

# *The* **Bulletin**



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

**Volume 67, Number 5**

**September - October 2013**

**FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**

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## **Arthur FD to celebrate 100 years**



The Bulletin is published every other month at Highland, Illinois

Subscription rate - \$15.00 per year

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## Bulletin Deadlines:

January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15,  
September 15, and November 15

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## Mission Statement

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

## President's Message



Dear Fellow Firefighters,

Hope everything has gone well for you over the summer. Our Annual Conference is around the corner and the Down & Dirty training will probably be over before you get this Bulletin. I hope you all enjoyed the conference and took advantage of all the top notch training. The Illinois Fire Service Institute has been our partner for many years now. I wanted to tell all of you how much I believe Instructor Bill Farnum will be missed at the Institute. If you're a young firefighter, you may not know Bill well. Bill has been with the Institute for over 33 years and has instructed all over this state. His knowledge, experiences and skills are well known. For this reason, he has been honored by the Illinois Firefighters Association by resolution from our membership. A white helmet will be presented to him at our opening ceremonies at the conference. Bill has moved to Texas and we wish him and his family happiness on his retirement.

On another note, everyone should have learned by now that the sprinkler legislation has been put on hold. I want to commend our State Fire Marshal, Larry Matkaitis for all his hard work. Our association passed a resolution supporting that initiative. That legislation would have not only protected our residences, but our firefighters as well. The fire needs to be stopped at its earliest stage preventing its spread to the next phase. A lot of work went into this by a lot of people and many different organizations. I think we all knew that this would be an up hill battle. I will say it, Illinois is run by money and power, not like most of you did not know it anyway. Many times the right thing takes the back seat to money and power. I believe government of the people, by the people and for the people gets stepped on with monetary gain. Maybe, this is why we are 100 billion dollars in arrears. The only way I see us getting out of this situation is a rise up of our citizens' voices and special interest is put in their place. We all need certain things that keep us all on the straight and narrow. When greed takes the lead and we owe our soul to the company store. The only thing that comes out of this is more greed. It's an endless route unless we the people wake up and be counted.

The National Fire Benefits Summit is in Texas this year at the end of October. Vice-President Terry Ford and I will be attending. It will be held at College Station, that is where Texas A&M's Fire Academy is located. This is in conjunction with the fall meeting of the National Volunteer Fire Council. It is our hope that we can bring other ideas back that can help us.

In closing, we lost many firefighters across this county in the line of duty. We should stop a few minutes and think of their sacrifice and give them the respect they deserve. We are in a dangerous line of work and the only thing that we rely on is each other and our training. Let's keep watch out for each other and be safe as possible.

*God Bless and be Safe*

*John Swan President IFA*



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

In response to the recommendation the House Task Force on EMS Funding the Illinois EMS Alliance is being formed to bring together EMS stakeholders around common-cause proposals aimed at securing critical resources and consensus reforms. They hope that is EMS can be stronger legislative with a collective voice. I have been invited to attend their first Steering Committee meeting and will keep IFA in the loop as issues develop.

## IFSA SUMMIT OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>

The Illinois Fire Services Association will be meeting October 30<sup>th</sup> at Motorola to develop their spring legislative agenda. If you have any issues you would like to see addressed, please let me know [mvaughn@springnet1.net](mailto:mvaughn@springnet1.net) or 217-280-0206 so I can bring them to the IFA Board's attention.

## WILL COUNTY LEGISLATIVE FORUM

I recently worked with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance to coordinate a Legislative Forum for Will County Fire Officials. Officials from over 20 Will County FD/FPDs participated in the event and the keynote speakers were State Rep. Renee Kosel (R-New Lenox) and State Senators Mike Hastings (D-Tinley Park) and Jack McGuire (D-Joliet). Among the issues that the Will County Fire Officials would like to see addressed is sharing of camera feeds by IDOT and the Tollway Authority with local Fire-EMS, so they are better prepared for expressway/tollway accidents. Another issue that was brought up was allowing a one time annual transfer from a FPD Tort Fund to their General Operating Fund, if their operating fund runs out and which they would otherwise be forced to obtain bridge loans for to get through the end of the fiscal year which they have to pay interest on. As long as there is a provision in the bill which would require the Tort Fund, the legislators in attendance were supportive of the issue.



