

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 76, Number 6

November - December 2022

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

IFA Dedicates Go Green Clean Truck Promoting Cancer Awareness and Prevention



The Bulletin

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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



Thanksgiving is over for another year and you're probably gearing up for the hectic holiday season. I smoked my first turkey this year and I must say it turned out pretty darn good. I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

We should count our blessings and be thankful for all of the wonderful things that we enjoy. Remember, there are others who aren't as fortunate as we are, countries at war, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and other catastrophes around the world.

Be thankful that we live in the best country in the world. Enjoy the freedoms that our forefathers fought so hard to give us.

Our conference was a great success with outstanding training, great fellowship and the camaraderie of being with and talking to other firefighters from around the state. This is a brotherhood like no other. Getting together to talk about fire service issues and sharing ideas with fellow firefighters is important for improving not only your own department but improving the fire service as a whole. I hope that we will have an even larger group of firefighters at the conference next year. If there are subjects that you would like to see at the conference next year or in future years, please let us know. We are always looking for new ideas. We need your input to provide the training that is important to you.

IFA is also looking for sites around the state to host or co-host trainings at the local level. Drop me a line if you'd like more information about local trainings or if you have any interest in co-hosting an event with the IFA. Plans are currently in the works to have a training session in the Effingham area early next year. Watch for more info on this training opportunity.

President John Swan retired as president of the IFA at the conference in October and I have taken the reigns as the new president. I will have some large shoes to fill but the good news is that John now becomes the Immediate Past President and remains on the Board in that position so his knowledge and expertise will still be available to us.

Stay tuned through our social media posts and website for the most up-to-date information available.

Stay Safe!

Don't train until you get it right, train until you can't get it wrong.

Terry Ford, President IFA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist



The State's 10 Year Sealed Battery Smoke Detector law is going into effect January 1st and IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn has been working with the IL Fire Safety to continue their public awareness campaign with press conferences held at various fire departments this fall. The Niles Fire Dept received an award on October 6th for installing over 1000 of the 10 Year Smoke Detectors through the "Be Alarmed" program, which is joint venture between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The Be Alarmed program distributes fire safety education materials and 10-year battery detectors to participating fire departments which then deliver the educational material and install smoke alarms in at-risk homes within their communities.



Pictured left to right Acting State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson, Niles Fire Chief Marty Feld, IFA Lobbyist, Margaret Vaughn, IL Fire Safety Alliance Executive Director Phil Zaleski and Niles Mayor George Alpogianis

UPDATED ILLINOIS SMOKE ALARM LAW

- *Effective January 1, 2023* -

In 2017, the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance worked with the General Assembly to pass a law which will require Illinois residents to replace their old smoke alarms with the type that has a long-term, 10-year sealed battery beginning January 1, 2023. This would apply to residents that are still using alarms with removable batteries or alarms that are not hardwired.



What is the Updated Illinois Smoke Alarm Law?

- Since 1988, all dwellings in Illinois have been required to have smoke alarms.
- In 2017, Public Act 100-0200 was passed to update the Illinois Smoke Detector Act to reflect advances in alarm technology.
- Come January 1, 2023, any new smoke alarm being installed within a single or multi-family home are required to be featured with a 10-year sealed battery.
- Smoke alarms in single or multi-family homes prior to January 1, 2023 may remain in place until they exceed 10 years from their manufactured date, fails to respond to operability tests, or otherwise malfunctions.

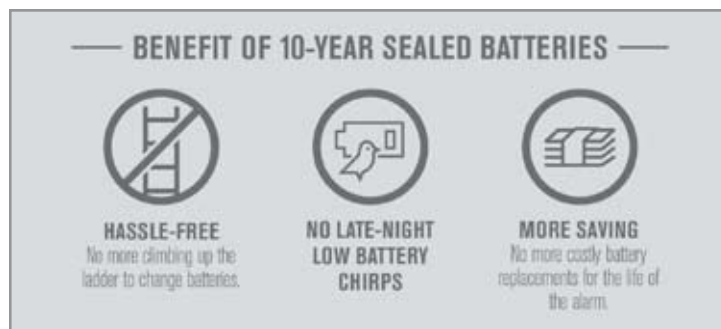
Exemptions

- Homes built after 1988 that already have hardwired smoke alarms.
- Homes with wireless integrated alarms that use low-power radio frequency communications, Wi-Fi, or other Wireless Local Area Networking capability.

