



IFSI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2003

From the Director's Desk

Resource issues are a great challenge for the fire service today. IFSI has made resource development a top priority. Our goal remains to provide the highest quality training at the lowest possible cost. As a top priority, we actively seek sponsorship for IFSI courses in the form of grants, tools from manufacturers, and state budget sources. We recognize that tight state and local budgets are challenging all departments and fire service organizations. We are no exception, but we have both pluses and minuses in funding.

IFSI does not receive State General Revenue (GRF) funds and has traditionally depended upon the Fire Prevention Fund (FPF) (a statutory fee on fire insurance premiums) as its only source of state funding. All other funding comes from student fees, grants and gifts. The FPF has experienced a modest increase post-9/11 thus providing the first increase in IFSI state funds since 1994. Due to budget constraints in fiscal year 2004 (that began on 1 July 03), the Cornerstone grant from the OFSM has been cut in half to \$150,000 for FY04. This grant is part of the OFSM training reimbursement program, which has been the source of the Cornerstone grant funds since the

inception of the program in 1999. We are hopeful that some additional funds can be restored mid-year. It is our intention to balance some of this reduction against the modest increase we have received in FPF; however, we cannot absorb the entire amount. Therefore, in FY04 Cornerstone will continue but at a reduced funding level...it is important that you and we maximize these dollars by ensuring that when Cornerstone classes are held they are full.

On the homeland security training front, the State training program has been approved and funded for FY04. We will shortly be publishing a special edition newsletter to outline the training available to you and how to get it. Importantly, the strategy is to develop operations and technician-level HAZMAT and Technical Rescue capabilities within each of the newly designated Illinois Homeland Security Regions as depicted here. The federal grants will provide funding to ensure that every firefighter has access to operations-level HAZMAT instruction and that every region will have the opportunity to receive technician-level HAZMAT and Technical rescue training for teams that have been formed either under MABAS or separate agreement to respond anywhere in the state, if called. Funding to cover some of the overtime costs associated with training statewide deployable teams has also been allocated and will be administered by IEMA. Team membership must be by-name and the team must have a signed agreement with IEMA to qualify for grant-

funded training.

We continue to have significant support from sponsors such as the Illinois Propane Education and Research Council who underwrites the cost of all LP burn training and numerous tool manufacturers. In addition, the University of Illinois continues to provide funding to augment our homeland security efforts, despite severe budget cuts campus-wide.

This fall we will establish a new Development office with a full-time position dedicated to growing donations to underwrite the costs of the development of a new library, provide scholarships and new training props. Part of our plan includes the establishment of an alumni association. If you are interested in joining or helping please give us a call.

Our goal remains to help each Illinois Firefighter do their work through training, education, research and information. We will continue to seek new resources to help us do this.

Thank you,

Richard L. Jaehne
Director



Director
Richard L. Jaehne

Deputy Director
David F. Clark

Assistant Director for
Chicago Metro
John McCastland

The Illinois Fire Service Institute Newsletter is the official publication of the Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The Newsletter is published twice a year and is solely an educational and advisory aid to the fire service and individuals working to establish and maintain a fire safe environment in Illinois.

Opinions expressed in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official opinions of the Illinois Fire Service Institute unless otherwise noted in the article.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute will consider for publication articles or items of interest to the fire service of Illinois and encourages materials from all fire-related professions for consideration.

Persons interested in furnishing articles, should forward materials to:

IFSI Newsletter
11 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820

or E-mail information to Terri Hopper at hopper@uiuc.edu. Please include appropriate graphics or digital photos.

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*2004 Calendar in
your mailboxes by
mid-October*

News & Notes

David F. Clark
Deputy Director

The 79th Annual Fire College was a great success. We had 937 students from throughout Illinois and the United States. Mark your calendar for next year's Fire College which is scheduled for June 3-6, 2004.

This year we piloted on-line registration at Fire College, and we will soon expand it to other classes. Department Chiefs should contact IFSI to secure a pin number for your department's future registrations. We are also trying to work out a mechanism so students can pay for classes via credit card, but this is not ready yet.

For the past several years IFSI has been growing our ability to provide top quality training to all Illinois firefighters through a variety of means. One of the primary mechanisms that enables us to do this is the "Cornerstone Program" which provides training to you at no cost, in most cases right in your local area. Last year this program reached over 2/3 of the fire departments in Illinois. As you know, the state is having some financial difficulty, and belts are tightening. We have a sizeable (50%) cut in the funding coming for "Cornerstone" this year. IFSI will try to make up some of the losses, but the whole problem emphasizes the fact that training is not really "free," somebody has to pay for it. IFSI's resources have always been lim-

ited, so we cannot offset too much even on a one-time basis. (IFSI receives no "tax" money.) We believe "Cornerstone" is a valuable training program, and we need your help to make sure it remains available to you. Also, in order to spend the limited funds wisely, we ask that departments combine together for classes when possible, and ensure that minimum student numbers are met.

The Illinois Propane Education & Research Council (IPERC), the group that funds our live LP fire training, has recently provided us with an LP bobtruck as a prop for our training ground.

The training ground is undergoing several other improvements, also. A major Structural Collapse area with numerous sophisticated props is continuing to develop. We are beginning work on adding ten more sea-land containers to the existing two "Saving Our Own" cans to expand that into a 4-story vertical and confined space rescue facility. This Fall we expect to add a trench rescue prop.

