



## ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Excellence in the Fire Service

P.O. Box 7, Skokie IL 60076

phone 800-662-0732, fax 847-966-0782

Website: [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)



Illinois Fire Service Leaders,

On behalf of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, I am thrilled to extend an invitation for you to attend our **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the IFCA Symposium being held this coming May 12–14, 2021. Excitement fills the air, as plans are made to hold the Symposium once again with safety precautions being a top priority. The Symposium Committee has done an outstanding job to assure we have an event offering recognition, education, social networking and more.

The Executive Board will be holding its annual strategic planning session before you arrive. In preparation of this, I ask and encourage ***all members*** to reach out to your Area Representative and provide them any feedback, thoughts, or ideas on how we can better serve ***you*** in the future. As we began 2021, our focus was legislation, diversity, partnership collaboration, assessment, consulting, and VCOC. The IFCA Board and Committees strive yearly to hit all our benchmarks and I promise you progress was made even during a pandemic.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Board is looking forward to recognizing the last two classes of Chief Fire Officer recipients. A presentation of their certificates will be followed by a reception and photo opportunities. Then at 1600, registration begins in full swing for all members followed at 1800 by the popular Attorney Open Forum. This is the chance to get answers (at no charge) to your questions regarding legal issues that may concern our organizations or members.

A full day is planned for Thursday with education and presentations on volunteer combination departments, NIFRS updates, lessons learned from line of duty deaths, Canine and Drone rescue teams, updates from our partners and our keynote speaker USN Seal Chad Williams. Personally, I have attended one of his presentations. . . he is a riveting speaker. I look forward to sharing a quick overview of the association with you during this time too. The day will finally end with a great networking event at Dozer Park for a little baseball, food, and socializing.

We kick off our last day, Friday, with a presentation from the International Fire Chiefs COVID task force team. In closing out our 2021 IFCA Symposium, acting U.S Fire Administrator Hoover will update us on the fire service and the National Fire Academy. You will be on the road to enjoy your weekend by noon.

I am always available should you have questions, ideas, concerns or just want to talk and I look forward to greeting and meeting each of you at our upcoming **50<sup>th</sup> IFCA Symposium**. It remains an honor and I am humbled to serve as your president of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

Visit our website [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org) to register for the symposium. You will also find details of the presenters and scheduled activities.

Sincerely

*Donald Shoenlin*

Donald Shoenlin



## 50th IFCA SYMPOSIUM

May 12-14, 2021

Par-A-Dice Hotel  
7 BlackJack Blvd., East Peoria IL 61611

ON-LINE REGISTRATION ENCOURAGED:  
[www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)



### IFCA SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Event	Indicate Attendance	Pre-Registration Cost	At The Door Registration Cost	Total
May 12-14, 2021	Symposium - Full Registration		\$150.00	\$175.00	
Wed., May 12, 2021	Attorney Forum *		Inc w/Full Reg.	Inc w/Full Reg.	
Thurs. May 13, 2021	BB game/Dinner 1 ticket *		Inc w/ Full Reg.	Inc w/Full Reg.	
Thurs. May, 13, 2021 8:00a-4:00p	Symposium – Daily Registration <i>does not include ballgame</i>		\$90.00	\$100.00	
Fri. May 14, 2021 8:00a-Noon	Symposium – Daily Registration		\$60.00	\$75.00	
<i>Spouse/Significant Other - No planned program, Registration fee Includes meals, 1 BB/Dinner Ticket</i>			\$75.00	\$75.00	
<i>* This is for planning purposes, you are always welcome</i>				<b>TOTAL</b>	

**Registration is for fire service personnel. Daily Registration does not include evening activities**

**Please contact the Hotel Directly** A block of rooms has been reserved for the Symposium at the Par-A-Dice Hotel @ \$99 per night + 12% tax. Advance reservations required. Call the hotel direct at 800.547.0711 or online at <http://www.paradicecasino.com/groups>. Reference group code **0511FCA**. Deadline for hotel block rate **Apr 20 2021**.

- ☐ Check Enclosed
- ☐ Bill Department ☐ PO Number \_\_\_\_\_
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**On-line Registration available:**  
**[www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)**

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please Email form to: [mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org) prior to mailing. Remittance address: PO Box 4424, Lisle IL 60532**

# Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

## 50th Symposium Program

### Wednesday, May 12, 2021

1:00-2:00pm **CFO Check-in/Welcome**

2:00-3:00pm **CFO Keynote Address/Recognition**

Join us in recognizing the CFO Recipients from the 2019 and 2020 classes.

