

IFCA VOLUNTEER/COMBINATION CONFERENCE



January 10-11, 2025

Par-a-Dice Hotel

East Peoria Illinois



ILLINOIS FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to excellence in the Fire Service

Post Office Box 7 Skokie, Illinois 60076-0007

Phone (847)966-0732 Fax (847)966-0782

Website: www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

Dear Fire Service Personnel,

The Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee (VCOC) of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association is dedicated to supporting the unique needs and challenges faced by volunteer and combination fire departments. Our committee brings together fire officers, leaders, and members to collaborate on best practices, training, and solutions that address the day-to-day realities of operating these departments. We understand the unique dynamics of volunteer and combination departments, and we strive to provide resources and opportunities for growth, networking, and knowledge sharing.

We are excited to announce our upcoming VCOC conference, taking place on January 10th and 11th. This conference is designed specifically for those in volunteer, combination, and similar fire service departments. It offers a unique opportunity to discuss the real-world issues that we all face, from staffing challenges, resource management, community engagement and frankly doing more with less. This conference provides attendees with actionable insights and valuable tools they can implement within their own departments.

In addition to the informative sessions, the conference serves as an excellent opportunity for networking. It allows participants to connect with other departments experiencing similar challenges and share their solutions and experiences. Whether you're a seasoned officer or new to the fire service, the VCOC conference is an event you won't want to miss. Join us for this impactful two-day event and take away valuable knowledge and relationships that will benefit your department and the community you serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Hoefle".

Chad Hoefle
IFCA President

Illinois Fire Chief Assn

2025 VCOC Conference

The IFCA Executive Board, Director of VCOC, and the Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee members, 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 Conference. This year's conference dates are January 10 & 11, 2025, at the Par-a-Dice Hotel, 21 Blackjack Blvd., East Peoria IL.

The IFCA-VCOC hosts one of the only conferences 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.

When

January 10, 2025

5:30-10:00pm

January 11, 2025

8:00am-4:00pm

Where

Par-a-Dice Hotel

21 Blackjack Blvd.

East Peoria IL

Hotel Registration

Block rate: Friday night, Jan 10 - \$139.00 plus tax: Hotel Code: **IFCA25C**

Block price expires December 27, 2024.

Call 1-800-547-0711

Online Registration

<https://paradice.boydgaming.com/groups-and-weddings/group-reservation>

Cost

\$75.00 includes Friday reception, Saturday Breakfast and Lunch

Online registration:

<https://ilfca.memberclicks.net/vcoc-012025>

Speakers



Erik Kambarian is Chief of Illinois OSHA, a Division of IDOL. In 2019, Erik retired from Godfrey FPD where he served as a volunteer firefighter, career firefighter, fire officer, and fire chief. Mr. Kambarian has degrees in political science, fire science, management, and public administration and is pursuing a PhD in in psychology with a focus on fire service incident command.

Presentation: Erik Kambarian, Chief of the Illinois Division of Occupational Safety and Health (IL OSHA), will present an overview of the recently approved Fireground Standard Operating Guideline developed in cooperation with IL OSHA, OSFM, IFCA, IFSI, and MABAS. While this sample guideline is not mandatory, it includes many aspects a fire department needs to take into account on the fireground. He will describe how this SOG might be adapted for use in your department. He will also review the status of the proposed Emergency Response standard proposed by federal OSHA to replace the Fire Brigades standard.



Chief Al Yancey is the Fire Chief of Minooka, Illinois. Currently Al serves as the Vice-Chair of the IAFC/VCOS Board of Directors.

Presentation: An update from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Volunteer/Combination Officers section. What's new, what's available to your department



Chief Jason Caughey Chief Caughey has over 20 years of experience as a Fire Chief and over 30 years in emergency services. For the past 14 years, Chief Caughey has served as the Fire Chief of Laramie County Fire Authority in Cheyenne, Wyoming. LCFA is a combination fire department consisting of 120 volunteer members and 10 paid staff with 7 fire stations.

Chief Caughey is a published author and international speaker who focuses on honoring our traditions but leading change. Chief Caughey has a bachelor's degree in fire science and has his Chief Officer designation through CPSE and his Executive Fire Officer designation from the National Fire Academy.

He previously served as an executive leader with a regional business where he developed his leadership and vision skills with an emphasis on service, ownership, and vision.