To view the Illinois law in its entirety, visit www.IFSA.org/smoke-alarm-law



Illinois Fire Safety Alliance
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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 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.

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 618-882-4783 or by email at editor@illinoisfirefighters.org.

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Appellate Court: Governments Can Redact a FOIA Requestor's Own Private Information

by Meganne Trela
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

The Illinois Appellate Court recently upheld a city's decision to redact a Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") requestor's own private information in response to a FOIA request.

In *Warren v. City of Urbana*, the requestor, Trent Warren, submitted a request to the City of Urbana seeking public records for a property and an updated Area-wide Records Management System ("ARMS") Report for Warren. 2022 IL App (4th) 210564-U. The requested records included Warren's home address, home phone number, and date of birth. They also included his mother's home address and home phone number.

Under Sections 7(1)(b) and (c) of FOIA, that information qualifies as private and personal and is thus exempt from disclosure. Thus, citing those Sections, the City provided the requested information with the private information redacted.

Warren filed a request for review with the Public Access Counselor ("PAC") claiming it was inappropriate for the City to redact his private information. He contended that, after all, it was his personal information, so there was no privacy concern. He additionally argued that the City failed to provide a sufficient factual basis for its redaction of the information.

The PAC determined that no further inquiry was necessary and closed the matter. Warren then filed a lawsuit (without a lawyer) alleging that the City violated FOIA when it redacted his private and personal information because his consent was implied from the request. The circuit court dismissed the complaint and found no basis for a challenge to the City's response in the FOIA statute.

The appellate court agreed. The court determined that the statute provided an express exemption to the disclosure of private and personal information. The only applicable exception was when disclosure was required by another provision of FOIA, a state or federal law, or a court order. There was no other provision, law, or order that required the disclosure of Warren's personal and private information. Last, the court held that the City provided sufficient reasoning for the redactions by citing the applicable sections of FOIA. As a result, the court found that the City acted in accordance with the law.

This case affirms that there is no obligation on the part of local government entities to provide information that is otherwise subject to redaction in response to a FOIA request unless the information is required to be disclosed by another provision of FOIA, a state or federal law, or a court order. This is true even if it is the party's own private information. Similarly, a simple reference to the statutory provision allowing for the redaction of information is a sufficient explanation for the redaction under FOIA. If you have any questions about the *Warren* case or your obligations under FOIA, please contact your attorney.

Meganne Trela is an associate with the law firm of Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. in the firm's Naperville office. Meganne concentrates her practice in the areas of municipal and school law. She assists clients with legal matters involving collective bargaining, contracts, employment issues, insurance, property disputes, public pensions, and litigation.



Driving Tips for Bad, Terrible, No-Good Weather

According to the Federal Highway Administration, [more than 1 in 5](#) car accidents in the U.S. happen because of adverse weather or slick road conditions. These crashes claim the lives of nearly 5,000 people annually and injure 418,000 more. Severe weather inhibits drivers' visibility, reaction time and capabilities, while also affecting vehicle performance, pavement condition and road quality. Use the following tips to stay safer out there, no matter the weather.

For all conditions below, remember to always:

1. **Slow down.** Reducing speed gives you more time to react, as well as lowers your chances of skidding or colliding.
2. **Give room to other vehicles.** Besides impaired visibility, bad weather means slower braking time. Experts recommend doubling your following distance.
3. **Pull over if necessary.** In many cases, the worst weather passes through. It's best to pull safely off the road (preferably to a parking lot) and wait it out.

