



IFCA Monthly Information April 2020



Diversity, Communications, Training, Education, Safety

Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

From President Greg Earle, Centralia FPD

Hope all are well in these trying times. Especially with the day-to-day travel and operations we normally do being changed. We have yet to hear a final date of the “Stay at Home” order from the Governor.

So, I would like to address COVID-19 a little differently than some. It is a serious situation for sure, but one we hope to get through and move on. Many concerns have been conveyed to us and I believe we the IFCA have addressed and followed up with them as well as can be. Attached to this hot sheet is a flyer from IDPH. This flyer can possibly be used to educate the public in your area. Information and communication are a vital part of handling this situation.

Let’s keep a positive attitude and be the professionals we all are. We will get through this and hopefully learn from this to be better prepared for future situations, hopefully, none like this. We will continue doing everything we can as this plays out.

So, for now, be well and be safe.

From Executive Director Chief Jim Grady, III (retired)

Hello and most of all I thank you for all that you do daily but especially during these trying times. Our assignment with the IFCA is to provide you with information outlets, best practices and directions where you can find updated new that is accurate as well as factual. The IFCA Presidents have been in contact on a regular basis that includes daily conference calls, webinars, emails and numerous phone calls throughout the day. I remain committed to fielding calls, texts along with email and then communicating this information on to the Presidents and our administrative team so that we are passing on creditable information. With that said I would like to thank and acknowledge Maureen, John Buckley, Larry Moran, Ross Boshera and Tom Bentley for their help with the website and Facebook postings.

An item that is on my list of to do’s is our information system and enhanced meeting capabilities. With help we are researching webinar meetings as to cut down travel, increase involvement and reaffirm our information dissemination to you the members of the IFCA and to those on the IFCA Board and committees.

There are many outlets for information, and you will find these on our website. I also encourage you to look at the IFSI site for some great interactive presentations that were taped and available for viewing.

Once again, thank you for your service and we will get thru this together and together we will continue to honor our commitments to Duty, Pride and Tradition.

God Bless and God Bless the United States of America.

IFCA Legislation Committee Update

As I’m certain you are aware, the legislature cancelled their sessions for the next two weeks. They are heading into a scheduled break, scheduled to return April 21st. It is fairly clear that they will not be able to return to the regular way of doing business at that time. It is possible that the legislature may meet (in some fashion) to address issues that are crucial, no indications of when that might occur have been provided. When the legislature does return for “normal” business, there is a belief that much of the legislative agenda will be streamlined. There is no way of telling at this moment if any of the items that we are working on will be addressed. We will continue to watch items on our list and remain engaged when appropriate.

Please check the legislative section of the IFCA website for updated information. We will update our watchlist when we understand more about how the session will continue. <https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/legislation/legislation-watchlist/>

Area Representatives: Our Area Representatives will be looking for help in delivering our message. We can have multiple representatives, so don’t be surprised if you are asked to help us help all of us. For more info: jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org

Cancellation/Postponements

IFSAP Annual Conference (Campaign) postponed

VCOS-IAFC Spring Seminar Minneapolis MN - cancelled
CFSI National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner, Washington DC – postponed
The OSFM Illinois Medal of Honor Ceremony, Springfield – postponed
IFCA 50th Annual Symposium, East Peoria – cancelled
IFSI Classes – refer to website for detailed information www.fsi.illinois.edu
IFCA Foundation Classes – refer to website for detailed information www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

Watching

IFCA Recruitment & Retention, East Peoria FD, May 28-29, 2020
IAFPD Annual Conference, Peoria, June 18-20, 2020
IFCA Foundation Fishing Classic, dates to be announced
IFCA Educational & Research Foundation Scholarship Golf Outing, Lemont, July 8, 2020

IFCA 70th Annual Conference

Planning is well underway. Please watch for updated news to include a new format that includes a special keynote speaker on Tuesday morning. Mark your calendar for October 11-15, 2020 in Peoria.

VCOC Programs & News:

VCOC Recruitment/Retention Workshop – May 29-30, 2020 - East Peoria

No Cost to attend – Grant provided by OSFM & IFCA Educational & Research Foundation

Limited number of hotel rooms covered by grant from those traveling more than 35 miles.

“Having trouble recruiting volunteer firefighters? Some of your challenges may be in your organizations ability to retain volunteers. Volunteerism in the fire service is at an all-time low. Attend this one and half day workshop where we will talk about best practices in recruitment and retention and give you some tools to take back to your organization to improve your recruitment and retention programs.” Registration: www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

VCOC 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 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.

Assessment & Consulting

All assessment and consulting activities are pushed back due to the virus epidemic. We will start rescheduling when the all clear is given for us to gather. Understand that we will book all activities based on a timely, professional and sensible delivery schedule. Please do not hesitate in contacting me for updates, information and future endeavors.
For information on the IFCA Assessment & Consulting Services please contact dslivinski@illinoisfirechiefs.org

Be Prepared for Promotion & Leadership

The Be Prepared Series canceled March 18-20, 2020 at Homer Township due to the COVID-19 virus will be rescheduled when the all clear is given. Students will be contacted to confirm attendance at the rescheduled dates. Registration questions can be direct to mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org

IFCA Educational & Research Foundation

2020 Foundation Scholarship Competition is now closed. Applications are now being reviewed. Applicants and their chiefs will be notified by May 15, 2020.

