

# *The* **Bulletin**



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

**Volume 74, Number 6**

**November - December 2020**

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

## IFA Partners with SAVVIK Buying Group

A **FREE** Service to help our members  
purchase equipment, supplies, vehicles  
and personal items at group discount pricing.

Story & more information on Page 5



**SAVVIK<sup>TM</sup>**  
**BUYING GROUP**

The Bulletin is published digitally every other month and placed online at [www.illinoisfirefighters.org](http://www.illinoisfirefighters.org).

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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

To start with, I know you may be tired of me reminding you about the COVID pandemic. This time I am informing you, I just got over that dreaded virus. I know first hand what I went through and I was very lucky. I wasn't hospitalized and it didn't get into my lungs. But I did suffer a sinus infection and a sore throat. Where my problem was, it got into my stomach and I couldn't eat anything and lost twenty-three pounds. I was down almost three weeks and I am just now starting to feel much better. Please understand you could catch this disease, even if you think you are doing all you can to protect yourself. It may not be at the firehouse or on a call even if you are using all precautions.

It could be a family member, friend or a trip you took to Wal-Mart. Be careful wherever you go and be vigilant to CDC recommendations. This disease shows no sign of slowing down and in fact is back to the high point it was earlier. We lost a local Fire Chief with this disease and it has quarantined many Firefighters around this State. Many of you Firefighters are young and may not become symptomatic. If you become positive, you could affect many others that may not be so lucky. This could include your own loved ones at home.

Our Association, like other Associations, are still very active. Our meetings are much like the others, doing our business on the phone and on zoom meetings.

We have been so tied up with this virus we still need to remember the other hazards we face every day. Cancer is now the number one killer of active firefighters, who have a greater chance of getting the disease than the general public. This disease is more chronic in nature and may not show up until a later period of time. You may never know exactly where you first were exposed to the carcinogens, but we all know now that the fire scene has a lot more hazards than the fire itself. Please continue to decon yourself properly at the scene and after your return to the firehouse. Remember our State Fire Marshal Perez has secured funding for buckets and brushes for every Fire Department in this state. Those items are being distributed through MABAS right now. The only requirement is to get on IFSI website and take the fifteen minute training requirement. Do yourself and your fire department credit and follow good hygiene procedures and wash your gear after every fire. Remember all your tools and air packs also need the same care.

In this article, all I have been doing is stressing about the hazards we've been facing through-out this year. I have one more warning, and that is winter is, coming upon us now. Just a reminder here also, slips and falls are the number one list of injuries to Firefighters. Winter conditions will increase those chances of injuries along with driving conditions. We all need to be vigilant to these conditions and take all required precautions to be safe.

In closing, I'll be a little more positive and ask that we be thankful for what we all have and that is Family, Friends and our Fellow Firefighters. Thanksgiving will most likely be over when you receive my article and I hope you all had a great holiday.

*So "Train Smart, Be Safe"*

*God Bless*

*John Swan President IFA*



# Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

## FALL PRESS CONFERENCES for 10 YEAR SMOKE DETECTOR LAW

Thanks to a grant from First Alert, I have been working with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance on continued public outreach and education on Illinois 10 Year Smoke Detector law set to go into effect January 1, 2023. This fall, 8 Fire Departments in various parts of the state, were selected to receive 8 installation kits and 100 of the 10 year model smoke detectors. Press conferences are then held at each department and included local legislators and mayors.

The Chicago area press conferences garnered media coverage from Fox, CBS, WGN, WLS TV and WMMB radio and the downstate press conferences also were picked up by TV news markets in Decatur, Charleston, Champaign and Quincy.



Press conferences were held in the following communities: Berwyn, Charleston, Charleston, Frankfort (Will County Chiefs) Galena, Macomb, Schaumburg and Waukegan.

Pictured IL Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski, IL Firefighters Association Government Affairs Director Margaret Vaughn, Sparky, State Rep. Norine Hamond (R-Macomb), Macomb Rental Housing Inspector Billie O'Bear, Macomb Fire Chief Rick Driskell and Office of the IL State Fire Marshal Spokesperson JC Fultz.