Here are some tips for specific weather elements:

Wind

Strong wind doesn't just come with storms. It can occur anywhere—open spaces, tunnels, overpasses, bridges and elsewhere.

- Maintain firm grip on the wheel
- Anticipate gusts
- Keep an eye on large vehicles

Fog

Foggy conditions are especially hazardous, no matter your driving experience. Fog also makes it difficult to gauge speed, so slowing down is extra important.

- Use low-beam headlights, never brights
- Watch the road (not the car in front of you)
- Use your wipers and the defroster for better visibility

Rain

Heavy rain can come out of nowhere, quickly affecting visibility. When combined with road flooding or standing water, you have a recipe for hydroplaning.

- Avoid hydroplaning by slowing down
- Turn on your headlights
- Be sure to add that extra following time behind the car in front of you

Snow and Ice

Ice and snow on pavement are extremely dangerous, especially when they begin to melt. That meltwater makes roads extra slick, reducing tire traction.

- Slower is better; also avoid quick stops and turns
- Use low-beams as needed
- Keep windshield and windows clear

Hail

Hail storms are usually brief but can cause a lot of damage in those few minutes.

- Get off the road asap
- Stay in your car to avoid injury

Knowing what to do in bad weather goes a long way toward keeping you safe. Better yet, plan ahead and check the weather *before* your trip—you may be safest postponing or delaying your departure time.

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Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



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- Family Involvement & Support
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Being a firefighter or EMS provider is tough. Remember that you're not alone.

Most people are aware of the physical demands that emergency responders face. But it's important to realize the impact on your mental wellbeing, too.

Taking care of your mental health is just as important as managing your physical health. The National Volunteer Fire Council is here to help with resources to Share the Load.

Share the Load™ Program

nvfc.org/help

A program that provides access to critical resources and information to help emergency responders and their families manage and overcome personal and work-related behavioral health challenges.

Directory of Behavioral Health Professionals

nvfc.org/phfd

A listing of local providers who are equipped and ready to help emergency responders, rescue workers, dispatchers, and their families with their behavioral health needs.

Psychologically Healthy Fire Departments Toolkit

nvfc.org/phfd

A comprehensive toolkit designed to help fire department leaders promote and support mental wellbeing among their members and create a successful, high-performing department.





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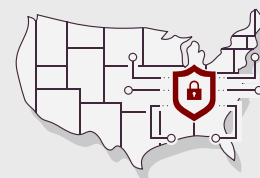
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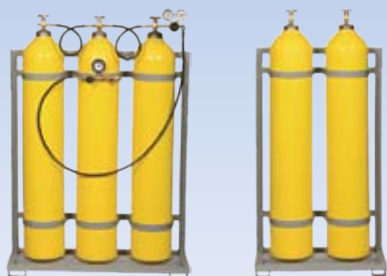
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FM Global



Fire Prevention Grants

Mark Blank, and Jed Bowen from FM Global worked with NIFSI during our fire safety classes with the AFFI in our pilot classes on “Fighting Fires in Fire Sprinkler Protected Buildings” classes earlier this summer. They are encouraging our Illinois Fire Service friends to apply for the fire service grants from FM Global. Take a little time to think of items, products, or systems that can help improve your fire prevention efforts in your community. Hope you can give it a try!

Tom Lia NIFSI

Because FM Global believes that the majority of fire can be prevented, FM Global is pleased to offer financial support to organizations working to combat fire. Through our Fire Prevention Grant Program, fire departments and brigades, as well as national, state, regional, local and community organizations can apply for funding to support a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness and control efforts, including pre-incident planning, fire prevention education/training and arson prevention/fire investigation.

To fill out an online application follow this link
<https://fs20.formsite.com/fmglobal/form14/index.html>

[For Questions firepreventiongrants@fmglobal.com](mailto:firepreventiongrants@fmglobal.com)

From the Chaplain's Rack

IFA Chaplain Josh Ehrler



Recently I was sitting in a chaplain training that included social workers. It was a nice cross pollination of resources that opened my mind to new techniques and ideas. We chappies learned what social workers offer in crisis situations (connections to resources, longer follow-ups, facilitation of mental and other organizations) and we were able to articulate our role.