**Will County Legislative Forum** Pictured above sitting first row: State Rep. Renee Kosel (R-Mokena), Senator Pat McGuire (D-Joliet), and Sen. Mike Hastings (D-Tinley Park)

Back row standing: Frankfort Chief Grady, IL Fire Safety Alliance Past President Jim Saletta, Mokena Chief Howard Stephens, IL Fire Safety Alliance President Jim Kreher, Joliet Assistant Chief Ray Randich, Margaret Vaughn, and Plainfield Deputy Chief Dave Riddle

**Below is an overview of the legislation from the 2013 session, impacting the fire service and Rural EMS Community.**

## HB 1206 PROP TX-MABAS PROP EXEMPT

**House Sponsor Rep. Carol A. Sente - Senate Sponsor Sen. Pamela J. Althoff**

### Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that all property owned by the Executive Board of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System that is used for the public purpose of disaster preparedness and response is exempt from the taxes imposed by the Code. **Last Action: Awaiting Governor's Signature**

**HB 1349 FIRE PROTECTION ACCESS BOX**

**House Sponsor Rep. Timothy L. Schmitz**

**Senate Sponsor Sen. Terry Link**

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that the board of trustees of any fire protection district may, by ordinance, require the installation of an access or key box if: (1) a structure is protected by an automatic fire alarm or security system or access to or within the structure or area is unduly difficult because of secured openings; and (2) immediate access is necessary for life-saving purposes. Further provides that an ordinance enacted under this Section may specify the type or class of structure that must install an access or key box, but may not apply to single family residential structures. Effective immediately.

**Senate Floor Amendment No. 3**

In the case of a health care facility that is secured by an electronic code box that is in good working order, provides that, if the owner of the health care facility provides the fire department with a valid access code, then that health care facility is not required to be accessible by an access or key box. Defines "health care facility". Exempts facilities owned and operated by a public utility from the access or key box installation requirement. **Last Action: Approved by Governor – effective 01/01/14**

**HB 2777 EMS-AMBULANCE-INSPECT-LICENSE**

**House Sponsor Rep. Donald L. Moffitt - Senate Sponsor Sen. John M. Sullivan**

Amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act to make different changes with respect to vehicle service providers. Requires the Department of Public Health to: (i) establish requirements for license renewal at intervals determined by the Department, which shall be not less than every 4 years (instead of every 2 years); (ii) annually inspect all licensed vehicles operated by Vehicle Service Providers (instead of inspect all Vehicle Service Providers at intervals determined by the Department, which shall be not less than every 2 years, and relicense such Providers that have met the Department's requirements for license renewal); and (iii) charge each Vehicle Service Provider a fee per transport vehicle, due annually at the time of inspection (instead of to be submitted with each application for licensure and license renewal). **Last Action: Approved by Governor –effective 01/01/14**

**HB 3233 FIRE PROTECTION-TAX LEVY**

**House Sponsor Rep. David R. Leitch - Senate Sponsor Sen. Darin M. LaHood**

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that on and after the effective date of this amendatory Act, a fire protection district may propose, by referendum, a special tax levy not to exceed .30% of the value of all taxable property within the district as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue for ambulance services. Effective immediately. **Last Action: Approved by Governor – effective immediately.**

**SB 1417 FIRE PROTECTION OPEN BURNING**

**Senate Sponsor: Mike Noland – House Sponsor: Rep. Don Moffitt**

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Fire Protection District Act. Provides that the fire chief of any fire protection district may fix, charge, and collect fees associated with the fire department extinguishing an open burning that is prohibited due to atmospheric or other conditions. The fee may be imposed against any person causing or engaging in the prohibited activity, or the owner of the property on which the open burning took place. The total amount collected to compensate the fire protection district shall be assessed in accordance with both the rates provided in another Section of the Act and the fire chief's determination of the cost of personnel and equipment utilized to extinguish the fire. Effective immediately. **Last Action: Approved by Governor–effective immediately.**

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# Chaplain's Corner

Kevin Coffey - IFA Chaplain

## First Responder Stress and Faith

You are in the fire service. You are a First Responder: EMS, fire suppression, extrication, special teams, etc... And that means that you are regularly going to be among the first ones responding to stressful, demanding and often tragic incidents in and around your community. You see and get elbow-deep into human brokenness and loss such as your non-fire service friends and family cannot fathom. Sure, it's not every day, depending on where you are called to serve. But the potential is always there and so you train, you take classes, you watch videos of incidents and evaluate what was done well and what could be done better. And then the tones sound and there you are once again, setting aside your normal human emotional response to a stressful circumstance in order to act decisively, rationally, and professionally.