Illinois has been a leader in Homeland Security training even before it was called that. We still have much work to do, and IFSI is striving to help better prepare all first responders, not just firefighters, to work together to handle major emergencies. The Illinois Terrorism Task Force and its Training Committee, which Director Jaehne co-chairs and on which several of us serve, has a comprehensive training work plan. Federal money is helping fund various Homeland Security training, primarily haz mat and technical rescue. The funds will help all first responders receive the same four key courses: Haz Mat Awareness, ERT:BC, Haz Mat Ops, and Clandestine BNICE Lab Awareness. However, a significant portion of this funding is

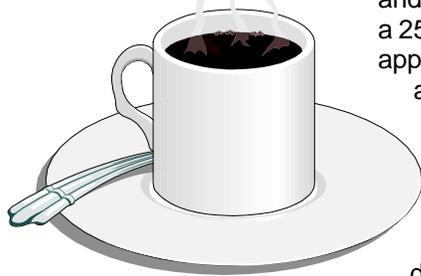
targeted at REGIONAL specialty teams that have signed agreements with IEMA to respond anywhere in the state if requested by IEMA. The money will NOT be used to provide routine training to individual local departments, but rather to build regional and statewide capabilities. The state has been divided into 19 Homeland Security Regions, and the goal is to build regional capabilities in each. Then, through mutual aid, additional resources can be brought in from other regions as needed.

This Fall we will begin delivering the new Unified Command class. This is a multi-discipline one-day class directed not only at firefighters, but to police, EMS, emergency managers, public works, and various governmental and community leaders. It is a step above ICS, and helps the various agencies work together. We hope you will encourage the various agencies in your community to attend together one of these classes.

The Illinois Firefighters' Association recently gave us \$15,000 to fund production and distribution of additional training CDs for every fire department in the state. We are now working on a "Pumping / Engine" CD. Our intent is to build on the original "Down & Dirty Fire Fighting Skills" CDs that were provided to your department at no cost last year, and to produce two to three CDs every year.

Top quality training by the best instructors in the state is only a phone call to IFSI away from you. More than 3/4 of the fire departments in the state took advantage of this last year. I encourage you to join them. You can request a class, or check the county map on our web site to find classes near by.

Table Talk



The Structural Collapse Programs at the Institute are growing and expanding. We offer classes in Structural Collapse at both the Operations and Technician level. The operations level deals with light-weight metal and frame construction while the Technician level is heavy-weight, concrete and steel. At our Champaign location, the Structural Collapse area has grown out of what was once the pallet storage area and LP burn area, which was moved due to community growth. In 2000, a decision was made to develop a structural collapse program for the Illinois Fire Service.

It took close to a year to secure funding to build a prop and run a pilot course. The construction of our simulated four story collapse building was started on 10 September 01. Our first class was offered in October of that year, and, because of conditions at that time, was front page news on the Wall Street Journal. National ABC News, sent crews to IFSI to use this program as a foundation for the training that Firefighters are receiving, in dealing with the threat of destructive acts against their communities.

The first offering was a combination of both light and heavy

construction, with very limited tools, equipment and props. The Instructor group that gave birth to this class was full of ideas of what was needed to build this program. With each offering, the skill stations became more challenging and complex. What started life as a 25 foot debris pile has grown to approximately 2500 square feet and 15 feet high, with close to 100 feet of tunnel, that has to be mastered as part of the five day program. Extensive props have been developed to expose the student to realistic situations, requiring the use of a wide variety of power and hand tools.

The Technician level class being offered at IFSI, is the most challenging and comprehensive program, of this type, being offered in the Midwest.

The "heavy" debris pile is roughly 1200 square feet of concrete and steel — big pieces — very big pieces of concrete and steel. Both classes will kick your butt, although the Operations level is a little more user friendly. When you and six of your most recent best buddies bond with 80 ton pieces of concrete for 10 hours - you're whipped!! We bring in cranes for two days for the Technician Level class — once to learn proper rigging and once for the final practical.

Each of these classes is listed as a five day program — not 40 hours. The days are long, but satisfying. Students spend one day in the classroom with the Structural Engineers learning about how buildings go together, and also come apart. The rest of the time is out in the "POUND" (where the "dogs" run), getting down and dirty. A major part of these programs is the team building that takes place during the week. None of the skill-based evolutions can be accomplished without each group coming together as a team, sorting out each member's

strengths and weaknesses, to accomplish the task at hand.

Firefighters from across the state have been through the programs at IFSI, and if you ask them, they will tell you both classes are workhorses. And that is exactly the way the program was built, and the way it will stay. Each offering becomes more challenging, so I guess what I'm saying is "if you want to skate, don't come to the "POUND".

Both levels of Collapse are part of the core group of knowledge and skills required of the members of the recognized TRT teams in the statewide response plan. The others are Vertical, Trench, and Confined Space Rescue. Grant monies have been provided to allow for tuition waivers for the identified TECHNICIAN level programs offered through the State Training Academy—the Illinois Fire Service Institute. The waiver option is afforded to rostered members of the teams that have committed to statewide response, and are linked to IEMA with a signed Memorandum of Understanding.

If you have any questions about the programs offered at IFSI, feel free to give me a call at 815-834-9201 or Email at jmcastl@uiuc.edu. Also give me a call if you are looking to have IFSI deliver a program at your facility.

The Collapse programs are not road shows, at this time, but we've been doing a lot of 3- to 24-hour customized classes at local fire departments.

***Give me a call, put the coffee pot on. And we'll talk.
Stay safe.***

**"Mac" McCastland
Assistant Director for
Chicago Metro Region**

Academy Q & A

Brian Brauer, Fire Fighting Program Director

This issue, I'd like to answer some of the most common questions about the IFSI Certified Firefighter II Academy ("Academy").

Q I'm on a volunteer department, is Academy appropriate for me?

A Our program is available to any firefighter, regardless of the type of department. From my personal experience, I can attest to the value of having a few members that have gone through Academy on a volunteer department. When I first joined a volunteer department, it was the firefighters that had been through Academy that were the most confident and competent on the fireground, and could offer solid, rational explanations for their actions. It was these same persons that were best able to share their knowledge with others, and were a resource for the rest of the department in the fire station or on the fireground.

Q How long is the IFSI program?

A The IFSI Academy runs for six weeks. Spring Academy begins in early March, and the Fall Academy in early September. The programs exceed the certification requirements for Illinois Certified Firefighter II, including Technical Rescue Awareness and Hazardous

Materials Awareness. The program runs for 330 hours.

A We began the Fall Academy on September 8, 2003. The next program will begin on March 7, 2004, and graduate on April 16, 2004.

