.
- \* Several large industries.
- \* 3 commercial radio antennas for broadcasting the Emergency Broadcast System.
- \* 7 schools with over 3,082 students.
- \* A state prison housing over 2,200 inmates, county court house and county jail.
- \* One hospital with a capacity of 85 patients.
- \* An Ethanol Plant producing up to 110 million gallons of Ethanol a year.
- \* A large railroad inter model facility.
- \* An airport with 4 runways and 110 aircraft operations per day.
- \* Byron Nuclear Power Station, producing on average about 2,452 MW, enough power to supply about 2 million average American homes. This site supplies power to Northern Illinois and the City of Chicago.
- \* Duke Energy Gas Powered Production facility producing about 50 MW of power.



## The Bulletin



Each year the Amboy FD delivers over 70 Christmas food baskets for families in the district. A Child Safety House event is conducted for all pre-school thru 4th grade students. The department hosts a Fire School every other year. The last attendance in 2014 was 500 firefighters from over 80 departments. Their recruit program starts in high school to age 16 and then the candidate program is from ages 16 to 19. Also, the Amboy FD has been instrumental in raising funds so that an Automated External Defibrillator, or AED, can be placed into every Lee County Sheriff's Department squad car. This gives Sheriff's Deputies the right equipment to give heart attack victims the timely help they need.

Apparatus include a 2010 Engine, 2003 Engine, 2000 2000 Gallon Tanker, 2000 Brush Truck, 1953 Brush Truck, Gator with skid unit, Polaris with skid unit, 2006 Rescue Truck, 2005 Utility Truck, 2013 Command Quick Response Vehicle, 2003 Ambulance, 2006 Ambulance, a new Ambulance ordered with delivery date 9/2015, and two retired military Humvees that will be utilized as brush and light trucks.



*Installing  
sprinklers and  
smoke alarms in  
your home reduces  
your risk of dying  
in a fire by  
82 percent.*



## Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

### Test Your Home Sprinkler System IQ

Here are five statements about home  
sprinkler systems. Are they true or false?

- **When one sprinkler goes off, all the sprinklers go off.**  
False! Only the sprinkler over the fire will activate.
- **A sprinkler could accidentally go off, causing severe water damage to a home.**  
False! This is not likely to happen. Home fire sprinklers are specifically designed and tested to reduce such accidents.

- **Water damage from a sprinkler system will be worse than fire damage.**  
False! The sprinkler system will limit a fire's growth. Damage from a home fire sprinkler system will be much less severe than the smoke and fire damage as well as water damage from the fire department hoses.
- **Home fire sprinkler systems are expensive.**  
False! They typically cost 1 to 1 1/2 percent of the total building price.
- **Residential sprinklers are ugly.**  
False! Sprinklers for home use are now being designed to fit in with most any decor.



FEMA



**For more information  
and resources:**  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)



[HomeLifeSafety.com](http://HomeLifeSafety.com)





# Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Jim Keiken, Deputy Director