It's pretty well known and accepted these days in the fire service that first responders are affected by the stress that they experience in emergency services. And the effects of that stress can be debilitating and even tragic to a first responder's personal and professional life. Several key protective factors have been identified that have proven to help a first responder to manage the stress landscape of his/her experience. These preventatives include good training, physical health, family and social support, and a positive sense of purpose in one's fire department roles and relationships (among others). Then there are interventions once a stressful incident or series of incidents have taken their toll. Most of these have to do with talking out one's emotions/feelings about what took place. That can take place informally, like talking about it with the others back at the fire station or with an understanding spouse once you get home. Or the situation can be debriefed by a trained team in a more formal and controlled atmosphere. And then there can also be one-on-one professional counseling made available. In any case, having the opportunity to verbalize and express the emotion – including tears and hugs when needed - about what you had to deal with is always a healing experience. I hope that your fire department is addressing the preventatives and interventions of dealing with stress; and if not yet, will hopefully start soon.

That being said, I have read dozens of articles and have been through several seminars and trainings dealing with Critical Incident Stress and Post-Traumatic Stress in first responders. And I certainly see and agree that talking, debriefing, and counseling offer significant help in dealing with the stress of our experiences. But I have never read in any article nor heard at any training on first responder stress any mention of the experience of FAITH. And perhaps its absence is understandable, as faith is an experience that cannot be clearly defined, categorized, quantified, or studied in a purely scientific manner. And yet, there is something deep in the spirit of every first responder that cries out for a source and purpose of their fire service calling and a strength to carry it through that is beyond human explanation or technique – and that longing can only be fulfilled by a personal experience of faith.

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I have been a firefighter for 34 years, 30 of those on busy inner-city fire companies. It has been vitally important for me to have a faith sense that God has called me to this work, that God is present with me on every call, that God knows that tragedy and disaster are an ever-threatening part of the human experience, that God loves those that I am called to self-sacrificially serve, that God hears the cries of my voice and my heart when the experience gets overwhelming, and that God promises to give me the strength and grace – as well as the helpful resources that are being made more and more available as interventions for first responders (mentioned above) – to carry out this calling.

Faith is a gift from God that you are constantly invited to receive. As a fire chaplain, I am humbled to offer that invitation to each of you. There are no pre-requisites, no techniques, no trainings to attend or power-points to study. God alone knows the depths of your heart-felt love of being called to your work in the fire service. Yes, talk through your emotions, attend debriefings and access counseling when needed. But don't disregard the greatest gift ever given to those who are called to selflessly serve others – faith. In Jesus' own words: "I have told you these things so that in me you will have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world". As always, if I can be of any help or encouragement to you or your fire department, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Kevin Coffey, IFA Chaplain (815-457-2007, [kc9526@yahoo.com](mailto:kc9526@yahoo.com))



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# Firefighter Arson: Putting the Reputation of the Fire Service up in Smoke

*The NVFC offers tools and resources to combat and mitigate the firefighter arson problem*



It is a problem many in the fire service prefer not to think about – firefighters setting fires. To most firefighters, the very idea seems to go against everything they have trained for and the very foundation of what they believe in. Yet with roughly 100 arrests made each year, firefighter arson is a very real concern for the fire service and one that needs to be addressed.

While the majority of firefighters would never think of setting a fire outside of authorized training situations, having a firefighter arsonist in a department can cause irreparable damage to the reputation of the department and the trust of citizens it protects. Cases of firefighter arson cause damage to the entire fire service community and overshadow all of the good that firefighters do every day.

There are many reasons a firefighter may become an arsonist. While some do it for sinister purposes such as profit or revenge, others have less ominous intentions and may even not realize the fires they are setting are illegal. They may set a fire out of boredom or because they think it will help with training or because they want to be a hero. But every fire set outside of an authorized training situation is against the law and is considered arson. The person who sets the fire as well as anyone who is involved with or knows about the firesetting could face serious consequences, such as expulsion from the department or even jail time and a criminal record that will follow the individual for the rest of their life. These seemingly “innocent” fires may also result in unintended tragic consequences, harming civilians, property, or fellow firefighters.

The entire fire service community needs to take a stand to prevent firefighter arson. There are many things departments can do to help prevent firefighter arson, including conducting background checks and screenings of all firefighter recruits, providing training and raising awareness of the problem and what constitutes arson among all department personnel, and adopting a zero tolerance policy in the department. Departments should also have a crisis plan and mitigation strategy in place in case a situation such as firefighter arson does happen that threatens the reputation of the department.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), with support from the U.S. Fire Administration

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and the NVFC Foundation, has created a series of tools and resources to help departments and fire service leaders prevent firefighter arson and mitigate the damaging effects for cases that do happen.

### **Report on the Firefighter Arson Problem: Context, Considerations, and Best Practices**

This report educates members of the fire service about the firefighter arson problem, highlights existing proactive approaches to address the issue, and provides resources and best practices for prevention and mitigation.