Q I have seen other programs that offer additional certifications, such as Fire Apparatus Engineer and Hazardous Materials- Operations in the same six weeks. Why doesn't your program offer these additional classes?

A At the IFSI Academy, our goals are different than other programs. Our first goal is to train a firefighter who will be able to function safely, efficiently, and professionally on the fireground. Certification at the Firefighter II Level is our second priority.

A To reach these goals, we offer more practice on core skills such as hose movement, ladder work, and SCBA skills. This increased repetition leads to better mastery of the skills. (Remember, it takes at least 200 repetitions of a skill before it becomes automatic, and then regular practice to maintain mastery). Once the students are proficient in fireground skills outside of a fire situation, our program practices the skills required for certification in smoke and heat. Finally, we practice the skills in smoke and heat as part of a complete fireground evolution. With this model, a new firefighter is not merely "checked off" on a skill once it has been completed once, but rather drilled on critical fireground skills until performing them is second

nature. With this level of mastery of skills like hose movement and laddering, the new firefighter can focus more on their safety and victim locations in a fire, instead of trying to remember how to stretch a line or how to carry a ladder.

A IFSI does offer a five-week package of EMT-Basic, Hazardous Materials-Operations, and Vehicle-Machinery Operations in a sequence following the Academy. This can be taken as one 11-week program for a new hire with no background in the fire service, or can be split into the six-week academy followed the following semester by the remaining five weeks of classes.

Q Where do I stay during Academy?

A Our program is non-resident, and most students lodge in hotels for the duration of the program. Academy students are also eligible to stay at a local dormitory or at a local apartment complex that offer short-term leases at much lower rates than hotels. IFSI does not provide lodging or meals.

Q What is the cost?

A The program cost is \$2,000 per firefighter. Discounts are available for multiple firefighters from the same department. Two partial scholarships are available through the Illinois Fire Chief's Association.

Q How can I get more information?

A Contact Brian Brauer at brbrauer@staff.uiuc.edu

IFSI Library Updates & Highlights

Lian Ruan, Head Librarian

New Library Specialist Being Added to IFSI Library Team

Lynelle Looker has joined the IFSI Library team and will assist in day-to-day activities.

New Library Resources

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the National Institutes of Health provide two consumer health information resources. You can view updates at <http://ClinicalTrials.gov> for federally and privately supported clinical research in human volunteers. Extensive information on over 600 diseases is available at <http://MEDLINEplus.gov>. The site also includes lists of hospitals and physicians, a medical encyclopedia and much more.

The NLM also provides access via the internet to a database of articles from professional level periodicals, called PubMed. We have added access to PubMed on the IFSI Library's website, under the "National Library of Medicine" link, or you can go to <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/>.

This database could be a useful information resource for EMS personnel. To learn more about how to use PubMed, please contact the IFSI Library.

Grant Projects

Lian and Professor Linda Smith, Interim Dean of GSLIS received the 2003 Special Libraries Association Steven I. Goldspiel Memorial Research Grant award of \$20,000, titled "A Survey to Support 'Evidence-

Based Practice' in Special Libraries Serving Fire Service Personnel and Researchers in Public Safety and Homeland Security Areas." Seven fire libraries across the nation will participate in the study over the next 18 months.



Pauline Atherton Cochrane IFSI Library Advisor

**By Lian Ruan,
IFSI Head Librarian**

It is my great honor to introduce Professor Pauline Atherton Cochrane to you. She has been a great driving force behind the development of the IFSI Library and my professional growth. I met Pauline in 1999 after receiving my very first grant award from the Illinois State Library. She helped evaluate the library's subject terms. The idea of FireTalk, IFSI Thesaurus was born and since then I have received more grant awards to support the expansion of the thesaurus.

Pauline and I clicked the moment we met. Her energy, wit, and high standards for excellence always impresses and inspires me. Each time we talk, I get a new idea to think about. She has been my guiding light, mentor, friend, and professor.

Professor Cochrane is "Professor Emerita" at both Syracuse University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). She has been a teacher, researcher, consultant, writer, and critic of

subject access techniques in indexes, library catalogs, and other retrieval systems for almost fifty years. She received her Masters Degree in Library Science from Rosary College (now Dominican University) in 1954. Some of her writings on these subjects have been gathered in a 1985 book titled *Redesign of Catalogs and Indexes for Improved Online Subject Access*.

Upon reflection she is proudest of her indexing of the *World Book Encyclopedia* during its major revision in 1960.



New Director of Development

The Illinois Fire Service Institute welcomes Jeffrey Courson as Director of Development. Jeff will be responsible for identifying opportunities for potential funding sources. Initial Institute goals are to create an Alumni Association and to create a capital development campaign for the Institute's planned library expansion. He assumes his new duties in early October.

Jeff has been the Mayor and President of the Village of Mahomet since 1997, having served as a board member two years prior to 1997. As Mayor he has been responsible for the village's budget and has been instrumental in securing funds for public improvements and building renovations. He also serves as President of WebMakers, Inc. of Mahomet, a web site development

company. Prior to 1997, Jeff was with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL).



***We're closer
than you think.***

***Every Illinois
firefighter is
within 50 miles
of one of the
more than 300
IFSI Field Staff
Instructors.***

New Rescue Program Director

William (Bill) Renaker has joined the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the University of Illinois as Rescue Program Director. In his new position, Bill will be responsible for developing, implementing and coordinating programs for rope rescue, vertical rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, farm and grain bin rescue and water rescue.

Bill has been a field staff instructor for the Institute since 1986 and has worked in fire service for 35 years. He has developed curricula and instructed in vertical rescue, confined space and trench and grain bin rescue

for the Institute. Bill has also served on committees for the National Fire Protection Association and the Illinois Office of State Fire Marshal.

Bill retired from Grant Community High School in Fox Lake as a science and photography teacher. He continues to serve on the Fox Lake Fire Department and has held several positions with the department, including Chaplain, Deputy Chief, Safety Officer, and Training Officer. Bill also serves as Chaplain for the Fox Lake Police Department.