## OSFM SUMMER FIREWORKS REPORT SHOWS 30% INCREASE in INJURIES

OSFM just released their annual report on fireworks injuries during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July season and found a 30% increase in injuries over 2019 and a 60% increase in dismemberments/amputations. This the result of more non-professionals doing backyard shows because of the cancellation of professional shows due to COVID and a 700% increase in fireworks complaints over last year. The Fire Service needs to remain diligent in fighting to ensure fireworks remain illegal and continue their efforts to educate the public on their dangers.



IFA has partnered with SAVVIK Buying Group to provide our members with access to equipment, supplies, apparel and even vehicles at group buying prices. We have sent SAVVIK a list of our members and their contact information and once SAVVIK has set up the list, our members will be receiving a notification like below. You will not be able to register your account until you receive this notice. The notice is being sent to the main contact the we have on file for our member departments.

If you do not receive your notification or if you are having problems creating your account, contact Secretary Treasurer Federer at 618-830-3961 and he will assist you in setting up your SAVVIK account.

Once you are signed up with SAVVIK, there is another benefit for your members at SAVVIK Perks. SAVVIK Perks provides discounts for your members on entertainment, food, travel and many other personal discounts.

#### **Illinois Firefighters Association- IFA Member**

#### **Welcome to the Savvik Buying Group!**

#### **Savvik Member # 28828**

(Please note, the above Savvik member # 28828 is exclusive to the Association record only. Each member will have their own unique number. This is how we track vendor sales for revenue share back to the Association.)

#### **Savvik Membership:**

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

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

Savvik will give back 1/3 of your association sales revenue to the IFA

#### **Member Login Instructions:**

Go to <https://savvik.com>

Click on LOGIN, follow the instructions to set up your personal username and password.



# The Bulletin About SAVVIK Buying Group

## Our Beginnings

The Savvik Buying Group, formally known as the North Central EMS Corporation, is a non-profit organization owned by its members and formed to reduce the financial impact of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 within the EMS industry. Our mission is to provide members with a mechanism to achieve cost reductions, which has evolved into a group-purchasing program. Savvik values quality supplies and equipment for the members, at the industry's best prices.

The phrase "at the industry's best prices" plays an even more important role today than in previous years as the Medicare Fee Schedule took effect on April 1, 2002. Ambulance services across the country have seen a drastic reduction in their Medicare reimbursements which accounts for up to 75% of their revenue. This drastic reduction in revenue decreases their capital budgets and curbs their purchases if not determine their entire existence.

## Where We're Going

Membership is comprised of ambulance services, fire departments, first responder groups, police/sheriff departments, industrial emergency response teams, and other organizations related to the EMS industry. Savvik is proud to focus on membership nationwide. Our intent is to offer the Electronic Patient Care Reporting and Data Collection contract to all Savvik members regardless of their physical location.

An amazing result of our success was the formation of The Savvik Foundation in 2000. Savvik invests back into the industry! A portion of our excess revenues are returned to regional, state and national EMS associations as well as being donated to The Savvik Foundation so that it can complete its mission of leading industry efforts in such areas as safety, efficient operations, education, research and national consensus building.

We're dedicated to improving the general wellbeing of the public safety industry as a whole. Our effectiveness increases with commitments from our vendor partners to provide Savvik members with quality products and services at the industry's best prices.

Savvik has enjoyed significant growth over the last few years by developing partnerships (including revenue sharing relationships) with regional, state and national EMS associations. Savvik has fifty-one group affiliates that include membership to the Savvik Buying Group as part of their group dues structure. The associations that participate in our group membership program receive quarterly reports and payments from our office. Payments reflect a portion of the contract management fee of the total sales their members purchased from our vendors.

## *Membership Includes:*

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

Large vendor contracts – save time and money!

Online marketplace – 5.11 Gear at the lowest prices!

