

The **Bulletin**



Publication of the Illinois Firefighter's Association, Inc.

Volume 77, Number 5

September - October 2023

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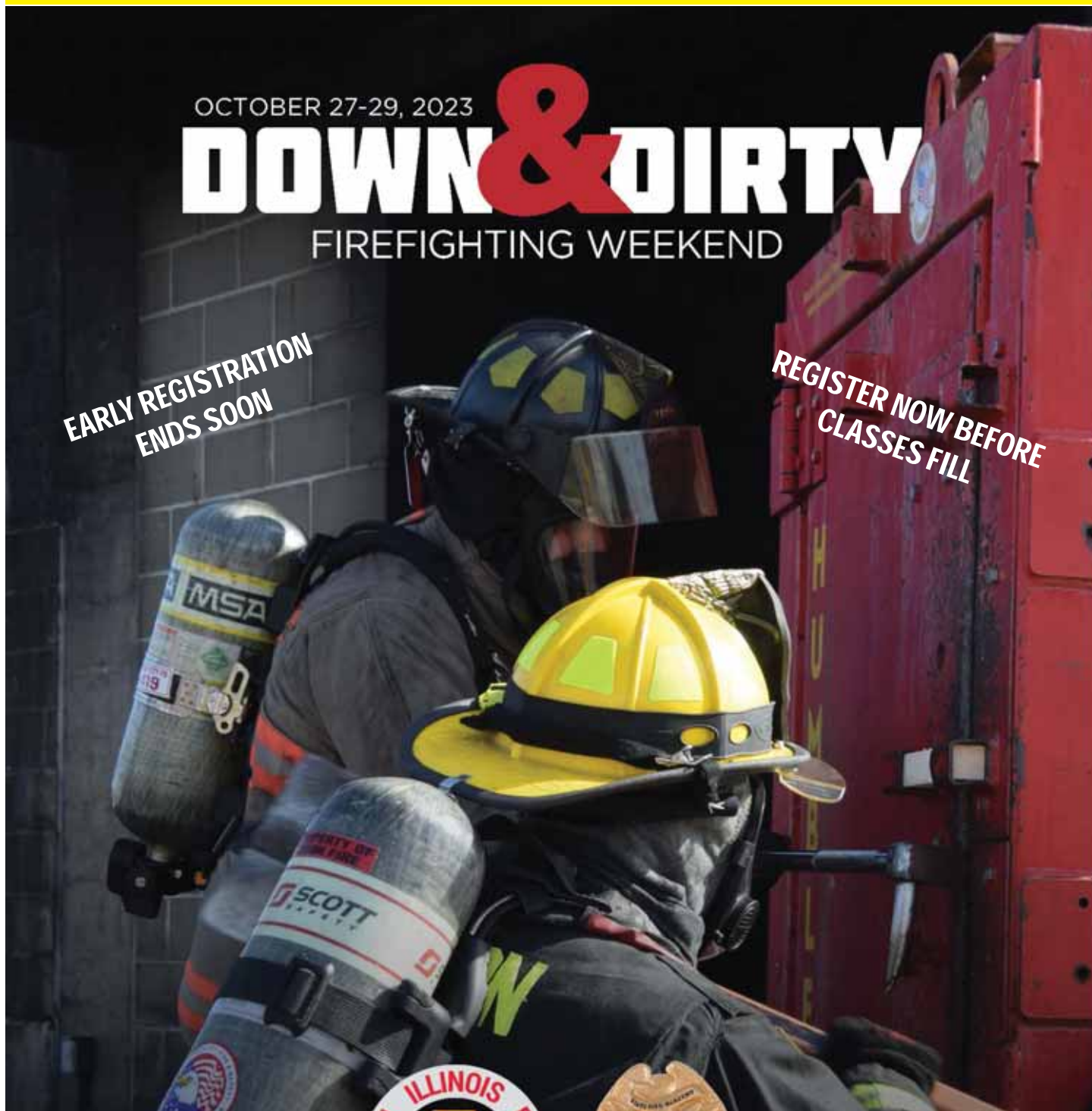
OCTOBER 27-29, 2023

DOWN & DIRTY

FIREFIGHTING WEEKEND

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The Bulletin

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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



IT'S ALMOST HERE! The IFA DOWN AND DIRTY TRAINING WEEKEND AND CONFERENCE is about a month away. Have you made your reservations? Don't wait- do it now. Some exciting changes have been made this year.

First, we are now offering three days of training instead of two. Friday, Saturday and Sunday classes will be offered for just one low cost. Attend as many or as few as you want. The schedule and registration information is in the Bulletin, on the IFA website and on the IFSI website.

Second, we have a nationally recognized speaker on Friday night with dinner included. Captain Mike Gagliano will present THIS HOUSE ROCKS: Achieving Firehouse Excellence. Check out our website for times and additional information.

Last, we have changed the IFA Conference Hotel to the Holiday Inn-Champaign. Hotel registration information is available in the Bulletin, on our website and will be emailed to you when you register for classes. Come join us at the Holiday Inn each night for beverages, snacks, entertainment and our annual charity auction with many one-of-a-kind items up for bid.