Grant Funded Hazardous Materials and Terrorism Training

Nancy Mason
Hazardous Materials and
Terrorism Training Program
Director

The Illinois Fire Service Institute's (IFSI) goal is to provide every firefighter in Illinois with the best training available. IFSI has worked to ensure that the highest quality training reaches the maximum number of firefighters. A plan was established in 2000 to share costs, expand the number of courses, and reach more firefighters. This plan involves the use of regional training centers and State Instructors to provide expanded delivery of hazardous materials and terrorism training.

For the plan to be successful and in order to provide for a more consistent delivery mechanism for local training, IFSI has entered into agreements with Fire Departments that have agreed to serve as local regional training sites.

IFSI provides training to qualify instructors to be certified as State Instructors. These individuals then deliver State curriculum and provide departments with resources to deliver their own training, with the support of IFSI.

IFSI will continue to provide direct delivery programs to the Fire Service, but now with regional training centers and the State Instructor program, departments have the option of certifying their own instructional staff to take advantage of grant-funded curriculum. Departments will be able to train personnel at convenient times. The Program also allows training to reach a wider audience with the interagency

certification for other first responders such as law enforcement and emergency medical services.

To satisfy grant requirements, classes taught by State instructors are reported along with the direct delivery programs, giving the State a clear picture of the extent of hazardous materials and terrorism training.

Regional Training Sites

Twenty three Hazardous Materials and Terrorism Regional Training Centers have been established throughout Illinois. These Centers serve as a communication link to the delivery of IFSI hazardous materials and terrorism training on a regional basis. Each site contains instructional and student handout kits that can be reserved for use by State Instructors. The kits, developed with Federal Grants include:

Hazardous Materials Awareness
Hazardous Materials Operations
(January of 04)

Hazardous Materials Incident
Management (January of 04)
Emergency Response to
Terrorism: Basic Concepts.

State Instructors

Federal standards adopted within Illinois require individuals to meet certain criteria before being certified as State Instructors, including attending a train-the-trainer session and demonstrating teaching experience. Once certified, the State Instructor has access to materials distributed by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), Il-

linois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board or the Illinois Fire Service Institute. They send their class information to the authorizing agency and certificates are issued to their students. IFSI is the authorizing agency for the Fire Service.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal certified instructors can become State Instructors by attending the Train-the-Trainer and showing proof of Instructor I or comparable training. Locations and dates for the Train-the-Trainer classes are available on the IFSI web site.

Direct Delivery of Classes by IFSI

In the past, the criteria for departments to host classes was based upon regional need, the number of students enrolled and the timeliness of the training. However, unless students were drawn from neighboring departments, classes often times were cancelled because of low enrollment.

To avoid this in the future, IFSI has developed policies for training to ensure that training dollars are used effectively and to maximize the use of grant funds:

The department must submit a request for training form (available on IFSI's web site).

The class must be approved and a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed by the department.

continued on the next page

Grant-Funded Hazardous Materials and Terrorism Training

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The MOA spells out the requirements for hosting a class and the department must agree to meet the requirements.

All students must pre-register for courses with Cheryl Long at IFSI.

Unless otherwise authorized, the minimum number of students is 25. If 25 students are not registered within six weeks of the start of the class, the department will be contacted. If 25 students are not registered four weeks prior to class start, the class will be canceled.

Training at Regional Centers include:
Hazardous Materials Awareness,
Incident Command, Operations
Technician A and B and Branch Officer
Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts
State Instructor Train-the-Trainers

IFSI can assure that regional training is available. If you feel your department can serve as a regional training center, please contact Nancy Mason at 217-244-5108 or by email at nnmason@uiuc.edu.

Contract classes are also available. An Operations level trailer has been secured with Homeland Security funds to be used for practicals for the Hazardous Materials Operations course. All contract classes must be arranged using the standard IFSI registration form. Contact Nancy Mason for details.

IFSI Role in State Training

Federal Homeland Security grants provide the current funds for hazardous materials and terrorism training within our State. The State Terrorism Task Force established a plan for the distribution of those funds with IFSI as one of the agencies receiving funds to schedule and deliver classes. First priority is given to those communities that have cooperative agreements with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and/or signed State contracts as State Assets in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) events. Second Priority is for regional training sites and third priority is for departments that cannot be served by regional training sites.

If you have questions about the program, call Program Director, Nancy Mason at (217) 244-5108 or visit our website at www.fsi.uiuc.edu.

Coming Your Way

**Watch your mailboxes
for a special Homeland
Security Training
Newsletter
*and learn what training
is available to you and
your department.***

**The 2004 Calendar
will be mailed in
mid-October, giving
you plenty of time to
plan your training for
next year.**

**Engine/Pump Opera-
tions CD to be released
in January 2004.**

**2004 Dates for IAFFD
Trustee Training
Sessions**

**February 21
Spring Bay
February 28
Collinsville
March 6
Byron
March 13
Effingham**

“Risk Watch” Comes to IFSI

Eddie Bain, Fire Investigation Program Director

In May of this year IFSI received verification that we would receive a \$35,000 Fire Prevention Fire Act Grant for the “Risk Watch Project.” The grant comes through an application that was submitted to FEMA in the Fall of 2002 and runs from June 2003 through May 2004.

The IFSI “Risk Watch Project” grant was awarded through FEMA for “very innovative fire prevention initiatives.” The grant will be used to purchase and place “Risk Watch” curriculum in several locations throughout the State. IFSI Library staff plan to support the effort by cataloging, distributing and monitoring use of the material through the state library system. The project will also include sponsored workshop training activities for the areas that will be using the material. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is active in “Risk Watch” participation and we plan to work closely with them.

Unintentional injury is the number one health risk for school-age kids today. To help them beat these odds, the National Fire Protection Association teamed up with the Home Safety Council to create “Risk Watch.” The lessons focus on eight areas in which many children are killed or injured each year - motor vehicle incidents; fires and burns; choking, suffocation and strangulation; poisoning; firearms injury; bike and pedestrian hazards; falls; and water hazards. The curriculum is designed to be utilized by school teachers and easily integrates into regular classroom subjects. The material can also be used by fire, police and public service staff as they deliver public education programs through their agencies.

