

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 72, Number 6

November - December 2018

FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

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IFA PROMOTING FIREFIGHTER HEALTH BY ANNOUNCING THE GO GREEN CLEAN CAMPAIGN TO HELP PREVENT FIREFIGHTER CANCER



Attendees at the annual Illinois Firefighter's Association's Annual Training Conference displaying their "Go Green Clean" shirts to educate firefighters about the Best Practices for Prevention of Firefighter Cancer from the Lavendar Ribbon Report.

November - December 2018 Volume 72 Number 6

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Mission Statement

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

President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters:

Well, the Conference is over and I wanted to apologize for any trouble you may have had registering for a room for the conference. As you may know by now, our hotel was closed for safety reasons at the height of booking rooms. If it was not for IFSI and our Vice-President, we may not have had a conference at all. They stepped up to the plate and worked together in a short period of time and secured the hotels we needed. Our Directors and the IFSI staff also did a great job. All in all, the conference went well for all that were able to attend.

The theme of this year's conference can be marked up as GO GREEN CLEAN. The kick off of our campaign went great. If you are not aware of it, we are promoting firefighter cancer awareness and the use of the Best Practices to reduce your risk of getting cancer. Everyone should have received something by now about Best Practices. If not, you can go online and download all of this information for your benefit. We hope to be working with the National Firefighter Cancer Foundation in promoting awareness and educational programs in the near future. If you want to help you can purchase a GO GREEN CLEAN T-shirt on our web site. This will also help spread the word around this state and a portion of those funds will go towards firefighter cancer research.

The elections are over now and, thank God, we won't need to listen to all of those campaigning advertisements for a while. Whether you agree with the outcome or not, the people have spoken. We must get behind our elected officials and get the work done that needs to be done to straighten out in this state. It's going to be a difficult job and I see no way that things can be resolved unless they raise taxes, cut services or forgiveness. As you know, I am a stickler when it comes to protecting the Fire Prevention Fund. It's been raided in the past and that money is supposed to be in a protected fund. That money should only be used exclusively for the operations of the Fire Marshal's Office and dedicated programs and undedicated funds that help support our needs.

It's not all bad, we can rest assured that our Fire Marshal and his staff have been protecting our backs side. They have done a great job in their efforts in trying to help protect all of us. The Fire Marshal and his staff have supported the fire service in many ways. The training and certification process between IFSI and his office has taken a major leap forward. This is one of the best things that could have happened to us since sliced bread. I challenge you all to stay involved with your local legislators and keep telling them that we need all their support to help protect that fund. It is also important to ask your legislators if they belong to the legislative Fire Caucus. That Caucus has direct contact with the other legislators in getting fire service initiatives passed for our benefit. This will be an interesting new year, it is my hope that the new administration will recognize that the present Fire Marshal and his administration have been doing a great job and to keep what's in place.

Thanksgiving will be over before you read this and it is the time to give thanks in many ways. We live in a great country and I hope you all can reflect back and give thanks for what we have. Winter is upon us and that brings on special hazards on roadways that can lead to accidents and injuries. Please drive safe and be on guard for the unexpected conditions that lead to an accident. IFSI now has a driving simulator that is available for you to train with, it was rolled out at the Fire Districts' Conference last June. Please get on IFSI request list to book it in your area. Remember slips and falls is the biggest form of injuries to Firefighters. Watch your footing and be aware of ground conditions to help reduce your risk of injury. The last thing I want to do is wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With that being said, *"Train Smart, Be Safe"*

God Bless

John Swan President IFA



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

ELECTION RESULTS

The Democrats now have supermajority once again in the House, which means they will not need any GOP votes to override the Governor's vetoes. Once the Governor-Elect Pritzker's new administration takes over in January, there will mostly likely be whole turnover in the agency staff as far as directors, management and legislative liaisons, etc. The new Governor will be sworn in the second week in January.

There will be even more new faces in the General Assembly than originally anticipated because 9 incumbent legislators who planned to come back were defeated on election day bringing the number of new legislators to well over 40. Two races were so close that they had to wait two weeks for the mail in ballots to come in before the winner could be declared. On election night Sen. Mike Connelly (R-Naperville) was leading his democratic opponent Laura Ellman by only 12 votes but later ended up conceding after additional ballots came in. Only 1 vote separated Rep. Helene Walsh (R-Mundelein) from Rep. Mary Edly-Allen, but Rep. Eddy-Allen pulled ahead by the time all the ballots were counted. If you don't think your vote counts, it does!

