



## Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

*Dedicated to Excellence in the Fire Service*

P.O. Box 7

Skokie, Illinois 60076

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

### *An invitation to the 2019 VCOC Conference*

On behalf of the IFCA Executive Board, Director of VCOC, and the Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee members, I would like to extend an invitation to all volunteer and combination Fire Chiefs, chief officers, officers, and members from around Illinois to join the VCOC in our Annual Conference. This year's conference dates are September 14 & 15, 2019, 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 and members. There are many great conferences out there; however, very few focus on the specific topics important to the officer/members who are leading the very dynamic structure of a volunteer and combination departments. Our VCOC Conference Committee has listened to our volunteer and combination departments across our State and carefully designed educational tracks with topics that are important and interesting to the officers and members of volunteer and combination departments.

**This year we have added a special FREE Train-The-Trainer workshop on Friday afternoon from 1:00 until 5:00 PM.** Our instructor, Chief John Buckman representing VCOS of the IAFC, will present a train-the-trainer workshop that will cover **both** the Lavender Ribbon Report on best practices for preventing firefighter cancer and the Yellow Ribbon Report on a proactive approach to ensuring mental wellness. This program will provide attendees with information necessary to return to their region and share important information on these two critical topics. This program is being sponsored by a donation from Corkhill Insurance. Come join us for this informative program and then stay for the rest of the conference.

Speaking of Friday night, when you arrive at the hotel on Friday night, this year 1-800 Board Up will be sponsoring a weary travelers event starting at 7:00 PM at the hotel.

We are excited to be joined this year by Chief Craig Haigh who will deliver our main presentation on Saturday morning. Craig will present "Volunteers: Why They Come, Why They Go, and Which Ones to Hire". This interactive program will discuss each of these aspects and offer common sense solutions that can positively impact your volunteer or part-time work force. Chief Haigh is a popular VCOC presenter and his 30+ years' experience as a firefighter, officer and Fire Chief make this a presentation not to miss. Craig will be with us again on Saturday afternoon for his presentation "Steps to Reduce Firefighter Risk: Pre, During and Post Incident." This dynamic presentation will break down the complex topic of firefighter health research into a solid, step-by-step program for reducing firefighter risks of injury and death.

Saturday afternoon will also feature Chief Pete VanDorpe who will present "Understanding and Fighting Basement Fires". Chief VanDorpe's extensive experience including being a member of the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute Advisory Board and an instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute will make this a must see presentation.

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 Chief Paul Tierney of the Beach Park Fire Protection District to discuss lessons learned from a recent anhydrous ammonia incident that sent over 40 people to the hospital including several first responders.

On Sunday morning we will start with a hearty breakfast at the hotel. Our first presentation will be Chief Chad Hoefle who will present his class "Leadership: What Does It Look Like?" which will examine leadership and leaders – why they do what they do and act how they act. Chief Hoefle will focus on the practical aspects of leadership, whether you are a career firefighter or a volunteer Fire Chief.

Chief Forest Reeder of the Tinley Park Fire Department will offer his experience, lessons learned and advice during his presentation on "YOUR Training Program: What Every Officer Must Know".

Chief Al Yancey will then close out our day with an important presentation on "Healthy Leadership: Advocating Wellness in the Volunteer and Combination Fire Service".

I believe you will find this year's conference will provide you with solid information, and information that will help you lead your organization more successfully, and will help you plan for the future, and protect the safety of your firefighters and your community.

Don't be the one wishing you had attended, when all of your peers are talking about how great the conference they just attended. Also, remember "each one of you attending this year bring one additional person with you". Invite your neighboring department chief or officers to carpool.

Sign up today- register at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org)

Sincerely,

*Dave Weiss*

Dave Weiss Chairman  
Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee

# Illinois Fire Chiefs Volunteer & Combination Officer Conference September 13-15, 2019

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

## Friday, September 13, 2019

### 1:00-5:00pm Pre-Conference Train-the-Trainer

*"Yellow Ribbon and Lavender Ribbon Reports – Behavioral Wellness and Reducing Cancer Risks"*

**Chief John Buckman (Ret.), Germantown IN FD**

The first part of this workshop is based on the IAFC Yellow Ribbon Report and will identify risks associated with behavioral wellness in today's firefighter and the proactive steps organizations and individuals should take to minimize the risks. The issue of behavioral health has affected firefighters for many years without much notice. The second part of the workshop is based on the Lavender Ribbon Report and will identify risks associated with being a firefighter in today's hostile environment, reducing carcinogen exposures and the action to take will be discussed. Attendees will be provided access to training curriculum for both topics and the curriculum was developed by the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officer Section.