The new edition of the curriculum also includes sections to teach children and families how to recognize, plan for, and respond to a variety of natural disasters.

The new activities combine education and imagination to help students acquire practical life-saving skills relating to general preparedness for earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires and severe winter storms.

IFSI staff looks forward to bringing additional “Risk Watch” educational programs to Illinois, to working with the OSFM and other public service agencies and to help make Illinois a safer place to live and work.

Networking: A key to success

Bill Farnum

When we are born, we are totally dependent on others for every aspect of our lives. We need an adult to feed, bathe, clothe, and protect us. As we grow we will learn enough of the way this world works to defend ourselves and advance our own cause. Eventually, most of us will become independent. While we enjoy the company of others, we can fend for ourselves, entertain ourselves, and function without the help of other people. The American way of life is characterized by fierce independence. Quite often, in world affairs, we

must, and are quite capable of, protecting that way of life alone. Living in the 21st Century may require a step beyond independence toward interdependence. We, as emergency responders, are becoming more aware of the need to operate across disciplines. We can no longer afford to live in isolation.

Those lessons can be a key to success in your Fire Service career. When we build a network of associates, whose viewpoint we trust, we have at our disposal a wealth of knowledge to draw from. We will be able to season our ideas with the knowledge of a group of people who have the same values and goals. The whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts. It has been written “in the counsel of many, is wisdom.”

Build a network of firefighters and officers you trust. Keep in touch, and use them as a sounding board for new ideas and decisions you make. Get the names of folks you attend class with and add the ones who “make the grade” to your list. Another good way to build your list is to visit the web chats the Institute hosts. The schedule is located at this link:

http://www.fsi.uiuc.edu/virtual_campus/guest_chat/guest_chats.cfm

Log on to the next one and listen to the speakers. Pick their brain and add some of your own knowledge for the good of others.

Remember, in the counsel of many, is wisdom.

Web Based Training

Rich Valenta

In an effort to provide all firefighters better access to training, IFSI is moving forward with the development of several projects that will provide computer or web access.

With the success of the Down and Dirty Firefighting Training Package CD-ROM, The Illinois Firefighter's Association has agreed to partner with IFSI to produce a series of CDs that will build upon the recently produced training package. Engine/Pump Operations is in the development stage, with plans for a January rollout. This CD will be followed by two future CDs, one covering Fire Attack Techniques, and a second on Aerial Device operations. The strong support of the Illinois Firefighter's Association with the

long-standing goal in providing training to the firefighters in the state of Illinois is making these CDs possible.

IFSI has just completed the process of laying the infrastructure for the delivery and development of Web Based Training Programs. With the support of the Director and Deputy Director, the Systems Service Department along with the Web Based Training Team now produce and deliver all programs in-house. This will streamline the development process and allow IFSI to provide more choices for web related training.

The Web Based Training Team is in the process of developing the following courses. Please visit the IFSI website

www.fsi.uiuc.edu for information when these programs will be available.

- Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts
- Auto Extrication (Transition Course)
- Technical Rescue Awareness

Director Jaehne recently met with the Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding Online Testing. Testing for Hazardous Materials Awareness is in the development stages. This will allow individuals who have completed the Haz-Mat Awareness Online Course to take their final test online. Many technical and security issues are yet to be worked out, but the process is moving along. This service should be available soon.

Training Chats -- Ask the Expert

Sometimes the answers just can't be found in a textbook. That's why IFSI is offering this unique learning opportunity called *Ask the Expert*. Fellow firefighters, rescue personnel, instructors, and industry professionals join in a group chat tailored around a topic specific to the emergency services. Find out how to solve a problem, find a piece of equipment or learn more about a hands on approach to the hot topics of today.

All you have to do is check the schedule on the IFSI web page and join in the chat. Remember, the worst question is the the one never asked. This is your opportunity to ask and learn.

Visit the IFSI Virtual campus for Chat login information, or contact Rich Valenta at rvalenta@uiuc.edu / 847-659-5297

2003 CHAT SCHEDULE		
September	William "Buck" Manley	Thermal Imaging
October	Ray Palczynski	Hazardous Materials
November	Jack Rutledge	Single Family Fire Attack
December	Stephen Wilcox	Incident Command

Log on to participate in upcoming web chats

www.fsi.uiuc.edu/virtual_campus/guest_chat/guest_chats.cfm

Bugs Aren't All Bad

Jack Rutledge

Some people hate bugs. Small hairy things. Too many legs, too many wings and too much trouble. Well, not all bugs are bad. There are bugs that can help the firefighter, especially the pump operator. Next time you're operating a pumper and you get a real ripper, you'll no doubt need all the help you can get. Problems seem to have a way of compounding under severe conditions and we have to rely on proven shortcuts to help solve those problems. A bug, might come in handy. Let me explain.

"Settings Bugs" is an expression sometimes used by airline pilots when marking airspeeds. A "bug" is a small device located on the outer edge of the airspeed indicator which is moved or slid

around the gauge to mark different speeds. We can use the same concept on our pump pressure gauges to help us quickly identify the pressure we need to set.

Most fire engines have one or more hose lines pre-connected for a fast attack. Nozzles are preset to the desired flow, hose length is fixed and elevation changes are negligible. Why not just pre-calculate the length, diameter and flow before the fire, and mark the desired engine pressure setting? In other words, set a permanent "bug" on your pressure gauge to note the correct pressure.

