



# IFCA Monthly Information November 2020



**Diversity, Communications, Training, Education, Safety**

## Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

### From President Don Shoevlin, Harlem-Roscoe FPD

I am honored and humbled to have been elected to be the president of this association for the next 12 months. I look forward to working for and representing and working for all of you over this time frame. I am here to help anyway I can. I am asking however that we **ALL** get engaged with the IFCA. Reach out to your area representative. Our time is valuable and limited, but we must be heard and in front as an Association otherwise we end up at the end of the line. As we move forward I look to communicate to and with our membership, be transparent, take a proactive legislative approach, assure we have a succession plan in place for all aspects of what we do, build upon representation of all fire departments and people in the state, and continue strengthening those relationships with our partners in the fire service. I will work hard, while serving this association with honor and integrity. Do not hesitate to reach out for help, to share ideas, to share concerns, or just talk. This is an association that is willing and wanting to help, one that has a wealth of knowledgeable Chiefs, and a network we can reach out to. It is hard to share however if we are unaware. So, my question to all of our members "how can we help"?

Be safe,  
Don

### From Executive Director Chief Jim Grady, III (retired)

First of all, as we approach the Holiday season, I want to wish you all a Happy & Safe Thanksgiving. Take time to enjoy the company of family and friends. I would like to congratulate Don as he moves to the President's position within our team along with recognition to John K. and Rich as they continue to move the organization forward. Greg Earle IFCA IPP (Immediate past president) once again thank you for your help and friendship. I am working on plans for 2021 and beyond, so with that said if you have any thoughts, ideas or suggestions related to articles for The Gong please send them to Maureen and me. Maureen had a great idea on how to enhance the columns within the Gong and we will try that. So, if you would like to submit an article great, but if you know of an author who has a topic of interest please contact us. As I bring this to a close on 11-November-2020 Veterans Day we take time to recognize all veterans who served, so please keep them in your prayers and say thank you. If you are inclined stop by your local cemetery or one of our national ones and visit someone you know with a prayer, flag and a thought of Thanks. We are a country of resilience built on patriotism and dedication. I guess I will never forget that. Stay safe and enjoy the Thanksgiving.



## **There is still time to participate or donate – we've reached 77% of our goal**

### **WE HAVE GONE VIRTUAL WITH OUR STAIR CLIMB**

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Illinois Fire Chief's Annual Conference, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Stair Climb has also been cancelled. That is the bad news! The good news is it has gone virtual!

Beginning September 11 through December 31, 2020, you will have the opportunity to climb the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center at a location of your choice, (2200 stairs). This could be your local high school football stands or gym, park district or training tower. Not a stair climber? Then do a 5k run/walk. Form a team, get your family members to join, have a competition between shifts or departments! Registration is open to anyone and you have three months to complete your event.

Registration is simple, go to [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org), click on the events tab, 9/11 stair climb then stair climbs by state. Registration is \$30.00 and you will receive a shirt, honor badge and other NFFF swag, the more you raise, the more you receive. All proceeds go to assist the families of fallen firefighters. In 2019, the golf outings and stair climbs raised over 1 million dollars, please register so we can achieve that number again.

For question please contact Chief John Kachanuk at 309-543-2153 or [j.kachanuk@havanail.gov](mailto:j.kachanuk@havanail.gov).

### **Important Message from MABAS & OSFM:**

**Decon Buckets**

Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) partnered in the creation of the State of Illinois Preliminary Exposure Reduction Training project. This joint venture was developed to deliver critical firefighter health and life safety research, education, training and basic equipment to fire departments across the state. The intent of the project is to provide departments with free basic equipment that can be used for preliminary exposure reduction (gross decontamination or decon) of personnel on incident response scenes, as well as training on how to use those tools. The recommended decon equipment includes common household items that are easily obtainable and fit into a space the size of a standard 5-gallon bucket.

Every department in the state has the opportunity to receive this essential equipment for use at fire scenes. Click on this link: <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/decon/#!/index> to begin watching the user training videos. If you are a Chief or Training Officer, you will then be able to place your bucket order of up to 1 bucket per vehicle with a pump in your department. This includes front line and reserve engines, quints and brush trucks.

IFSI, OSFM, and MABAS have aligned to offer this equipment at no-cost to departments while also ensuring that all members of the Illinois fire service have the appropriate training and education on firefighter exposure risks, industry health precautions, and the preliminary exposure reduction recommendations from IFSI Research and their research partners.

Funding for equipment is supported through the allocation of Fire Prevention Fund by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Project management is supported through the Illinois Fire Service Institute with preliminary exposure reduction equipment and usage recommendations underwritten by IFSI Research and equipment distribution is managed by MABAS.