These are the classes being offered this year. There should be something for everyone from new Firefighters to veteran officers and everyone in-between:

- *DOWN AND DIRTY FIREFIGHTING SKILLS
- *FIRE INVESTIGATION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND COMPANY OFFICERS
- *FIRST-IN OPERATIONS WITH LIMITED STAFFING
- *IMT AND COMMAND STAFF
- *INTRODUCTION TO TRENCH RESCUE
- *LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND DECISION MAKING – LEADERSHIP LOE AND RESILIENCY FOR FIRE OFFICERS
- *LIVE LINE DEMONSTRATION PRESENTED BY AMEREN – ELECTRICAL AND GAS EMERGENCIES
- *RESPONSE TO BATTERY ELECTRICAL VEHICLE INCIDENTS
- *TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE – ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS
- *TRAINING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ILLINOIS FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND VECTOR SOLUTIONS PRESENTED BY OSFM
- *THIS HOUSE ROCKS-ACHIEVING FIREHOUSE EXCELLENCE PRESENTED BY CAPTAIN MIKE GAGLIANO

Terry Ford, President IFA



Legislative update

By Margaret Vaughn, IFA Legislative Lobbyist

IFA to HONOR LEGISLATORS WHO ADVANCED VOLUNTEER TAX-CREDIT

IFA is proud to be honoring Sen. Chris Belt (D-Cahokia) and Sen. Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City) at our upcoming Annual Conference on Friday, October 27th at 11:00 am in the auditorium of the Illinois Fire Service Training Institute in conjunction with our Annual Meeting.



Senator Belt

After many years of uphill climbing, persistence and three press conferences, IFA's initiative to provide a \$500 tax credit for volunteer firefighters finally made it across the finish line and into the state budget in the form of SB 1963 which signed into law June 6th. Senators Belt and Bennett took the leadership role on this issue in the Senate and Representative Lance Yednock (D-Ottawa) did so in the House. Though Rep. Yednock is unable to make it to our Conference in Champaign, IFA will still be honoring him on another date this fall, either in his district or in Springfield. IFA would also like to give a shout out to Signal Hill Fire Chief Tom Eliff, Silvis Fire Chief John



Senator Bennett

Winters and O'Fallon Chief Brad White for sharing their expertise and participating in endless negotiating meetings.

YOUTH FIRESETTER INTERVENTIONISTS

HB 2372 –Sponsored by Rep. Natalie Manley (D-Crest Hill) & SB 1421 sponsored by Sen. Patrick Joyce (D-Essex) –The bill is supported by IFA. Amends the State Fire Marshal Act. Creates the position of Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator within the Division of Arson. Sets forth applicant requirements for the position. Provides that the Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator shall be compensated at a rate that is comparable to the rate of compensation for a State arson investigator and shall be provided benefits similar to those of a State arson investigator. Provides that the Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator shall also be provided similar means and resources as those supplied to a State arson investigator. Describes the responsibilities of the Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator. Provides that a volunteer certified youth firesetter interventionist may receive a \$250 stipend for a case only if the volunteer certified youth firesetter interventionist is not being otherwise compensated by another employer or entity for that case. Specifies that a Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator shall receive mileage reimbursement for any necessary travel. Effective immediately. Status: Signed into law and effective July 28th, 2023



AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

It was a great summer for the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) as we successfully executed the delivery of our two annual training events – Fire College and the Explorer Cadet Fire School. Both efforts proved to be outstanding training opportunities for a record-breaking number of attendees. We also closed the book on a number of summer maintenance projects and the training grounds are ready for the busy fall season.

A few updates from the IFSI TEAM:

Special Event Training Opportunity for US Veterans

IFSI will host the 6th Annual Veterans in the Fire Service event November 4-5, 2023 in Champaign. This is a one-of-a-kind personal and professional development opportunity available to current or future members of the fire service who are Veterans of the US Armed Forces.

Loaner PPE is available for individuals not affiliated with a fire department, but still interested in experiencing live fire, hands-on training. Advance reservations are required for loaner equipment.

2024 SCHEDULE IS NOW OPEN

The 2024 IFSI course schedule is now open for registrations. While the schedule is consistently updated throughout the calendar year, a full spectrum of classes are now available at fsi.illinois.edu.

We encourage all students to register early and online for their 2024 training needs and to check the IFSI website frequently for additions to the training schedule.



New Online Course



IFSI is pleased to announce the release of a new online course offering. Chemical Exposure and Cardiovascular Risk Reduction is now available as a no-cost training program through our online platforms. This course was created by the IFSI Research Team with support from our Technology Based Training Staff. For the complete course description and registration information, visit fsi.illinois.edu.

**Thank you for your continued support in the fulfillment of our mission.
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Save The Date



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
ON IFSI WEBSITE

Down & Dirty Firefighter Weekend

October 27-28-29, 2023

CEU's Available FOR ALL CLASSES



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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THE 88

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Firefighter Immunity Under the Illinois Tort Immunity Act

by Jordan Salzman
Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

Firefighters play a critical role in ensuring public safety and protecting lives and property in communities across the state. Central to Illinois law, the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act ("Tort Immunity Act") strikes a delicate balance between the rights of individuals seeking compensation for personal injuries and property damage and shielding public employees from liability while performing their duties.