After you perform and test your calculations, you're ready to mark the gauge. One simple way

is to print the desired pressure and post it next to the corresponding gauge. (Example #1)

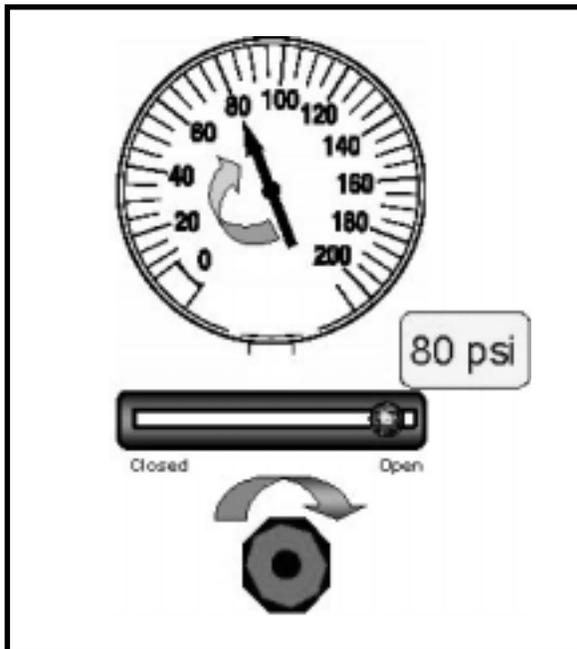
Another method is to cut and apply your customized "Bug" on the glass face of the appropriate gauge using 1/8th in. hobby or electrical tape. (Example #2)

You might want to standardize your pump panel depending on how many pre-connects your department uses. Here is a quick comparison of pump panels using two pre-connects. (See Example #3)

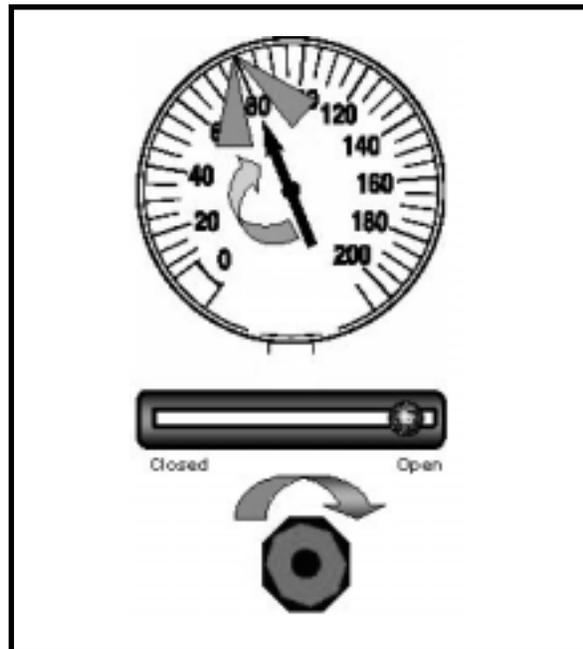
Cautions and Considerations

Remember, labels and "bugs" are going on the outside of the fire apparatus. They'll be ex-

continued on next page



Example #1 - Paste the pressure next to the appropriate pre-connect gauge.



Example #2 - Make "Bugs" from hobby or electrical tape.

Bugs Aren't All Bad

continued from previous page

posed to wind, precipitation and sunlight. They need to be inspected often to see that they remain legible. Here are some other considerations.

Ensure the glass in gauge is secure and doesn't revolve when using bugs

Contrast BUG color against background color on gauge or panel

Ultraviolet light (sunlight) can fade colors fast - inspect often

Make numbers readable in dark

Use large letters for labels

Color code labels and bugs when possible

Bugs and Multiple Line Fires

You'll find the bugs particularly handy the next time you have to pump multiple lines for several hours. Instead of having to read labels then check the gauge, a simple glance at the gauge tells you if your pressure has changed.

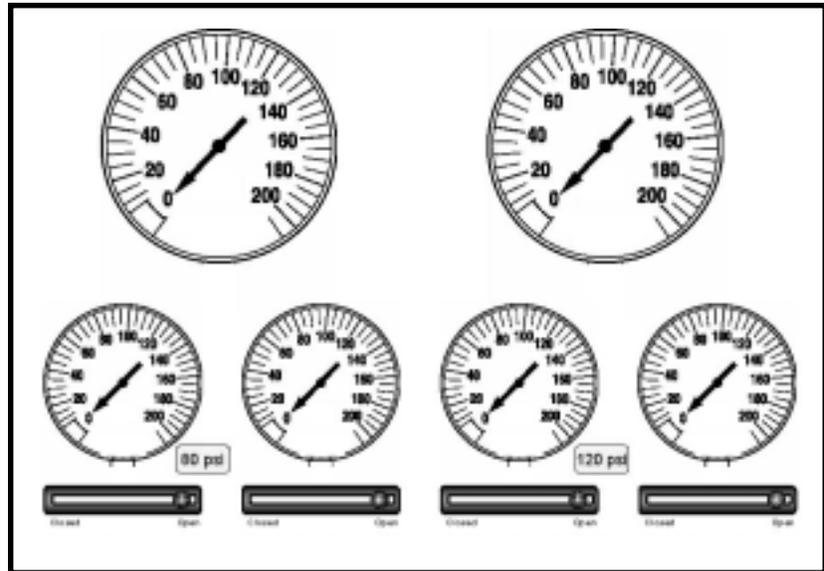
One Last Hint

When all else fails, keep an ordinary grease pencil handy. Make a mark where all your gauges are supposed to be and you won't get confused. Exhaustion and fatigue can lead to mistakes at those big fires, so you'll want all the help you can get to prevent accidents. Try using some labels or bugs. They aren't all bad you know. Good luck, and if you have any additional suggestions, I'd like to hear from you.

