

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 67, Number 6

November - December 2013

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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Down & Dirty Conference 2013



The Bulletin

November - December 2013 Vol. 67 Number 6

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Please send address changes or articles to:

The Bulletin

Kerry Federer, Editor

PO Box 77

Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Office/Fax 618-882-4783

Home 618-654-3852

Cell 618-830-3961

editor@illinoisfirefighters.org

www.illinoisfirefighters.org

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IFA Officers, Directors, Support Staff and Consultants

Officers

President (2014)

John Swan

23288 Green River Rd.

Colona, IL 61241

309.792.3011-work

309.792.4551-fax (work)

309.792.3231-station

309.792.3250-fax (station)

309.792.2793-home

309.314.0939-cell

Colonachief@AOL.com

Vice-President (2014)

Terry Ford

1214 Douglas Street

Alton, IL 62002

217.785.7487-work

618.977.2843-cell

618.463.5701-home

tlford9@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer (2015)

Kerry Federer

70 Arbor Crest Dr.

Highland, IL 62249-3899

618.654.3852-home

618.830.3961-cell

federer@charter.net

IFA Office

PO Box 77

Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Phone/Fax 618-882-4783

editor@illinoisfirefighters.org

Directors

Ed Allsman (2016)

1314 Gonterman St

South Roxana, IL 62087

618.781.4630-cell

618.254.1088-station

618.254.8802-fax (station)

eallsmansr@fire.org

Joe Heim (2017)

341 Gramercy Street

East Dubuque, IL 61025

815.747.6376 home

563.599.3356 cell

edfire18@yahoo.com

Garrick (Gary) Kasper (2015)

Benton Fire Dept

PO Box 771

Benton, IL 62812

618.439.2511 office

618.435.0437 cell

chief@bentonfire.us

Joseph Mandarino (2017)

24403 Arrowhead Dr.

Manhattan, IL 60442

815.680.6020 home

708.935.2893 cell

Corky2700@aol.com

Ronald Mulach (2014)

304 Wolf

P.O. Box 26

Hamel, IL 62046

618.633.2376-home/fax

618.973.5871-cell

samrjm10@aol.com

Edward Myers (2015)

2171 E. 221st Street

Sauk Village, IL 60411

708.983.9102-cell

708.758.2225 xt. 430-work

708.753.0901-work fax

acmyers502@comcast.net

Bill Offerman (2016)

600 Beattie St.

Elwood, IL 60421

815.423.6967-home

815.423.5224-station

815.423.6323-fax

BillCh601@krausonline.com

Robert Reason (2014)

55 North Street

East Peoria, IL 61611

309.694.6678-home

309.699.5252-fax

breason@mail.com

Michael A. Simmons (2017)

9985 W. Council Hill Rd.

Galena, IL 61036

815.238.0988 - cell

simmlawn@sbcglobal.net

Kevin Schott (2015)

17739 Macoupin Club Road

Carlinville, IL 62626

217.854.2179-home

217.971.8196-cell

schottd@frontiernet.net

G. Michael Stoffa (2014)

350 Pierce Street

Elburn, IL 60119

630.365.6301-home

630.417.3860-cell

Jocko521@aol.com

Jeff Stuck (2017)

404 Partridge Lane

Carterville, IL 62918

618.985.8060-work/fax

618.925.4915-cell

stuck915@hotmail.com

Gary Turnbaugh (2016)

506 Maple Avenue

Roxana, IL 62084-1017

618.254.9820-home

618.531.2480-cell

greyhounds1947@sbcglobal.net

Support Staff

and Consultants

Chaplain

Kevin Coffey

1117 N 1000 East Road

Onarga, IL 60955

815.457.2007 - home

kc9526@yahoo.com

Legislative Lobbyist

Margaret Vaughn

9211 Waterfall Glen Blvd.

Darien, IL 60561

217.280.0206-cell

630.908.7311-fax

mvaughn@springnet1.com

Attorney

Robert J. Britz

OBKCG&D, LTD

303 N. Main St.

Elburn, IL 60119

630.365.6441 Phone

630.365.6451 Fax

rbritz@ottosenbritz.com

www.ottosenbritz.com

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,

Vice-President Terry Ford and I just returned from the National Benefits Summit at College Station, Texas. This is the home of the University of Texas A&M. As always, it was nice to hear some of the same issues that other states have similar to ours. One of the big issues, that most of us have, is the dwindling financial resources that associations are facing. We can not rely on association dues alone to support all the operations within our associations.