Enacted in 1965, the Tort Immunity Act recognizes there are unique challenges facing firefighters and shields them from lawsuits. In so doing, it codifies the common-law rule that governments cannot be liable for failing to provide or negligently providing fire protection services.

Section 5-102 of the Tort Immunity Act, for instance, provides that "[n]either a local public entity that has undertaken to provide fire protection service nor any of its employees is liable for an injury resulting from the failure to suppress or contain a fire or from the failure to provide or maintain sufficient, equipment, or other fire protection facilities." Put differently, a local government cannot be liable under Illinois law for choosing not to provide fire protection services. Likewise, once a government decides to provide fire protection services, it and its employees are immune from claims that they have inadequately provided those services. This includes injuries resulting from negligently maintaining, operating, and applying equipment or facilities while fighting fires.

To illustrate, in *Pierce v. Village of Divernon, Illinois*, 17 F.3d 1074 (7th Cir. 1994), the plaintiff homeowners alleged the village's failure to maintain adequate water pressure and supply within the municipal boundaries resulted in the subsequent demolition of their home. The plaintiffs conceded the Act provided complete immunity to the fire protection district, but argued this same immunity was not conferred on the village. The Seventh Circuit distilled the plaintiff's position into two arguments: (1) the Village failed to provide adequate fire protection services or (2) the village failed to provide sufficient facilities to suppress or contain the fire. Regardless, the Court held that the district and village were expressly protected under Sections 5-101 and 5-102 of the Tort Immunity Act.

Plaintiffs sometimes attempt to circumvent the Tort Immunity Act by claiming that firefighters' actions were "willful and wanton"—a form of enhanced negligence. While that might work in other contexts (*e.g.*, the provision of EMS services), it has no effect when it comes to fire suppression. Indeed, courts have held that Article V of the Tort Immunity Act is "intended to provide blanket immunity in the specific area of fire protection" and is therefore not subject to the willful and wanton exception. Further, Illinois courts have refused to insert exceptions for willful and wanton conduct into provisions of the Tort Immunity Act, since it does not appear in the plain language of the statute.

For example, in *Jackson v. Chicago Firefighters Union, Loc. No. 2*, 160 Ill. App. 3d 975 (1st Dist. 1987), a fire broke out at the plaintiffs' homes. The City's firefighters were allegedly on an illegal strike and consequently refused to fight the house fires. The plaintiffs sued the firefighters and claimed that constituted willful and wanton conduct for which they could recover. The Appellate Court disagreed and held the Tort Immunity Act provides blanket immunity against willful and wanton misconduct and further provides immunity for injuries resulting from failure to suppress or contain a fire (Section 5-102) and for injuries caused by the act or omission of a public employee while fighting a fire (Sections 2-201). Thus, even the outright refusal to tend to a fire triggers immunity.

Similarly, in *Crowley v. City of Berwyn*, 306 Ill. App. 3d 496 (1st Dist. 1999), the plaintiff crawled out of her window to escape a burning building. A firefighter attempted to place a ladder, which was initially twelve inches below the plaintiff's window. The firefighter then repositioned the ladder and rescued the plaintiff. The plaintiff sued the firefighter and fire department for willful and wanton conduct. However, the court held that the Act's immunity for government employees exercising judgment and discretion under Section 2-201 applies to frontline firefighters. Fires are unpredictable by nature, thus discretion on the part of firefighters in suppression and rescue operations is necessary.

In all, the Tort Immunity Act recognizes the invaluable contributions of firefighters to the safety and well-being of their communities. The immunity provided under the Act ensures our public servants can focus on their life-saving responsibilities in fire suppression and rescue missions without the constant fear of legal jeopardy.

Jordan Salzman is a law clerk at Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. Naperville, Illinois. He is currently in his second year of law school at the University of Illinois-Chicago School of Law, pursuing a concentration in Trial Advocacy and Dispute Resolution. Jordan's involvement includes membership in UIC Law Review and the Moot Court Honors Programs, serving as Treasurer for the Student Veterans Association, and commissioning as an Armor Officer in the Illinois Army National Guard in August 2022.



East Dubuque Fire Department Skylift Rollover

November 29, 2022 Highway 20 & Hilltop Road

Vehicle Accident Response:

Ambulance 261, Command 250, Engine 211, & Squad 231 Mutual aid: Menominee-Dunleith Fire Department

Background: East Dubuque Fire Department (EDFD) was dispatched to the area of Highway 20 and Hilltop Road for a motor vehicle accident with injuries. Upon arrival of EDFD personnel they found a skylift had rolled over and had a person still inside with serious injury. EDFD personnel called for a trauma alert at Mercy One Hospital and requested Menominee-Dunleith Fire Department for mutual aid assistance in removing the victim.