### **Firefighter Arson Prevention and Recovery Toolkit**

This toolkit provides information and resources to help departments implement prevention measures as well as navigate the aftermath of an incident. It contains sample documents including press materials, sample SOGs, checklists, and more. Additionally, two training presentations are included for firefighters and department leadership.

### **Firefighter Arson Video**

This video takes a closer look at the firefighter arson problem, including interviews with a convicted firefighter arsonist, arson investigators, and department leaders, and addresses why some firefighters become arsonists and what departments can do to help prevent incidents.

### **Firefighter Arson Prevention Poster**

This 18"x24" poster can be hung in the firehouse to remind members that arson is a crime with serious consequences.

### **Firefighter Arson Incident Database**

To better understand the scope of the firefighter arson problem, the NVFC launched an online database to collect incident data. Users can view over 900 entries documented in the media since the year 2000 as well as submit any known case of firefighter arson.

Find all of these resources at [www.nvfc.org/stop-firefighter-arson](http://www.nvfc.org/stop-firefighter-arson).

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# **Arthur Fire Department to celebrate 100 years**

OCTOBER 13, 1913 – OCTOBER 13, 2013

Arthur Fire Department is located between Decatur, Champaign, and Effingham in the center of Illinois' largest Amish settlement.

We service 98 square miles in the heart of Illinois.

The farthest service point from our station is 9.5 miles.

We protect areas in 3 different counties and 4 townships.

Our first fire department was located in the middle of town and used a pull type hose reel. Our first fire truck was a 1920 Nash touring car converted to a fire truck.

Since 1960 we have only had 6 fire chiefs and 2 assistant chiefs.

Now our fleet consists of 3 engines, 3 tankers, 1 heavy rescue, and 2 ambulances.

We have 34 active firefighters, 21 EMT'S, 9 of which are paramedics.

Arthur has a city population of 2300 and a rural population estimated at 5000.

The service population increases by over 1000 every work day with the many businesses located inside the city limits and within the rural area.

Our Amish community is dotted with over 300 businesses involved in the manufacturing of wood products causing many challenges when rural water and extra man power are needed.

We are members of the Douglas County, Moultrie County Mutual Aid groups and M.A.B.A.S.26 and depend on our neighbors regularly for these rural emergencies.

We have 11 country schools which consist of 2 to 4 rooms per building and 3 country churches.

Our biggest fund raiser of the year is our annual Pancake Breakfast that is held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. We get tremendous community support for this event serving 1500 breakfasts before 11:00 AM.

Come join us on October 13 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM for our 100 year anniversary open house and learn more about the Arthur Fire Dept.

# Because You Answer the Call Every Day, We're Here to Answer Yours



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

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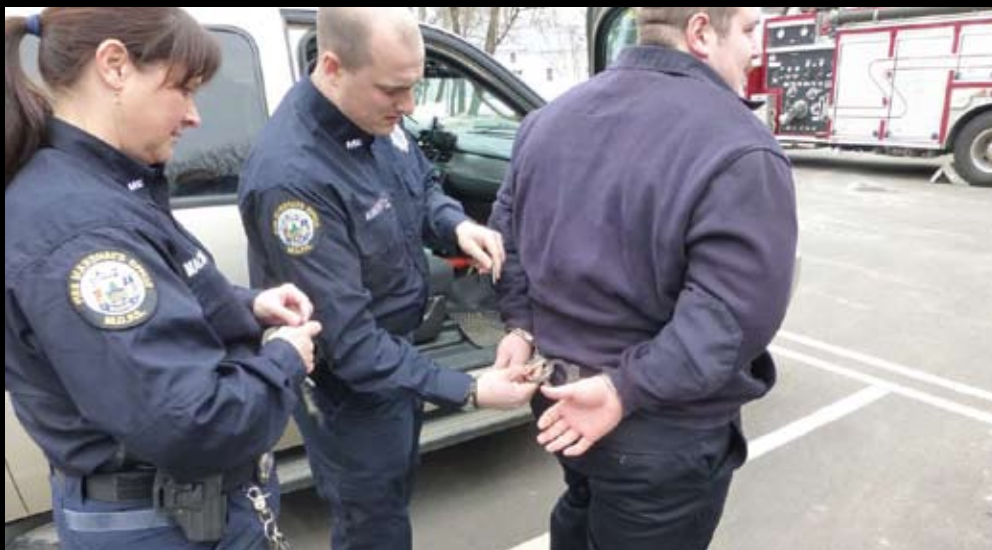
**If you set a fire...**

**Help someone set a fire...**

**Don't report someone setting a fire...**

**You Will Be Prosecuted**

Setting any unauthorized fire is always illegal. Take a stand and report any known or suspected activity to the proper authorities.