We are now looking to be more pro-active and looking to partner with corporate sponsors. I believe this is an avenue we should take to unite ourselves and bring more awareness to each other's interest. It is our desire to keep our dues from going any higher.

After the Benefits Summit finished, the National Volunteer Fire Council convened its fall meeting. We have been a long time member as a state association. Directors Bob Reason and Bill Offerman are our representatives to the NVFC. The NVFC supports the volunteer fire service on national interests, such as AFG and Safer Grants. They have spearheaded legislation to support benefits and have partnered with Provident Insurance to provide a \$10,000 accidental death and dismemberment double indemnity insurance policy for each firefighter that joins, at very low costs. If you do not belong to the NVFC, please go to their web site and join.

We are about to lose another veteran at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Deputy Director Roger Lunt has been with the Institute for over thirty years. His knowledge, experience and skill will be greatly missed by all of us. Director Lunt's leadership has brought the fire service training and education to a new level. He has been the author on the design to assist fire departments in meeting a minimum standard of training that meets NFPA requirements. This has not been rolled out at this time, but we will support its concept when the time is right. On behalf of our association and firefighters all over this state, we wish him and his family well.

The holiday season is upon us and so will be the winter weather. This brings us to a new set of hazards that come our way. Slippery road conditions and slips and falls will cause a greater chance for an accident or injury. Awareness of these conditions could save our or someone else's life. Please be on safe guard and be proactive to prevent these injuries and deaths by defensive actions. Take the time to **SLAM** (Stop Look Analyze and Manage) Risk the condition before any action is taken. Also, prepare your apparatus and other vehicles, making sure the tires, windshield wipers, lights and other safety components are all in good working order. The most important safety component is you, the driver, operating your vehicle at safe speeds and taking defensive actions as needed. We all want to come home after the call.

God Bless and be Safe

John Swan President IFA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

IFA Participates in Illinois Fire Services Association Summit

Board Member Mike Stoffa and I represented IFA at the annual IFSA Summit held at Motorola on October 30th. Issues voted to be presented to the Fire Caucus include:

Tort Fund Transfers: Allow FPD's the ability to make a loan transfer once per fiscal year from their Tort Fund into their Operating Fund if their Operating Fund goes into the red and they are otherwise going to have to borrow money to get through the fiscal year. However the loan amount must immediately be paid back into the Tort Fund once the Operating Fund is replenished.

Shared Camera Feeds: When an accident occurs, the Fire-EMS often don't have a visual of what to expect until they arrive on the scene. Legislation is being proposed to allow sharing of expressway camera feeds from IDOT/Tollway to local Emergency Dispatch Centers which would provide for more timely and essential info to the Fire-EMS so they are better prepared when responding to Expressway/Tollway Incidents.

Require CPR/AED Education in High School PE Classes: Automated External Defibrillators can increase chances of survival when administered within the first 5 minutes of collapse by 100-200% . EMS responders cannot achieve this 5 minute goal and it is imperative that laypersons know how to administer AED. In 2008 at St. Charles North High School, 18 year old Laura Laman fell victim to the lack of knowledge of utilization of an AED when she collapsed during drill team practice and though an AED was on site, it was not used and by the time paramedics arrived, it was too late to save her. If CPR/AED Training is incorporated into PE Curriculum of Illinois high schools overtime, future generations will possess this live saving knowledge.

Increase Revolving Loan Fund - The Office of the State Fire Marshal is proposing to increase the loans available from their Fire Truck Revolving Loan \$250,000 to \$350,000 to keep up with inflation from the time the program began back in 2004.