Areas that went well:

- Scene Size-Up - incoming personnel were relayed information of what they had and EMS personnel had understanding of the serious nature, thus requesting a trauma alert upon arrival on scene
- All personnel communicated well, there was no one overly excited and everyone worked together as a team to remove the patient from the lift
- EDFD personnel were short staffed, mutual aid assistance was called for from Menominee-Dunleith Fire Department, along with utilization of railroad personnel who were working in the area - they became a valuable asset in the successful outcome of the incident
- Patient care was completed in a timely manner to provide for the best possible patient outcome, patient injuries were treated and all personnel worked fluidly together to get the patient to the ambulance for transport

Lessons Learned:

- Ensure proper equipment is taken down as soon as possible, stokes basket was needed to help move patient, this did not cause a delay in transport but would have been better to have there right away instead of going back to retrieve from the squad Ensure personnel have a portable radio on them and on the correct channel, especially command officers, EDFD Headquarters made numerous attempts to contact command with no answer
- Personnel when putting equipment away ensure that the equipment is put away properly, the spider straps for the back board were difficult to place on the patient due to not being properly put back together
- Ensure at a minimum a fire extinguisher is staged in an area close to the work environment
- Ensure that the railroad is contacted when working near the railroad tracks, this particular call this was not an issue due to help from railroad personnel, but be aware of that and request notification be made to stop trains If this was a delayed extrication, be cognizant of the potential for a helicopter, look for potential landing zones
- Make a list of contact numbers for agencies that could possibly assist with lifting or stabilization, along with establish agreements with the private sector to receive assistance if needed

The Bulletin

Safety Information:

- This particular incident falls into the High Risk/Low Frequency event, with that said all responding personnel need to be prepared for this type of incident to happen again Be aware of surroundings, this particular incident was in a ditch between the highway and railroad tracks which poses a risk with uneven ground and loose rock
- As much as possible utilize proper lifting techniques and watch out for each other
- Ensure that the area is as safe as possible, if necessary block part of the roadway to give personnel a safer working environment
- Don't be afraid to call for extra help, this turned into be a manpower intensive event, utilize mutual aid resources along with paging for more manpower from EDFD

Conclusion:

It should be noted that even though there are more lessons learned than areas that went well the overall incident was successful. As stated in the safety information, this is a high risk/low frequency type of incident and with that comes the potential for serious injury to not only the patient, but also the responding firefighters. This document will assist in providing better information and an improved response to future incidents.

NOTE:

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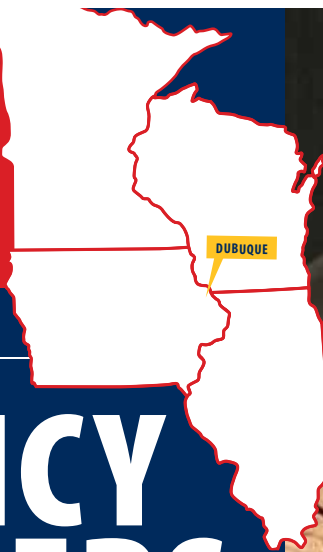
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The Bulletin

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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



Illinois Fire Safety Alliance



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- Family Involvement & Support
- Treatment for Co-Occurring Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
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- Alumni App for virtual 12 step facilitation meeting and support
- Transportation provided to residential treatment

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Importance of Visioning

with Chief Craig A. Haigh



Date: December 30, 2023

Time: 8-12 pm

Cost: \$50

Contact Chief Bryant to register.

815-994-6184

jeffbryant@amboyfire.com



25 NE Ave, Amboy, IL 61310



The Dynamic Fire Chief: Principles for Organizational Management (2022) will be available for sale and autograph.



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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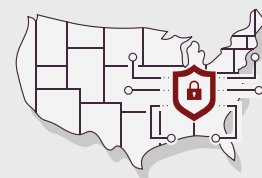
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FM Global



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



I confess, I've done it. I have sat with people in my office, or maybe on a tailboard at my "second office," and listened to folks speak honestly about their struggles and imbalance. I've asked pointed questions to see if we can drill down, with a hope that the person who is talking with me might find some sense of reason for what is making them feel off.

Then, as we sit in the awkward silence of "what's next," I offer suggestions of resilience skills the person can do on their own. You've heard of some of them: box breathing (also called: Navy SEAL breathing, 5 by 5 breathing), 5 senses check, grounding, focal point concentration. I might also suggest journaling, writing a letter (and destroying it immediately!), hiking, and/or prayer, if such is their orientation.

I've made all these suggestions, and I still think they're good. They can help us recognize the resilient nature of our humanity. We can endure a lot and continue moving. Maybe not always forward, but still we move.

And as much as resilience techniques are worth trying, they probably need to come with a caution label. They may not work. And the more critical problem with resilience as a movement is, it does not work in isolation.

We can't resilience ourselves out of a pit of despair any more than we can climb out of a hole in the floor without a rope, a ladder, and another hand. Often resilience can be presented as an individual fix to an individual problem. How many IG, TikTok, and YouTube videos have you watched of some firefighter (at least dressed the part) telling you (in some tough voice) how to overcome, rise above, or return to your best self? Most of the ideas are meant for you alone to do in secret or by yourself.

