

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 72, Number 5

September - October 2018

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

PROMOTING THE NEW 10-YEAR BATTERY SMOKE DETECTORS



Vice-President Terry Ford, IFA Secretary/Treasurer Kerry Federer, IFA Board Member Ron Mulach, IFA Lobbyist Margaret Vaughn, IFSA Executive Director Phil Zaleski and State Representative Katie Stuart join SIUE university administrators, students and Edwardsville Fire Department officials at the September 12th Press Conference on the new 10 year smoke detector law held at the SIUE Campus Fire House

The Bulletin is published digitally every other month at Highland, Illinois

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The Bulletin

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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:

We're on a countdown for this year's Annual Conference in Champaign-Urbana. You should have already received one Conference flyer earlier, and the second one has now been mailed.

Big news! The rooms are FREE this year for firefighters attending the Down & Dirty training. This is the first time this has ever been offered to the firefighters. Please take advantage of this great opportunity with little cost to you or your fire department. The Illinois Firefighters Association worked very hard with IFSI and our State Fire Marshal to get this grant accomplished.

If at all possible, please book two firefighters per room so this grant money will go further. Not only are you getting a break on the rooms, but if you register three firefighters, the fourth firefighter that registers is free. However, let me tell you that nothing is free as your Illinois Firefighters Association is picking up these costs. If there is a problem with getting firefighters here for the Conference, it is most likely because of the lack of communication. Please pass the word along to all of your Firefighters about this great deal that comes with attending this year.

Along with the Conference this year, we will be kicking off our GO GREEN CLEAN campaign. As you may know, Firefighters appear to have three times the risk of getting cancer than the average person. The Lavender Ribbon report has come out and has addressed the BEST PRACTICES to reduce the risk of cancer in all Firefighters.

With this being said, the Illinois Firefighters Association has taken on the job of getting the awareness out to all Firefighters to properly decontaminate themselves and their equipment. We have come up with T-shirts supporting the campaign to get more Firefighters aware of the goal of using the BEST PRACTICES in cancer prevention. These T-shirts will also be available for purchase at this year's conference.

In other business, we just got back from the State Fair a few weeks ago, supporting the State Fire Marshal's Fire Prevention Tent. The weather was great and a lot of families came through the tent and gained a little knowledge in home Fire Prevention. The children especially had a great time and it was very rewarding to be able to help pass the training onto them.

This is the time of year we are drafting and bringing forth new legislative initiatives. Last year was a very productive one; we able to get the No Man's Land legislation passed. This brought properties that were previously not in a fire protection district into one. Before, they were pretty much getting free service without paying their fair share to the Fire District that served them.

This is also the time when we need to find out the position that our Candidates for Governor take on supporting the Fire Service. We have sent out positional letters to both gubernatorial candidates asking them whether or not they will support and protect the Fire Prevention Fund. The beginning of August, I sent positional letters to both Governor Candidates asking them if they would support the Fire Service by protecting the Fire Prevention Fund.

A letter was sent to both candidates asking for their position on supporting the Fire Prevention Fund. At this time, we have not received any feedback from either candidate. It appears at this time, we are at their discretionary opinion on how they want to support the Fire Service.

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

God Bless

John Swan President IFA

(Editor's Note: Late Statement from candidate)

Gov Rauner statement

Our campaign does not fill out questionnaires. I want to pass along this statement from the Governor in hopes you are able to include that in the article.

"Our state's firefighters are heroes who put their lives on the line every day. I'm committed to ensuring they have the resources and support they need to keep our communities safe. It's always an honor meeting and thanking firefighters everywhere as I travel the state and I know all Illinoisans are grateful for their service."



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

10 YEAR SMOKE DETECTOR LAW PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

To make the people aware of the new 10 year battery smoke detector law that passed, I worked with the IL Fire Safety Alliance and applied for a special grant through First Alert that is allowing us to set up press events in 10 downstate communities gathering fire safety, public health and elected officials to educate the media and start promoting the new law locally.

So far, I have coordinated press conferences have been held at the McLean County Fair, the Effingham County Fair, the Quincy Fire Department and both Southern Illinois University's Carbondale and Edwardsville campuses. I am planning others for October in Decatur, Champaign, Peoria, Rock Island and Rockford. Each Department is also receiving 9 smoke detector installation kits and 90 alarms from First Alert to help with local programs.