Individual savings programs – benefits you can share with everyone in your agency

**All of this for FREE!**

**If you have not received your registration email from SAVVIK, contact Secretary/Treasurer Kerry Federer at 618-830-3961 or by email at [editor@illinoisfirefighters.org](mailto:editor@illinoisfirefighters.org).**

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**Engine Ops – Beyond The PreConnect - Hands-On**

**Instructor: Brothers In Battle – Cody Trestrail**

**Truck Company Operations - Hands-On**

**Instructor: Lt. Joe Solcani – Chicago Fire & BC Jason Demas – Aurora Fire**

**Search & Rescue Essentials - Hands-On**

**Instructor: Nick Ledin – Eau Claire Fire & Jeff Rothmeier – Milwaukee Fire**

**Auto X Extrication Training-Hands-On**

**Instructor: Captain Mike Huffman – Harlem-Roscoe Fire**

**1<sup>st</sup> Rung Recruit Training - FF for the newbie- Hands-On**

**Instructor: Lt. Kucaba - Northwest Homer FPD**

**Large Vehicle Extrication- Hands-On**

**Instructor: Bill Puckett - Auto X**

**Strategic Planning for Creating Future Excellence and Juggling Hats- Lecture**

**Instructor: Chief Craig Haigh, Hanover Park Fire**

**EMS Topics for the next generation- Lecture**

**Instructor: Retired Chief of EMS Operations, New Orleans Ken Bouvier**

**Thermal Imaging & Max Firebox Demonstration- Hands-On**

**Instructors: Andy Starnes - Insight Training & John Schott - Max Fire Training**

**To Register - [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)**



## Office of the State Fire Marshal



## The OSFM Stresses Preparedness and Safety for COVID and Home Heating This Winter

The pandemic has impacted everyone, and the fire service has not been immune to this. COVID-19 numbers are rising again across the state and the nation, and the OSFM wants to remind everyone to take the proper mitigation measure whether that is on the job, in the firehouse or at home with your family. If we as first responders are not able to respond and help those in our community, who will? The winter months are going to be extremely difficult and that is why it's so important that we protect ourselves and take these precautions.

"We have lost several brothers to this disease that continues to impact the entire world. I want to personally thank all of you in the fire service and EMS community. Your work during this difficult time has been extraordinary. I am proud to say that Illinois has the best and most highly trained fire service in the entire country. Keep fighting and working hard and we will get through this together. Remember our motto: One Team One Fight," said Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez.

The CDC has updated COVID guidance documents for firefighters and EMS personnel that can be found by clicking on this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/firefighter-EMS.html>.

The OSFM, MABAS, Illinois Fire Service Institute, Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois and the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association worked together to produce a forum focused on helping departments create or review their Continuation of Operations Plan (COOP). Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6nBLmRpFwc&t=1164s> to view the video. It is more important than ever to ensure that your COOP is current, and you have plans in place for not if COVID-19 impacts your department, but when it does.

The winter months are here and that means heating season has arrived once again. Heating is the second leading cause of home fires according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Half of all home heating fires occur during the months of December, January and February. Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. The leading factor contributing to ignition for home heating fire deaths (54%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding. This year it's going to be even more important for residents to understand the importance of heating safety. People will be staying home more as the pandemic continues.

Failure to clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys leading was the leading factor contributing to home heating fires. Have home heating equipment and chimneys inspected annual by a professional to prevent fires. Make sure that all vents are clear of debris or snow and ice during the winter months. This will help to prevent carbon monoxide from building up in the home. Keep anything that can burn at least 3ft from heating equipment (furnace, fireplace, wood stove, portable heater). Most home heating fire deaths (86%) involved stationary or portable space heaters. Give space heaters space! They account for 4 out of 5 home heating fire deaths. If using space heaters, make sure to plug them directly into an outlet, do NOT use extension cords or power strips. Ensure that those heaters have an automatic shutoff feature and create a 3-foot kid/pet free zone around them. Test all smoke and CO alarms monthly and inspect to ensure they are not expired. If you find a broken or expired alarm, replace them with a new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarm. Everyone can do their part to reduce the risk of fire and lower the number of tragedies that take place during the cold winter months.