VETO SESSION

The General Assembly returned to Springfield Nov 13-15 and Nov. 27-29 for the Fall Veto Session and the bills below were scheduled were taken up for action.

SB2297: RESCUE SQUAD DISTRICTS-REVENUE

Sponsored by Sen. Hutchinson and Rep. Reick. This legislation amends the Rescue Squad Districts Act to provide that a rescue squad district's board of trustees may certify a question to the voters of the district requesting to levy a special tax at a rate not to exceed 0.40% of the value of all taxable property within the district as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue for providing an ambulance service or supporting an existing ambulance service. This provision is already allowed in law for FPD and just created parity by extending to rescue squads. **Status: The Governor had vetoed the bill but the General Assembly has overridden his veto.**

SB 2619- CLEAN UP to APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF QUALIFICATIONS

Sponsored by Sen Anderson and Rep Willis, this is a clean up to legislation passed last year defining qualifications for the appointment of fire chiefs to make the certifications more consistent with NFPA standards. This does not apply to volunteer departments and provides that an individual may be selected as a fire chief that is responsible for day-to-day operations of a fire department for greater than 180 days if he or she possess an Office of the State Fire Marshal Basic Operations Firefighter Certification (rather than a Firefighter Basic Certification) or an Office of the State Fire Marshal Firefighter II Certification; an Office of the State Fire Marshal Advanced Fire Officer Certification or Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire Officer II Certification (rather than Fire Officer I and II Certifications); and an associate degree in fire science or a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college. Provides that a fire chief may additionally be selected as a fire chief that is responsible for day-to-day operations of a fire department for greater than 180 days if he or she possess either of the following: (i) a current certification from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System that meets the National Fire Protection Association standard NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, Level I job performance requirements; a current certification from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System that meets the National Fire Protection Association standard NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, Fire Officer II job performance requirements; and an associate degree in fire science or a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college; or (ii) qualifications that meet the National Fire Protection Association standard NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, Level I job performance requirements; qualifications that meet the National Fire Protection Association standard NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, Fire Officer II job performance requirements; and an associate degree in fire science or a bachelor's degree from an accredited university or college. **Status: Governor Vetoed the bill because it exempted Home Rule but the General Assembly has overridden the veto.**

IFA JOINS ROCK ISLAND OFFICIALS to ANNOUNCE 10 YEAR SMOKE DETECTOR LAW



As part of a statewide public education effort, IFA President John Swan and IFA lobbyist Margaret Vaughn recently participated in a press conference at the Rock Island Fire Dept to urge compliance with the State's 10 year Smoke Detector Law. Pictured left to right: Rep. Mike Halpin (D-Rock Island), Rep. Neil Anderson (R- Andalusia), Rock Island Fire Marshal Greg Marty, Margaret Vaughn, IL Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski, Rock Island Fire Chief Jeff Yerkley, Rock Island County Health Dept Administrator Nita Ludwig, Rock Island County Director of Code Enforcement Greg Thorpe, IFA President John Swan and Silvis Fire Chief John Winters

10 YEAR SMOKE DETECTOR PRESS CONFERENCE in PEORIA



On October 16th, IFA Lobbyist Margaret organized a press conference on the new 10 Year Smoke Detector law with the Fire Safety Alliance in conjunction with the IFCA Conference at the Peoria Civic Center. Pictured left to right: IL Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski, Immediate IFCA President Chief John Christian, State Fire Marshal Matt Perez, IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn, IL Fire Services Association Chair Steve Iovinelli, Peoria Fire Chief Ed Olehy, Plainfield Fire Protection District Chief Dave Riddle.

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Umbrella Insurance Coverage for the Holidays

The holidays are wonderful. We gather with friends and relatives for wonderful meals and parties. While they are good times, the warm feelings can quickly turn cold if someone slips and falls at your home or apartment, your dog bites a guest, or a friend is hurt in a crash after a little too much liquid-joy at your party. Without enough liability protection, you could be in real financial danger.

That's why you should consider an excess liability insurance policy, also known as an umbrella.