Below is an overview of the Governor's action on some of the bills on our watch list.

SB2297: RESCUE SQUAD DISTRICTS-REVENUE

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

A board of trustees of a rescue squad district where an ambulance service tax has been imposed under this Section pursuant to a referendum held on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 100th General Assembly may submit the question at an election to the voters of the district of the question of reducing or discontinuing the tax. The board shall certify the question to the proper election authority. The election authority must submit the question in substantially the following form:

Shall the ambulance service tax currently imposed in (name of Rescue Squad District) at a rate of (insert rate) be (reduced to (insert rate)) (discontinued)?

If a majority of the electors voting on the question vote in the affirmative, then, the tax shall be reduced or discontinued as set forth in the question.

Whenever a petition, subject to the petition requirements of Section 28-3 of the Election Code, is presented to the board of trustees of a rescue squad district where an ambulance service tax has been imposed under this Section requesting that the tax be reduced or discontinued, the board shall cause the proposition to be certified to the proper election officials who shall submit the proposition to the voters at the next appropriate election in accordance with this subsection and general election law. The ballot question shall be in substantially the following form on the ballot:

Shall the ambulance service tax currently imposed in (name of Rescue Squad District) at a rate of (insert rate) be (reduced to (insert rate)) (discontinued)? YES NO

If a majority of the electors voting on the question vote in the affirmative, then, the tax shall be reduced or discontinued as set forth in the question.

SB 2471 - VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY WORKER

Sponsored by Sen. Holmes and Rep Cavaletto, Amends the Volunteer Emergency Worker Job Protection Act. This is a Fire Caucus bill to bring the state definition of volunteer emergency worker more in line with federal guidelines Provides that "volunteer emergency worker" means a person who serves as a member of a fire department of a fire protection district, municipality, or other unit of government on other than a full-time career basis and who meets the requirements for volunteer status under the Code of Federal Regulations and Opinion Letters from the United States Department of Labor. Provides that "volunteer emergency worker" also means, including, but not limited to, a person who serves on a volunteer basis and is licensed under the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act as an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) (First Responder), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I), Advanced Emergency Medical Responder (A-EMT), or Paramedic (EMT-P), or a volunteer ambulance driver or attendant, and the person does not work in one of these capacities for another fire department, fire protection district, or governmental entity on a full-time career basis. Status: Passed both Chambers

SB 2619 CLEAN UP to APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF QUALIFICATIONS

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

SB 2620 – STATE AGENCY BUILDING CODE NOTIFICATIONS to the CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Sponsored by Sen. Castro and Rep. Willis, this legislation requires the Capital Development Board to maintain a link to all applicable state building codes and requires state agencies to notify the Capital Development Board prior to starting the JCAR process for if they are updating any statewide construction code so that it can be posted on the CDB website and become a one stop centralized shop for code enforcement officials to keep track of state building codes and their changes. Status: Signed by Governor

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Are your personal items and hard to replace collectables as safe as you think? California Casualty wants to help IFA members protect their valuable possessions and documents with the "Better Safe Than Sorry" Work Hard/Play Hard Sweepstakes. Three winners will each receive \$2,250 to purchase the Liberty Colonial Safe of their choice, and will be able to fill them with a collection of 5.11 tactical gear that includes a carry bag, backpack, RAID Glasses, flashlight, hats and more. The entire package has a value of \$2,950.

Enter now at www.contest4heroes.com. The deadline to enter is November 12, 2018, with winners announced in December.

California Casualty protects American heroes like you with auto and home insurance tailored to your professional and personal needs. The "Better Safe than Sorry" giveaway offers another layer of security for your important possessions and personal protection that law enforcement officers and firefighter/EMTs need. These safes are fire and water-resistant, providing an extra safeguard for important documents and home inventory lists.

"First responders do the hard work keeping our communities safe," said California Casualty Sr. Vice President Mike McCormick. "This Work Hard/Play Hard giveaway allows us to say thanks and offer some extra safety for their families."

California Casualty's auto and home insurance provides special benefits to firefighters not available to the general public: the Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit, paying the premium for the current year and the next year for surviving spouses or partners of a firefighter who loses his or her life in the line of duty; \$500 coverage for personal belongings (including uniforms and turnout gear) taken from an insured vehicle; and \$5,000 coverage for firearms (with higher amounts available).