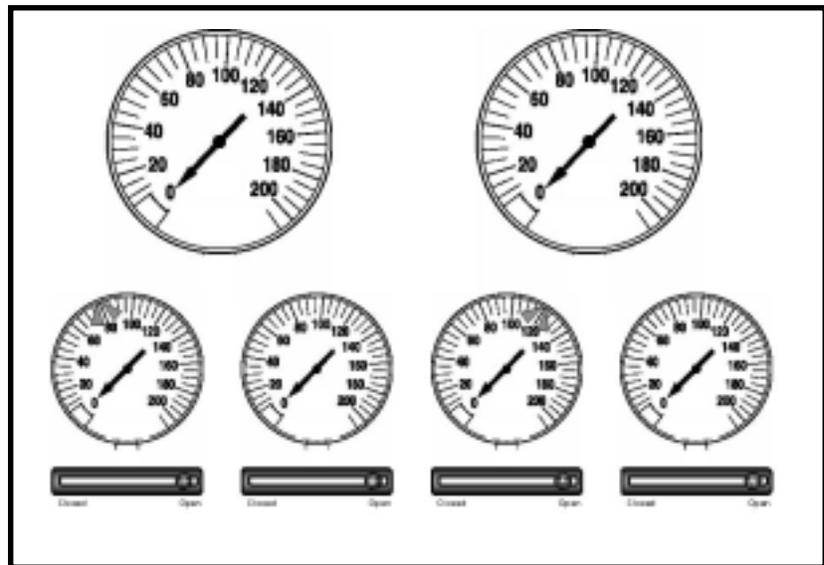
Thanks
J.R.

jackrutledge@mindspring.com

LABELS



BUGS



Example #3 - Comparison panels, labels and bugs.

Field Staff are welcomed to submit articles for the IFSI newsletter. Deadline for next issue: February 1, 2004.

EMS Update

Are our hospitals prepared?

Cathey Eide
EMS Training Coordinator

In 2000, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) conducted statewide hospital and health department bioterrorism preparedness and readiness surveys. These surveys showed that hospitals and health departments have a need to improve communication systems, educate staff, establish effective surveillance systems, and develop protocols to respond to bioterrorism. In addition to bioterrorism readiness the department of Health (HRSA) has determined that hospitals need to improve response capabilities to other natural disasters as well.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute is presenting courses designed to meet the OSHA 1910.120 requirements for hazmat awareness and operations in order to help bring hospitals to a state of readiness and to better serve our communities.

Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS) **8 hours**

Confusion and chaos are commonly experienced by the hospital at the onset of a medical disaster. However, these negative effects can be minimized if management responds quickly with structure and a focused direction of activities. The Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS) is an emergency management system which employs a logical management structure, defined responsibilities, clear reporting channels,

and a common nomenclature to help unify hospitals with other emergency responders. There are clear advantages to all hospitals using this particular emergency management system.

The HEICS is a standard by which the medical community has found success and common ground in the area of disaster management. Designed primarily for hospital administrators, directors and managers, our course will train participants in basic Incident Command System (ICS) structure, terminology and function. We will then utilize table-top exercises and templates to prepare participants to incorporate pre-existing plans into a HEICS. From there participants will be able to finalize their own "customized" HEICS.

After successful completion of the course participants will have the added benefit of free HEICS consultation from our many ICS experts.

Hospitals completing our course will also have an option to purchase a customized two-hour training course can be provided via online or video format for a minimal additional fee. This two-hour customized HEICS video/online program could then be utilized for completion of total "in-house" awareness training.

Hospital Response to Terrorism (HRT) 24 Hours

This course is designed to prepare pre-hospital and hospital personnel to respond within the hospital infrastructure in the case of a Terrorist or Hazardous Materials incident. Emphasis is placed

on hospital specific terrorist activities especially, "bio-terrorism."

Part one (12 hours) of the course will be a modified version of the National Fire Academy (NFA) basic concepts course, Emergency Response to Terrorism: Tactical Consideration-EMS with expanded curriculum on biological terrorism and medical interventions. Our interactive simulator manikin is used to practice the treatment of chemical agent casualties.

Part two (12 hours) of the course consists of table-top and practical exercises for hospital risk and vulnerability analysis, chemical protective clothing awareness and basic decontamination skills. The students will be trained to set-up and perform basic decontamination skills in "level C" CCP. Meeting OSHA, DOL, JACHO standards students successfully completing this course will receive certification from IDPH, IEMA, ISFI and NFA.

Hazardous Materials EMS Operations 24 Hours

Pre-requisites:

Hazardous Materials Awareness (available through IFSI online training), and SCBA orientation (Must include fit test and MD approval)

This course is a 24-hour operational level course with emphasis on recognition, decontamination, triage and field treatment of hazardous materials. Students will be trained to perform a variety of skills, including airway management and administration of antidotes while working in "level B" CCP. Our interactive simulator manikin is used to practice the treatment of chemical agent casualties. Meeting OSHA, DOL,

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and DOT curriculum requirements students successfully completing this program will receive IEMA and IFSI certification and 24 hours continuing education credits approved through IDPH. The course mirrors the 40 hours operations and all lectures and practical evolutions are transferable to anyone choosing to articulate to the 40-hour course for OSFM certification.

*If your department or hospital needs assistance in meeting this requirement e-mail ceide@uiuc.edu.

Advanced HAZMAT Life Support (AHLS) 16 hours

The Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS) Provider program is a 16 hour, two-day course which trains the participant to:

- * Demonstrate rapid assessment of hazmat patients
- * Recognize toxic syndromes (toxidromes)

- * Demonstrate ability to medically manage hazmat patients
- * Apply the poisoning treatment paradigm
- * Identify and administer specific antidotes

Coming Soon to Illinois!

Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support (BDLS-ADLS)

These courses developed by the American Medical Association (AMA) in cooperation with the Center for Disease Control will be available soon through IFSI in cooperation with your Regional POD hospital.

BDLS is a one-day didactic program designed to teach the core concepts of disaster management. Including triage, incident command, Chemical-Biological-Nuclear-incident management, technology integration, patient decon and more. Certification is provided and meets OSHA CFR 1910.120 requirements for Hazardous Materials awareness.

ADLS is an intensive two day 16 hour session that includes "hands-on" practical application of the concepts learned in BDLS (BDLS is a pre-requisite for the ADLS course). Focused on the development of "hands on" skills, triage, incident command, patient decon and antidote administration are some of the skills that the provider will practice. Interactive simulator manikins will be used to practice the treatment of chemical agent casualties. This course meets OSHA CFR 1910.120 requirements for HAZMAT Operations for hospital providers.