Millikin University Honored by IFA

Fire deaths and burn injuries among college students have become a common occurrence with over 162 campus related fire deaths and over 1,300 incidences of campus related fires across the nation since 2000. IFA worked hard to pass both the Fire Illinois Sprinkler Dormitory Act in 2004 which requires all dormitories to be retrofitted with automatic fire protection systems by 2014 and the Greek Housing Fire Safety Act, which requires Greek housing retrofitted by 2019. My alma mater, Millikin University in Decatur was very progressive and insured all their students living on campus were protected by fire sprinklers since 2000 and four out of their five Greek Houses all installed sprinklers systems, many years before the State's deadline. During homecoming weekend which also coincided with Fire Prevention Week, I visited the campus along with OSFM Deputy Director Les Alberts and officials from the Decatur Fire Department to honor the University and Alpha Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta and Phi Beta Phi Sororities along with Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity with Life Safety Awards on behalf of IFA.



Pictured left to right: IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn, Office of the State Fire Marshal Deputy Director Les Albert and Millikin President Dr. Patrick White.



Members of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority at Millikin University honored by IFA for retrofitting of sprinkler systems 8 years before state deadline by IFA Lobbyist & Alpha Chi Omega member Margaret Vaughn, OSFM Deputy Director Les Alberts, and Decatur Fire Officials.

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Chaplain's Corner

Kevin Coffey - IFA Chaplain

God's Pre-Incident Plan

God had a pre-incident plan. That's right. When God looked down through the corridors of time and He saw people in trouble - people who needed to be rescued - He didn't sit idly by. He pre-planned. Hundreds of years before what we refer to as the first "Christmas", He rolled out that plan in one of His most notable directives: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (meaning God is with us)". It was many centuries later that Charlie Brown's modern-day prophet Linus recalled the fulfillment of that plan: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." A Savior – literally a Rescuer. The plan, then, was that God Himself would be with us to rescue us, and that He would do that through a human Savior-Rescuer. That, of course, is what this Christmas season is all about – the celebration of that rescue plan. It is the celebration of the birth of that perfect and unique Rescuer, Jesus Christ – a human who was Immanuel, or "God with us".

Now let me play "The Ghost of Christmas Future" and roll the tape forward; let's say 30 years from now to the year 2043. It's your town that we're seeing and there is a dried-out Christmas tree on fire in a residence where children are trapped. Or an accident has occurred on the highway running through town. There are wrapped Christmas presents strewn about the road and a car flipped on its side with several people who need extrication and emergency medical care/transport. Maybe it's a derailment of a tank car on the tracks that parallel Main Street which is spilling a toxic substance that threatens the health/safety of residents throughout the vicinity. In any one of these incidents people are in trouble and they need to be rescued. They need someone who is prepared with knowledge, skills, experience and a measure of selfless courage to deal with the situation. And more than likely they are crying out to God for help. Does God have a pre-incident plan? Of course He does. He could just reach down and take care of it Himself in some miraculous and awesomely powerful display of divine rescue. But more commonly His plan to rescue those in trouble is through humans, and those humans typically find their calling in the fire service. So it's not too far-fetched to say that for these incidents in 2043 there are indeed good tidings of great joy which shall be for all the people of your town – for right now being born to local families are those who will be fire service rescuers at that time. God will stir their hearts in ways only known to Him so that they will recognize and respond to their fire service calling. And God will be present on the 2043 emergency scene. In some supernatural way He will be "Immanuel" - present within those rescuers who are dispatched to the scene.

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What about you and your fire department today in 2013? You are a big part of God's pre-incident rescue plan for those 2043 incidents. The rigs you are planning to purchase and maintain; the fire station you are improving, or adding on to, or planning to build; the training facilities and props you are constructing; the knowledge and skills through classes and certifications you are pursuing; the Explorer program you are starting, the EMS advancements your department is moving toward; the culture of selfless service that your daily attitudes and actions root into the fiber of your fire department; even the endless paperwork that you faithfully plod through month after month – it's all part of God's pre-incident planning for the rescues of 2043 and beyond. It's all good tidings of great joy for all the people of your town. It is all God's gift – and your Christmas gift – to those you are called to serve.

Merry Christmas to you all. May your faith in your fire service calling and work be strengthened with the good tidings of the season.

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



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As a first responder, your emotional well-being is just as important as your physical health. Are you or someone you know struggling with persistent sadness, substance abuse, work or life stresses, or other issues affecting your work or home life? The first step is reaching out.