Learn more about why California Casualty is a company that first responders can trust at <https://mycalcas.com>.

Now, members of IFA and other public safety organizations can get protection for hard to replace items by entering California Casualty's "Better Safe Than Sorry" Work Hard/Play Hard Sweepstakes. The deadline is November 12, 2018 and rules and details are at www.contest4heroes.com.

This article furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to firefighters since 1974 and to IFA members since 2012. Get more information at 1.800.800.9410 or www.calcas.com/IFA.

*Liberty Safe and 5.11® are not participating partners in or sponsors of this contest.

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

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

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





Office of the State Fire Marshal

Applications for the Fire Truck and Ambulance Revolving Loan Programs are now being accepted. Applications must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2018.

Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire departments are eligible to apply for a Fire Truck Revolving Loan. Fire departments that are for-profit entities, not-for-profit entities, associations and/or not-for-profit corporations (i.e. not a governmental body) and units of local government that do not operate a fire department (i.e. a municipality that contracts for fire suppression services from another municipality or fire district) are not eligible to apply.

Loans of up to \$350,000 are available for Fire Trucks with a loan term not to exceed 20 years. Applicants may also apply for Brush Trucks up to a maximum loan amount of \$100,000 with a loan term not to exceed 10 years.

Units of local government (city, town, village, township, fire department, fire protection district) that provide ambulance services and not-for profit ambulance service providers are eligible to apply for an Ambulance Revolving Loan. Fire departments or ambulance service providers that are for-profit entities and units of local government (city, town, village, township, fire department, fire protection district) that do not provide ambulance services (e.g., a municipality that contracts for emergency medical services from another municipality or fire district) are not eligible to apply.

Loans of up to \$200,000 are available for Ambulances with a loan term not to exceed 10 years.

Application materials can be found on OSFM's website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Iam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx>

Annual Memorial Program

Each year, in conjunction with the annual training conference, the IFA holds a Memorial Service honoring those firefighters that have passed on. We honor *ALL firefighters*, not just IFA members. If you know of a firefighter that has passed, they can be honored at the memorial service if you send their name to the memorial committee. Please send any names of firefighters that have passed between September 1, 2017 through September 1, 2018 to memorial@illinoisfirefighters.org.





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Illinois Firefighters Association

Prescription Assistance Program / Community Health Initiative

- You are likely overpaying for your prescriptions even if you have a low insurance co-pay. The Illinois Firefighters Association offers you the opportunity to purchase your prescription at the guaranteed lowest price by comparing your insurance co-pay price to a negotiated discount price through the Discount Drug Network (DDN). *Pricing examples are on the back of this page.*
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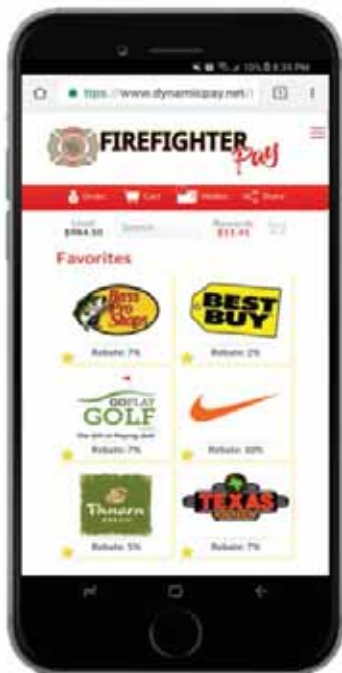
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Chaplain's Corner

A Letter From God

Dear Firefighter _____,

I just wanted to drop you a note to remind you of some of the important truths that I have written to you in all of my other letters and memos.

First, I want to assure you that I am the One who has called you to serve right there on your fire department. In ways beyond your understanding I have arranged the circumstances and experiences of your life and given you a heart so that you would willingly and joyfully be there to respond to the most difficult and traumatic emergency needs of your community. I love every person that you are called to serve and I want your fire department, including you, to be there when they most need you.

I also hope that you never forget that I am always present with you and that whatever you do to serve even the most weak and vulnerable person that you have done it for Me. I know you intimately and I have been with you as you have responded to the traumatic and stressful fires, accidents, and EMS emergencies that have happened in your town – and I know that you will continue to do so.

