



Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Dedicated to Excellence in the Fire Service

P.O. Box 7

Skokie, Illinois 60076

www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

An invitation to the 2018 VCOC Conference

On behalf of the IFCA Executive Board, and the Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee members, I extend an invitation to volunteer and combination fire chiefs and officers from around Illinois to join the VCOC in our annual Conference. This year's dates are September 8 & 9, 2018 at the Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Bloomington/Normal.

The IFCA-VCOC hosts the only conference in the Midwest tailored for the education of volunteer and combination fire officers. There are many great conferences out there; however, very few focus on the specific topics important to the officer who is leading the very dynamic structure of a volunteer and combination department. Our VCOC Conference Committee has carefully designed educational tracks with topics that are important and interesting to the officer of a volunteer and combination department.

When you arrive at the hotel on Friday night, explore many of the great restaurants of Bloomington/Normal. On Saturday morning join us for a light breakfast and because we are firefighters, plenty of coffee. The conference kicks off at 8:30 am on Saturday morning.

We are excited to be joined this year by Chief Peter Lamb who will deliver our keynote presentation on Saturday morning. Pete will present "**A Common Sense Approach to Successful Leadership**". This interactive program offers common sense solutions and a realistic experience based approach for small to medium sized departments. Chief Lamb's 40+ years' experience as a firefighter, officer and Fire Chief make this a presentation not to miss. Pete will be with us again on Saturday afternoon for his fast paced presentation "**Door to Door Firefighting**" which examines the fire ground from initial response through fire attack and will make you think about both your past and future fire responses.

As a regular feature of our conference, we will present the "**Small Town - Big Incident**" series Saturday afternoon. This year we will be joined by Deputy Chief Jim Connolly of the Westmont Fire Department to discuss lessons learned from a hazardous materials incident that resulted in several fires and explosions over a two day period and involved over 100 responding agencies.

On Sunday morning we will start with a hearty breakfast at the hotel. Our first presentation on Sunday is Chief Joe Knitter who will present his popular class "**Fast Food Restaurant Fires**" which has been featured at both national and regional conferences. Every community, regardless of size, has at least one fast food establishment and Chief Knitter's presentation is packed with information that will be valuable to your department.

Chief Scott Pahlmann of the Chapin, Illinois Fire Department will offer his experience, lessons learned and advice during his presentation on "**The New Volunteer Fire Chief**". Deputy Chief Rudy Horist, representing the Firefighter Cancer Support Network will then close out our day with an important presentation on "**Firefighter Cancer Awareness**".

I believe you will find this conference provides you with solid information on how to successfully lead your organization, plan for the future, and protect the safety of your firefighters and your community.

Don't be the one wishing you attended when all your peers are talking about the great conference they just attended. Also, remember "each one bring one"; if you are attending, bring your neighboring department chief or assistant chief and carpool.

Sign up today - register at www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

Sincerely,

Dave Weiss

Dave Weiss Chairman
Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee

Illinois Fire Chiefs Volunteer & Combination Officer Conference September 8-9, 2018

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Saturday, September 8, 2018

7:30-8:30am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:00am

Welcome

Chief David Weiss, Westmont FD, VCOC Chairperson

9:00am-Noon

Keynote Address: "Leadership in Volunteer Fire Depts."

Chief Peter Lamb, Johnston RI Fire Department

This interactive program offers some common sense solutions for small to medium sized departments of all sizes. The realistic experienced based approach works if your members are volunteer, paid on call or career. Participants will learn about leading groups of people, how communication fails, some real life problem solving strategies, and ways to help your department deal with it's most precious commodity....the people that respond everyday.

The program will also discuss and explain the application of compassionate discipline to gain the needed education to make your department successful and stress free.

The program will talk about demystifying all of the current leadership discussions and figure out what works and what does not work in the fire service.

10:15-10:30am *Break*

12:00-1:00pm *Lunch (included in registration)*

1:00-2:30pm

Keynote Continues "Door to Door Firefighting"

Chief Peter Lamb

This fire ground based program breaks a departmental response into segments with an emphasis on which tasks need to take place when and how to use simplified bite sized tactical pieces to make your fire scene and incident more effective and safer for your residents and your firefighters. From response in apparatus and POV (personal owned vehicles) to size up and decision making until actual fire attack this fast paced interactive program will make you think about your responses you did yesterday, and how you might do them tomorrow.

2:30-2:45pm *Break*

2:45-4:15pm

"Small Department-Big Incident -- Firefighter Fatality

Speedway Gasoline Leak

Deputy Chief Jim Connolly, Westmont FD

In October, 2017 there was a release of up to 10,000 gallons of gasoline into the ground at a Westmont (IL) gasoline station. The product eventually migrated into the sanitary sewer line and resulted in several fires and explosions over two days. This presentation will discuss the incident management challenges with approximately 100 Federal, State and Local agencies responding to this incident and the importance of preplanning for when the "big one" occurs.

4:15-4:30pm

Questions & Answers

Saturday, September 8, 2018 (continued)

7:30-10:00pm

"Round Table Discussion"

First Day Presenters and Invited Organizations - Network and share ideas with your peers.

