



# IFCA Monthly Information October 2020



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

## Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

**From President Greg Earle, Centralia FPD** As I write my last note to you as President within this monthly newsletter, I would like to thank you for your support and understanding during my term. What started off as a presidential run filled with so many promises of meetings, gatherings and social events went literally south (more south than me). But with the help of our administrative team, area representative, directors and presidents we were able to meet via zoom, talk on a daily basis and continue our relationships with our fire service partners. I would like to thank my family and the Centralia FPD – Wow is all I can say. I wish Don, John and Rich only the best as they move the IFCA forward. To all of you – I look forward to the day when soon we can meet, say hello give a fist bump and just visit. Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming holidays. With gratitude I say thank you again.

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

As we prepare for the changing of the guard, I would like to thank President Greg for his leadership and personal approach during this unprecedented term he held. I know that Greg will assist Don, John and Rich with a transition that will in the long run make us stronger. I thank Mark for his handling of the first electronic election. Chief Mark and JB did a great job with members-click voting. The data we received will help us target areas where we need to enhance our presence.

The next issue of the Gong will be out soon and I encourage you to read the articles but to take a look at the section devoted to our new assessment process developed by Dave Slivinski and his team, We just finished with our introductory process and in my opinion it went well. We received good feedback, suggestions and positive recommendations. I thank Dave and the team – I was truly impressed at the process I witnessed. This gives us another tool in our assessment toolbox that consists of traditional, blended or virtual assessments delivered in a professional setting that accommodates the needs of the departments today.

As always if you need anything from the IFCA please feel free to contact me at [jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:jgrady3@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

## **There is still time to participate or donate – we’ve reached 75% 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).

### **IFCA Legislation Committee Update**

The next scheduled legislative session is on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Calls for a return to Springfield have generally quieted down. There are no indications of the legislature convening prior to that date, at least at this moment. By that time, we will likely have the results of the November statewide election. Most signs point to the Fall (Veto) Session being focused on Covid-19 issues and matters that have driven recent civil unrest. However, this is 2020 and basically anything could happen between now and November. We continue to monitor Springfield activities and will work to understand which issues may impact the IFCA during the veto session.

### **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](#)

### Volunteer Firefighter Alliance FREE Fire Prevention Materials

Dear Fire Department,

The Volunteer Firefighter Alliance is a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing Fire Departments, schools, and at-risk groups with education materials for their communities. To date we have distributed over 1 million pieces of fire prevention materials to thousands of fire departments and organizations.

We would love to be able to assist your department by providing you with [free fire prevention materials](#).

We currently have 8-page fire safety activity books and Junior Firefighter badge cards

We will send these out at **no cost** to your organization. Just fill in your organization's information and quantity needed at: [WWW.FREEFIREPREVENTION.COM](http://WWW.FREEFIREPREVENTION.COM)

Once the information is submitted you should receive your materials by mail in 10-14 days.

While visiting the VFA website, please check out our other programs that can assist you and your department.

**Robert Brian Kesterson**

Volunteer Firefighter Alliance

1-866-280-0441

*Copyright © 2018 Volunteer Firefighter Alliance, All rights reserved,*

**Our mailing address is: 3121 Circle Drive, White Pine, TN 37890**

### 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**

### **Fire Officer Course Offerings**

Last two courses of the year still have opening. 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>Fire Service Instructor</b>			
Instructor I	Oct 19-21, 26-27	North Palos FPD	\$300.00
<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.

### **Upcoming Sr. Officer Seminar – Oak Forest FD**

Oak Forest FD will be hosting a Sr. Officer Development Seminar on October 21, 2020 at South Suburban College. Topics include *Conflict Resolution; Leadership for Fire Officers (Buddy to Boss); Training Awareness Standards & Mandates and Surviving the Modern Fireground*. For further information and registration go to [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

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

### **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 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**

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](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*