

Benefits of Being a Fire Service Legislative Caucus Member

- *Illinois is only the second state to establish a fire service legislative caucus. This is a unique opportunity to be a charter member of this important team.*
- *Work towards issues affecting your constituency*
- *Know the needs of your district*
- *Stay on top of current issues*

Current Members of the Illinois Fire Service Legislative Caucus

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Since September 11, 2001, many Americans have recognized the incredible dependency everyone has on firefighters. We also realize the ultimate sacrifices that firefighters are willing to make for their fellow man. There is no doubting the vital importance of this family of unique and extraordinary men and women.

When our everyday lives suddenly hang in the balance between life and death, isn't it important to know that these heroes we look to save us, have the essential training, education, tools and equipment necessary to get the job done?

This is your opportunity to be a hero to the 42,000 men and women of the Illinois fire service.

Please join the Illinois Fire Service Legislative Caucus. Our firefighters are depending on you.



Annual Membership: \$25

To join this elite legislative team, send your \$25 membership fee to:

Illinois Fire Service Legislative Caucus

Rep. Paul Froehlich
 Fire Caucus Secretary/ Treasurer
 232-N SB State Capitol
 Spfld. IL 62706
 or
 15 W Weatherfield Way
 Schaumburg IL 60193

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Illinois Fire Service Legislative Caucus



Illinois Fire Service Legislative Day & Reception

May 4, 2005

Springfield Renaissance Hotel

Noon-2 p.m. Luncheon/Legislative Training Session

5-7 p.m. Reception

The Illinois fire service represents the First Line of Protection for Illinois Citizens. Our mission is to provide both immediate and sustained response to routine and catastrophic emergencies, as well as potential and actual terrorist weapons of mass destruction events in Illinois, while providing risk reduction and prevention programs.

Making the Illinois Fire Service a Priority

Problem. Over the past 2 decades the complexity and demands of this mission have grown exponentially in terms of overall responses, specialized equipment need, and training requirements. At the same time, routine revenue streams and capital investment to underwrite the costs of these increased needs have fallen farther and farther behind; a real capital investment shortfall of more than a half-billion dollars, severe constraints in resources for training and routine operations, reductions in critical staffing on career fire departments and a growing shortfall in volunteer staffing.



Challenges. The Illinois Fire Services Association and the State Fire Marshal's office represent all fire service organizations in Illinois. The Illinois fire services are committed to working with the citizens of Illinois through elected leaders to find real solutions to these challenges in order to ensure that the fire service continues to provide effective first and sustained response to any emergency.

Because of **increased** regulations, **as well as** administrative rule and service-level demands, the fire service has evolved into an "all-risks" first response organization. In addition to all types of fires, local fire departments and fire protection districts are expected to respond to emergency medical calls; highway and rail accidents; vertical, confined-space, trench, and building collapse rescues; HAZMAT incidents; **and** arson investigation. **They are expected** to educate the public on all-risk safety and to "**now**" be the first responders for homeland security, **including weapons of mass destruction as well as chemical and biological terrorism.**

Issue Areas. The Illinois Fire Services Association and the State Fire Marshal's Office have worked together to identify 10 critical issue areas that must be addressed to ensure that Illinois' first responders can continue to respond effectively and safely to all emergencies:

- Firefighter Health and Safety
- Sustained, Adequate Funding
- Training
- Recruiting and Retention
- Public Risk Engagement
- Representation & Access
- Legislation
- Technology & Research Investment
- Equipment Investment
- Interagency Partnerships

Solutions. We have updated the Blue Ribbon Fire Service Report and identified a series of first steps as well as long and short term goals in each of these 10 core areas. Achieving these goals will ensure that local, regional and state fire service organizations can respond effectively today by overcoming the shortfalls which have existed in the past. At the

same time we will be shaping the future for emergency first response in Illinois.

Partnership. The Illinois fire service must be organized, trained, staffed and equipped to be Illinois' first responders. We must act now to make the fire service a high priority. Our cooperating agencies have met and developed a comprehensive strategy to help ensure that the Illinois fire service has the resources and statutory authority to act to overcome a growing shortfall in resources, training, staffing, equipment, and technology in order to respond in a timely manner to emergencies that may occur in Illinois. Illinois citizens expect and should be given nothing less.

Lawrence M. Walsh
Chairman, Illinois Fire Services Association

Representing:
Associated Firefighters of Illinois
Chicago Fire Department
Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts
Illinois Firefighters Association
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
Illinois Fire Inspectors Association
Illinois Fire Safety Alliance
Illinois Fire Service Institute
Illinois Professional Firefighters Association
Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors
Illinois State Fire Marshal
Mutual Aid Box Alarm Systems (MABAS)

Illinois Fire Service Legislative Caucus

Representative Don Moffitt - Co-Chair

Representative Mike Smith - Co-Chair

Senator Bill Haine - Co-Chair

Rep. Paul Froehlich - Secretary/Treasurer

State Fire Marshal - J.T. Somer