*To date over 1,600 kits have been distributed to 473 departments throughout the State of Illinois. There are approximately 1400 kits available.*

### **IFCA Legislation Committee Update**

The next scheduled legislative session is on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Most signs point to the Fall (Veto) Session being focused on Covid-19 issues, matters that have driven recent civil unrest and State financial issues. With the failure of the progressive income tax amendment as well as continuing Covid-19 costs, the State budget will need to be adjusted. There has been some talk of cancelling this session, but nothing has been announced. However, this is 2020 and basically anything could happen. We continue to monitor Springfield activities and will work to understand which issues may impact the IFCA during the veto session as well as preparing for the new session in January.

### **Information Technology:**

#### ***Reminder. Don't forget to set up your Member Access.***

In July we launched our new member program to better keep our membership connected. You should have received a welcome email with login information. While you are logged in, please review and complete your profile - it is searchable to help people find you.

Each organization has a "Key Contact", this is typically the Fire Chief. This member can give other members the authority as a key contact. If you are the key contact, we ask that you review the basic information for your organization and update it as soon as possible.

We are also attempting to gather a relatively large amount of demographic information that may take some research on your part. The attached form may help you gather that information, to allow you to quickly enter this new data. Please take the time to fill in as much information as possible as this will help the IFCA make future decisions. Also, you will be able to search this data. We are moving all class and event registrations to this program. In addition, the IFCA Membership Program is going to be the workhorse that will collect member dues and support event registration and payment. We have expanded our ability to collect payments through credit cards with the hope of making transactions easier for you and for our staff.

The program remains a work in progress and we plan to continue with enhancements throughout the rest of the year.

If you did not receive this email, please check your spam folder and whitelist [info@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:info@illinoisfirechiefs.org). If you still can't find the welcome email or have problems logging in, email [info@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:info@illinoisfirechiefs.org) and we will work to correct problems.

### **VCOC Programs & News:**

#### **FEMA Announces Supplemental Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID-19**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing an additional opportunity for **volunteer** and **combination** fire departments to apply for funding under the fiscal year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID-19-Supplemental Program (AFG-S) to support the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential supplies related to the COVID-19 pandemic by the fire service community to help prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. This includes reimbursement for expenditures made since Jan. 1, 2020. **FEMA anticipates opening the application period in October 2020.**

Volunteer and combination fire departments are eligible to apply in this round even if they had a successful application in the first round. However, new applications must support new capabilities. Departments that applied in the first round but were

unsuccessful must reapply in this round; applications from the first round will not automatically carry forward to this round for consideration.

Additional info is available at this link: <https://www.fema.gov/media-collection/fy-2020-assistance-firefighters-grant-program-covid-19-supplemental-afg-s>

#### **VCOS Fire Equipment collection:**

The VCOC Committee is collecting equipment to donate to departments in-need throughout the state. Contact Chief David Weiss – [dweiss@westmont.il.gov](mailto:dweiss@westmont.il.gov) for additional information.

#### **Looking for Additional Committee Members**

VCOC Committee is looking for more committee members, go to: <https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/who-we-are/intro-for-committee-form/> or email [dweiss@westmont.il.gov](mailto:dweiss@westmont.il.gov) .



## **Volunteer Workforce Solutions**

**Making a difference every day**

#### **Guide for Creating a Diverse and Inclusive Department is Now Available**

The National Volunteer Workforce Solutions FEMA SAFER grant and the Council for Future Volunteer Firefighters, in conjunction with the IAFC's Volunteer and Combination Officers Section, Women Chiefs Council, Human Relations Committee and the International Diversity Executive Leadership Program, announce the release of the *Guide for Creating a Diverse and Inclusive Department*.

The guide offers ways to increase diversity, inclusiveness, and equity in eight specific areas of your department or organization. The guide is meant to be a usable, practical tool that you can sit down with and work through using the worksheets and checklists provided in the appendix.

[Download Guide Now](#)

#### **Learn How to Use the Guide in Your Department**

Join members of the Council for Future Volunteer Firefighters for a webinar on **Thursday, September 10, at 4 PM ET**. They will provide an overview of the Guide for Creating a Diverse and Inclusive Department and how you can apply it to your department or organization.

[Register Today](#)

#### **Online Scenario-Based Diversity and Inclusion Training on IAFC Academy**

Looking for a unique training that explores diversity and inclusion issues? The National Volunteer Workforce Solutions FEMA SAFER grant recently released *It's Your Turn: Scenarios for Developing Inclusive Teams* on the IAFC Academy. This free choose-your-own-adventure training takes you through three real-world scenarios at the fictional Franklin Fire Department. See if you have what it takes to make the right choices and improve the team.