What was interesting, and a good reminder for us fire chaplains, was the assumption that our primary role is to pray with people. That we are arriving on scene to reflect our religious backgrounds and be a religious presence. I suspect that for many, this is the going assumption. I very much suspect this is a prevalent assumption within the fire service. Hence resistance in some houses to creating a fire chaplain role in the department. By far not the only reason, but definitely one.

Let's talk about that cross on my badge. I can tell you about psychological and spiritual first aid, CISM and defusing work, resilience skills, all that. Still, sometimes all anyone will see is that cross. Or, if you are fortunate to serve in a larger population, it might be a Star of David. Or a crescent moon. Or any symbol of the chaplain's faith affiliation. Not all chappies are Christian.

I am Christian. Specifically Lutheran Christian. My fulltime gig is to be the Lutheran pastor of a great congregation in this town I serve. They have allowed me to disappear out the door when the tone drops and this church is supportive of our fire department.

My chaplaincy is oriented by my faith in God and my belief in Christ. With that said, I cannot remember the last time I prayed at a scene. As in, intentionally gathered up a family and prayed with them. I will absolutely do that if asked, but I have never offered it on my own.

We live in a world of high skepticism, and rightly so. People have used the cross (my religious symbol) as a weapon, a pry bar to force people to move a certain way, as a sign of guilt, and as an excuse to use a tragic event as an opportunity to invite people to a church. I have seen it on scene. Maybe you have, too. If not at a scene, maybe during some other moment of fragility and social/emotional weakness.

Skepticism is what keeps us safe physically and emotionally. It is absolutely rational to not want some do-gooder preacher type wandering the bays looking for ways to get more people into their church. Or any church.

I am sorry if that has been your experience of so-called fire chaplains. Speaking for colleagues of mine who have been doing good work with that title, we wish it wasn't that way. Yes, we carry a faith in our God in the form that shapes us. Yet, that is not our primary job in a department. Our responsibility is to keep up our training, to keep seeking quality resources for firefighters and residents in crisis, to listen with confidentiality, and fundamentally to serve our fellow fire and EMS personnel. I would argue an effective fire chaplain makes their religious orientation secondary. Not irrelevant or unnecessary, but not ahead of the needs of who we are called to encounter and aid. My faith gives me the freedom to not have to worry or care what religious affiliation-including atheism-another person has. My faith, and my training, frees me up to focus on the task at hand-to respond to someone or a group that is in crisis, and offer every skill and resource I've gained to give them even a slight sense of balance in the midst of chaos.

Safe Call Now (24-7 crisis hotline for first responders)

206-459-3020

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

988

Chaplain Josh's Phone

608-234-3793

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Barrington FPD	Glenwood	Mount Prospect	Riverwoods
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Bellwood	Gurnee	New Lenox FPD	Rolling Meadows
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Berwyn	Harwood Heights	Niles	Roselle FPD
Bloomington	Hazel Crest	Norridge	Schaumburg
Bloomington FPD	Hickory Hills	North Maine FPD	Skokie
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Brookfield	Hodgkins*	Oak Brook	Streamwood
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Central Stickney FPD	Huntley FPD	Orland FPD	Warren-Waukegan FPD
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Country Club Hills	Lake Barrington	Palos Heights FPD	Western Springs
Countryside	Lake Bluff	Palos Hills	Westmont
Countryside FPD	Lake Forest	Palos Park	Wheeling
Crestwood	Lake Zurich	Park Forest	Wilmette
Deerfield	Lake Zurich Rural FPD	Park Ridge	Wood Dale
Deerfield-Barrackburn FPD	Lansing	Plainfield FPD	
Des Plaines	Lemont FPD		
Elgin	Libertyville		
Elk Grove Village	Libertyville FPD		
Elmwood Park	Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD		
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FPD – Fire Protection District

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IT'S
OCTOBER!