## Mark Your 2015 Training Calendar

Course	Start	City
Fire Origin and Cause Awareness Online	6/1/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Fire Service Vehicle Operator Online	6/1/2015	CHAMPAIGN
LEADERSHIP: ONE MARINES PERSPECTIVE	6/5/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Command & General Staff Functions for Local Incident Management Teams	6/8/2015	JACKSONVILLE
Fireground Management for Small Career and Volunteer Departments	6/12/2015	PLYMOUTH
Fire Service Vehicle Operator	6/13/2015	AVA
Grain Bin Rescue Awareness	6/13/2015	ALTAMONT
Responder Intervention Team - Basic	6/13/2015	GLASFORD
Crude Oil by Rail Awareness	6/15/2015	EFFINGHAM
Engine Company Operations	6/22/2015	ORLAND PARK
Fire and Arson Investigation I	6/22/2015	CHAMPAIGN
ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System	6/27/2015	NORMAL
Truck Company Operations	6/29/2015	ORLAND PARK
Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Module B Online	7/6/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Command & General Staff Functions for Local Incident Management Teams	7/6/2015	SPRINGFIELD
EBOLA AWARENESS ONLINE	7/6/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Ethanol Awareness Online	7/6/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Fire and Arson Investigation II	7/6/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Fire Apparatus Engineer Online	7/6/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Fires on the Farm Online	7/7/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Hazardous Materials Incident Management System	7/11/2015	CARTERVILLE
Responder Intervention Team - Basic	7/11/2015	GLEN CARBON
All Hazards Planning Section Chief	7/13/2015	CRYSTAL LAKE
Crude Oil by Rail Awareness	7/13/2015	GENOA
Responder Intervention Team - Basic	7/13/2015	LACON
Responder Intervention Team - Basic	7/13/2015	ADDIEVILLE
Grain Bin Rescue Awareness	7/14/2015	TOWANDA
Firefighter Self Rescue and Survival	7/18/2015	ANTIOCH
Grain Bin Rescue Awareness	7/18/2015	MT STERLING
Rural Engine and Tender Operations	7/19/2015	CAVE IN ROCK
Command & General Staff Functions for Local Incident Management Teams	7/20/2015	WHEATON
Fire and Arson Investigation III	7/20/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Rope Rescue Operations - Level I Online	7/20/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Introduction to Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Suite (PER-229-1) and Train-the Trainer	7/27/2015	CHAMPAIGN
Hazardous Materials Incident Management System	7/28/2015	ADDISON
Crude Oil by Rail Awareness	7/29/2015	GURNEE
Introduction to Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Suite (Per-229-1) Train-the Trainer	7/30/2015	CHAMPAIGN

For more information on upcoming classes visit our web site @ <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/>

## The Bulletin

I was recently off to pay my property taxes now that I am a Champaign resident and it got me thinking about paying your dues. No matter what you do, you have “Dues to Pay”. Taxes, family commitments, community groups there are obligations in being part of society or the organization. The same is true about the Fire Service and the Fire Department.

As a member of the Fire Service we have to pay our dues. It begins when we enter the service and continues throughout our career. As a new member we are obligated to learn about the service and be an active member of the department. We have many things to learn and also many chances to share what we know. There is maintenance and service we need to do to our “tools of the trade” and equipment. There are committees we can and should participate and contribute on. Some of the “work” can be routine and just plain boring but we have “Dues to Pay”.

As we work through our career we still have dues to pay. We have new things to learn, we have promotions and greater responsibilities we must commit the time and energy to. With new responsibilities comes new challenges we have to learn to overcome. Though out we have education on new information and concepts we must learn and drilling/training we must commit time and effort to on information and skill we had previously learned. This is really a never end cycle of pay our dues.

No matter organization you are in or what level you are in the organization you must always pay dues. The challenge is if you are late or fail to pay dues in most situations the consequences are not catastrophic. Don't pay taxes you get a fine or possible a loss of freedom. Don't pay your dues in a community organization maybe you get kicked out.

In the fire service if you fail to do your share of the work it will impact your reputation and status in the organization. If you fail to learn your job and develop the skills and knowledge to safely and effectively do your job the results can be disastrous for you or members of your crew. When you don't “Pay the Dues” in advance the outcome may not be loss of membership or freedom. You must commit to “Pay your Dues” and be the best firefighter you can be because anything less can result in mission failure. This can lead to someone or your death.

Never forget as a member of the Fire Service you have committed to educate yourself and to train and learn the skill need not just for the route situation but for the once in a career situation that present. You must be ready and you must share what you know and develop as well as mentor all those around you. We do have dues to pay and must never forget our commitment.

### **New Props at IFSI**

IFSI is always working on new classes. One new item is the relocation and “derailments” of two rail tank cars on the far south of the grounds. Beginning with Fire College and working in cooperation of the rail industry IFSI is developing a Firefighting on the Rails program. Originally taught at the Canadian Fire College, the IFSI Fire College program is a 16-hour class presented by Canadian Pacific Railroad personnel begins in the classroom learning tactics and strategies in fighting fire with foam in a railroad scenario. The hands-on portion covers scene size-up, cooling and foam application – when to cool, how to cool and when and how to apply foam. Students also learn how to interpret railroad paperwork and how to effectively make decisions in an emergency situation.

Based upon the experiences of this program and student feedback IFSI will be working to develop various versions of the program for delivery onsite at IFSI using this new prop. Watch for more information in the fall.

Just a reminder, if there is something you think IFSI would be providing or you have ideas for the next great program please feel free to contact me at the institute.