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

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**Details are available at: [www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms](http://www.ifsa.org/programs/alarms)**



**Illinois Fire Safety Alliance**





# STATE OF ILLINOIS PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROJECT



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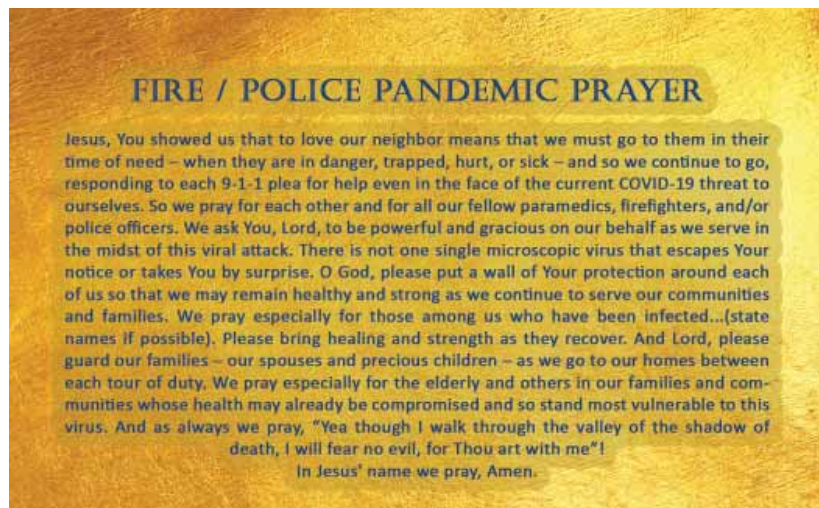
## Chaplain's Corner

It would be difficult to find a fire department or even a family that hasn't been touched in some way by COVID-19, and in many cases including tragic loss of life. To those of you who have experienced such a personal loss my condolences go out to you. It seems that even the most skeptical of firefighters is now taking maximum precautions against the acknowledged threat. Fire departments and agencies are consistently updating their procedures and practices as more data becomes available.

In the midst of doing all we can to keep ourselves protected and healthy, I want to also encourage your faith. The Bible says that our faith is a shield that can protect us from attack – especially from enemies which are unseen and opportunistic such as COVID-19. A virus is rogue genetic material that seeks to hijack the God-designed health-producing machinery of our cells bringing sickness and possibly death. God sees and knows and He invites us to call out to him both for personal protection and for healing of those among us who have been infected.

I have made a Fire/Police Pandemic Prayer card seen here (front and back) which I invite you to request. The card is my simple gift to you and your fire department. The faith you need is a powerful gift from God and He has an unlimited supply, so help yourselves. Just give me a call (leave voice message) or email and let me know how many you need and I will get them right out to you. Feel free to request them for your police department also. They are 3x5 and fit easily in shirt pockets. May God bless you and your fire department and keep you safe and healthy as you serve!

Kevin Coffey, IFA Chaplain 773-455-4393 (no text), kc9526@yahoo.com



### *Protecting/Healing Truth from the Bible...*

*"Take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."  
(Ephesians 6)*

*"The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."  
(James 5)*

*"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion."  
(Psalm 103)*

*"You will not fear the pestilence that stalks in the darkness nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you."  
(Psalm 91)*

*I'm praying for you – pray for each other. May God strengthen your faith and your immune system!  
Give me a call if I can help in any way.*

*Firefighter/Chaplain Kevin Coffey (retired E-95) 773-455-4393 (no text)*

# Preparing for a Tax Rate Referendum

by Shawn P. Flaherty  
DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

The lifeblood of any fire department or fire protection district are essential elements such as personnel, equipment, vehicles, and fire stations. Each of these fire department essentials is reliant upon funding. Any organization that has difficulty in balancing a budget has three options: (i) cut expenditures, (ii) raise revenues, or (iii) both. Federal and State grants are very welcome sources of revenue, but they are periodic in nature and uncertain. It is clear that the best way for a public fire department or fire protection district to secure a permanent funding source is to seek adoption of a referendum to increase property taxes pursuant to the Illinois general election laws.