Except, and research is beginning to reveal, going alone doesn't work. Maybe it's no surprise to us in the fire service, since we always operate in teams and companies. Resilience works best when it's seen as a group project. Back to the old trope that we live out every day at every call, we're in this together.

If you are struggling, if you feel imbalanced, if you are haunted by thoughts or lack of sleep, if something just isn't right, tell someone. Someone on your shift, your company officer, maybe that firefighter who keeps jumping into the B seat across from you. Tell your spouse, your partner, a trusted friend. Tell your priest, pastor, rabbi, imam. Tell your fire chaplain or peer support person.

Please do not carry whatever it is by yourself. And stop listening to the noise that tries to convince you to do more, try more, and figure it out on your own. No firefighter runs into a burning building alone, that's BS movie stuff. 2 in, 2 out, that's our mantra. It works on the fireground, and it works for our mental health.

Wanna talk about it? Give me call, my cell is below. Or meet me at the IFA Annual Down and Dirty Conference Oct 27-29. Until then, friends, take care of yourself and take care of your company.

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

206-459-3020

National Suicide Prevention Hotline

Text 988

Chaplain Josh's Phone

608-234-3793

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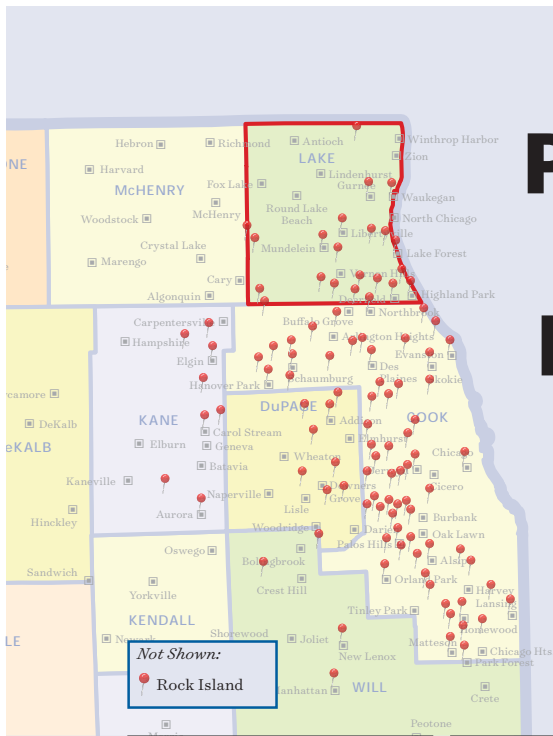
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Put Your Community on the Map with Home Fire Sprinklers

We are excited to announce that Lake County adopted the 2018 International Residential Code, requiring fire sprinklers in all new homes in unincorporated Lake County. The county joins more than 110 fire-safe communities in Illinois that protect the lives of residents and firefighters with fire sprinklers in new homes.



Addison	Flossmoor	Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD	Plainfield FPD
Alsip	Forest Park	Lincolnwood	Pleasantview FPD
Aurora	Glen Ellyn	Lisle-Woodridge FPD	Prospect Heights
Barrington	Glencoe	Long Grove	River Forest
Barrington Countryside FPD	Glenside FPD	Long Grove FPD	Riverdale
Barrington FPD	Glenwood	Manhattan FPD	Riverside
Bedford Park	Green Oaks	Matteson	Riverwoods
Bellwood	Gurnee	Mount Prospect	Rock Island
Berkeley	Hanover Park	Mundelein	Rolling Meadows
Berwyn	Harwood Heights	New Lenox FPD	Roselle
Bloomington	Hazel Crest	Newport Township FPD	Roselle FPD
Bloomington FPD	Hickory Hills	Niles	Schaumburg
Blue Island	Highland Park	Norridge	Skokie
Bridgeview	Highwood	North Maine FPD	South Holland
Brookfield	Hodgkins	Northbrook	St. Charles
Burlington Community FPD	Hoffman Estates	Norwood Park FPD	Streamwood
Carol Stream	Homewood	Oak Brook	Sunnycrest FPD (Flossmoor)
Central Stickney FPD	Huntley FPD	Oak Forest	Vernon Hills
Chicago	Island Lake	Oak Park	Warren-Waukegan FPD
Chicago Ridge	Indian Creek (Countryside FPD)	Orland FPD	Wauconda
Clarendon Hills	Justice	Palatine	Wauconda FPD
Country Club Hills	La Grange Park	Palatine Rural FPD	West Dundee
Countryside	Lake Barrington	Palos FPD	Westchester
Countryside FPD	Lake Bluff	Palos Heights FPD	Western Springs
Crestwood	Lake County (unincorporated)	Palos Hills	Westmont
Deerfield	Lake Forest	Palos Park	Wheeling
Deerfield-Bannockburn FPD	Lake Zurich	Park Forest	Wilmette
Des Plaines	Lake Zurich Rural FPD	Park Ridge	Wood Dale
Elgin	Lansing		
Elk Grove Village	Lemont FPD		
Elmwood Park	Libertyville		
Evanston	Libertyville FPD		



Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board

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VETERANS
IN THE FIRE SERVICE

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2023
IFSI TRAINING GROUNDS, CHAMPAIGN

TWO DAY, CHALLENGING TRAINING EVENT

An Opportunity for Firefighters Past, Present, and Future

This annual event is a unique, personal and professional development program designed for US Armed Forces Veterans who have also served, are serving, or may be interested in serving as a member of the fire service.