Be assured that I have a redemptive purpose which I am accomplishing in you and through you as you serve. There will be times when you will arrive on the scene on time, have the right tools and training, avert the danger and save the life. Those will be exhilarating times and I am with you celebrating your success. But there will also be those other times when things don't go so well and you get elbow-deep in human trauma, heartbreak, loss and death. I am with you even then...even when your soul can become so very wounded.

I've seen you try hard to make sense of things, to attempt to reason your way through the stress you have absorbed and carry away from every tragic scene. But so much of the trauma and stress you experience in your fire service calling will not "make sense". I promise that I will give you the gift of faith so that you will be able to cast the burdens of your wounded soul upon Me. Call upon Me with that faith and I will shoulder your stress with you, carry you through the dark times when necessary, and bring healing over time so that you can continue to love and serve your family, fire department and community. Burdens will turn to blessings and stress to strength when you find Me sufficient to meet all your soul's needs.

Take a look around at the fire department team that surrounds you. I have placed you all together, not only to faithfully train and respond to emergencies, but also to build caring and supportive relationships so that you can be there to bear each other's burdens. Find those that can listen to your story and hear your heart's concerns and cries – and find those who can affirm your faith and pray with you and for you. Maybe you can also be that person for others!

There is so much more I want you to know about my personal involvement and activity in your fire service experience. But I'll end this short note here. Always remember that your faith is a shield – like bunker gear – which protects your soul from being overwhelmed with all that you deal with as a firefighter and turns what is being called post-traumatic stress **disorder** into post-traumatic stress **growth**. Thank you, as always, for responding to My call upon your life!

Sincerely in My Love,
God

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



Boost Your Health: Start a Morning Routine.

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Compendium of Illinois statutes allowing for intergovernmental agreement for fire protection purposes

by Robert J. Britz
Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd

There are numerous Illinois statutes providing for intergovernmental cooperation between units of local governments. As is well known, Illinois has more units of local government than any other state. That being the case, there are many opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation in Illinois.

The Illinois Constitution (Article VII, Section 10) "Intergovernmental Cooperation" and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act provides that local governments:

May contract or otherwise associate among themselves . . . to obtain or share services and to exercise, combine or transfer any power or function, in any manner not prohibited by law or by ordinance. . . . Participating units of government may use their credit, revenues, and other resources to pay costs and to service debt related to intergovernmental activities. (Illinois Constitution, Article VII, Section 10)

What is significant is that if one of the parties to the intergovernmental agreement has the statutory authority to perform a particular act, and the other party to the agreement does not, then both parties to the agreement are deemed to have the authority.

The Fire Protection District Act (70 ILCS 705/0.01 *et seq.*) contains numerous provisions addressing intergovernmental cooperation. Section 10b of the Fire Protection District Act provides:

Any two or more fire districts or one or more fire protection districts and one or more cities, villages or incorporated towns may provide for joint ownership of firefighting equipment, communication equipment, rescue and resuscitator equipment and real and personal property necessary for the care and housing of such equipment. (70 ILCS 705/10b)

Section 11a of the Fire Protection District Act provides:

The Board of Trustees of any fire protection district . . . may contract with any corporation organized to furnish fire protection service or with any association organized to furnish fire protection district service or with any city, village or incorporated town, or organized fire protection district lying adjacent to such district for fire protection service to be furnished by such corporation or such association or such municipality or fire protection district for the property within such district or to be furnished by such district for the property within such municipality. (70 ILCS 705/11a)

Included in that authority is the authority of the Board of Trustees to contract for the installation, rental or use of fire hydrants within the fire protection district and the furnishing of water to be used within such district or fire protection purposes.

Section 10b of the Fire Protection District Act provides that any two or more fire districts or fire protection districts may provide for joint ownership of firefighting equipment, communication equipment, rescue and resuscitation equipment and real personal property necessary for the care and housing of such equipment.

Section 14.01 of the Fire Protection District Act provides that:

Any two or more adjoining fire protection districts may merge and form a single consolidated district which shall thereafter be subject to the provisions of this Act. Following a public hearing, the court may order a referendum to take place in each of the districts to be consolidated. (70 ILCS 705/14.01)

Similarly, the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-1-5) provides that the corporate authorities of each municipality may exercise jointly, with one or more municipal corporations or governmental subdivisions or districts all the power set forth in Code unless expressly provided otherwise.