Is your 2022 fire sprinkler testing nearing completion in your businesses?

Begin the last quarter of 2022

by ensuring fire code and ISO compliance and sending notices to building owners as to what is required. A 3rd party inspection compliance management company like Brycer and IROL can help you carry out your fire sprinkler testing program at no cost to the fire department.



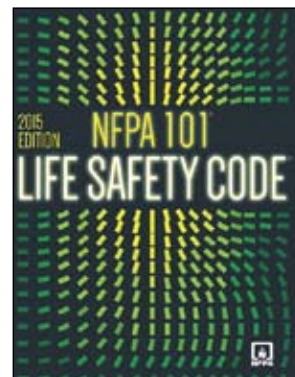
Regular Fire Sprinkler Testing is Required by the International Fire Code

Chapter 9, Fire Protection Systems of the 2018 International Fire Code requires water based fire protection systems to be inspected, tested and maintained at regular intervals in accordance with NFPA 25: Standard for the Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems.

Regular testing is also required through the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal's adoption of NFPA 101: Life Safety Code, Section 9.11.1 (2015 edition).

All automatic fire sprinkler systems, stand-pipe systems and fire pumps must be inspected and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25.

Beginning in January 2023, be ready to enforce the NICET III minimum requirement by showing the legislation to your contractors who work in your town.



For more information:



Any company must be licensed by the State Fire Marshal and anyone testing a fire sprinkler system, standpipe or fire pump must have **(1)** satisfactorily completed a certified sprinkler fitter apprenticeship program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, or **(2)** have current ASSE 15010 certification in inspection, testing, and maintenance for water-based fire protection systems by ASSE, or **(3) current NICET II (NICET III by Jan 2023) certification or equivalent nationally recognized program.** Are you checking these items before work begins? Stop any job violating this state law and/or call the state fire marshal.

Office of the State Fire Marshal



The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal has a new Fire Service Outreach Coordinator, Lee Buxton. Lee is no stranger to the agency as he previously served in the role of Fire Certification Specialist in the Personnel Standards and Education Division. Lee just retired as a Captain on the Urbana Fire Department where he served for a little over 24 years. Captain Buxton spent the last year serving as acting Battalion Chief for the third shift crew and was one of the only members on the department to hold the designation of Chief

Fire Officer from the State of Illinois. Lee will be the point of contact at the OSFM for any questions related to NFIRS or other Fire Service Outreach related items and can be reached by email at lee.buxton@illinois.gov.



The OSFM can't stress enough the importance that all departments/districts across the state keep their NFIRS data current as this can cause them to become ineligible to receive grants and loans, not only from the OSFM, but also from federal sources. You can check to see if your department/district's NFIRS reports are current by visiting our website at sfm.illinois.gov, click on the resources tab, then click on grants and loans, and scroll down on the page to NFIRS Compliance. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our office.