7:00pm

*Tired Traveler Reception*

## Saturday, September 14, 2019

7:30-8:30am

Registration and Continental Breakfast (included)

8:30-9:00am

Welcome

Chief David Weiss, Westmont FD, VCOC Chairperson

9:00-10:15am

*Volunteers: Why They Come, Why They Go, and Which Ones to Hire*

**Chief Craig Haigh, Hanover Park FD**

No workforce is more dynamic than a group of volunteer emergency responders. Their motivation as to why they volunteer is diverse, deeply personal and often misunderstood. Understanding this motivation is a key aspect of leading and maintaining this group of vital public safety professionals. Equally as challenging is deciding who will be a good fit for your organization and the ever-present battle between names on a roster and those who are productive workers. Not everyone who wants to volunteer should be allowed to volunteer, but how do you decide? This interactive training session will discuss each of these aspects and try to offer solutions that can positively impact your volunteer workforce.

10:15-10:30am *Break*

10:30am-Noon

*Steps to Reduce Firefighter Risk: Pre, During & Post Incident*

**Chief Craig Haigh, Hanover Park FD**

Firefighter health is at the forefront of many of today's discussions and ongoing scientific research. Preventing injuries and illnesses in our first responder population has become a paramount issue for fire service leaders.

This training will boil down the complexities of firefighter health research into an easy to understand presentation that focuses on a step-by-step algorithm of how to reduce firefighter risks of injury and death and to improve overall fireground performance.

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

## Saturday, September 14, 2019 (continued)

1:00-2:30pm

*Understanding & Fighting Basement Fire*

**Chief Peter Van Dorpe (Ret.) Algonquin-LITH FPD**

Over the last twenty years fire fighters have died while trying to extinguish a basement fire or a fire on a level lower than the front entry point of the structure. NIOSH has documented 34 LODD cases plus an additional 19 serious injuries at those line of duty deaths.

During the summer of 2017, several experiments were conducted in a test fixture that represents a single family home with a basement using a variety of tactical approaches to gain knowledge on best practices in size-up, ventilation control, suppression, and structural assessment with the tactical use of thermal imagers, exterior hose streams, penetrating nozzles, cellar pipes, and PPV fans.

This program is designed to help students examine how their current basement fire tactics were developed and updated and give them the tools they need to keep current with the modern basement fire threat.

2:30-2:45pm *Break*

2:45-4:15pm

*"Small Department-Big Incident -- Beach Park Anhydrous Ammonia Incident"*

**Chief Paul Tierney, Beach Park FPD**

On April 25, 2019 at 0426 hours the Beach Park Fire Protection responded to a reported car fire, a seemingly routine call. Once first in companies arrived on the scene the incident was much more than a car fire and involved hazardous materials. The incident sent 41 people to area hospitals, 11 firefighters and 3 police officers. A review of the "Good, Bad, and Ugly" of how a small department with limited staffing handled the incident.

4:15-4:30pm

*Questions & Answers*

7:30-10:00pm

*"Round Table Discussion"*

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

## Sunday, September 15, 2019

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

8:30-8:45am

Opening Remarks

D/C Rudy Horist, McHenry Twp. FPD, VCOC Vice-Chairman

8:45-11:30am

*"Leadership: What Does It Look Like?"*

**Chief Chad Hoefle, Stillman FPD**

No matter if you are in a full time position as a firefighter or a volunteer position as a Fire Chief, everyone needs to understand the idea of leadership. Of course there are hundreds of classes about how to be a leader, but implementing those thoughts and ideas is another story. We will take a look at how to be in a position and focus on your tasks as a leader and also maybe talk about why your leaders do what they do and act how they act. In the end, we all have to have a common understanding because our battles are fire scenes and should not be in the firehouse.

10:00-10:15am *Break*

**Sunday, September 15, 2019 (continued)**

**11:30am-12:30pm** Lunch (included in registration) and Hotel Checkout

**12:30-1:45pm**

*"YOUR Training Program: What Every Officer Must Know"*

**Chief Forest Reeder, Tinley Park FD**

Training programs are the foundational blocks that keep your firefighters safe as they provide excellent service to your community. Training programs should include compliance topics but still balance skill development and retention on critical skills and fundamentals. This workshop will provide detailed information and resources to give the attendee proven methods of meeting compliance along with skill sets and schedules that will help improve any training program.

**1:45-2:00pm** Break

**2:00-3:00pm**

*"Healthy Leadership: Advocating Wellness in the Volunteer & Combination Fire Service"*

**Chief Al Yancey, Minooka FPD**

It is incumbent upon the leadership of a fire department to provide a culture that gives a firefighter the best opportunity to be well. As a leader of a volunteer or combination fire department you need to provide leadership that places firefighter health and wellness as a budget and operational. How do you provide a wellness program when you have money struggles buying the basic equipment for firefighters? This program will discuss current research and reality on firefighter health to help you understand why it is so important to have a culture of wellness in your organization. We will also discuss perceptions the public has of firefighters vs. the reality of the health of many of today's firefighters. We will explore the health compass or your organization to see how you are doing as a leader to present a culture of wellness in your organization.