[www.nvfc.org/stop-firefighter-arson](http://www.nvfc.org/stop-firefighter-arson)



Supporting Those Who Serve



## Frankfort Fire Department

The Frankfort Fire Department was established in 1885 by local residents who volunteered their services to help protect the buildings, businesses and homes of their neighbors. Frankfort's first motorized piece of fire apparatus was a 1923 Model-T Ford followed by a 1938 LaFrance Pumper. These are still maintained by the Frankfort Fire Dept. in running condition.

The Fire Protection District was formed in June, 1960. Our first Fire District Fire Chief was Fred Kohlhausen, succeeded by Lynn Kohlhausen, followed by Bruce Wells, Don Lorenz, Milt Batson, John Herder, Larry Nice Sr. and



our current Fire Chief Jim Grady III.



In 1985 the Fire District passed a referendum to provide Emergency Medical "Paramedic" Service and the first contract was awarded. In April of 2001 the Fire District passed a referendum to increase the taxing rate promising to hire additional staff, open station #3 and prepare for future growth.

Today in 2013 the Frankfort Fire District serves approximately 52,000 residents running out of

five fire stations; and, like all fire departments, provides a multitude of services to the public. The Fire District currently operates a combination department with duties shared by Administration that include Chief Fire Officers, Lieutenants and contracted full time Firefighter/Paramedics who are members of IAFF Local 4338. Frankfort Fire also conducts a very active Cadet program as one of the corner stones of their long-term commitment. The Cadet program currently has 35 members and is headed up by advisors Brian Adcock and Jeff Otte. The cadets train on a weekly basis and participate at a variety of events including the annual IFSI Cadet Jamboree, State Fair, local events and they take time to respond to calls in





a support role, manning the department's rehab unit. Perhaps the highlight for the department's cadets is assisting at events at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Wreaths Across America and the Memorial Day Weekend Flag ceremonies/recognitions.

Frankfort station #3 is the host to the regional training center where a number of simulators are on site and training is provided to well over 1000 fire service personnel throughout the year. Frankfort Fire Department has partnered with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute so that a number of the props are used for state certification and validation for special teams

Over the years the Frankfort Fire Department, like many departments in the state, has evolved and made the changes necessary to provide services and enhance training. The foundation of the department is based on it's history and a simple phrase adopted courtesy of Chief "EE" Enright (retired CFD): "Duty, Pride,



today's technological needs facing emergency services. Chief Jim Grady III considers it an honor to serve as the chief of a department that is a respected leader in today's fire service and whose traditions will continue as together the department goes forward into the future.



Tradition". The Frankfort Fire Department provides emergency service and response with pride and professionalism; never forgetting it's traditions - where they came from, where they are and where they are going as a department.

The future of the Frankfort Fire Department is filled with a commitment to safety through staffing, training and staying current with





# Tri-State Emergency Responder Conference



November 1-2, 2013  
Grand River Center  
Dubuque, Iowa  
[www.nicc.edu/fireems](http://www.nicc.edu/fireems)



## Fire Speakers



Mike Gagliano  
Captain  
Seattle Fire Dept.



John Mittendorf  
Battalion Chief (retired)  
Los Angeles City Fire Dept.

## EMS Speaker



Pete Lazzara  
Ambulance Commander  
Chicago Fire Dept.

## Friday, Nov. 1, 2013

- **Fire Track** (John Mittendorf)
- National, local and regional vendors
- Network with fire and EMS colleagues from IA, IL, WI and MN
- Concert: Pat Benatar  
Mississippi Moon Bar-Diamond Jo Casino

## Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013

- **Fire Track** (Mike Gagliano) or **EMS Track** (Pete Lazzara)
- National, local and regional vendors
- Network with fire and EMS colleagues from IA, IL, WI and MN
- Concert: Spazmatics  
Mississippi Moon Bar-Diamond Jo Casino



## Conference Fee:

Before October 1: \$79/one day or \$138/two days  
On or after October 1: \$99/one day or \$178/two days

## For More Information or to Join Our Mail List:

Visit [www.nicc.edu/fireems](http://www.nicc.edu/fireems) or contact  
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563.557.8271, ext. 327.