The Veterans in the Fire Service Weekend will offer two training schedules for students: future firefighters and current firefighters.

All Veterans (whether currently in the fire service or looking into a future with the fire service) will benefit from a day of hands-on, live fire training activities. Students will engage with an elite group of IFSI instructors who will introduce essential firefighting skills while participating in rigorous training rotations.

- ★ **NO COST TO ATTEND**
- ★ **PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
- ★ **INCREASED ESPRIT DE CORPS FOR VETERANS IN THE FIRE SERVICE**
- ★ **MEALS AND LODGING ARE PROVIDED**

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FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU**

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Office of the State Fire Marshal



Kids have returned to school and the OSFM continues to work closely with our local partners to ensure school buildings are a safe environment for students to learn. We want to thank all local jurisdictions who participate in our public-school inspection program. 100% of Illinois public school have been inspected and this wouldn't be possible without your assistance. When locals complete these inspections, it's not just checking a box for school safety, it's building or establishing relationships with the administration in those school districts. When there is an emergency, it's the local department that will respond to assist. By completing these inspections, they are familiarizing themselves with the layout of the building and the emergency plans that are in place. This can lead to faster and more efficient responses. The OSFM thanks you for your participation. We also want to encourage other fire departments to get involved in our program. Make sure to watch our website, newsletters, and your fdmail accounts for upcoming public school inspections classes the OSFM plans to host. For more information about this program visit our website at sfm.illinois.gov.

The OSFM continues to strive to help provide funding to support our local fire service partners across the state. We were able to maintain funding for some great program such as community risk reduction (CRR), computer-based firefighter certification testing, firefighter online training management system, firefighter training programs, minimum basic firefighter trainings, senior officer training, and payment to local government agencies/individuals participating in state training programs in the FY 2024 budget.

There are a couple of exciting new initiatives that the OSFM is finding! A one-time \$5 million dollar Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction grant! Rules are currently being drafted with a goal of rolling it out before the end of the calendar year. Stay Tuned! The OSFM is also providing one-time funding to IFSI for research activities. The direct impact of the studies will be on firefighter work along with health and safety.

The FY 2024 budget reflects our commitment to the Illinois fire service with funding increases in several areas:

- Small Equipment grant increased from \$1.5 million to \$4 million.
- Cornerstone training funding increased from \$350 thousand to \$450 thousand.
- Explorer-Cadet School funding increased from \$65 thousand to \$80 thousand.
- Illinois Firefighter Peer Support funding increased from \$60 thousand to \$75 thousand.
- MABAS funding increased from \$180 thousand to \$200 thousand.

All of these programs are an important part of helping the OSFM further our agency mission. We want to remind all departments to make sure your FDMail accounts are current. If you don't have an active FDMail account, you are missing out on notifications about some of our funding opportunities, newsletters from the OSFM, and other training announcements. Make sure to visit our website and check out our grants and loans page. There, you will find what active grants and loan programs are currently available. REMINDER, if your NFIRS data is not current for the past two years, you will NOT be eligible for any of our grant or loan programs. We are here to help if you have any questions. Please visit <https://sfm.illinois.gov/iam/firedepartment/nfirs.html> to learn more about the OSFM's role in the NIFRS program and to see if your department is compliant. A change is also coming to the NFIRS program. The NIFRS Data Warehouse will be replacing the SORT tool in early August 2023. The OSFM has posted a training document: [CREATING A MONTHLY INCIDENT REPORT IN DATA WAREHOUSE](#) on our NFIRS page. Please reach out to us at SFM.Nfirshelp@Illinois.gov if you have any questions.

TIM KLETT

Retired Lt. FDNY, Fire Department
Training Network Lead Instructor, Author



Amboy Fire Department
25 N East Ave | Amboy, IL 61310



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Half the year is
here, is your testing
program in
progress?



2023 is the year
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the right way!

Begin the third quarter of 2023

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.



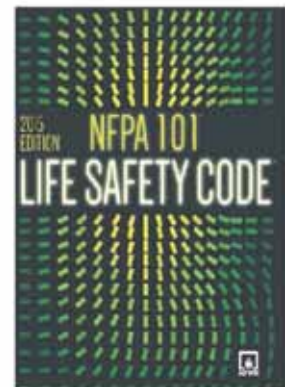
Regular Fire Sprinkler Testing is Required by the International Fire Code

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.