3:00-4:00pm **CFO Reception**

4:00-5:00pm **Symposium Registration Par-A-Dice Lobby**

5:00-9:00pm **Open Forum with Attorneys,**

Karl Ottosen & Stephen DiNolfo, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. • Karl & Steve will moderate our open forum with an open microphone format. Bring your hot topics for discussion. Attendees will be invited to submit questions anonymously before the symposium for discussion and answers. Hospitality bar & heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

### Thursday, May 13, 2021

6:30-8:00am **Breakfast** (included in registration)

6:30-7:15am **5K Run/Walk**

Get your daily workout early. Join us for a 5K Run/Walk to get the day started. Meet in the lobby of the Par-a-Dice Hotel. Don't forget to pack your workout gear!

7:00-8:00am **Registration**

8:00-8:15am **Welcome**

8:30-10:00am **Understanding Risk in Illinois**

Greg Hays, OSFM • Greg will discuss common misunderstandings and mistakes, best practices, how consistent reporting aids risk assessment as well as what's new to NFIRS. This will be a back and forth discussion as he welcomes questions throughout the presentation

10:00-10:15am **Break**

10:15am-12:00pm **Forged By Adversity**

Chad Williams, US Navy Seal, Retired • SEAL mindset and ethos that revolve around leadership, teamwork, mental toughness, motivation, discipline, and overcoming adversity.

12:00-1:00pm **Lunch**

1:00-2:30pm **Staging a Comeback: How an Organization and Community Evolved After a Tragedy:**

Chief Chris Garrison, Sun Prairie, WI FD • Chief Garrison will walk through the events of July 10, 2018, the loss of not a firefighter and its effect on the department and community. Garrison will discuss the resilience of his organization and their commitment to building a better model fire department and honor the sacrifice made that day.

2:30-2:45pm **Break**

Watch for an email from Survey Monkey.  
Submit your questions for the Attorney's Forum.

\* **Baseball Game Disclaimer:** As of April 1, 2021 the committee has not received final confirmation from the Peoria Chiefs. If due to COVID protocols attendance is not possible, an alternate event is planned.

### Thursday, May 13, 2021 (continued)

2:45-4:15pm **Search and Rescue Strike Team. Using Canines and Drones together to find lost people.**

The SRST is a collection of Fire Departments using firefighter canine handlers and firefighter drone operators to find lost children, Alzheimer's patients who walk away, non-violent patients and overdue hikers in wooded forest preserves and rural areas. The SRST responds with certified search canines and handlers, certified drone operators, Utility Terrain Vehicles and command staff that will integrate with your ICS system at an incident. This presentation will explain how the team was formed and how it can benefit you. *Chief Patrick Tanner, West Chicago FPD & Chief Tom Krueger, Lincolnshire-Riverwoods FPD.*

4:15-5:00pm **State Updates**

Mid-year updates by IFCA, IFSI and OSFM.

5:15pm **Shuttles to the Stadium \***

5:30pm **Stadium Gates Open \***

6:00pm **Dinner & Baseball Game \***

### Friday, May 14, 2021

6:30-8:00am **Breakfast** (included with registration)

8:00-8:15am **Welcome**

8:15-10:00am **COVID-19—Round 2:**

**International Association of Fire Chiefs Task Force** Panel Members: *James J Augustine, M.D., FACEP; Chief Gary Ludwig; Chief Michael Ragone* • As the pandemic began to impact the nation's fire service, and cause serious health risks to emergency response professionals, IAFC President Gary Ludwig (2019-2020) stood up a specialized task force of leaders to address the issues facing both the fire service and emergency response organizations. The IAFC Coronavirus Task Force was formed to focus the efforts to prepare the fire and emergency service to respond to this worldwide crisis. It has worked for a year to develop and promulgate best practices for fire/EMS response in North America. This session will be an interactive discussion with members of the IAFC Task force regarding the response to the COVID pandemic, and the ongoing impact on fire department operation, personnel, and budgets. The goal of this session will be to provide information to attendees to use for decision making in 2021 and beyond.

10:00-10:15am **Break**

10:15-11:45am **State of the Country's Fire and Emergency Medical Services**

U.S. Acting Fire Administrator Tonya Hoover • Over the years we all can agree that the Fire and Emergency Medical Services profession has changed.. The conditions for our firefighters and medical responders has also changed. The USFA is adapting to meet the challenges that will propel us into the future. Acting Fire Administrator Tonya Hoover will share USFA's perspective on the future of the profession and our efforts to continue to support and strengthen fire and emergency medical services and stakeholders to prepare for, prevent, mitigate, and respond to all hazards.

11:45am **Raffle/Closing**

## Our Speakers...



**Karl R. Ottosen** is a shareholder and managing partner with the law firm of Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. at the firm's Naperville office. Mr. Ottosen has over twenty-eight years of experience representing government entities. He is a frequent speaker at seminars and workshops on topics such as labor, employment, and local government law issues. You may contact Mr. Ottosen at [kottosen@ottosenlaw.com](mailto:kottosen@ottosenlaw.com).



