

**Illinois Fire Chiefs**  
**Volunteer & Combination Officer Conference**  
**January 16-17, 2026**  
*Radisson Convention Center Fairview Heights, Illinois*

**Friday, January 16, 2026**

**5:00pm** Registration—Salon A & B

**5:30-10:00pm** Evening Reception

Moderator: Chief John Winters, Fairview-Caseyville FPD

**6:00-6:45pm**

Mollie Hammond

*"US Department of Agriculture Grant Program"*

**6:45-7:15pm**

State Representative/Senator (TBA)

*"Springfield Update"*

**7:15-8:00pm**

State Fire Marshal Michelle Pankow

*"Introduction and Vision"*

**8:00-10:00pm**

Round Table Discussion and Mentoring

*Invited participants:*

*OSFM, ILOSHA, IFSI, IFCA/VCOC, IAFC/VCOS*

**Saturday, January 17, 2026**

Salon A & B

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

*Breakfast Buffet (included with registration)*

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

*Registration*

**Saturday, January 17, 2026 (continued)**

**Moderator:** Chief James Keener, Bourbonnais FPD

**8:00am**

Mayor Mark Kupsky

*"Welcome to Fairview Heights"*

**8:15-9:45am**

Chief John Buckman

*"Are you the Right Leader"*

**9:45-10:00am BREAK**

**10:00-11:30am**

Chief Al Yancey

Title TBD

**11:30am-12:15pm LUNCH**

**12:15-1:45pm**

Farzaneh Masoud, PhD

*"PFAS and Illinois Cancer Screening Initiatives"*

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

**2:00-3:15pm**

Chief Chad Hoefle

*"Buddy to Boss"*

**3:15-4:00pm Wrap-up and Door Prizes**

*"Wrap-Up"*

**VCOC Conference Concludes**

Register for the VCOC Conference

[HERE](#)

or email [info@illinoisfirechiefs.org](mailto:info@illinoisfirechiefs.org)

To reserve a Hotel Room with the  
special IFCA VCOC rate

[Click HERE](#)

**Illinois Fire Chiefs Association**  
**Volunteer Combination Officer Committee**  
**Annual Conference**  
**Radisson Convention Center**  
**Fairview Heights, Illinois**  
**January 16-17, 2026**