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# Illinois Fire Service Institute Updates

Roger D. Lunt, Deputy Director



## Mark Your 2013 Training Calendar

- **Light & Fight** – November 2, IFSI Campus
- **Fire Ground Company Officer School** - November 18 – 22, IFSI Campus
- **Fire Ground Command Officer School** - November 18 – 22, IFSI Campus
- **SWMD: Trench Rescue Technician** – November 18 – 22, Wilmington FD
- **Tactics & Strategy II** – November 18 – 22, Carol Stream FD
- **NFA Leadership II** - November 14 – 15, 2013 Hanover Park Fire Department
- **NFA Decision Making for Initial Company Ops** – Jan. 18 – 19, 2014 Shumway FPD

NFA requirements for their direct delivery courses:

Minimum Students: 15 Maximum Students: 30 Registration Policy: Roster must be submitted to NFA 40 days prior to course start date. Class hours: 2 days (16 hours)

## IFSI Curriculum Project:

A large portion of our courses have always had fully developed curriculum packages. Most of these were the upper level courses, such as the Basic Firefighter Academy, Fire Officer Class series, and the Special Operations Training Program group of courses.

In November 2012, Director Mortenson issued a directive to standardize all IFSI curriculums. Since last November, a great deal of time, thought and work has been devoted to the standardization of ALL Illinois Fire Service Institute curriculum. This endeavor included not only the review of established upper level courses, but the lower level (1 – 16 hour cornerstone field classes, and special event (Fire College, Winter Fire School, Explorer/Cadet Events) classes as well.

The following is only a few of the benefits and reasons we have dedicated a great amount of time and attention to completing this curriculum project as directed.

- Consistency in currency, quality, ease of delivery, and format, regardless of instructor or region.
- Institutionalize quality---our “brand”.
- Makes updating and maintenance of curriculum easier.
- Maximize content sharing and use among instructors and programs.
- Reduce preparation time by providing developed curriculum to IFSI Instructors.
- Increase training effectiveness by institutionalizing best practices.
- Third Party Evaluations
  - Homeland Security Approval
  - College Credit
  - Pro-Board
  - EMS Continuing Education Approval
  - NFA Endorsement
  - OSFM

**IFSI Staff Professional Development Program:**

The leadership of the Illinois Fire Service Institute recognizes the importance of a well-trained, competent and motivated staff focused to provide the highest level of services and instruction to IFSI clientele. Through our staff Professional Development Program the administration seeks to enhance and develop an environment of staff improvement by providing; information dissemination, idea sharing, as well as, training and education opportunities that reinforce the Institute's ability to accomplish its mission. The primary goal of the PDP is to promote staff improvement and growth---personal and professional.

The IFSI Staff PDP was initiated in December of 2012 and continues to provides opportunities for IFSI staff to enhance and improve their knowledge, proficiency, and personal growth through information and idea sharing, in order to ensure we continue to provide the highest level of instruction and services to; first responders, local, city, and state officials.

**Kurt Glosser, IFSI Curriculum and Testing Program Director Receives Award.**

The Central Illinois Business magazine, published by the Champaign/Urbana News-Gazette has informed us that Kurt is a recipient of the Forty Under 40 Award. The award recognizes young professionals for their achievements in their careers, leadership ability and dedication to community service.

Kurt is the third member of the IFSI Staff to receive the Forty Under 40 Award in the last four years. Gavin Horn, Director of Research, 2011. Brian Brauer, Assistant Director IFSI in 2010.

Kurt is an associate fire service education specialist with the Illinois Fire Service Institute and holds the position of Curriculum and Testing Program Director. His responsibilities include managing fire service curriculum and overseeing testing. Kurt joined the institute in 2004 to collect, document and improve its program curriculum. He holds a master's degree in education from the University of Illinois, and he is a lieutenant with the Savoy Fire Department.

**New Business Operations Coordinator:**

The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has hired Sheri Ellenberger to serve as its new Business Operations Coordinator. Sheri will be responsible for managing budgets, human resources and grants and contracts. She comes to IFSI after 16 years with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) where she was responsible for customer service, budget management, accounts receivables and payables processing, as well as publication and circulation fulfillment. Most recently she was Director of Customer Support Services. Prior to NCTE, she was a logistics officer in the U.S. Army with the rank of Captain. Sheri holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources and Family Studies from the University of Illinois and is a 2004 graduate of the University of Illinois' Executive MBA Program. Sheri can be reached at [ellenber@illinois.edu](mailto:ellenber@illinois.edu).

**IFSI Researcher Receives "Erasmus Mundus" Scholarship to Study Abroad for Fire Safety Engineering:**

Daniel Martin, a Champaign native and research specialist with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), received a scholarship from "Erasmus Mundus" to study engineering at three prominent European Engineering Schools. His studies will focus on Fire Safety Engineering.



## The Bulletin

Since the scholarship program's creation in 2010, Daniel is the fourth student from the United States to receive the award and the second from Illinois.