[Take the Course Today](#)

This message is sent on behalf of the [Volunteer Workforce Solutions program](#)

[International Association of Fire Chiefs](#)

[4795 Meadow Wood Lane, Suite 100, Chantilly, VA 20151 | 703-273-0911](#)

#### **Assessment & Consulting**

We are now rescheduling Assessment Centers along with lining up many new projects. Every Assessor Team is using social distancing protocol where/when necessary. We are making good progress in developing our assessment centers and written examinations on a virtual platform. Traditional and virtual assessment center options will be available on our menu soon. Please do not hesitate to contact me for updates, information and future endeavors.

For information on the IFCA Assessment & Consulting Services please contact: [dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

#### **Be Prepared for Promotion & Leadership**

**2021 Winter Offering –**

##### **Workshop 1**

**Overview/Structured Oral/In-Basket**

Mar 23–Homer Township FPD, Lockport

##### **Workshop 2**

**Emp Counseling/Citizen Interaction  
Group Problem Solving/Writing**

Mar 24–Homer Township FPD, Lockport

##### **Workshop 3**

**Tactical Exercise**

Mar 25–Homer Township FPD, Lockport

For further information [Be Prepared](#)

To Register: [Be Prepared Registration](#)

## **IFCA Educational & Research Foundation**

### **Thank you to our Sponsors and Participants of the Clay Shoot**

On October 17, 2020 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Clay Shoot took place at St. Charles Sportsman Club in Elburn Illinois. This outing is to benefit the Foundation's Scholarship and Grant programs. Plans are progressing to hold additional outings in other parts of the state. Due to the generosity of our Sponsors our Clay Shoot was very successful.

A huge Thank You to the following Sponsors:

*Sporting Clay Range*  
**Railside Citrus Insurance Agency**  
*Trap Stations*  
**FGM Architects**  
**Nicor**  
*BBQ Lunch*  
**MES (Municipal Emergency Services)**  
**Romexterra Construction Inc.**  
*Ammunition*  
**Foster Coach Sales, Inc.**  
*Gun Safety Flyer*  
**Romexterra Construction Inc.**  
*Raffle Prizes*  
**Fleet Safety**  
**MES (Municipal Emergency Services)**  
*Continental Breakfast*  
**IPRF (Illinois Public Risk Fund)**

### **CFO 2021 – Registration Deadline December 1, 2020.**

There are still some openings for the 2021 Chief Fire Officer Course. For more information and to apply visit:

<https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/education/chief-fire-officer/>

### **Fire Officer Course Offerings**

Last course of the year still has openings. Register online at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org). Classes will be limited to 24 students. Registration is available on the IFCA Website. Watch the website for the 2021 Schedule.

Course	Dates	Location	Cost
<b>Incident Safety Officer (ISO)</b>			
Incident Safety Officer	Nov 16-20	West Chicago FD	\$300.00

### **Officer Development Seminar Class**

It's a new decade and the Foundation has updated and restructured the Senior Officer Development program. It is now being offered as a **one or two-day** program with topics chosen by the Host Department, so it is relevant to your department's area.

Interested in hosting – contact DC Tim Leidig, West Chicago FD. [tleidig@weqofpd.org](mailto:tleidig@weqofpd.org)

## Blood Drive

Here are the upcoming blood drives that support the IFCA Foundation scholarship and grant programs. Please consider donating blood at one of these events.

If you are interested in getting your department involved, please contact Jeff Swanson at [jeffrejaswanson@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrejaswanson@gmail.com)

Upcoming Blood Drives		vitalant <sup>✓</sup>
Fire Department	Group Code	Drive Date
Gurnee Fire Department	G110	Nov 21, 2020
Homewood Fire Department	545E	Nov 27, 2020
Mundelein Fire Department	MN10	Dec 19, 2020
Wauconda Fire Department	173C	Dec 19, 2020
Glenwood Fire Department	GWFD	Dec 21, 2020
Buffalo Grove Fire Department	041D	Dec 31, 2020

## Shopping?

The IFCA Foundation is registered with AmazonSmile. Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Educational & Research Foundation as the charity you would like to support. A percentage of your purchase will be sent to the Foundation. Thank you.