In general, taxing bodies only have up to four opportunities in any given two-year period to place a referendum question on the ballot. The General Primary Election is held in March of even-numbered years, while the General Election is held in November of even-numbered years. The Consolidated Election is held in April of odd-numbered years, while in some limited jurisdictions, a Consolidated Primary election is held in February of odd-numbered years. Care and foresight should be given as to the timing of which election a ballot question should be submitted. Boards should attempt to learn what other taxing bodies might be going for a referendum and what national or local races might boost or reduce voter turnout.

There are a few different options for ballot questions. Taxing bodies located in counties which are subject to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law ("Tax Cap Law") have four options to raise revenue by referendum. Three of the options use language prescribed in the Property Tax Code: (i) seeking to levy a new tax rate, (ii) seeking to increase the overall limiting rate under the Tax Cap Law, or (iii) seeking to establish an extension limitation which is higher than the typical limitation found in the Tax Cap Law (the lesser of 5% or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12-month calendar year preceding the levy year). (35 ILCS 200/18-185)

Taxing districts located in counties that are not subject to the Tax Cap Law use formats found either in the Illinois Municipal Code (for municipalities) or in the Fire Protection District Act (for fire protection districts). In general, these questions either allow the taxing body to levy property taxes for a new rate (i.e., Ambulance, Emergency & Rescue, Audit, Pension), or increase an existing tax rate to a higher tax rate, but no higher than the rate caps established by statute.

Another referendum option for taxing bodies applies to all taxing bodies, whether the Tax Cap Law applies or not. This option is to ask the electorate whether they will allow the taxing bodies to issue bonds. The bonds are typically issued for a capital purchase such as a fire station, vehicles or equipment and the amount of the proposed bond question is included in the ballot question. If this measure passes, the taxing body would get the influx of funds following the election by issuing bonds and an annual tax is approved for the life of the bonds to pay back the debt service. Once the debt service is paid off, the tax for the bonds ceases, so this is a useful, albeit less permanent, means of raising revenue.

Taxing bodies should be wary of many pitfalls in the referendum process. There are time frames for filing petitions, adopting ordinances and submitting ballot questions to the local election authorities. For instance, for the April 6, 2021 consolidated election, any public petition for referenda must be filed by January 4, while a board of trustees resolution or ordinance allowing a binding public question to appear on the ballot must be adopted by January 19. Referenda may be subject to legal challenge in advance of the election and the results may be challenged thereafter in an election contest. Finally, there are very strict measures that must be adhered to by public bodies in advancing or advertising the ballot question to the public. No public funds may be spent to support a "yes" or "no" campaign. Securing competent legal and financial advice in these endeavors is a must.

*Shawn P. Flaherty is a partner with Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in the firm's Naperville office. He has represented fire protection districts, municipal fire departments, fire commissions, fire and police pension boards, townships, and other units of local government for nearly twenty-five years. He has co-authored the IAFPD Handbook for Illinois Fire Protection District Trustees, among other publications. He is a frequent speaker at fire service and pension seminars and has taught Fire Officer classes and Essential Trustee Training courses for the IAFPD. Mr. Flaherty welcomes your e-mails at*





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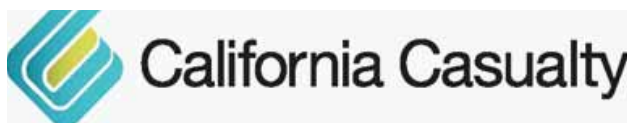
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## Hacks to Beat Winter's Freeze

It's one of those days: you woke up late and you are running behind. As you head outside to start the car, you find it's covered in ice. The extra 15 minutes it will take to scrape and warm it up are going to make you late for work or school. While it may not help today, these essential winter hacks might make your life a little easier the next time another cold front sends temperatures plunging across the country.