Dan will be studying at Ghent University in Ghent, Belgium; Lund University in Lund, Sweden and Edinburgh University in Edinburgh, Scotland. At the end of each semester he will switch universities to gain an international understanding of how to tackle problems that Fire Safety Engineers face around the world. He is expected to live in Europe for two years and will receive an International Master's of Science in Fire Safety Engineering in June 2015.

Dan received his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering in May 2011 from the University of Illinois. During his senior year, he took an engineering independent study course through IFSI to learn about Fire Protection Engineering and the science behind fire behavior.

Dan started working part time for IFSI after graduation, then fulltime since October 2011. While at IFSI, he worked on several federally funded projects, but most of his work focused on a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant to investigate Escape Rope Performance and Design. Dan's contributions to IFSI research projects have been significant. We wish Dan the very best and look forward to working with him down the road.

### Illinois Fire Service Institute Regional Representatives:

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

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

.....  
**Check out the IFA website - [www.illinoisfirefighters.org](http://www.illinoisfirefighters.org)**

It contains a wealth of information about the IFA and the benefits of being a member of the IFA

**Illinois Firefighter's Association**  
Organized January 8, 1889

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You are here: Home

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IFA History  
By- Laws  
Member Benefits  
Financial  
Legislation

**Welcome**  
This website is dedicated to Illinois firefighters: past, present and future. Just as with any other website, this site will grow and strive to meet the needs of its users. If you have suggestions for content, please contact the [IFA](#).

**Training**  
[Down and Dirty Fire Fighting Shifts Training Package](#)

Login



# **OSFM SMALL EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD**

Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis is pleased to announce the Small Equipment Grant open application period will run from Monday, September 16 to Friday, November 15, 2013.

A total of \$4 million dollars is available for grants. Grants are for the purchase of small equipment by a fire department, fire protection district or township fire department. Grants are available in amounts up to \$26,000. Applications will be E-mailed to all fire departments in the State. The application will also be available on the OSFM web-site.

Kevin Schott, Senior Policy Advisor at the OSFM and Director with the Illinois Firefighters Association will present a Grant Orientation program and additional guidance at the IFA annual Conference in October. The OSFM will also be providing orientations at select conferences and regional meetings during the grant application open period.

**All information and applications are available at :**

**<http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/fireservice/grantsloans.aspx>**

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## **Department Receives New Pumper Thanks to Revolving Loan Fund**

South Roxana Fire Protection District placed a new Rosenbauer 2013 Engine in service July 13, 2013. This truck purchase was made available with the help of a \$250,000 Loan from the Fire Marshal Revolving Loan Program.

1500 gpm Hale Pump  
1000 Water  
30 Gallon Class A Foam Tank  
Light Tower  
Portable Winch Front and Rear  
Hydraulic Hose Reels  
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Many more options.



They would not have been able to purchase this truck without the help of the Fire Marshal Revolving Loan Program.

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# BREAKING NEWS: FIREFIGHTER SAVES

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# **EMS Act Immunity Extended to Third-Party Negligence Claims**

by Vladimir Shuliga

Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd.

The Illinois Emergency Medical Services Systems Act (“EMS Act”) provides immunity from civil liability to authorized individuals who provide emergency and non-emergency services while conducting their duties. The Illinois Supreme Court recently decided whether the statutory immunity for drivers of emergency vehicles under Section 3.150(a) of the EMS Act extends to third party negligence claims (210 ILCS 50/3.150(a)). A third party negligence claim is a claim brought by an individual who was not a patient being transported by the ambulance. In *Wilkins v. Williams, et al.*, 2013 IL 114310 (2013), the Illinois Supreme Court held that immunity may be available for third party claims of negligence.

In *Wilkins*, Rhonda Williams was an EMT for Superior Ambulance who was driving the ambulance during the non-emergency transport of a patient to a nursing home. Since it was a non-emergency transport, the emergency lights and sirens were not activated. While the ambulance was traveling westbound, Karen Wilkins turned across three lanes of westbound traffic and collided with the ambulance. Williams did not see Wilkins turning until the collision occurred because her view was obstructed. However, three eyewitnesses testified that the ambulance was not speeding. As a result of the collision, Wilkins suffered a brain injury, and sued Williams and Superior Ambulance Service for negligence.

Based on EMS Act immunity, the trial court granted summary judgment for the defendant. The appellate court reversed, holding that the immunity is not applicable against third-party negligence claims. When the case was appealed up to the Illinois Supreme Court, the court had two primary questions to answer:

- 1) Does the EMS Act provide immunity for third-party negligence claims?
- 2) Does the Illinois Motor Vehicle Code supersede the EMS Act, thereby preventing EMS Act immunity from being applied to negligence claims arising from the ordinary operation of an ambulance as a motor vehicle?