### **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
Southwest Region:	John Nichols,	618-973-2059
South Region:	Tim Bragg,	217-962-1597

*The Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representative can be your important link to bringing State Fire Academy training to your Fire Department.*

*Helping Firefighters do their work through Training, Education, Information and Research*



# *IFA to Celebrate 125th Annual Conference*



**Plans are being finalized for  
this year's conference.**

**Watch your email and future  
bulletins for conference  
information.**



## **Charity Motorcycle Ride & Car Cruise In Sunday August 30th, 2015**

**REGISTRATION: 9 am      First Out: 11am**

At The Office Sports Bar & Grill  
4901 Cal Sag Rd, Crestwood, IL

**\$20 Riders      \$10 Passenger**

Cars are welcome to follow the route

**Our Mission is to raise funds to be donated to Illinois  
Firefighter Peer Support and War Dogs Making It Home.  
These charities raise awareness for suicide prevention and  
PTSD for First Responders and Veterans .**

Non-participants are invited to the post-run party starting at 3pm  
**\$10 Donation at the Door**

**American Legion Post 1977  
14414 Ford Dr. New Lenox**

**Music\* Food\* Raffles\***

**Live Music By**



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# Chaplain's Corner

## God's Program for Firefighter Stress

I am so glad that in today's fire service there is an increasing awareness of the effects of stress and trauma on firefighters. Most fire departments are now addressing in some way the mandate of Life Safety Initiative #13 which calls for access to counseling and psychological support. And any member of the fire service who is experiencing the negative effects of trauma and stress – or whose life has become overwhelmed with anxiety, depression, or harmful behaviors for any reason – should access those resources made available to him/her. But even before there was debriefing and counseling, God had a maintenance program for firefighter stress called faith. Faith is a gift from God that every firefighter is invited to receive at any time in the midst of any circumstances. There are no pre-requisites, no trainings to attend, no "5 steps to success", and I have no data to support its effectiveness. Faith is a deep and personal experience whereby we reach out and take hold of the grace and strength that God offers to firefighters who are called by Him to respond to and address the trauma of the communities they serve. I can't say it any better than God Himself, so I offer here a few of the many Bible invitations that open the door to God's program for firefighter stress:

**BELIEVING** - "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those that earnestly seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

**COMING** - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

**LISTENING** - "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

**CASTING** - "Cast all your anxiety on Him, for he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

**COMMITTING** - "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery trial you are suffering, as though some strange thing were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed...So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." (1 Peter 4:12-13, 19)

**PRAYING** - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7).

**CARRYING** - "Carry each others burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Since our faith tells us that God has a purpose for all the experiences of our lives, then I must believe that the trauma and stress of the fire service experience has not escaped His attention. In fact, I have a theory that men and women are called into the fire service by God specifically to invite them to a deeper experience of faith – and thus to a deeper relationship with God – than would have been available to them otherwise. In other words...could it be that God has called you to the fire service so that through your experience you would be led to Him? The above Bible passages contain oceans of truth in their simplicity. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any of them – or any other aspect of faith in the fire service. As always, if I can be of any help or encouragement to you or your fire department, please don't hesitate to let me know.

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

# **IFSI Research Center to study cardiovascular and cancer risks in fire service**

The University of Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) Research Center has begun a new project focusing on “Cardiovascular and Carcinogen Risks in Modern Firefighting”. The study, in partnership with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), will provide the first rigorous scientific study to quantify acute physiological disruptions, including thermal and cardiac strain, and exposure to products of combustion, in response to working in a realistic modern fire environment.

According to Dr. Gavin Horn, Director for the IFSI Research Center, “Fighting fires exposes the human body to a large variety of environmental and physiological hazards, increasing the risk of occupational-related illness and death. Sudden cardiac events are the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in the fire service and the primary acute health concern. On the other hand, cancer is a primary chronic health concern associated with firefighting.”

The research, which is ultimately designed to aid the national discussion on “putting the firefighter back in service”, will examine firefighter conditions for up to 12 hours post-firefighting activities, as well as the effectiveness of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) gross on-scene decontamination. “The gross decon portion of the study will help us determine the effectiveness of these strategies to minimize secondary exposures from PPE off-gassing after a firefighter has removed their breathing apparatus,” Dr. Horn added. This project addresses the most important health concerns of firefighters and does so in a way that ensures that the results are “directly” applicable to firefighters.