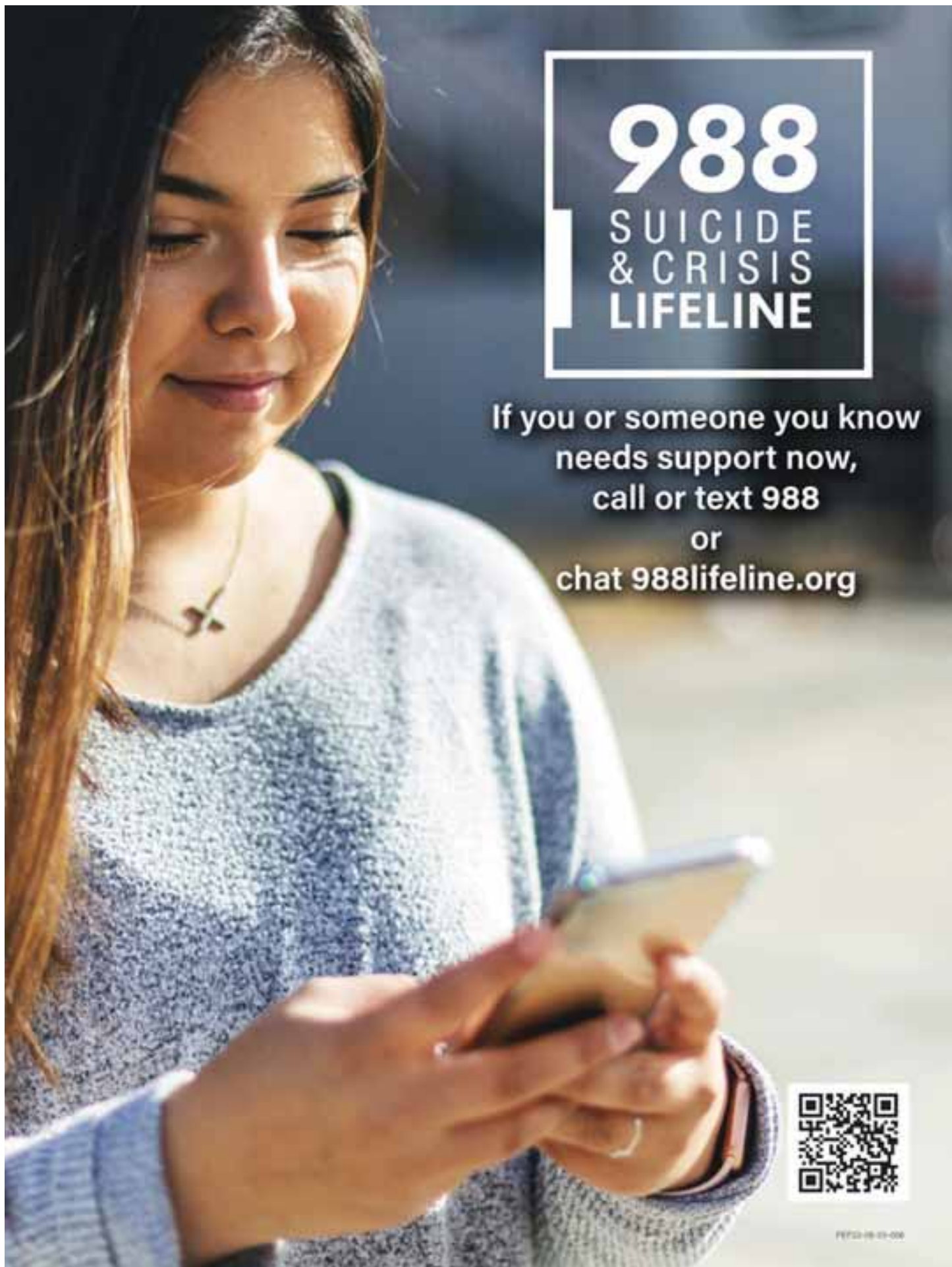
Help educate the contractors working in your town or district by giving them a copy of the state contractors licensing act.



For more information:




Is your fire sprinkler testing program for your commercial and residential occupancies in progress? Any company must be licensed by the State Fire Marshal and anyone testing a fire sprinkler system, fire pump, or standpipe 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 III 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.



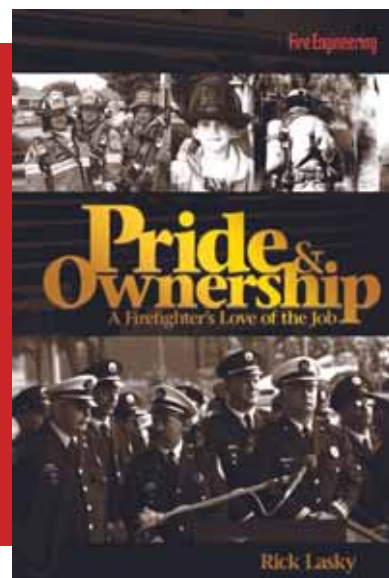
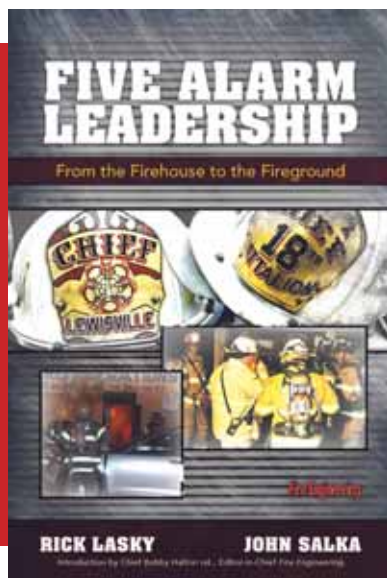
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PEP20-08-03-006