**Stephen H. DiNolfo** is a shareholder with the law firm of Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. Mr. DiNolfo's practice is concentrated in the full range of litigation services. From the Naperville office, Mr. DiNolfo manages the firm's litigation practice and handles a variety of liability, employment, discipline, and labor matters for the fire service. His email address is [sdinolfo@ottosenlaw.com](mailto:sdinolfo@ottosenlaw.com).



**Greg Hays** serves as the Fire Service Outreach Coordinator for the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. Greg is responsible for the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) as well as: the Fire Equipment Exchange Program, the Illinois Fire Museum, the "Be Alarmed!" smoke alarm installation program, and the annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial & Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony. He serves as the agency's liaison to the State Emergency Operations Center and also coordinates OSFM's public education efforts at the state fairs in Du Quoin and Springfield.

Greg first entered the fire service at age 15 as a Fire Explorer with the Taylorville Fire Department before serving as a volunteer firefighter with the Midland Fire Protection District in his hometown of Kincaid. After college, he worked as a case manager for a child welfare agency in Springfield. He was subsequently hired by the Quincy Fire Department where he served for 16 years as a firefighter/paramedic.



**Chad Williams** Having been a featured guest on Fox News Channel, CNN News Room, Anderson Cooper 360 and more; former U.S. Navy SEAL Chad Williams draws from his experience in the SEAL Teams to communicate an instructive perspective on teamwork, resilience, leadership and self-motivation. Just days prior to entering SEAL training Chad's

motivation and mental toughness would be tested as he turned on a television one morning to see unexpected graphic video footage of his mentor and training partner Navy SEAL Scott Helvenston brutally killed, mutilated and dragged through the streets of Fallujah, Iraq. Hung upside-down from the Euphrates River Bridge while an incensed Iraqi mob repeatedly celebrated and chanted in Arabic, "Fallujah is the graveyard of Americans." Helvenston's body was set ablaze as Chad witnessed and learned an unwelcome firsthand lesson in what it was to be forged by adversity.

Steeled in his resolve to follow in his Helvenston's footsteps and complete SEAL Training in honor and memory of his good friend, Chad entered the military's most difficult and grueling training known as BUD/S. As a member of Class 254 Chad and 172 other sailors vowed that they would die before ever giving up and quitting the military's most rigorous training. Those that would quit, were required to "ring out" which entailed ringing a large hanging brass bell three times and surrendering their class helmet on the Naval Special Warfare Center's asphalt grinder. Exercising mental-toughness, leadership and teamwork Chad climbed the mountain and completed SEAL Training alongside 12 of the original number of 173 sailors that vowed their dedication to completing the program.

Serving his country proudly through multiple deployments as a U.S. Navy SEAL, on SEAL Teams One and Seven Chad continued to hone the qualities and values that our nation's best adhere to. In an ironic final operation in Iraq, Chad's SEAL Team was set up on a premeditated ambush similar to the location and scenario that took the life of his mentor Scott Helvenston but on that occasion Chad and his Team were able to overcome the enemy and complete the mission.

Today Chad is a bestselling author of his book, SEAL of God and an in demand keynote speaker. Drawing from his experiences as a SEAL, Chad captivates his listeners as he illustrates and instructs the SEAL mindset and ethos that involve: mental toughness, discipline, teamwork, leadership, safety and motivation.



**Chief Christopher Garrison** (Sun Prairie Fire and Rescue, 2014 to Current) is the current President of the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Garrison's professional fire service career spans over thirty years. Beginning as a volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic with the Libertyville Fire Department, Chief Garrison enjoyed a 21 year full-time career with the Lake Forest Fire Department retiring at the rank of Deputy Chief.

Chief Garrison was the recipient of the Wisconsin State Fire Chief of the Year Award in 2017. As the Chief of the Sun Prairie Fire and Rescue Co. he has been an agent of change, leading the department serving the fastest growing city in Wisconsin from a small volunteer organization to the second largest department in Dane County having much growth still to come.

Chief Garrison led his community through the tragedy of a horrific gas main explosion which levelled a significant portion of Sun Prairie's downtown in 2018. This incident caused transformational change in both the department and the community and has caused unexpected ripples of change in every aspect of how the department exists requiring new thoughts, building new relationships, and active management to help the wider fire department community make it through.



**Search and Rescue Strike Team** The SRST currently consists of the following: Canines and handlers from West Chicago Fire District, Lincolnshire/Riverwoods Fire District, Waukegan Fire Department, North Aurora Fire District, Lemont Fire District, Lockport Fire District and Butler Fire Department (WI). Drone operators from West Chicago Fire District and Lincolnshire/Riverwoods Fire District.