Financial experts advise that as long as you can earn a livelihood, you should have an umbrella liability policy. Most recommend having at least a \$1 million to provide liability coverage beyond the limits of your auto and homeowners insurance policies, even if you have less than \$1 million in assets. That's because if you lose a lawsuit, you could be forced to pay a legal judgment from your current assets (your home, bank accounts and some investments), and from future earnings. You may think that a friend or relative wouldn't sue you for damages, but it does happen, especially if the injury is serious.

The reality of an unforeseen accident is very real and can result in a large lawsuit that could easily cost \$1 million or more.

California Casualty can help. The company offers personal umbrella policies underwritten by RLI, a leading niche provider.

In addition, the defense costs for lawsuits can be overwhelming. It happens every day. And, it is more likely to happen to you if you own a home and have other sizable assets. In fact, you could be a prime target for such a civil lawsuit.

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, you may want to consider purchasing an umbrella policy.

- Are you a high wage earner?
- Do you own more than one property?
- Do you have a vacation home or rental property?
- Do you have a pet dog?
- Do you have a swimming pool in your backyard?
- Do you own a boat or other recreational vehicles?
- Do you have inexperienced drivers in your household

Investing today in a personal umbrella policy will provide you and your family with excess coverage above your basic homeowner's personal liability and/or automobile liability. For example, if you have liability limits of \$500,000, a personal umbrella can provide an additional \$1 million of protection, for as little as \$150 to \$300 per year. Depending on your insurance needs, you may be able to purchase \$2 million, \$3 million or up to \$5 million of excess liability coverage.

A personal umbrella may also cover you for a libel and slander lawsuit.

Accidents happen every day. But you can be prepared. Call 877.652.2638 today to speak with a California Casualty advisor about protecting yourself, your family and your assets, or visit www.calcas.com/personal-umbrella.

Sources for this article:

<https://www.iii.org/article/what-umbrella-liability>

<http://www.mymoneyblog.com/reasons-we-have-an-umbrella-liability-insurance-policy.html>

This article furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to firefighters since 1974 and to IFA members since 2012. Get more information at 800.800.9410 or www.calcas.com/IFA.

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This program combines fire prevention education and action to help keep Illinois citizens safe.

Help make your community safer by becoming a partner for local smoke alarm installation today.

Details are available at: www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms





Office of the State Fire Marshal

The OSFM continually tries to assist Illinois fire departments meet the fire protection needs in their communities. This year we were able to provide over \$2,000,000 in small equipment grants. We had \$5,000,000 available for no interest truck loans and \$3,000,000 available for no interest ambulance loans.

Another underutilized program that we continually try to promote is the Fire Equipment Exchange Program. This program provides a way in which fire departments, fire protection districts, and township fire departments can donate, sell, or trade needed equipment. In many cases, trucks or equipment that may be retired from service by one department could be used as front line somewhere else. We owe it to our firefighters to make the best use of what resources are located in our state. For example, we were informed that the Ford Heights Fire Department was running without a pumper and we could facilitate the donation of a fire truck. Although we work with all the fire service organizations to promote the use of this program, we must do a better job of getting more departments informed and involved.

Recently, Chief Weiss of the Westmont Fire Department and Illinois Fire Chiefs Association- Volunteer & Combination Officer Section chair, independently organized several truck donations to very needy departments. I applaud him for his outstanding service and initiative to make this happen. His efforts also made me think that this is an opportunity for us all to combine our outreach to improve communication in the Illinois fire service and better facilitate the transfer of this much needed equipment.

OSFM Fire Service Outreach manager Greg Hay operates the Equipment Exchange Program and maintains a website that allows the posting of information and photographs about needed equipment and equipment that is available for trade, donation, or sale. If your department has spare equipment, or is in need of equipment, please visit the website at <http://fireequipmentexchange.sfm.illinois.gov/>. There is no better way for us to live up to being "our brother's keeper".