Chief Rick Lasky (ret.) a 40-plus year veteran of the fire service, served as chief of the Lewisville (TX) Fire Department for 12 years, prior to that as Fire Chief in Coeur d'Alene Idaho. Rick followed in his father's footsteps beginning his career as a firefighter in the suburbs on the southwest side of Chicago and while in Illinois received the 1996 International Society of Fire Service Instructors "Innovator of the Year" award for his part in developing the "Saving Our Own" program. He served as the co-lead instructor for the H.O.T. Firefighter Survival program at FDIC for over 10 years, is a long-standing editorial advisory board member for Fire Engineering Magazine and also serves on the FDIC advisory board. Rick is the author of the best-selling books "Pride & Ownership: A Firefighter's Love of the Job" and "Five Alarm Leadership: From the Firehouse to the Fireground" published by Fire Engineering Books and is the co-host for the podcast "The Command Post" heard on FireEngineering.com as well as the podcast "Old School." Rick has served as both a career and volunteer firefighter and in 2017 was the

recipient of the Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award.



**CHIEF
RICK
LASKY**

Did you ever wonder what it takes to be THAT fire department? The fire department that others wish they worked for? The fire department that gets it right? With a foundation built upon core values, passion, strong leadership and a love for the job, the only result can be greatness. This program looks at what's needed to achieve this and what it takes to stay on top.

WHAT MAKE A GREAT FIRE DEPARTMENT?

Program with Chief Rick Lasky

Course Location:
Amboy Fire Station
25 N. East Ave
Amboy, IL 61310

Date: December 9, 2023
Time: 8a-5p

Cost: \$100 per Student
Register 5, Get 1 Free

To Register, Email:
info@dingesfire.com



STOP COMPLAINING & START THINKING

with Chief Craig A. Haigh



Date: December 13, 2023

Time: 6- 10 pm

Cost: \$50

Contact Chief Bryant to register.

815-994-6184

jeffbryant@amboyfire.com



 **25 N E Ave, Amboy, IL 61310**



The Dynamic Fire Chief: Principles for Organizational Management (2022) will be available for sale and autograph.

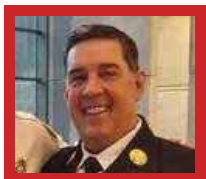


The Functional Fire Company series of programs is based on the book *The Functional Fire Company: Positioning Small Groups for Success and Survival* published by Fire Engineering Books and Videos. The book is the product of thirty-five years of exposure to the fire service and nine years of subject specific research and analysis.

From the First Whip to the Chief of Department, each and every member of the organization contributes to the success of the organization. The focus of The Functional Fire Company is on creating an environment that allows firefighters to be firefighters and positioning the fire company mentally and physically for success and survival in the firehouse and on the fireground.

8-Hour Program: The Functional Fire Company

- Functional v. dysfunctional
- Defining success
- Preparedness and positioning for success and survival
- Purpose and mission
- Fire first philosophy
- Why performance standards are essential
- Company level training tips
- Suburban fire operation considerations
- The Six Cs of Functional Success
- 16 Commitments of the functional fire company
- Improvement and continual learning
- Modifying and managing the culture
- Functional Leadership
- Training basics and essentials
- Coaching and mentoring
- Safety v. managing risks



**CHIEF
SCOTT
THOMPSON**

Chief Scott Thompson joined the volunteer fire service in 1981. He began his paid career in Plano, Texas in 1986. Over the course of his career, he has worked with several progressive fire service organizations. Chief Thompson is passionate about suburban fire operations and positioning firefighters and fire companies for success and survival. He has a Bachelors of Science in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning and is a certified public manager (CPM). Thompson has been a hands-on, workshop, and classroom presenter at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) since 2002. In addition to writing *The Functional Fire Company: Positioning Small Groups for Success and Survival*, he has written numerous published articles. Thompson is currently the fire chief in The Colony, Texas Fire Department and he owns and operates Functional Fire Company LLC and fireserviceleadership.com. Thompson has two sons in the fire service.

THE FUNCTIONAL FIRE COMPANY

Program with Chief Scott Thompson

Course Location:
Amboy Fire Station
25 N. East Ave
Amboy, IL 61310

Date: December 10, 2023
Time: 8a-5p

Cost: \$100 per Student
Register 5, Get 1 Free

To Register, Email:
info@dingesfire.com



Legal Issues in the Fire Service

with Chief Craig A. Haigh



Date: November 1, 2023

Time: 6- 10 pm

Cost: \$50

Contact Chief Bryant to register.

815-994-6184

jeffbryant@amboyfire.com



 **25 N E Ave, Amboy, IL 61310**



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