### Autos:

1. Spray a mixture of two parts rubbing alcohol and one part water on a windshield to instantly de-ice it (and also unstick frozen windshield wipers)
2. Use WD 40 in to prevent frozen key holes
3. Thaw frozen car door locks and handles with hand sanitizer
4. Park your vehicle with the windshield facing east to help defrost it when the sun rises
5. Use kitty litter or car mats to provide traction if you get stuck
6. Put plastic bags over unheated side mirrors overnight to keep them ice free
7. Place a blanket or sheet on the windshield to keep it ice free overnight
8. Cover wiper blades overnight with old socks so they will be ice and snow free in the morning

### Around the House:

1. Coat snow shovels with non-stick cooking sprays – the snow will slide off easier (this also works on plastic sleds for sliding down hills faster)
2. Slip old bread bags or sandwich bags over socks to make them water proof
3. Use closet shoe organizers for gloves and scarves
4. Take lukewarm showers to battle dry skin
5. Place tin foil on walls behind radiators and space heaters to reflect more of the heat back into the room
6. Leave the oven door open after cooking – the residual heat will add warmth to the house
7. Run ceiling fans clockwise to push warm air down to living areas
8. Open curtains and blinds on sunny days to let the sun warm your home
9. Put hot water bottles or warm pans on cold sheets to warm them before you hop in bed
10. Place a tray with pebbles inside the doorway to drain icy, wet shoes and boots to keep floors cleaner and drier
11. Use a solution of two parts rubbing alcohol and one part hot water to safely remove ice from outside steps and sidewalks

Don't forget, leaving your car running unattended to warm it up is a leading cause of car theft and can result in a large fine in most states.

Oh, and for those of you living in more temperate climates, keep this information handy in case Mother Nature throws one of her occasional frozen curve balls and you're stuck in a personal scene from the movie *Frozen*.

You don't need any hacks to make sure you have insurance to protect your auto and home; just contact a California Casualty advisor for a policy review or comparison at 1.800.800.9410 or visit [www.calcas.com](http://www.calcas.com).



### About the Author:

Justine Sallee is excited to serve Illinois first responders as a California Casualty representative. She is dedicated in helping members access the benefits available to IFA member. She has worked for California Casualty as a Marketing Manager since 2012 and covers Northern Illinois

## ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE UPDATE



### MOVING FORWARD

Without question, the year 2020 was filled with unexpected challenges. Since the first suspension/postponement of training activities due to COVID-19 on 13 March and the subsequent resumption of training on 18 May utilizing IFSI Risk Mitigation Procedures, IFSI served 12,000+ students through the delivery of nearly 450 classes. Through those deliveries, over 7,050 first responders achieved certification. IFSI implemented stringent Risk Mitigation Policies and maintained a firm commitment to the fulfillment of our Mission. Despite the uncertain times, our team remained strong and served approximately 1,000 fire departments across the state and country. **We open the door to a new year with our continued eagerness and commitment to *Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research.***

### Looking ahead to 2021:

Registration for the 2021 Winter Fire School opens on December 1. The event, scheduled January 24-25 in Champaign, will offer seven unique course options, including a virtual training program. Once again, the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal is allocating funds to provide free hotel lodging for Winter Fire School students. Registration and complete event details are posted on the IFSI webpage: [fsi.illinois.edu](http://fsi.illinois.edu).

The 2021 Calendar will be mailed in earlier December. This annual publication includes a select listing of courses and is a showcase of images highlighting our 2020 successes. The complete course schedule is available online. Students and departments are encouraged to plan ahead and register now for their 2021 training schedule.

IFSI Regional Representatives will continue to schedule essential skills, no cost training opportunities throughout the state. Contact your regional representative to discuss training needs and delivery options. Regional Representatives can support virtual training opportunities that may be necessary due to COVID-19 visitor or training restrictions.