Here's what you can do:

- *Talk* about it
- Seek professional help for yourself or your colleague
- Encourage positive lifestyle changes, like eating better and getting more exercise
- Offer support by listening and checking in with your peers

Call the National Fire Service Member Assistance Program and talk to someone who understands. We're ready to answer the call.

1-888-731-FIRE (3473)

Trained firefighters and counselors familiar with the fire and emergency services are available 24/7.



Supporting Those Who Serve

Learn more at www.nvfc.org/help

2013 Conference Vendors



Scenes from 2013 Conference



Carlinville Fire Department

The Carlinville Fire Department was organized in 1872 and stationed on West Main St. until moving to the current location in the 1960's. A new firehouse was then erected over the old one in 2002 and is in use today. The most memorable fire would have to be the High School fire in 1987. Multiple fire departments were called in and the fire went through the night and into the morning. Several firefighters said that fire changed them and some retired soon after.



Today the Carlinville Fire Department consists of Chief Mike Kirk, Asst. Chief Jess McKee and a roster consisting of 26 volunteer firefighters. The firehouse is located at 317 W. 2nd South St. and holds 4 pumpers, 2 tenders, 2 brush trucks, 1 brush UTV, 1 rescue vehicle, 1 ladder, 1 personnel carrier and 1 chief's/hydrant vehicle. The department responds to approximately 100 to 120 calls annually, including alarms, structure fires, wildland/grass fires, vehicle fires and extrication calls. It serves 12,000+ people in a 180 sq. mile area. Carlinville Fire Department is a MABAS 56 member with mutual aid agreements with 4 other departments outside of the MABAS 56 division.

The Carlinville Fire Department training program consists of 2 training nights per month, 1 weekend training session per quarter, 4 mandatory SCBA trainings, annual pump certifications, CPR training every 2 years, as well as Hazmat and bloodborne pathogens classes once a year. Just completed was a 20 hour Cornerstone "Wildland Firefighting" training session. Several more

Cornerstone programs are scheduled for early 2014.

Carlinville Fire Department is very active in the October fire prevention week, including passing out information and speaking in schools. Tours of the firehouse are given with preK – 5th graders as part of the Fire Pup program from the National Fire Safety Council. The department also gives fire extinguisher training to individuals and businesses; and oversees/critiques



fire evacuation drills for schools and businesses that request it. Carlinville Fire Department trucks participate in local parades such as the Lion's carnival parade and the Rotary Halloween parade. They also host the "fire up for scouting" annual sign-up drive that the local cub/boy scouts put on at the firehouse. The department's biggest community outreach is called "Help the Elf" which is a nonprofit group made up of firefighters and their families, along with some community members, that raises money, gathers, wraps and delivers toys to less fortunate children within the school district so they will have toys at Christmas. This has been going on for over 20 years and enough money is raised throughout the year to buy presents early in December. Then all the presents are wrapped the week before Christmas and delivered the Saturday before Christmas. Generally 3 to 5 presents are provided for each of the approximately 100 to 150 children each year.

The Carlinville Fire Department is a small group of dedicated, conscientious firefighters that spend many thankless hours in fire suppression, extrication, community collaboration/education, and a lot of time spent spreading good will within the town of Carlinville. It's a great group of guys and Chief Kirk couldn't be more proud to be their Chief.

CONFERENCE THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone who attended this year's conference. I hope everyone had a good time and a great learning experience. We are working on next year's conference, tentatively scheduled for October 16 - 19, 2014, so if you have any suggestions or type of training sessions you would like to see at the conference, contact Jeff Stuck (stuck915@hotmail.com) or me (corky2700@aol.com) with your requests.

Thank you
Joseph Mandarino
Conference Chair

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Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Roger D. Lunt, Deputy Director

Mark Your 2013 Training Calendar

- **Winter Fire School** – January 25 – 26, IFSI Campus
- **NFA Decision Making for Initial Company Operations** – Jan. 18 – 19, 2014 Shumway FPD

NFA requirements for their direct delivery courses:

Minimum Students: 15 Maximum Students: 30

Registration Policy: Roster must be submitted to NFA 40 days prior to course start date. Class hours: 2 days (16 hours)

IFSI Winter Fire School Saturday and Sunday, January 25 and 26, 2014

Register online or download a registration form of the IFSI web site, fax to 217-244-6790.