Along with this Chief Caughey is a senior firefighter advisor for Fire Rescue 1 media providing insight and guidance along with consultation.

Chief Caughey has presented on leadership, culture, vision and change in over 25 states and 7 countries.

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Presentation: Bringing a Knife to a Gunfight

Bringing a knife to gunfight highlights challenges of smaller organizations to do more with less. This class features fire ground tactical options for limited staffed response along with tactical leadership lessons.

Bottom line, the mission doesn't change based on size of your organization.

This presentation will feature unique options for limited staffed organizations.

Speakers (continued)



Director James Keiken Jim Keiken became the Director of the Illinois Fire Service Institute in July 2021. As Director, Chief Keiken has established and is moving forward on a strategic vision for IFSI that includes; creating quality leadership development and decision-making training & education curriculum for the fire service, enhancing and expanding practical hands-on training, expanding life safety research, expanding on-line educational deliveries, and growing the Institutes partnerships, reach and reputation nationally and internationally.

Jim began as a volunteer EMT in Lodi, WI and was part of a rural, small town EMS service. In 1980, he was hired by the Janesville, WI Fire Department and spent the next ten years there. In 1990, Jim was hired by the Madison, WI Fire Department. At the same time, he was a paramedic instructor and lead instructor for Rockford Memorial Hospital. After four years at Rockford Memorial, Jim became the EMS coordinator for Beloit Memorial Hospital in Beloit, WI.

In 1996, Jim moved to the departments training division and worked there both as a training officer and as a fire lieutenant. In 2002, Jim was promoted to Division Fire Chief. In 2004, Jim was promoted to Assistant Chief. Jim became second in command of the department in 2006 and worked closely with the Chief on all department issues and growth. In 2012, Jim was reassigned to the Assistant Fire Chief for Operations and Administration until his retirement on June 2, 2013.

Chief Keiken has more than 35 years of experience in firefighting and emergency medical services.

Chief Keiken has completed the Executive Fire Officer program from the National Fire Academy and has achieved Chief Fire Officer Designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). He is a graduate of the International Associations Fire Chiefs Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI). He is also a member of the Institute of Fire Engineers. He has a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale and Master of Science in Management from Cardinal Stritch University.

Presentation: Illinois Fire Service Institute Update



Chief James Grady served 40+ years with the Frankfort Fire Protection District. He began his career as a volunteer and was appointed Chief in 1987. In 1990 he was hired as the department's first full-time Chief. In total he served 29 years as Chief of the department.

In 2017 Jim Grady was hired as the Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. He retired from that position in 2023.

Jim has a master's degree in public administration and holds numerous state and national certifications.

He is on staff with the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), several local community colleges and universities. Jim also serves as a Member of the Illinois Firefighters Medal of Honor Committee & Foundation.

Chief Grady served on both the Illinois Fire Chiefs Educational and Research Foundation and Illinois Fire Chiefs Board of Directors. In 1999 he was elected as President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association for the 1999-2000 term. He was named Illinois Fire Chief of the Year in 2003 in the Paid/Combination Department category and in 2016 he was awarded the Fire Chief Emeritus Award.

Jim has been married to Bobbi for 51 years, blessed with 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 **great** grandchildren.

Presentation: What a Difference You Made in My Life

Through your career and life in general, there are people important to you. Do you take the time to reflect and remember those who are important to you, helped you, made a difference in YOUR life! This presentation promises to be interactive and upbeat.

Speakers (continued)

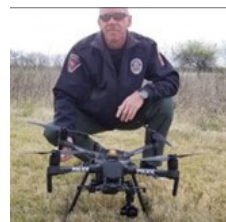


Barry Moore was a UAS (drone) Pilot for the Mansfield Police Department in Texas. Barry was a Police Officer with the City of Mansfield for 24 years and has recently retired with 31 years of police service. Barry is still assisting MPD with their drone program and is a member of the Public Safety UAS response team. (PSURT)

Barry started his Police career as a patrolman and worked in the patrol division for 3 years. Barry joined the SWAT team while in patrol and remained on SWAT for 8 years.

Barry worked undercover in the west sector of Ft. Worth for two years with the Narcotics Task Force and then transferred to Criminal Investigations where he worked for 18 years as a major case Detective. For the last 4 years, Barry has started the first Police UAS Program for the city of Mansfield and was the first full time UAS unit in the state of Texas. Barry has helped with the development of the Public Safety UAS Response Team (PSURT) which now has over 25 cities participating.