## **Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals (IFSAP)**

**2020 Blanket Fundraiser** - The fundraiser for the IFSAP Education Fund has remained popular with over **6,900** blankets sold. Join the hundreds of departments that have already purchased custom knit blankets for their bunk rooms, their homes, or as gifts. For further information visit <http://www.ifsap.org>

## **Our Illinois Partners**

### **Office of the State Fire Marshal**

#### **OSFM Cooperative Agreement with CPSE for Chief Fire Officer Certification**

The OSFM is excited about a cooperative agreement with the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). A graduate of The OSFM's Chief Fire Officer Program, with full certification, can now gain the Chief Fire Officer Designation (CFO) from the CPSE's Commission on Professional Credentialing. If you are a graduate from the OSFM program from 2012 to June 1st, 2020, you have until **December 31st, 2020** to complete and turn in the application for CFO Designation. The current class and future OSFM classes will also be eligible to apply, only when receiving full certification from the program. Completing this process allows you to join more than 1400 Chief Fire Officers Designees world-wide and these professional designations are international and recognized as the minimum standards for fire chiefs.

For an application email [rmason@cpse.org](mailto:rmason@cpse.org)

### **Illinois Fire Service Institute**

#### **Incident Safety Officer Course – Effingham**

**Effingham Fire Department** in conjunction with the **Illinois Fire Service Institute** is offering the 40-hr Fire Department Incident Safety Officer course.

**Location:** Effingham Fire Station #1

**Dates:** January 9-10 & 16-17, 2021

**Time:** 0800

Registration needs to be completed at the following link:

[https://fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/description.cfm?course\\_id=643](https://fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/description.cfm?course_id=643)

Please check out our website for news and happenings with our state training academy <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/>

## MABAS

Due to the anticipated pandemic restrictions, the 2021 MABAS Command & Dispatchers Summit originally scheduled for the week of February 21, 2021 in Bloomington/Normal has been cancelled. We look forward to seeing everyone again in February 2022.

## International Association of Fire Chiefs

### Fire alarm training on your desktop, designed for you and your crews!

Join us over the next eight weeks as we release a series of videos aimed at providing the fire service additional insight in responding to fire alarm systems and activations. This is not about installation, rather what our crews will face on a regular basis and provide them the tools they need!

The IAFC's Fire & Life Safety Section (FLSS) has developed a series of educational videos with representatives of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA).

### [Watch Video](#)

This partnership between the two groups over the years is aimed at working together to develop codes, standards, education and share practices with industry and the fire service. This partnership has allowed us to develop the series of educational videos aimed at reducing false alarms for the fire service. The hope is that by providing education we can share information on how fire alarm systems work and put the tools in the hands of frontline firefighters and company officers.

The FLSS is always working to develop codes and standards based on what our firefighters are responding to. This includes the Fire Alarm Systems, as they are rapidly evolving based on changes in our available technology. This series is aimed at providing the basics for response and interaction with fire alarm systems.

*The National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) is the principal trade group representing US-based manufacturers of electrical products and systems and medical imaging technology. The fire, life safety, security and emergency communications product section includes leading manufactures of fire, smoke, and carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment. The products and solutions provided by these manufacturers enable real-time responses to a wide range of emergency situations. Integrated systems typically combine voice communication, computer networking, texting, and other notifications to send the right message to the right people at the right time.*

### [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#)

**4795 Meadow Wood Lane, Suite 100, Chantilly, VA 20151 | 703-273-0911**

### [Subscribe](#)

## ***For the Good of the Association***

### Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Information is constantly changing. Visit the following websites for up-to-date information. Stay Safe.

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/first-responders.html>

EMS: <https://www.ems.gov/>

IAFC: <https://www.iafc.org/>

IDPH: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/>

IFCA: <https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/>

Illinois Coronavirus Response: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>

IFSI: <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/>

OSFM: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Pages/default.aspx>

US Fire Administration: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

### ***National Firefighter Registry Website Now Active***

Reprinted: [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

The National Firefighter Registry website is now active. Please take time to click the below to learn about it and how every firefighter-*every firefighter* - should be made aware of and participate in this important project.

To better understand the link between on-the-job exposure to toxicants and cancer, Congress directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to create the National Firefighter Registry (NFR). The NFR will be used to track and analyze cancer

trends and risk factors among the U.S. fire service to help the public safety community, researchers, scientists and medical professionals find better ways to protect those who protect our communities and environment.

**DETAILS HERE:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/registry.html>

**IFCA - Chiefs Corner – One Stop Shop for all your IFCA Apparel**



IFCA has partnered with **Eagle Engraving** to sell a variety of apparel and other items with the IFCA logo. Please visit Eagle Engraving website. Go to [www.eagle-engraving.com](http://www.eagle-engraving.com) then click on Chief's Corner and shop or head right to the page at: [https://eagle-engraving.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=133\\_134](https://eagle-engraving.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=133_134). Check out the "NEW" variety of apparel – Tall sizes now available.

*You are receiving this correspondence as a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association*

***IFCA Representative for your Membership***

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