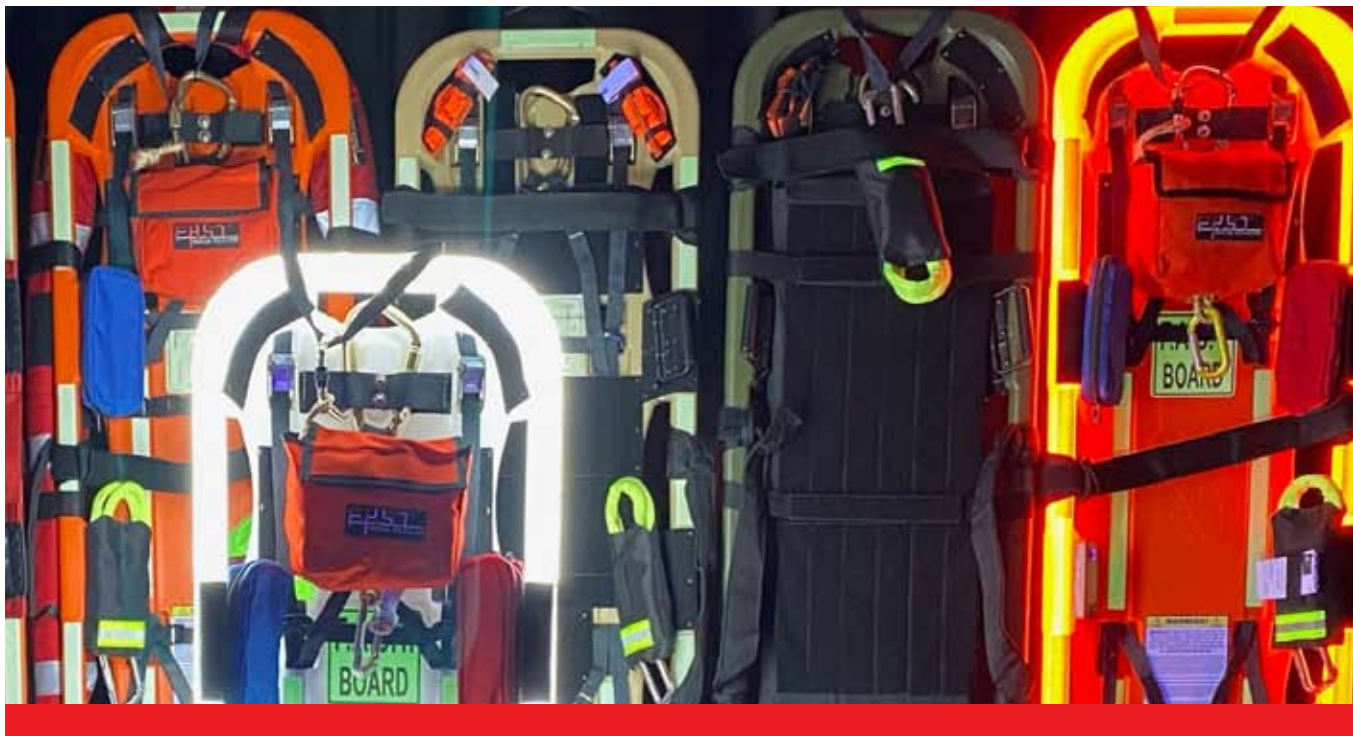
As we enter the holiday season many residents will be decking the halls. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) more than two of every five home decoration fires occur due to decorations being placed too close to a heat source. More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. The NFPA also reports that US fire departments responded to an average of 780 home structure fires per year that began with decorations between 2013-2017.

More than half of home decoration fires in December are started by candles. Candle fires peak in December followed closely by January. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. Before you head to bed or out for the evening, extinguish all lit candles.

Here are some tips to keep in mind to stay fire safe when decking the halls this holiday season.

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Make sure decorations are either flame retardant or flame resistant.
- Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from decorations or anything that can catch fire.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Extinguish all lit candles before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Check to make sure your lights are rated for indoor or outdoor use or both.
- Replace any light strands that have worn or broken cords. Make sure to read the recommendation for number of light strings you can string together.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- If you have a real Christmas tree, make sure to check water levels daily! It is not unusual for a tree to drink two gallons of water the first day it is in the stand.
- Keep real Christmas trees away from a heat source. It can dry out the tree quickly.

After a busy cooking day on Thanksgiving, before firing the oven back up preparing the next holiday meal, make sure to clean it! In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it is cool. Clean cook tops as left-over grease can catch fire. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, but Christmas and Christmas Eve follow closely behind. Happy Holidays from the OSFM.