Barry graduated from the Texas A&M police academy and currently holds a Master Peace Officer License with the state of Texas. Barry has advanced certifications in Homicide Investigations and Sexual Assault investigations.)



Jack White is a UAS (drone) Pilot for the Mansfield Police Department in Texas. Jack is a Police Officer with the City of Mansfield for 24 years and has 28 years of police service. Jack assist other agencies with their program and is a member of the North Texas Public Safety UAS response team. (NTXPSURT)

Jack started his Police career as a patrolman and has worked, the majority of his career, in the patrol division. While running the full time UAS team with the Mansfield Police Department he assisted Narcotics, SWAT as well as search and rescue missions assisting agencies on the state, local and federal levels. Jack is currently a licensed UAS Part 107 pilot and an instructor pilot with the Regional Training Center and has recently been invited to participate as a Public Safety UAS training consultant with MITRE.

Jack graduated from the Dallas PD police academy and currently holds a Master Peace Officer License with the state of Texas. Jack has extensive training in UAS operations through NTXPSURT.

Presentation: Drones in Public Safety

go over the newest in drone innovation to assist with search and rescue, structure fires, wildland fires and swift water rescue.



Reverend Tim Perry comes to us with a unique Native American background, diverse culture perspectives, education, and experience to provide an effective model of care for over 3000 First Responders.

Tim has had an illustrious 8-year career in the United States Air Force where he earned his bachelor's in Aeronautics from the esteemed Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He has served 24 years in leadership roles for ADP, Motorola, and Zurich Insurance.

At the age of 50, he made a major course correction and obtained his master's degree in divinity and counseling. After 5 years of volunteering as a Chaplain, he then created two vital organizations to serve First Responders and their families: Nationwide Chaplain Services and 10-41 Incorporated.

Both organizations are focused on providing on-scene crisis counsel, mental health & wellness programs, resilience training, and counseling for Police, Fire, Dispatchers, Coroner's, and their families.

He is an approved ILETSB approved instructor and has been published in the IL Chiefs magazine and Dr. Ron Rufo's book "Breaking the Barriers", and recently produced a suicide prevention conference for 300 officers! He is a popular public speaker nationwide on "Effective Crisis Care", "Building Wellness Programs for First Responders", "True Leadership of Life", and "Spiritual Disciplines of Crisis".

He and his wife Laura enjoy their personal time travelling to see grandkids and taking orders from their cats.

Presentation: Living the Resilient Life

Life is being lived out in interesting times. Facing our own reality can present ourselves with layers of stress, anxiety, exhaustion, and depression. We need a new level of understanding for depression, suicide, problems solving, and first responder emotional intelligence. In the Resilient life we will demonstrate science that helps us understand how the brain works during mental health challenges and how it can heal or improve. This will be an interesting experience of learning new methods to an age-old challenge called emotional health.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, January 10, 2025

5:00pm	Registration Opens
5:30-10:00pm	Welcome Reception (Food and Beverage provided)
6:00-7:00pm	Illinois OSHA Fireground Policy, <i>Erik Kabarian</i>
7:00-8:00pm	IAFC/VCOS Update, <i>Al Yancey</i>
8:00-9:00pm	Roundtable Discussion (invited participants OSFM, ILOSHA, IFSI, IFCA/VCOC, IAFC/VCOS)
9:00-10:00pm	Open Floor Discussion

Saturday, January 11, 2025

6:30-8:00am	Breakfast (included with registration)
7:00-8:00am	Registration
8:00-9:30am	Bringing a Knife to a Gunfight, <i>Jason Caughey</i>
9:30-9:45am	Break
9:45-10:30am	Recognition and Remembering, <i>James Grady</i>
10:30-11:30am	Illinois Fire Service Institute Update, <i>Jim Keiken</i>
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch
12:30-2:30pm	Drones in Public Safety, <i>Barry Moore, Jack White</i>
2:30-2:45pm	Break
2:45-3:45pm	Living the Resilient Life, <i>Tim Perry</i>
3:45-4:00pm	Wrap-Up

***The beautiful thing about learning is
nobody can take it away from you.***

B. B. King

***Join Us -
And invite a Neighboring Chief***