Despite any challenge, we are grateful to our students, staff, and partners for the continued support in the fulfillment of our mission, *Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research.*

# IT TAKES TWO...

## TO PROTECT OCCUPANTS & FIREFIGHTERS FROM FIRE.



Fire Marshal Mary Kay Ludemann & Fire Chief Jon Stratton  
of the Plainfield Fire Protection District

### **BOTH SMOKE ALARMS AND HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS SHOULD BE PART OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OUTREACH**

There is no better opportunity to have an effective educational impact than at the fire scene or immediately post fire to explain the impact of both fire sprinklers and smoke alarms working together to prevent fire deaths and injuries. Be prepared to educate the media by keeping a fire sprinkler in your command vehicle and hand it to them to reinforce the message.

Following fatal residential fires, fire officials of the past would often talk about smoke alarms with the media and say, "Smoke alarms could have prevented the fire death." Those types of statement generally get the full attention of the public, but doesn't fully describe the other combined potential.

Smoke alarms are important because they alert occupants of a fire, reducing the chances of dying in a fire by half. Fire sprinklers actively work to control or extinguish the fire while it is small and provide occupants with the time to escape. The life and property protection benefits of fire sprinklers cannot be ignored.

Now imagine the impact if the fire officials also held up a fire sprinkler and stated, "When smoke alarms are combined with fire sprinklers, the risk of dying in a home fire is decreased by 80 percent."

Smoke alarms and fire sprinklers together are the perfect fire protection duo. Keep both in your command vehicle.

**NEED FIRE SPRINKLERS FOR YOUR  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OUTREACH?**



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[NIFSAB@NIFSAB.org](mailto:NIFSAB@NIFSAB.org) to request one at no cost.



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



[FireSprinklerInitiative.org](http://FireSprinklerInitiative.org)



[HomeFireSprinkler.org](http://HomeFireSprinkler.org)



[FireSprinklerAssoc.org](http://FireSprinklerAssoc.org)

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# SIDE-BY-SIDE BURN DEMONSTRATIONS

## Work with NIFSI to Improve Your Public Outreach

The Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative is your full-service partner to deliver impactful side-by-side demonstrations to raise public awareness in your community. We're ready to work with fire and public information officials to display the dramatic differences between flashover and the quick response of residential fire sprinklers.

Our side-by-side demonstration units can be featured at community events, fire department open houses, and other locations that powerfully showcase how fire sprinklers can save lives and protect property.

**We provide full-service demonstrations, with staffing, build assistance, furniture, drop-off and pick-up.**



### Conventional Side-by-Side Units

- Two 10-panel rooms assembled on site
- Full-service includes furniture, sprinkler pipe and sprinklers, smoke detector, drapes/curtain cloth, digital clock



### Side-by-Side Mobile Trailer

- Easy to transport/move after demonstration, perfect for street fairs, community events, fire department open houses, village board meetings
- Full-service includes matching furniture, sprinkler pipe and sprinklers, smoke detector, drapes/curtain cloth, digital clock, delivery and pick-up



### Lake County Roll-off Side-by-Side

- Mobile unit delivered/picked up on site
- For members of Lake County Fire Chiefs Association (Must be approved by Lake County Fire Chiefs Association, which will deliver and pick up. NIFSI will provide furniture, clock, etc.)
- **Scheduling:** 847-587-8012 or [www.srtillinois.org/equipment/sprinkler-side-by-side](http://www.srtillinois.org/equipment/sprinkler-side-by-side)



**Contact: Tom Lia**

(m) 708-878-8658 (o) 708-377-7754 (e) [sprinktoml@aol.com](mailto:sprinktoml@aol.com) [www.nifsi.org](http://www.nifsi.org)



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## What Firefighters and EMS Providers Need to Know about COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Symptoms often include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. Our understanding of how the virus spreads is evolving as we learn more about it, so check the CDC website for the latest information. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)

Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks

Recent studies indicate that the virus can be spread by people who are not showing symptoms. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about this virus. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

### As a firefighter or EMS worker providing medical treatment and transport of ill patients, how can I protect myself and others?

Do not work if you are sick. If you develop a fever or symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider for medical advice and guidance before visiting their office. Follow your department's return-to-work policy after recovering from the illness.

Contact your supervisor and occupational health program immediately if you are exposed to a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 when you are not wearing recommended personal protective equipment (PPE). Complete any occupational exposure report forms required by your organization.