Fire Officer Course Offerings

At this time all classes have been canceled through May 1, 2020



1-Day Officer Development Seminar Class

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

Upcoming class:

June 24 – Barrington-Countryside FPD, Lake Barrington – registration is being taken through IFCA website.

<https://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/events/officer-development-for-the-21st-century1/>

Interested in hosting – contact DC Tim Leidig, West Chicago FD. tleidig@wegofpd.org

★ **Annual Foundation Golf Outing July 8, 2020, Gleneagles Golf Club, Lemont IL.** Information on the status of this year's event will be announced after April 30, 2020. **Please make every effort to sell and return the raffle tickets that were mailed.** The Foundation appreciates the effort made to sell the raffle tickets to your friends and family. The scholarship program benefits the fire service personnel throughout the state. If you need more raffle tickets, please contact the IFCA Office at 847.966.0732 or mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org.

Fundraising

The fundraising committee has added two exciting events to include other popular outdoor sports while assisting in increasing funds raised for the Foundation's scholarship program.

Watch for updated info: The 4th Annual Fishing Classic is being planned for May/early June. The Fishing Classic is a charter boat event catching Salmon and Trout on Lake Michigan. Boats depart from the Waukegan Harbor in the early morning and return mid-day for lunch to wrap up a great day on the water.

Our newest event, the Clay Bird Classic, is a shotgun-shooting event, which debuted on September 21st in Elburn. The Clay Bird Classic offers the option for either Trap or Sporting Clays competition with lunch afterwards. We intend to host the Clay Bird a few times per year, the fall in Elburn, and the spring in Frankfort. We are currently exploring a downstate Illinois event, too. Both events have created an opportunity for fun, camaraderie, and enjoying a great day outside not to mention providing over \$6,000.00 to the scholarship funding for our Illinois Firefighters!

Watch www.illinoisfirechiefs.org and follow our social media, Facebook and LinkedIn, pages for event details.

Shopping?

The IFCA Foundation is registered with AmazonSmile. Go to 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)

Chiefs – Please pass the following information on to your Administrative Professionals.

Did you know there is a State of Illinois Certification for your support personnel? IFSAP will be offering their 2020 IFSAP Executive Support Personnel Certificate course September 2-November 24. This 13-week program provides an opportunity to network with others in your field and give you a better understanding of many aspects of the fire service. Classes meet weekly at various fire stations throughout the Chicago Metro area. Topics include: Fire Service I & II; Fire Service Statutes & Related Laws & Standards; Fire Officer I Management; Fire Behavior I & II, Oral & Written Communications; Group Dynamics; Public Education/Fire Prevention; Emergency Medical Systems; Technical Communications. Successful completion of the program a certificate from IFSAP will be awarded to use towards the completion of the Fire Service Executive Support Certification from OSFM. Cost for the class is \$350.00. Deadline for applying is March 31, 2020. For prerequisites and registration information visit www.ifsap.org

Please watch for information on the rescheduled IFSAP Annual Conference.

Our Partners

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Please look at our website for updates and information on the activities of the OSFM.

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

Illinois Fire Service Institute

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

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/>

US Fire Administration

The fiscal year 2021 application period for the newly revised Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program at the National Fire Academy is open and will close on April 15. The EFO Program provides senior officers enhanced knowledge on management and leadership problems facing fire and EMS departments.

The EFO Program has moved from a four-year program to 24 months, blending online learning with on-campus courses. Students are grouped into cohorts and move through the program together, finishing up with individual graduate-level thesis projects. For more information: [EFO Program](#).

National Firefighter Registry Website Now Active

Reprinted: 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.

ALL FIREFIGHTERS.

All Firefighters structural and wildland, career and volunteer, active and retired should participate in the NFR. This includes Firefighters who have never received a cancer diagnosis, previously had cancer, or currently have cancer.

Participation in the NFR is voluntary **HOWEVER** by providing vital information about their own health and work experiences, Firefighters who register for the NFR will play a critical role in helping to better understand the health risks our profession faces.

DETAILS HERE:

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

Dates to remember:

June 18-20, 2020 – IAFFPD 77th Annual Conference, Peoria IL

July 8, 2020 – IFCA Foundation Annual Golf Outing, Lemont IL

October 11-15, 2020 – IFCA 70th Annual Conference, Peoria IL

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 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. 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



COVID-19 Who Should I Call ?

I want to know more about COVID-19, who should I call?

For **general** questions about COVID-19, call the IDPH **COVID-19 Hotline** at **1 800 889 3931** or email DPH.SICK@illinois.gov. Note the Hotline does not make decisions about who should be tested for COVID-19.



I am not feeling well and have respiratory symptoms, what should I do?

- Stay home for at least 7 days after you first became ill, or 72 hours after your fever has resolved and symptoms are improving, **whichever is longer**.

You should consult with your doctor if you have:

- Fever, cough, trouble breathing, or other flu like symptoms that are not better or are worsening after 24-48 hours.
- Mild symptoms and are pregnant, have a weakened immune system, have chronic health conditions or are an older adult (60+).



Don't call the health department about getting testing

- Your health care provider will determine if you should be tested and, if necessary, contact the health department.
- Health departments do not collect specimens for COVID-19

I think I need immediate medical attention, who should I call?

- If you need immediate medical attention, and you think you may have COVID-19, call ahead to your health care provider before going in for care. This will allow them to take the right steps to protect themselves and other patients
- If you think you are having a medical emergency, call 911; if you have been exposed to COVID-19, notify dispatch personnel so emergency medical services personnel are prepared.