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BEST PRACTICES

for Preventing

FIREFIGHTER CANCER

- 1** Full protective equipment (PPE) must be worn throughout the entire incident, including SCBA during salvage and overhaul.
- 2** A second hood should be provided to all entry-certified personnel in the department.
- 3** Following exit from the IDLH, and while still on air, you should begin immediate gross decon of PPE using soap water and a brush, if weather conditions allow. PPE should then be placed into a sealed plastic bag and placed in an exterior compartment of the rig, or if responding in POVs, placed in a large storage tote, thus keeping the off-gassing PPE away from passengers and self.
- 4** After completion of gross decon procedures as discussed above, and while still on scene, the exposed areas of the body (neck, face, arms and hands) should be wiped off immediately using wipes, which must be carried on all apparatus. Use the wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately.
- 5** Change your clothes and wash them after exposure to products of combustion or other contaminants. Do this as soon as possible and/or isolate in a trash bag until washing is available.
- 6** Shower as soon as possible after being exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants. "Shower within the Hour"
- 7** PPE, especially turnout pants, must be prohibited in areas outside the apparatus floor (i.e. kitchen, sleeping areas, etc.) and never in the household.
- 8** Wipes, or soap and water, should also be used to decontaminate and clean apparatus seats, SCBA and interior crew area regularly, especially after incidents where personnel were exposed to products of combustion.
- 9** Get an annual physical, as early detection is the key to survival. The NVFC outlines several options at www.nvfc.org. "A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals" can be downloaded from www.iafc.org/healthRoadmap.
- 10** Tobacco products of any variety, including dip and e-cigarettes should never be used at anytime on or off duty.
- 11** Fully document ALL fire or chemical exposures on incident reports and personal exposure reports.

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Illinois Firefighters Association

Prescription Assistance Program / Community Health Initiative

- 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.
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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.



Chaplain's Corner

Firefighter Suicide Prevention Prayer

O God, my soul is wounded and desperate. I see only darkness inside and I feel that I am approaching the very doorway of death. Please Lord, give me your gift of faith that I might reach out and find you in this moment. All my efforts to fix and control my life have failed and I am hopeless on my own. I place all my hope in you, O my God. Show me your way. My relationships have become painful and I am tempted to believe the lie that my family and friends would be better off without me. Please bring forgiveness, hope, and restoration so that I may love and be loved again. Please Lord Jesus, shine your light into my darkness, forgive my sins, and restore my soul and my life. Amen.

I hope you can see that the above prayer is a powerful weapon of faith that can expose and break the deceptive and dark spiritual chains of desperation and hopelessness that can bind a firefighter's wounded soul and drive him/her toward suicide. The prayer arms any firefighter with a tool to call out to God who is really there and will respond to that call of faith. I have this prayer printed on cards and would like to get one into the hands of each of the firefighters on your fire department.

On the back side of the card is a warning exposing the 3 Lies of Suicide...

1. There is no God...or if there is, He has abandoned me.
2. My situation is hopeless.
3. My family/friends would be better off without me.

...And the Truth that disarms each of these lies...

1. God is always present with you, knows you, loves you, and carries your burdens with you.
2. God's resources are unlimited...you can never be without hope.
3. Everyone in your life would be devastated and heartbroken by your suicide – everyone!

Finally, the card also encourages the hurting firefighter to reach out and includes crisis phone numbers.

Please call or email me to get these cards for your firefighters. I will be sure to get them to you – or when possible I will bring them to you and talk to your department about suicide.

FF Kevin Coffey, IFA Chaplain (815-457-2007)



Boost Your Health: Start a Morning Routine.

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

New requirements for Illinois public bodies' sexual harassment policies become law

by W. Anthony Andrews and Maureen Anichini Lemon
Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd

While most workplaces already have a policy in place prohibiting sexual harassment, recent events in Hollywood, Congress, and Springfield, highlighted by the #metoo movement, have created a renewed interest in this topic. As a result, the Illinois General Assembly passed Public Act 100-554 into law in November, 2017. P.A. 100-554 added new sections to, and amended other sections of, the Illinois State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430). That is the statute that gave us the Gift Ban Act and the Ethical Conduct prohibition against political activities by employees on compensated time.

The recent changes require *state* agencies to have a sexual harassment policy and require all officers, members and employees of the *state* entities to undergo sexual harassment training on an annual basis. P.A. 100-554 also requires all *local* governmental units, including fire protection districts, to adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing a policy to prohibit sexual harassment. The ordinance or resolution was to have been adopted no later than 60 days after the effective date of the amendatory act, or by January 15, 2018.