In regards to the first issue, the Illinois Supreme Court held that the appellate court incorrectly concluded that the EMS Act immunity did not apply to Williams and Superior Ambulance. The court stated that immunity under the EMS Act was not limited to patients in the ambulance. Instead, “the statute broadly declares that a person shall not be civilly liable as a result of their acts or omissions in providing non-emergency medical services.” The court looked to previous situations in which the EMS Act had been applied to “preparatory actions” to support the application of the EMS Act to third-party cases. It noted that there was no logical reason to allow third-parties to have a greater right of recovery than the patient in the ambulance. The court further explained that once immunity is properly found under the language of the statute, only willful and wanton conduct by the ambulance employee will render the immunity inapplicable. Thus, the court concluded that EMS Act immunity applied because Williams was providing a non-emergency medical service when the collision occurred.

On the second issue, the Illinois Supreme Court held that the appellate court erred in concluding that the Vehicle Code prevents the EMS Act from providing immunity for third party negligence claims. Wilkins argued that Sections 11-205 and 11-907 of the Vehicle Code impose a duty on drivers of authorized emergency vehicles to drive with due regard for the safety of others (625 ILCS 5/11-205 and 11-907). The court found that neither section was applicable in this case. First, Section 11-205 is inapplicable because it pertains to public officers and employees, not a private ambulance. Second, Section 11-907 can apply to private employees, but it only addresses emergency vehicles who are driving with lights and sirens activated. That was not the case here.

Following the decision of *Harris v. Thompson*, 2012 IL 112525, the court held that the EMS Act and the Vehicle Code present two separate issues: whether a duty of care was owed under the Vehicle Code and whether immunity

## The Bulletin

is proper under the EMS Act. The court explained that immunity is proper because the EMS Act is narrower than the Vehicle Code. The EMS Act specifically grants immunity to EMS employees providing emergency or non-emergency services in the normal course of conducting their duties. However, the Vehicle Code broadly applies to every authorized emergency vehicle. The court harmonized these two statutes by noting that the duty to drive with due regard still applies under the EMS Act for purposes of willful and wanton conduct. Further, the court noted that there was no evidence that Williams was not following the motor vehicle laws at the time the accident occurred, and had therefore not violated any rule of the road.

Fortunately, the court's decision clarifies the protections that emergency service providers have under the immunity provision of the EMS Act. It continues the recent trend of extending legal immunity to emergency and non-emergency services. This allows the EMS Act to serve as the comprehensive regulatory authority for emergency medical services rather than permitting a continuous flow of litigation to challenge the rules and regulations of each emergency service provider. The Wilkins case also reinforces the importance of maintaining work rules and training procedures which comply with the EMS Act and all relevant court decisions interpreting the law. For a review of your particular work rules and training procedures, please contact your attorney.

Vladimir Shuliga is a law clerk with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. in Naperville. Vladimir graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law with a Certificate in Labor and Employment Law and has an undergraduate degree in political science from DePaul University.



## IFA Day at the Illinois State Fair

Dear Fellow Firefighters

Again, the Illinois State Fair all went very well. And the reason for that was the Firefighter personnel that put in the long hours that they give, and their outstanding effort.

As the chairman of the IFA State Fair day every year, I find those Firefighters that give their time are a real asset to the public that enters that tent. And in the case of my Department and all fire personnel that have worked in the tent in the past. They have fun and more importantly, how rewarding it always is to come back.

I would like to thank Bristol Kendall Fire Protection District for their outstanding effort in trying to make it to the Fair this year, I wish them well and hope to see them back next year. In closing, I would like to add the last Saturday of the Fair in August 2014 will be the date you will want to mark on your calendars. And as a reminder to contact me at least 45 Days ahead of that date so I can get your Gate and Car passes out to you in time for the Fair. Stay safe in all you do for the Fire Service and I hope to see you all back, and even more Firefighters back next year. Please go to the IFA web sight every chance you get. And read the IFA Bulletin, and e-Bulletin as well, the IFA has a lot to offer to all Firefighters in Illinois. Thank all of you for your outstanding effort at the Fair.

Your Truly,  
Robert Reason  
email: [breason@sbcglobal.net](mailto:breason@sbcglobal.net)  
Home PH# 309-694-6678  
Cell PH# 309-265-6472



# ***OPEN HOUSE***

***Sunday, October 13, 2013***

***2:00 PM – 5:00 PM***

***Arthur Fire Station***

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### IT'S OFFICIAL!

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- By bringing our teams together, our new company--50 employees strong!--continues to supply specialty service technicians, experienced sales personnel, and friendly, efficient administrative staff.



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Brian Franz  
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