If you are permitted to continue working, take additional precautions, including wearing a facemask and monitoring for symptoms and fever for 14 days after you were exposed to the patient.

Wear the following PPE for all patient interactions where COVID-19 is suspected or confirmed:

Fit tested NIOSH-approved N95 or higher level respirator, or a facemask if a respirator is not available

N95 respirators or respirators that offer a higher level of protection should be used instead of a facemask when you are performing or present for an aerosol-generating procedure.

If you use a respirator, you must be clean-shaven because facial hair can cause respirators to leak around the face seal.

A single pair of disposable examination gloves

Eye protection, such as face shield or goggles, unless you are wearing a full-face respirator

Gown or coveralls

If your PPE becomes grossly contaminated or compromised (e.g., torn), discard and replace your PPE in accordance with the policies and procedures of your organization.

Follow CDC guidance if you are reusing, reprocessing, and storing PPE.

Have patients wear facemasks or cloth face coverings for source control, if they can tolerate it.

Limit the number of providers in the patient compartment to minimize possible exposures.

Use EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant to disinfect non-porous surfaces of ambulances, gurneys, clipboards, radios, and other frequently touched surfaces or equipment according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Non-porous surfaces of PPE such as powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) should be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.

Launder reusable personal protective clothing (e.g., uniforms) or other porous materials according to the manufacturer's recommendations if they become contaminated.

Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers with greater than 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol, or wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when soap and water are available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

## What steps should employers of firefighter and EMS personnel take?

Develop and share a COVID-19 health and safety plan to protect firefighter and EMS employees.

Deliver up-to-date safety messaging on the current status of resources and protocols.

Use National Incident Management System (NIMS) forms to document protective actions.

Actively encourage sick employees to stay home. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

Sick leave policies should be flexible and non-punitive.

Fit test personnel for appropriate respirators. Train them on proper donning, doffing, and maintenance of all PPEpdf icon. All PPE should be accessible to responders when needed and available.

Implement a specific protocolpdf iconexternal icon with dispatch centers to determine if a caller or patient may have signs or symptoms and risk factors for COVID-19, and communicate that information to responders.

Consult with state and local jurisdictions regarding access to PPE stockpiles if PPE supplies are limited. Consider establishing strike teams for suspected COVID-19 cases and sending in the fewest number of responders in full PPE as safety allows to assess the situation. Follow CDC and NIOSH guidance for strategies for optimizing the supply of PPE including:

Using reusable respirators that offer an equivalent or higher level of protection as N95 respirators (e.g., elastomeric respirators, PAPRs, or self-contained breathing apparatus [SCBA] facepieces)

Allowing extended use or limited reuse of certain types of PPE (e.g., N95 respirators)

Considering the use of PPE past their manufacturer-designated shelf life

During pre-hospital care, take steps for universal source control for anyone (e.g., EMS providers, patients, family members), regardless of whether they have symptoms:

Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE but can be used for source control.

PPE (e.g., medical facemasks, N95 respirators) should be reserved for firefighters, EMS providers, and other first responders.

Consult with your state and local jurisdictions regarding their policies and procedures for critical infrastructure workers,external icon like emergency first responders.

Follow CDC guidance for when firefighters and EMS providers can return to work:

following potential exposure to patients with COVID-19

after being diagnosed with confirmed or suspected COVID-19

Designate a person to be responsible for addressing employees COVID-19 concerns.

## Where can I get more information?

Stay informed. Talk to your employer, supervisor, union representative, or occupational health provider who is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. See these sources for more information:

NIOSH Workplace Safety and Health Topic website

NIOSH Interim Training for Emergency Responders: Reducing Risks Associated with Long Work Hours

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

CDC Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for COVID-19 in the United States

CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE

CDC Release of Stockpiled N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators Beyond the Manufacturer-Designated Shelf Life

CDC COVID-19 website

OSHA COVID-19 websiteexternal icon

CDCINFO: website | 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-888-232-6348