Important Dates; Email confirmations sent: **January 2, 2014,**

Last day to cancel without penalty: **January 6, 2014,** Registration fee increases to \$60: **January 7, 2014,** Last day to advance register: **January 14, 2014,** Final confirmation email: **January 15, 2014.** All of the classes are new:

Bad Boys, Whatcha Gonna Do?

This specially designed Winter Fire School class will provide first responders with critical information on how to manage a variety of these situations. Scenes that include finding a weapon or contraband or finding yourself in the middle of a physical confrontation will be discussed. The class will be taught by police officers who are instructors at the Illinois Police Training Institute.

Fire Behavior and Smoke

This training will help you recognize what is happening around you in a burning building and then how to anticipate the fire's next move. The foundational topics presented in this class. Learning how to observe fire and smoke conditions with an understanding how to manage each situation will be discussed.

Is It Safe To Take Off My SCBA?

We've all been there – the main body of fire is out, and we're itching to take off our mask and SCBA during overhaul. And we've also had the headache the next day from the poison gasses that we breathe in during overhaul. What about the gasses that have effects that don't show up for years to come? This course will expand the firefighter's understanding of when, why, and how to complete atmospheric monitoring in the post-fire environment.

SCBA Training Program Development

The class will convince you of the importance of quality SCBA training. Instructors will present guidance on how to develop an SCBA training program for new recruits and extend continuing education for all department members. The class will discuss case studies of line of duty death incidents that may have been impacted by SCBA issues or training

Strategy and Tactics

You will obtain an understanding of the Incident Command System, strategic and tactical objectives,



risk management, pre-incident planning and accountability. The class also covers personnel safety, occupancy, hazard identification, size-up, standard company functions, fire behavior and the variables of fire department responses. This class is designed for personnel responsible for commanding one to two companies at the fire or emergency scene, such as Company Officers and Chief Officers of small fire departments.

Wildland Fire–Small Engine Tactics & Operations

This Winter Fire School presentation will help prepare you for the variety of wildland fire possibilities that are included in most jurisdictions. The course is designed primarily to prepare experienced firefighters, engine company officers and initial attack incident commanders in the tactics necessary to conduct both first-in and extended attack engine company operations at local wildland fire scenarios

Saturday night's program is an appearance by Alvaro Llanos, who along with his roommate Shawn Simons survived the January 2000 residence hall fire on the Seton Hall University in New Jersey. Llanos brings their story to Champaign in a dynamic presentation that includes the film "After the Fire," which was inspired by their story with a powerful message about campus fire safety.

Dates and Locations for Explorer – Cadet Field Training 2014

Cherry Valley	April 5, 2014	Galesburg	April 12, 2014
Frankfort	May, 2014	St Louis Area	April or May 2014

This is a 1-day "Down and Dirty" Fire Service Youth training activity, introducing youth to hands-on firefighting skills. This "Down and Dirty" training will provide departments a safe training environment, under state fire academy instructor supervision, that will focus on the same basic firefighting skills that are provided in the IFSI Cornerstone Training program for firefighters statewide. Topics will include; Fire Hose and Appliances, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Search and Rescue, Ladders, Forcible Entry and Hand Tools. While not addressing all, training will use the Illinois OSFM Basic FF objectives as the training guide. Throughout the day long training session Explorer-Cadets will be exposed to the value of team work, leadership and followership. If you have specific questions about this training contact; Tim Meister, IFSI East Central Regional Representative.

IFSI Recognizes Instructors

The University of Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) recognizes instructors who exemplify quality instruction, student engagement, professional demeanor and knowledge base. The institute is recognizing instructors each month from nominations from field staff and leadership. November is the second month that IFSI instructors has been chosen and are being recognized.



Shawn Bloemker has been an instructor for IFSI since 2004 and is best known for his smoke behavior knowledge. Shawn wrote the IFSI Fire Behavior and Smoke curriculum and was responsible for developing IFSI fire behavior box that has been instrumental as an instruction tool and with research activities. Shawn serves on the Godfrey Fire Protection District and was recently named Assistant Chief of that department.