Sunday, September 9, 2018

7:30-8:30am *Breakfast (included with registration)*

8:30-8:45am

Opening Remarks

D/C Rudy Horist, McHenry Twp. FPD, Conference Chair

8:45-11:15am

"Fast Food Restaurant Fires"

Chief Joe Knitter, South Milwaukee FD

Inspired by the tragic loss of two firefighters in an intentionally set fire at a McDonald's Restaurant in Houston, Texas, on Valentine's Day, 2000, this class takes the audience "behind the counter" and "above the ceiling tiles" for a first-hand look at the building construction and design characteristics and the associated hazards that pose a deadly threat to fire suppression personnel. The focus is on raising the awareness of company officers and firefighters of the dangers of this common form of free-standing construction found in nearly every response area. Topics covered include the causes of fires in these structures, common construction features and engineered lumber products, and operational considerations and tactical tidbits for fighting fires in these occupancies.

10:00-10:15am *Break*

11:30am-12:30pm

Lunch (included in registration)

12:30-1:45pm

"The New Volunteer Chief"

Chief Scott Pahlmann, Chapin IL FD

The transition from one fire chief to another in a volunteer fire department can have two different directions, easy or difficult. Chief Scott Pahlmann of the Chapin Volunteer Fire Department reviews his experiences and lessons learned to help fellow fire chiefs to be successful in leading their department.

2:00-3:00pm

"Firefighter Cancer Awareness"

D/C Rudy Horist, McHenry Township FPD

Cancer is the most under-recognized health issue in the fire service. This class is designed to help you avoid and decrease your risk factors for cancer. Topics will include understanding your cancer risk, identifying the types of cancer exposures, reducing your risk of developing occupational cancer and changes that are needed now - as individuals, as fire departments and as a fire service.

3:00-3:30pm

"Q & A"

Questions & answers, survey, final wrap up

VCOC Conference Concludes

. . . .Our Presenter's



Chief Peter Lamb is a 40 year veteran of the fire service and is the Chief of the Johnston RI Fire Department. In addition he has led three suburban fire departments and served in multiple capacities at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and served as the director of state training. Chief Lamb has been an instructor for over 25 years and taught thousands of firefighters. Chief Lamb has lectured for 18 years for Firehouse Expo and World Programs. Chief Lamb is the Host of the weekly YouTube show called Firefighting Today, and also the host of The Firefighter Training Podcast. Chief Lamb has authored articles for periodicals and has lectured nationally on a variety of topics including, using technology in the fire service, tactics, incident command, training, and operations.



Deputy Chief Jim Connolly Jim has been a member of the Westmont Fire Department for 37 years with more than 25 years as a Chief Officer. He is currently the Deputy Chief of Operations. He is also the Communications and Logistics Committee Chair for MABAS Division 10 and a member of the Division 10 Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT).

Jim is a Fire Protection and Safety Engineer, licensed Professional Engineer and a Certified Fire Investigator. He is retired Managing Director of Marsh USA having managed Marsh Risk Consulting's 500 person US consulting business. Jim is a Life Member of NFPA and has served on several standards writing technical committees including the NFPA 1500 Committee for more than ten years.



Joseph Knitter is a 37-plus-year veteran of the fire service, currently serving as Fire Chief for the South Milwaukee (WI) Fire Department, where he has served for the past 34 years. Chief Knitter has an AAS Degree in Fire Science, a BS Degree in Fire Service Management, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. In addition, Chief Knitter is a Wisconsin-certified Fire Officer II, Fire Instructor II, and Fire Inspector and is certified by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications as an Incident Safety Officer. Chief Knitter currently teaches fire certification classes for Milwaukee Area Technical College; incident management for the State of Wisconsin, Division of Emergency Management; and lectures on various topics throughout the area and is also a representative for the Wisconsin Fire Service Training Office and a member of the FireRescue Magazine Advisory Board.



Scott Pahlmann is Chief of the Chapin Volunteer Fire Department in Chapin, Illinois. Chief Pahlmann's career in the fire service started in 1998 with the Illiopolis Fire Protection District serving as Secretary-Treasurer. After a career move, Scott did not return to the fire service until 2006 with the Concord Fire Department, then the Chapin Volunteer Fire Department in August 2007. In December 2011, Chief Pahlmann was ask to be the Interim Chief and later hired as the Fire Chief in early 2012.

The fire service is not the only passion in Chief Pahlmann's life. His background is in Agriculture, with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agriculture Business from Western Illinois University with a minor in Management and an emphasis in Agronomy. He began working for Dekalb Genetics in Illiopolis before starting with the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency as the County Executive Director.



VCOC Mission

To represent the leadership of the volunteer and combination fire departments in the State of Illinois; to assist officers in the development of professional leadership skills, representation on important issues affecting the volunteer services of the State, and enhance local capabilities of our volunteer organizations.

Leadership is action, not position.

Donald H. McGannon

VCOC Happenings

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION WORKSHOPS:

This past year the SAFER Grant ended and the VCOC Committee discussed how to continue offering the Recruitment and Retention Program. The committee submitted a grant request to the IFCA Educational Foundation who approved a grant for \$5000 to cover the cost of the program material, meals, and hotel rooms for the instructors. The instructors, all members of the VCOC Committee, will be donating their time and instructing for FREE.