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Implied from the foregoing statutes is the authority for Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and for automatic aid agreements. There is a difference between the two. A district, if available, may, but is not required to respond to a MABAS alarm. Typically, a MABAS alarm would provide for a neighboring fire district or fire department, provide first responders and other personnel and district equipment to assist the district or department initiating the MABAS alarm. Automatic aid -- on the other hand -- is an agreement signed between neighboring fire protection districts or fire departments, agreeing to provide certain equipment that one district may have, but the other district does not, i.e., tanker trucks, aerial ladder trucks. A response to a MABAS alarm is not mandatory; a response to an Automatic Aid request is mandatory.

Considering the substantial cost of firefighting equipment, as well as the cost of other property necessary for the care and housing of such equipment, it no longer makes sense that each district or department have a complete inventory of every piece of equipment that might ever become necessary. Intergovernmental cooperation for the provision of fire services makes sense in Illinois.

Robert J. Britz is a shareholder with the law firm of Ottosen Britz Kelly Cooper Gilbert & DiNolfo, Ltd. at the firm's Elburn office. Mr. Britz engages in the general practice of law with an emphasis in municipal and local government law, as well as real estate, estate planning, probate, and business matters. You can contact Mr. Britz by e-mail at rbritz@ottosenbritz.com

State Fair 2018

Thanks to all that worked the IFSA/OSFM Fair Tent on Saturday, August 18, the day the IFA sponsors. Vistors got the chance to put out fires, dress up in child-sized bunker gear, slide down a fire pole, learn how to escape a fire, and lother fire safety. The most visitied area was the popcorn table. The best value at the fair, FREE popcorn.

Plan to help next year. All help is greatly appreciated.

Bob Reason
IFA State Fair Chairman



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Anyone interested in running for a position
on the Illinois Firefighter's Board of Directors,
contact the Secretary/Treasurer Kerry Federer
email editor@illinoisfirefighters.org
or cell phone 618-830-3961
for more information.**

**Election to be held Friday, October 19
during the Annual Meeting
in conjunction with the
Annual Conference and Training
in Urbana IL**



Make Behavioral Health a Priority in Your Department with Resources from the NVFC

Firefighters and EMS personnel face significant challenges to their behavioral health on a routine basis. This can have severe consequences, such as post-traumatic stress, depression, addiction, and in some cases, suicide. Each year, more firefighters are lost to suicide than on-duty deaths.

The entire fire service community must work together to break the stigma surrounding behavioral health, understand the symptoms, and offer resources to assist responders who need help. Providing ongoing training and support to all department members is a critical part of a behavioral health and suicide prevention program.

It is critical that we all work together to prevent future tragedies through education, awareness, and creating a culture where firefighters and EMS providers are able to seek support and help when in need.

The National Volunteer Fire Council provides a series of tools and resources through the [Share the Load™ program](#) to help individuals and departments take a proactive approach to behavioral health and suicide prevention. Use these resources to understand the challenges, recognize the symptoms, and learn what to do if you or a fellow firefighter needs help.

- **The Fire/EMS Helpline** at 1-888-731-FIRE (3473) is available 24/7 and provides free, confidential support to firefighters, EMS providers, and their family members struggling with any behavioral health issue. Run by American Addiction Centers, the Helpline was created by firefighters and is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of fire service personnel and their families.
- **Posters and ads** promoting the Fire/EMS Helpline can be hung up at the station and placed in department newsletters to let personnel know they are not alone and help is available if they need it.
- **The Helpletter** features articles from subject matter experts and fire service veterans who provide tips, tools, and resources to help first responders take a proactive approach in addressing many behavioral health issues.
- **Behavioral health and suicide prevention courses** are available in the NVFC Virtual Classroom and can be used to train department personnel on these critical topics.
- **A series of videos** highlight behavioral health issues and warning signs.
- **Additional resources** including a suicide prevention guide are available to assist with creating and implementing a behavioral health and suicide prevention program in your department.

Find all of these resources and more on the NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org/help.

2018 Conference Sponsors



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