Tom Rushing has been an instructor for IFSI since 1996 and has taught the Certified Firefighter II Academy since 2000. Tom currently serves as IFSI's Program Manager for Champaign campus Light and Fight training classes. He serves as an engineer on



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the Urbana Fire Department and has been a volunteer with the Homer (Illinois) Fire Protection District for 31 years.



Pat Reynolds also is being recognized in November. He has been an instructor for IFSI since 1995, specializing in Hazardous Materials training. He has been involved with curriculum development for almost every HazMat class. Pat has served on the Lisle Woodridge Fire District for 25 years and as Captain for two and a half years.

“IFSI instructors are the finest in the state and nation. Their commitment to excellence is at the heart of our mission success to bring the finest training, education, research and information to the firefighters of Illinois,” Royal Mortenson, Director for IFSI said.

LPG Fire Fighting

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Fire Fighting is a four-hour class underwritten completely by the Illinois Propane Education and Research Council (IPERC) that combines a short lecture with a hands-on component. A one-hour lecture covers the properties, fire behavior, and proper approach to LP emergencies. Practical hands-on scenarios cover safe hose handling, water supply, and fire streams. Propane is supplied and funded by IPERC, as well as the time for the driver supplying the fuel. Minimum class size is at least 35 emergency responders from multiple jurisdictions. This is a tremendous opportunity when planning ahead to meet minimum ISO requirements for mutual aid and night live burn training. Contact mark Clapp, IFSI Liquefied Petroleum Program Manager, 217-244-7134.

IFSI Research

The IFSI Firefighter Life Safety Research Center continues to conduct nationally relevant research to improve the health, safety and effectiveness of the Fire Service. We currently have a wide range of on-going studies focusing on topics such as:

- ✓ Studying decision making and situational awareness immediately after strenuous live-fire activities (with IFSI Academy)
- ✓ Characterizing the thermal conditions in IFSI burn buildings during live-fire training activities
- ✓ Understanding the effect of aspirin therapy on cardiovascular responses to live-fire activities, particularly in firefighters over 40 years old
- ✓ Quantifying the impact of SCBA cylinder size and design on fatigue during firefighting activities and risks for slips, trips and falls or overexertion and strain injuries on the fireground
- ✓ Measuring firefighter’s environmental noise exposure during automobile extrication activities
- ✓ Working with national testing labs to understand changes in Fire Dynamics with modern contents and building materials
- ✓ Characterizing the use environment and updating standards for the use of firefighter escape systems

The Criteria Used to Identify a Cornerstone Class:

It is no surprise that every suggestion to make a training session or class a Cornerstone offering is not approved. I am offering the following as some of the primary criteria used at the IFSI executive level to determine if a training session should have Cornerstone funding support.

Does it hit the core skills; NFPA 1001, basic or advanced skills supportive of today’s most frequent

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type of fire department response, or hands-on officer training.

Is it cost effective? Is this a class that will only be offered a couple times, because it is very selectively applicable? Funding required for development, delivery and support?

What is the cost per student hour? Does it exceed \$5.00 per student hour to deliver?

Cornerstone Hosting Minimums and Guidelines:

1. Host department submits a completed IFSI Cornerstone Request for Training, (RFT) form.
2. One RFT per training topic.
3. A department can request the same training session repeated to accommodate shift and work schedules of neighboring departments.
4. Repeat training sessions require multiple RFTs.
5. The number of approved RFTs per department is determined by meeting hosting requirements and the available funding for training within the region.
6. Request for Training status will be determined by Regional Representative.
7. With a focus of training firefighters, the Regional Representative will manage respective budget to reach as many firefighters as possible.
8. IFSI will mail a training MOU (memorandum of understanding) to the requesting fire department.
9. The requesting fire department must return a signed MOU.
10. The requesting fire department must invite other fire departments and appropriate response agencies to the training, and cannot deny other fire department access to the training.
11. Fire departments must encourage attendees to preregister online.
12. Cornerstone training must be attended by a minimum of 15 attendees per event (training session, IE: 12 hour class over the next three nights is three training sessions).
13. Cornerstone training sessions should be 70% – 80% hands on training.

Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representatives:

Northeast Region:	Randy Schlichter, 847-343-4039
East Central Region:	Tim Meister, 217-202-4760
Chicago Metro Area:	Richard Stack, 773-988-0259
Central Region:	Jim Vaughn, 309-275-2499
Metro-East Region:	John Nichols, 618-973-2059
South Region:	Tim Bragg, 217-962-1597
Northwest Region:	Ray Palczynski, 563-468-8385

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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Demand To Be Different.



Illinois State Police issue “No Guns Allowed” sign

by Vladimir Shuliga

Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

Illinois became the last state to pass a concealed carry law when it passed the Firearm Concealed Carry Act on July 9, 2013. The primary purpose of the Act was to allow Illinois citizens to apply for and potentially receive a concealed carry license. The Act allows those holding a concealed carry license to possess a concealed firearm which is defined as a “loaded or unloaded handgun carried on or about a person completely or mostly concealed from view of the public or on or about a person within a vehicle.” (430 ILCS 66/5)

Since the Act will substantially increase the prevalence of firearms in public, the Act provides for significant restrictions on who will be approved for a concealed carry license. However, the focus of this article is on the areas in which individuals that do hold a concealed carry license will be prohibited from possessing a firearm.

An entire section of the Act is dedicated to a list of places in which any individual with a concealed carry license will be prohibited from carrying a firearm. Some of the prohibited places that are most relevant to fire departments and fire protection districts include:

- (1) Any area under the control of a public or private elementary or secondary school;
- (2) Any area under the control of a pre-school or child care facility;
- (3) Any area under the control of an officer of the executive or legislative branch of government;
- (4) Any building designated for matters before the circuit, appellate, or Supreme Court;
- (5) Any building under the control of a unit of local government;
- (6) Any area under the control of a public or private hospital, mental health facility, or nursing home;
- (7) Any bus, train, or other form of public transportation or any area under the control of a public transportation facility;
- (8) Any area under the control of an establishment that serves alcohol on its premises if more than 50% of its receipts are from the sale of alcohol;
- (9) Any public gathering or even that is conducted on public property that requires the issuance of a permit from a unit of local government;
- (10) Any public playground;
- (11) Any area under the control of a public library;
- (12) Any area under the control of an airport;
- (13) Any area under the control of an amusement park.

An exhaustive list of the prohibited areas is found in Section 65 of the Act, available at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=043000660K65>. As a way of enforcing the prohibition in the above listed areas, the Act requires that property owners conspicuously post a sign at the entrance of a building specified as a prohibited area. (430 ILCS 66/65(d)) The Act required the Illinois State Police to create a uniform design that property owners could post at the entrance of buildings.

The design provided by the Illinois State Police (pictured below) has a white background and depicts a handgun with a red circle and slash across it. The only text on the sign is a reference to the relevant portion of the Act. In addition, the Illinois State Police Department has filed administrative rules with the Secretary of State which allows the use of a sign which is larger than the 4” x 6” requirement under the Act. However, if a property owner chooses to utilize a larger sign, it must then reproduce the 4” x 6” template somewhere on the larger sign. (20 Ill. Adm. Code 1231) Additionally, the administrative rules allow for additional language to be added to the template so long as the sign is at least 4” x 6” as required by the Act.

The Bulletin

Clearly, a fire station, or any other building under the control of a fire department or fire protection district, is one of the prohibited areas under the Act because it is a “building under the control of a unit of local government.” Therefore, the Act has not created any new rights for either employees or members of the public to carry a concealed weapon into a fire department or district building. Nonetheless, the Act does create an obligation for fire protection districts and other units of local government to post a sign at the entrance of all buildings identified as prohibited areas.

The template provided by the Illinois State Police Department is an excellent starting point. Under the Illinois Administrative Code, the owner of a building designated as a prohibited area will have some discretion as to using a larger sign or adding additional language to the template. However, property owners have no discretion in using a sign any smaller than 4” x 6” as required by the Act. At this point, it is unclear whether there will be any penalty if a location designated as a prohibited area, such a fire station, does not post the necessary sign. However, the time and effort necessary to post the sign is minimal, and there does not appear to be any real benefit to not posting the sign. Thus, it is advisable to have the sign posted by January 1, 2014 when the Act becomes effective.