**3:00-3:30pm**

**"Q & A"**

*Questions & answers, survey, final wrap up*

## **VCOC Conference Concludes**

### **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 \$113.00/night + tax. **This special rate is only in effect until August 23, 2019.** 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.

## **...Our Presenter's**



**Chief John M. Buckman III** served 35 years as fire chief for the German Township (Ind.) Volunteer Fire Department. He served 14 years as director of the fire and public safety academy for the Indiana State Fire Marshal Office. He is most proud of the title pawpaw and loves spending lots of time with his grandkids. He is the Director of Government and Regional Outreach for lamResponding. He is a past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a co-founder of the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section. In 1996, Fire Chief Magazine named Chief Buckman Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. He is an accomplished photographer. He is a co-author of the Lessons Learned from Fire-Rescue Leaders and is the editor of the Chief Officers Desk Reference. Contributing author to the 3rd Edition of Recruiting, Training and Maintaining Volunteers. He is the owner of Wildfire Productions and is a sought after keynote speaker. He has presented education programs in each of the 50 states, each province in Canada, Beijing, China and the Dominican Republic.



**Craig A. Haigh**, is Chief of the Hanover Park (IL) Fire Department and a Field Staff Instructor with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. He has managed volunteer, combination and career departments, served as Interim Village Manager, implemented intermediate and paramedic services and is a frequent partner with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute's Firefighter Life Safety Research Center and the Skidmore College First Responder Health and Safety Laboratory.



**Peter Van Dorpe** worked with the Chicago Fire Department for 33 years, retiring in 2013 as the Director of Training. He then served the Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District through April 1, 2019. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University. He has made presentations on modern fire ground challenges at FDIC, Firehouse Expo and World, Fire Rescue International and the National Fire Academy. In 2012 he delivered the General Session Keynote at FDIC and addressed the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the "Flammability Standards and Flame Retardant Chemicals".

In addition to his work as a Field Instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute, he has been a lead instructor for the Chicago Fire Department's Fire Officer School, and has taught building construction for the fire service through the City Colleges of Chicago. He is a member of the Advisory Board for Underwriters Laboratories' *Firefighter Safety Research Institute*, and a Vice President for the *International Society of Fire Service Instructors* (ISFSI).

He has participated as a Subject Matter Expert for UL's research on *Firefighter Safety*, NIST's, "Evaluating Firefighting Tactics Under Wind Driven Conditions", the IAFF "Firefighter Safety and Deployment Study" in high rise buildings, and several NIOSH Line of Duty Death investigations.

Chief Van Dorpe is the 2016 recipient of the Fire Engineering/ISFSI George D. Post Instructor of the Year award.

### **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.

## ...Our Presenter's (continued)



**Paul Tierney** is currently the Fire Chief of the Beach Park Fire Protection District in far Northeastern Illinois. Chief Tierney has been a member of the Illinois fire service for 44 years starting his career with the Buffalo Grove Fire Department. He worked his way through the ranks at Buffalo Grove retiring after 34 years as a Battalion Chief. During his tenure at Buffalo Grove he served as a Fire Prevention Officer, and was also assigned as the department's Training Officer for six years. Paul holds multiple certifications through the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal as well as the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. Paul Has also served on many fire service organization boards including the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association and the Lake-McHenry Counties SRT.



**Chad Hoefle** began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter with the Stillman Fire Protection District in 1996. At the time, Stillman was 100% volunteer and soon grew to a combination department with a full time Chief. As Hoefle became more involved in classes and teaching, he progressed his way up to the rank of Lieutenant and then Captain, all while serving as a Paramedic Educator for a hospital in Rockford. When the fire district decided to create a second full-time position for Deputy Chief / Training Officer, Hoefle was appointed. Within a few years, Hoefle applied for the Fire Chief position, was selected and appointed in 2009. Chief Hoefle contributes the success of his department to the members and officers that serve the community. "This is not my department, it's their department, and I am fortunate enough to currently hold the position I do", Chief Hoefle says.

Hoefle has always prided himself in his passion for firefighter safety and training. Being heavily involved with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), Chief Hoefle has served as an escort for fallen firefighters' families at Memorial weekend, served as a Big Buddy for kids at Comfort Zone camp for kids who have lost a parent in the line of duty, and attended classes and summits across the United States for the Foundation by request. Chief Hoefle has been asked to speak nationally for fire service summits on several topics and given many reports with Fire Engineering. Chad regularly attends classes at the National Fire Academy, as well as local classes to try and better not only his fire district but also any department he has contact with.