The first workshop will be offer in O' Fallon on the weekend of August 18 & 19, 2018 and this program is FREE to all that attend. The committee is hard at work to offer this workshop two more times in 2018, one located in northern Illinois, and one located in southern Illinois. Watch for *Save the Dates* coming out soon.

Several recruitment and retention toolboxes remain available and can be obtained by contacting Chief Dave Weiss, dweiss@westmont.il.gov. If a department or mutual aid association is interested in hosting a Recruitment and Retention workshop, please contact the VCOC at vcoc@ilinoisfirechief.org.

Don't just sit around hoping that the volunteers will knock on your door, those days are over and gone. Spend a few hours with us and leave you with loads of proven techniques and knowledge.

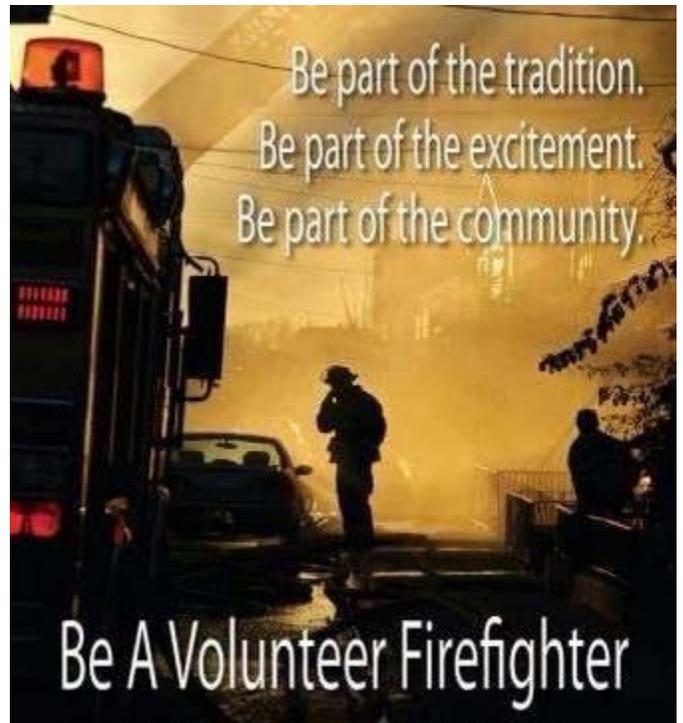
FIRE RESCUE ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDANCE (FROG):

This program is offered from the International Association of Fire Chiefs through our VCOC Committee. In April of 2018, the Harlem-Roscoe Fire District offered the first workshop. This workshop was well attended and participants work together to develop solutions to common leadership challenges through scenario and facilitated based discussions.

VCOC is on Twitter:

The Volunteer and Combination Officers Committee has a Twitter page. You can find us [@IFCAVCOC](https://twitter.com/IFCAVCOC).

Our Twitter account posts regular information on subject matter important to the leadership of volunteer and combination fire departments, including research findings on firefighter safety, health and wellness, opportunities for education and training for volunteers and of course breaking news that we think you need to know about. We do not Tweet anything commercial (sales, ads, etc.), and we do not advertise local events, only statewide offering of education and programs from IFCA partner organizations.



Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

The conference will be held at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Broadway Avenue, Normal IL. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved for conference attendees. Please contact the hotel directly by calling 309.862.9000. The room rate is \$111.00/night + tax. **This special rate is only in effect until August 17, 2018.** Please mention the **Illinois Fire Chiefs Association** to obtain the conference rate.

The Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center is a comfortable drive from all areas of the state. Bloomington-Normal offers easy access via major Interstate, U.S. and Illinois highways. The immediate area offers numerous sightseeing, shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities. Attendees are encouraged to consider bringing their spouses and families.



**Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
9th Annual
Volunteer & Combination Officer Conference**

September 8-9, 2018

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

201 Broadway Avenue, Normal IL 61761

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the form below and fax to **847/966-0782**, email to **mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org** or make check payable and mail to: IFCA, PO Box 352, Mundelein IL 60060

Name _____

Department _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

My department is: Volunteer Combination Volunteer with paid chief

Population of Area Served _____

Cost: \$75.00 per person (includes conference registration & lunch on both days)

Check Enclosed PO Number _____ Bill Department Credit Card (provide info below)

Charge Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) _____ (4% service charge added)

Exp Date _____ (MM/YYYY)

If cardholder information is different that registration information please complete info below

Cardholder Name _____

Cardholder Address, City, Zip _____

Cardholder Phone Number _____

Mail To: Illinois Fire Chiefs Assn, PO Box 352, Mundelein IL 60060 or

Fax To: 847.966.0782; Email to: mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org

PLEASE CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY: Bloomington/Normal Marriott 309-862-9000

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Marriott at \$111.00/nt+tax Please mention the **Illinois Fire Chiefs Association** to obtain the conference rate. **Block rate in effect until August 17, 2018.**



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