



IFCA Monthly Information December 2020



Diversity, Communications, Training, Education, Safety



Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

From President Don Shoevlin, Harlem-Roscoe FPD

December 2020, did it come fast enough? I am sure we are all anxiously awaiting to turn the page on this year and saying let us get to 2021. But before we get to that I hope we are all able to take a breath and have some relaxation and enjoyment with our families. No matter how you celebrate, big or small, my wish to you, your families, and your members

**May the Christmas season fill your Home with Joy,
your Heart with Love, and your Life with Laughter.**

God bless all of you and thank you for your commitment in what you do and how you dedicate yourself to the success of the fire service.

Appointments to the Board: At the November 2020 Board Meeting the following individuals were appointed as Area Representatives:

- Area 2 – Rudy Horist, McHenry Township FPD
- Area 7 – James Keener, Bourbonnais FPD
Kent Adams, Romeoville FD
- Area 8 – Rich Evans, Jr., South Jacksonville FD

We also have several members that will be appointed to committees after the first of the year.

From Executive Director Chief Jim Grady, III (retired)

First and foremost, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we close out the year, we will be continuing to address COVID and the aspects related to this virus. I would like to state that we the IFCA and myself send out materials that are updated, containing useful information and give some direction, but above all within the discussion on COVID please keep in touch with local and county health departments and your EMS System PMD. The next item we will close with is attending a hearing regarding the expansion of approved fireworks – WE The IFCA are not supportive of this NO WAY do we want to see fireworks for sale/use increased.

Our Directors have been meeting with our area representatives discussing ways to keep information flowing, gathering updates, and just talking. The Executive Board during these restricted times of meeting have been participating in Zoom style meetings on a regular basis. One again I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy-Safe New Year. While doing the best you can enjoy these times with family and friends but take a moment to remember those who are no longer with us, a prayer for the Troops and a moment of silence for yourself – you earned it. God Bless

Congratulations to **Kristin Wexell** from Braidwood Fire Protection District. Kristin was selected as the 2020 Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professional of the year. Due to the IFSAP Awards Luncheon being postponed, the organization is planning a small presentation for Kristin as well as to celebrate the graduation of the 2020 Executive Support Program ESP soon.

NFFF Stair Climb - There is still time to participate or donate – Deadline December 31, 2020

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! **We have reached 85% of our goal. Only \$725.00 to reach our goal by December 31, 2020.**

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, 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. **You may also make a direct donation to the climb. Follow the link above and the system will walk you through it.**

For question, please contact Chief John Kachanuk at 309-543-2153 or 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 17th. 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. Do not 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 other members find you.

Later this month or early January, you should be receiving your 2021 dues renewal notice. This is an automated process through our new software. You will be able to pay by invoice or credit card. If you have not reviewed your membership information, now is the time to do so. Your information is important to the dues renewal process and keeping it accurate is important. To login, click on the Member Login button on www.illinoisfirechiefs.org. For help updating your information, look for the helpful video

The program remains a work in progress and we plan to continue with enhancements into next year. To make sure you receive all the notifications from the IFCA, please check your spam folder and whitelist ifca@memberclicks-mail.net. If you have problems logging in, email info@illinoisfirechiefs.org and we will work to correct problems.

VCOC Programs & News:

VCOS Fire Equipment collection:

If you are doing end of the year cleaning of closets and storage areas don't forget - 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 .



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](#)

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

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

Scholarship Application Period Opens – January 1, 2021. Please help spread the word that the application process is Jan 1-Mar 15, 2021. Chiefs, the applicants will need your help. A letter of recommendation is needed from the **Chief Officer** to complete the application process. For the Chief Officer, a letter of recommendation is needed from your superior (i.e., Trustee, Mayor, Village Mgr., etc.). The application will be posted January 1 on our website at www.illinoisfirechiefs.org. Good Luck to all.

Fire Officer Course Offerings

Due to COVID-19, the full list of Fire classes offered by the Foundation is not yet available. There will be an **Incident Safety Officer** course in January. Register online NOW at. www.illinoisfirechiefs.org. Class will be limited to 24 students. *Filling up Fast.*

Course	Dates	Location	Cost
Incident Safety Officer (ISO)			
Incident Safety Officer	January 4-8, 2021	Plainfield 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@wegofpd.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 jeffreyswanson@gmail.com

Upcoming Blood Drives 		
Fire Department	Group Code	Drive Date
Glenwood Fire Department	GWFD	Dec 21, 2020
Gurnee Fire Department	G110	Jan 2, 2021

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)

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 DEADLINE DECEMBER 31, 2020

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

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

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/>

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.

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 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

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