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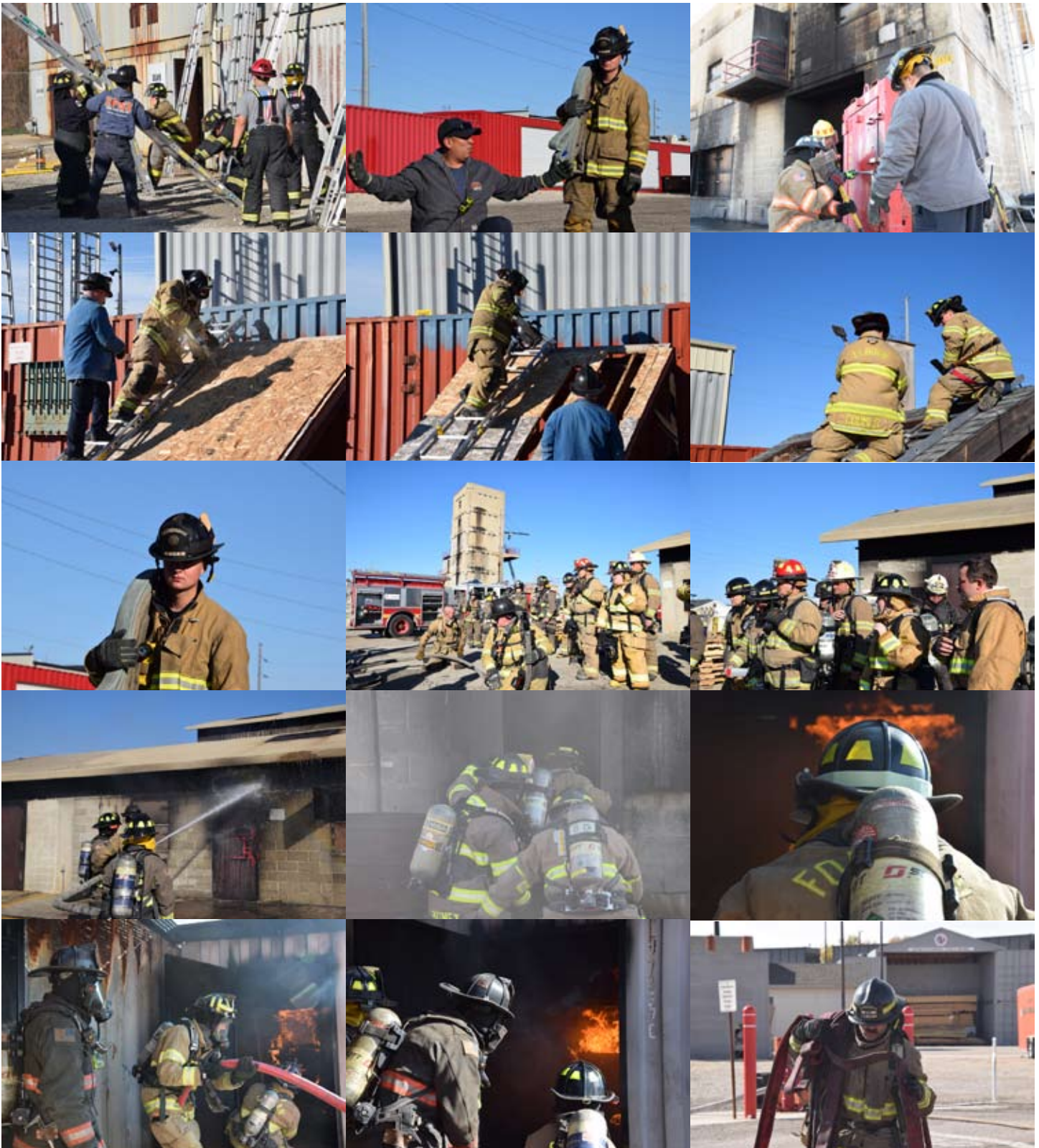


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The Bulletin

SCENES FROM THE 2022 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



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The Bulletin

SCENES FROM THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Honoring Mike Deckelman



Honoring Mike Whitson



Bar Bingo in the Hospitality Room



Honoring outgoing President John Swan with cake, roast and awards

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