Additionally, the signage requirement under the Act will provide some warning to firefighters in regards to what they can expect when called to certain locations. As listed above there are many different locations which qualify as prohibited areas such as schools, hospitals, libraries or playgrounds. One category of places that did not make the list was private businesses. However, a private business can declare itself a prohibited area by posting the sign in a conspicuous place. As firefighters approach a building, that is a piece of information that they can look for to better familiarize themselves with what to expect inside of the building.

As a side note, applications for a concealed carry license are scheduled to become available on January 5, 2014. Once applications are submitted, the Illinois State Police have 90 days to either issue or deny the license. That provides some timeframe as to when concealed firearms should begin to be expected while responding to calls at non-prohibited areas.

Every fire department and fire protection district may have unique circumstances, so contact your attorney if you have any questions about how the signage requirement or any other portion of the Firearm Concealed Carry Act applies to your particular situation.

Vladimir Shuliga is an associate with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. in Naperville. Vladimir graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law with a Certificate in Labor and Employment Law and has an undergraduate degree in political science from DePaul University. He concentrates his practice in the areas of litigation, municipal, labor and employment law.

IFA Representatives Attend NVFC Fall Board Meeting in Texas

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) held its annual fall board meeting in College Station, TX, from October 31-November 1. The Illinois Firefighter's Association (IFA) was represented by Robert Reason, NVFC Director from Illinois, and Bill Offerman, NVFC Alternate Director from Illinois.

The fall board meeting was held in conjunction with the 2013 State Benefits Summit, which took place October 28-31. Both events were hosted by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association of Texas (SFFMA) and held at Brayton Fire Training Field, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX/ESTI).

The NVFC board meets twice each year to conduct Council business, meet with committees, and hear guest speakers. [Director's Last Name] is on the [Insert Committee Names] and [Alternate's Last Name] is on the [Insert Committee Names]. Guest speakers at the 2013 fall meeting included Bruce Johnson of the International Code Council, who provided an update on current initiatives, and Chief Dave Covington of the Department of Transportation, who discussed new Traffic Incident Management training that is now available.

Expanding the Council's international relations was also a focus of the meeting. A representative from the Union of Hellenic Fire Service Volunteers, which is an International Member of the NVFC, attended the meeting. The board also voted to attend the Interschutz fire service trade show in Hannover, Germany in 2015. With increased international networking and the recent creation of the International Relations Committee, the NVFC continues to build relationships and actively participate in idea-exchange with the global fire service community.

Other highlights of the meeting include the following:

- NVFC partner Ballistic Case Company updated the board on its successful partnership with the NVFC. Ballistic had committed to donating one million dollars worth of durable smart phone cases to volunteer firefighters, but since the goal was met within 24 hours of the program launch they announced they would extend the program by committing another million dollars worth of cases.
- A special presentation was made to NVFC Executive Director Heather Schafer in recognition of her 20-year anniversary with the NVFC.
- The board held a special Board Leadership Training Session.
- The NVFC Foundation held an auction that raised \$7,250 for the Foundation. Donated items included a light bar from Whelen and six paid tuitions to the 84th Annual Municipal Fire School at Brayton Fire Training Field from TEEX/ESTI. The NVFC thanks all of the generous donors and bidders for making the auction a success.

The NVFC thanks the sponsors of the 2013 fall meeting: Provident, National Fire Protection Association, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, The Pennsylvania Fireman, California Casualty, and Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Many board members [Insert "including Director and Alternate's names" if applicable] arrived to Texas early to attend the State Benefits Summit. The Summit is a gathering of state fire association representatives with the purpose of addressing issues facing their organization, such as benefits, membership database management, social media, and legislation. Through sessions, networking, and core discussions, the state representatives come away with fresh ideas to create meaningful results and impact within their associations.

The NVFC board is made up of representatives from 49 state fire service organizations. The next NVFC board meeting will be held May 2-3, 2014, in Alexandria, VA.



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