**Gary Ludwig** currently serves as the Fire Chief of the ISO Class 1 Champaign (Illinois) Fire Department and served as the President and Chairman of the Board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs during the 2019-20 term. He has 43 years of fire, rescue, and EMS experience. Chief Ludwig started his career with the City of St.

Louis at age 18, just two months out of high school, rising through the ranks and retiring as the Chief Paramedic of the St. Louis Fire Department after 25 years of service. He has also served 10 years as Deputy Fire Chief for the Memphis Fire Department, managing EMS and the Emergency Management Office. He has a Master's degree in Business and Management, and has been a licensed paramedic for over 40 years. He has written over 500 articles for professional fire and EMS publications and is the author of four books. He has also been invited to speak at over 400 professional EMS or fire conferences or seminars. He can be reached through his website at [FullyInvolvedLeadership.com](http://FullyInvolvedLeadership.com)



**Chief Michael Ragone** Mr. Ragone has over 40 years of experience in emergency medical, fire and disaster services.

During his career he has served in leadership roles at both public and private organizations. He began his career as a firefighter on the west coast and later trained as a paramedic. Mike has held numerous leadership positions including his current one as the Chief of Fire & Federal Services.

As the leader of preparedness and response teams for large scale federal events such as the FEMA National Medical Transport and Support Services contractor for both ground and air, Mike is intimately involved in our nation's response to major events including service on the Federal Pre-Hospital team and the IAFC Covid Taskforce. Additionally, he also services as the chief executive of Rural Metro Fire Department consisting of over 1200 members and 84 stations.

Previously he served as a Fire Practice Leader and Senior Associate at a large consulting practice before rejoining AMR in 2012. Mr. Ragone has expertise in operating large-scale emergency management and response organizations as well as strategic analysis, change management, contingency planning, reimbursement, budgeting and fiscal procedures, compliance, logistics management and many other areas.

**Register On-Line**  
**Visit [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)**



## Our Speakers...



**James J. Augustine, M.D., FACEP** Dr. Augustine currently serves as the Medical Director role with Georgia fire services in the cities of Morrow, Forest Park, Hapeville, Riverdale, and South Fulton. He is an Associate Medical Director for North Collier Fire Rescue in Naples, Florida. He is also Medical Director for Washington Township Fire Rescue near Dayton, Ohio.

Jim began his career in EMS when he was in medical school in Dayton. He became a firefighter in 1982, then began his service as a Fire EMS medical director in the Dayton area in 1987. After serving as the president of the regional Fire EMS council, he became the first Chair of the Ohio EMS Board. He moved to Atlanta in 2001, and served as Medical Director for Atlanta Fire Rescue, including the Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport Fire Rescue division. He later served as Assistant Fire Chief and Medical Director for the District of Columbia Fire EMS Department.

Dr. Augustine is an emergency physician, and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He is National Director for Prehospital Strategy for US Acute Care Solutions, based in Canton, Ohio. and just completed his term as a member of the Board of Directors of the American College of Emergency Physicians. He serves as the Chair of the Georgia EMS Medical Directors Advisory Council. He is a member of the IAFC COVID Task Force, and is a key member of the "Eagles" group of Fire EMS Medical Directors.



**Tonya Hoover** was named as the Acting U.S. Fire Administrator on January 20, 2021. Chief Hoover is also the Deputy Fire Administrator and the senior career federal fire official responsible for the day-to-day operations of the United States Fire Administration including the programs and training activities at the National Emergency Training Center.

She also served as the superintendent of the National Fire Academy from May 2017 to January 2020 focused on promoting the professional development of the fire and emergency response community and its allied professionals; supplementing and supporting State and local fire service training programs, and developing and delivering various course unavailable at the State and local level.

Prior to her tenure at USFA, Chief Hoover served as the California State Fire Marshal where she was responsible for statewide fire prevention, fire service training, pipeline safety, code and regulations development, analysis, and implementation.

Chief Hoover received her MBA in Business and Human Resources from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Science in Technical Education, specializing in Fire Protection and Safety, from Oklahoma State University. She holds an associate degree in Fire Protection Engineering Technology and possesses a California lifetime teaching credential for fire science.

She served on the board of directors for the National Fire Protection Association and the International Fire Service Training Association and continues to engage with the International Code Council.

Chief Hoover is an advocate for the women and men of the Nation's fire and emergency medical services.

*Is your neighboring Chief attending?  
Invite them to join you!*

## The IFCA Annual Symposium Provides:

- ◆ Valuable Information
- ◆ Ever Popular - Attorney Forum
- ◆ Current Topics
- ◆ Great Networking Opportunities
- ◆ Evening Event - Baseball

*COVID-19 Protocols will be in effect.  
Social distancing and masks will be required.*

*Par-a-Dice Hotel Protocols available  
on IFCA Website*

**Don't miss it!  
May 12-14, 2021**

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