Chief Hoefle also serves on several state and local executive boards including a seat as a Director on the Illinois Fire Chief's Association Executive Board, and holds memberships in many other Fire Department organizations. Chief Hoefle resides in Stillman Valley with his two children, Julia and Macklin. Being a father is the greatest position he has held.



**Forest Reeder** began his fire service career in 1978. He is the Fire Chief in Tinley Park (IL) proudly leading a team of over 100 dedicated members providing service to the 14<sup>th</sup> largest suburb in the Chicago metropolitan area. Chief Reeder is responsible for the day-to-day operational and management duties of the Fire Department and is a member of the Village senior staff team.

Forest is the author of two fire service textbooks and curriculums; *Foundations of Instructional Deliver, and Fire Service Instructor, Principles and Practices*, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. He instructs both locally and nationally on fire service training, safety and officer development related topics. He has written dozens of magazine articles and is a frequent contributor to the Illinois State Fire Marshals Advisory Board.

Forest holds many Illinois fire service certifications and has a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration from Lewis University. He has received the International and Illinois Instructor of the Year awards and continues to develop the future leaders of the fire service through his training and safety efforts.

He lives in Tinley Park with his girlfriend Bridgitt and became a first time grandfather this year.



**Al Yancey** serves as Fire Chief of Minooka Fire Protection District for the past 16 years where he provides leadership and guidance to a combination department of career, part-time and volunteer firefighters. Minooka recently was assigned an ISO Class 1 and protects over 13,000 residents in 38 square miles of residential, large commercial heavy industry, a very busy Interstate 80, and part of the Illinois River.

Chief Yancey started his fire service journey as a volunteer firefighter at Makanda Township Fire Department, in Southern Illinois, in 1988, where he eventually became the first full-time Fire Chief/administrator. During his 14 years rising through the ranks at Makanda he was instrumental in leading in the development of a professional volunteer fire department through improved operational efficiency, training programs, equipment and reputation management. Chief Yancey departed Makanda in 2002 to serve a short time as the first Full-time Chief of Zoneton Fire Protection District, a volunteer department in Louisville, KY., where he led the organization through transition of all volunteer to a combination career/volunteer department in a rapidly growing community, until returning to Illinois to take the position of Fire Chief in Minooka.

Chief Yancey was the driving force behind the creation of the Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee (VCOC) within the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA), and served as the chair of VCOC when it was formed in 2005 until 2017. In 2017 Chief Yancey became the first director seated on the IFCA Board designated as such with the purpose of representing volunteer and combination matters on the Board. Chief Yancey also serves on the Board of Directors for the Volunteer and Combination Officer Section (VCOS) of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) since 2018, where he works together with other board members to improve the professionalism of volunteer and combination fire services across the United States.

Chief Yancey is certified by the United States Fire Administration as an Executive Fire Officer, holds a bachelor degree in Fire Service Management from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, along with various fire service certification, including Fire Officer II. Chief Yancey currently serves as the President of MABAS Division 15. In his spare time, he enjoys cycling, exercise, outdoors, and spending time with his family especially when camping in their RV. Chief Yancey resides in Minooka with his wife and two children

## VCOC Happenings

### VCOC Programs

Throughout the year the VCOC Committee is involved with presenting various training, leadership and information that makes your job easier. Please check out the IFCA website at [www.illinoisfirechiefs.org](http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org) for additional information on

- Recruitments/Retention Workshops
- Fire Rescue Organizational Guidance (FROG)
- IFCA Foundation - Senior Officer Development Program

### Surplus Equipment

Contact Chief Dave Weiss of the Westmont Fire Department, [dweiss@westmont.il.gov](mailto:dweiss@westmont.il.gov) anytime you have a question about surplus equipment, or have a list of equipment that you wish to donate to a volunteer department. VCOC can help get these items to a department that can use it.

### VCOC is on Twitter:

The Volunteer and Combination Officers Committee has a Twitter page. You can find us @IFCAVCOC.

Our Twitter account posts regular information on subject matter important to the leadership of volunteer and combination fire departments.



**Illinois Fire Chiefs Association  
10th Annual  
Volunteer & Combination Officer Conference**

**September 13-15, 2019**

**Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
201 Broadway Avenue, Normal IL 61761**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please complete the form below and email to [mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org), fax to **847/966-0782**, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Conference** Train the Trainer on **Friday, September 13:**

NO CHARGE – Cancellations less than 14 days prior will be invoiced a \$25 charge.

**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**

**Email to: [mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org) or Fax To: 847.966.0782**

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

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Marriott at \$113.00/nt+tax Please mention the **Illinois Fire Chiefs Association** to obtain the conference rate. **Block rate in effect until August 23, 2019.**