The IFSI Research program constructed a new live-fire research burn prop to simulate a modern single family home to conduct the research. The prop was structured after the ranch style home designed and used by the UL FSRI in their recent laboratory studies. Pilot testing is currently underway, with the ‘live’ data collection taking place in mid-June.

The **Illinois Fire Service Institute Research Center** is part of the statutory State Fire Academy for Illinois. In addition to training provided at its Champaign campus, the Institute offers one-day hands-on classes for fire departments at Regional Training Centers and local fire stations across the State. The mission of the Illinois Fire Service Institute is to help firefighters do their work through training, education, information and research.

For more information about the IFSI Research Institute, call 217-265-6563.





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## 10 Auto Insurance Tips that Could Steer You to Savings

So, you just got your annual auto insurance renewal, but you also owe the IRS and you're still working on the holiday credit card bills. Your monthly budget is in shambles. What can you do? Here are some auto insurance tips that could help you save money each month that you could use to pay off some bills, save for a vacation or join friends for some great dinners out.

- 1. Combine your insurance.** Insurance companies like California Casualty offer discounts when your home or renters insurance is combined with your automobile insurance. It makes sense and you are the beneficiary of the extra money.
- 2. Increase your deductibles.** Sure, the amount you will pay will be a little more if something happens to your vehicle, but the amount you'll save each month could add up to much more, especially if you are incident for a number of years. Just make sure you have an emergency fund to cover that higher deductible.
- 3. Check for good driver/good student discounts.** Speaking of incident free, when's the last time you had an accident or a moving violation. Most insurance companies will give you a good driver discount, but make sure you tell them. The same goes for students who get good grades.
- 4. Take a defensive driving course.** Whether you are a new driver or had your license for decades, it's always good to refresh your skills when it comes to icy or wet roads, merging into traffic, avoiding traffic slow-downs or a child running into the roadway. Besides, you often qualify for insurance savings when you show proof you have completed one of these safe driving programs.
- 5. Check insurance costs when buying a new vehicle.** Many vehicles will cost you less; others will increase your premiums. It depends on numerous criteria from the power of the engine, its safety rating and the loss history of that particular vehicle. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and Loss Data Institute rates vehicles for safety each year. It's always a good idea to contact your insurance company and ask them what buying that dream car will cost you in future insurance premiums.
- 6. Clean up your credit.** Many insurance companies look at your credit score and how well you do in paying your bills. The better your credit score, the better rate you are likely to receive. Clean credit also helps when you want to buy a new car, rent or buy a home, etc.
- 7. Cut your driving.** Ride a bike, join a carpool or move closer to where you work. How many miles you drive each year can affect your auto insurance rates; the less you drive, the greater the possible discount.
- 8. Pay your premium in full each year.** Not only can you get a discount but you will avoid monthly service charges.
- 9. Get a policy review.** Has your commute changed? Did you install a security device? Did you get married? All of these can lower the rate you pay for insurance. Talking with your insurance advisor at least once a year is the best way to make sure you get the discounts you're entitled to.
- 10. Compare your current insurance to California Casualty.** We are pretty certain that when you stop and compare benefits and prices, California Casualty will be right there with the best of them. Why? We are a 100 year old, policyholder owned company that provides auto and home insurance to firefighters with exclusive benefits not available to the general public. We've been endorsed by groups like the IFA because of our competitive rates and insurance that reflects their members' professional lifestyles. This means:

### The Bulletin

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## Illinois Firefighter's Annual Memorial Service

The memorial service is held on Sunday morning, during the annual conference in October.

Please send all names of active and retired personnel from departments that have passed away from September 1, 2014 - September 1, 2015. The names and department info can be emailed to Joe Heim at [edfire18@yahoo.com](mailto:edfire18@yahoo.com).

The IFA reads the names of ALL firefighters from the State of Illinois that have passed away during the year, at their annual conference Memorial Service. If you know of ANY firefighter that has passed away, even from other departments, please let us know. We would like to honor them at the memorial service. The names can be sent to us throughout the year and we can keep track of them to be read at the service.

Thanks,

Joe Heim, Memorial Chairman, Illinois Firefighter's Association

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