P.A. 100-554 identifies four elements that must be contained in each sexual harassment policy of a local governmental unit in Illinois. First, the policy must clearly prohibit sexual harassment. State and federal anti-discrimination laws provide a legal definition of sexual harassment as:

- unwelcome** sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal and physical conduct of a sexual nature when:
- (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
 - (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting that individual; or
 - (3) such conduct has the intent or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

The policy should contain examples of the types of conduct that meet this definition.

Second, the policy must detail how an individual can report an allegation of sexual harassment. This would include making a confidential report to a supervisor or someone with human resources authority within the school district. This would also include how to file a complaint with the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

Third, the policy must prohibit retaliation against anyone who reports a sexual harassment allegation. The Illinois Human Rights Act expressly prohibits retaliation and the Illinois Whistleblower Act protects anyone who discloses information of a violation of a state or federal law.

Fourth, the policy must include the consequences of a violation of the prohibition against sexual harassment as well as the consequences for knowingly making a false report of sexual harassment.

Finally, although P.A. 100-554's mandate for annual sexual harassment training is limited to state rather than local entities, it is best practice to mandate such training for fire protection district's employees. It is also best practice to ensure that your elected and appointed officials receive such training at least once upon being seated as a board member.

While most fire protection districts have a sexual harassment policy, it is prudent to review the current policy to ensure that it meets each of the requirements of P.A. 100-554. If you have questions regarding the content of the policy or resolution or are in need of training of your staff or fire protection members, please contact one of the attorneys at Ottosen Britz for assistance.

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2018 Annual Training Conference A Success Even With The Hotel Problems

The IFA Annual Training Conference was still a success even with all the hotel problems that occurred. Five weeks prior to the conference, the conference hotel was closed by the Urbana Fire Marshal, due to safety concerns. The hotel fire alarms were not working properly and the hotel was being lax in repairing the alarms. The hotel could not guarantee that they would be open in time for the conference. The IFA board, along with the Champaign/Urbana Visitor's Bureau and IFSI scrambled to find hotels in the area that would be able to house the attendees and still be able to get the state rate as the IFA had received a grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshal to pay for the rooms for the attendees. With the diligent effort of IFSI, along with IFA Vice-President Terry Ford, they were able to secure enough rooms to house the attendees. Due to the hotel fiasco, the memorial program was held during the annual meeting. The hotel was able to re-open prior to the conference, but by that time, most of the attendees had booked other rooms. The hotel was used for the hospitality room and for the Saturday night entertainment and basket raffle. The IFA would like to thank all of those that attended and appreciate their patience.

The IFA was able to train about 150 firefighters on a variety of subjects and their only cost was the registration, transportation and personal expenses as the lodging was paid for by a grant. The IFA provided lunch on Friday and Saturday. The hotels provided breakfasts and the hospitality room provided food each night.

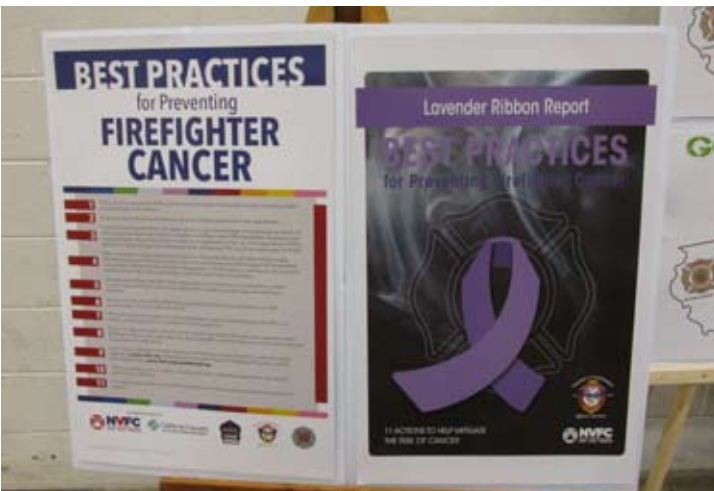
The 2019 Conference is slated for October 24 - 27, 2019. The IFA board has already began planning for the 2019 conference. Stay tuned for more information.



IFSI manned the registration desk



IFA provided entertainment on Saturday night. The board of directors are pictured with the comedians that provided the entertainment for the evening.



The IFA promoting the Lavender Ribbon Report



IFA provided lunch on Friday and Saturday

2018 Conference Sponsors



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