We are anticipating a November/December date for these courses. Due to the high demand for these courses, departments interested in sending participants to these programs should e-mail ceide@uiuc.edu with your request, department or hospital name and the number of participants expected.

2004 Weekend Fire Officer Classes

Many of you have requested weekend fire officer classes. We will start the Fire Officer I series

of classes during 2004. They will be held on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(10 hour days). Fill out your IFSI registration request forms and mail them to Terri Hopper.

Class	Dates	Location
Tactics I	February 28, 29, March 6, 7	IFSI
Instructor I	March 20, 21, 27, 28	IFSI
Management I	April 3, 4, 17, 18	IFSI
Instructor I	January 24, 25, 31, February 1	SIC/Harrisburg
Tactics I	August 21, 22, 28, 29	SIC/Harrisburg

Email any questions you have to Dan Hite at hite@uiuc.edu

Newer Cars on Campus

Duane Bales

Auto Extrication Coordinator and Metro East Representative

During the recent Summer months, the Illinois Fire Service Institute has received nineteen donated newer vehicles - sixteen from DaimlerChrysler and three from Mitsubishi. With the newer vehicles, students will train on cars that they will actually encounter on the highways -- not just old cars from the salvage yard. And with these cars, we will be able to examine the hazards that we could encounter during an extrication process. Extrication techniques have changed over recent years. The techniques we were taught five to ten years ago can now get us in trouble or cause injuries if we use some of those older procedures on the newer cars on the road.

What's changing out there?

1. There are many more air bags in today's vehicles with additional ones being added yearly. The way we cut into "posts" is changing because of head protection curtains. We have to ask: where are the cylinders located? Just where and how many air bags are in the an individual vehicle?

2. The pretensioners in the "B" posts can do harm to individuals or equipment if we cut the "B" post and use the same techniques as we have in the past. We now recommend cutting high on the "B" post so that we don't cut into a pretensioner that may be located in the lower portion of the post.

3. Manufacturers are starting to put in security glass in some vehicles. If it doesn't break, you may have to remove the glass with spreaders.

4. The type of materials being used in the construction of vehicles is changing. Your current rescue tool may not work on a particular area of the vehicle, even when the tool is newer or older. Prepare for Plan B.

5. Hybrid vehicles are becoming more and more popular. What are the precautions we need to take as we deal with these vehicles?

These issues and many others are addressed in our Vehicle/Machinery Operations 40-hour class and in the 16-hour Transition class. Check the IFSI web site for dates of classes.

If I can be of help in 8, 16 or 40-hour classes at your site or at IFSI's Champaign campus, please contact me on my cell phone at 618-920-5901.



Special Thanks

Students at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute (ISFI) benefit greatly from the many in-kind donations of hardware and services. As state budgets shrink, IFSI is grateful for the support we

receive from manufacturers, distributors, organizations and individuals in providing funding, equipment and time to provide the finest fire service training.

Our most recent supporters:

GSI Group, for grain bin panels
Elkhart Brass

Daimler Chrysler
Mitsubishi Motors

Tyco/Scott Health & Safety

Our long-standing supporters

5 Alarm Fire & Safety Equipment
Airshore International
Ajax Rescue Tools
Alexis Fire Equipment
Amkus
Associated Firefighters of Illinois
Birkey's Farm Store
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BP Amoco
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Federal EPA
Franzen Construction
Gateway Rescue Equipment
Genesis American
GlasMaster

Grand Prairie Co-op
Hale Pumps
Holmatro
Hurst Rescue Equipment
Illini Contractors
Illini Emergency Medical Services
Illinois Association of Arson Investigators
Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts
Illinois Concrete Company, Inc.
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
Illinois Fire Inspectors Association
Illinois Fire Services Alliance
Illinois Firefighter's Association
Illinois Professional Firefighters Association
Illinois Propane Education and Research Council
Illinois Propane Gas Association
Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors
Illinois State Police
Industrial Scientific Corporation
Marathon Refinery
Medtronic Physio Control
Miller Construction

Milwaukee Tools
Motorola
MSA Breathing Systems
National Fire Academy
Office of the State Fire Marshal
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Parkland College
Power Hawk Rescue
RESCOM Sales Inc.
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State Farm Insurance
Tasco Woodrider Refinery
TNT Rescue Equipment
Transport Towing
Turtle Plastics
Union Pacific Railroad
University of Illinois
University of Illinois Extension/Continuing Education Agricultural Safety
University of Illinois Veterinarian Med. Research Farms

IFSI Reaches the Public at the State Fair

The public had a chance to learn about the specialized training that firefighters receive through the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI). Staff and volunteers showcased some of the training at this August's Illinois State Fair in Springfield and in the

southern part of Illinois at the Duquoin State Fair. IFSI participated in the Illinois Fire Service Association's tent next to the Fire Museum on the Springfield fairgrounds.

Representative Don Moffitt of Galesburg and Michael Smith of

Canton were honored for their efforts to establish a Fire Caucus in Illinois. Dan Rutherford of Pontiac and Larry Walsh of Joliet were elected to serve as co-chairs of the Fire Caucus on the Sentate side. This last year, ten bills were passed that favor the Fire Service.

*(at left) Duane Bales, IFSI program coordinator for Auto Ex-
trication explains the value of
this training for firefighters
then demonstrates a tech-
nique, using the "jaws of life."*

*(below) Joe Drennan, field
staff instructor from Chicago
assists Duane during the auto
extrication demonstration.
The demonstration was con-
ducted on four days during the
Fair.*



*(at right) IFSI Direc-
tor, Dick Jaehne
recognizes Illinois
Representative
Donald Moffit
(middle) of
Galesburg and
Michael Smith (right)
of Canton for their
efforts in forming a
Fire Caucus in
Illinois.*



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Galesburg Fire School Breaks Enrollment Records

The Galesburg Regional Fire School, hosted by the Illinois Fire Service Institute, Galesburg Fire Department, Western Illinois Firefighters Association and Alexis Fire Equipment, drew more participants this past August than any other Regional Fire School. Classes were provided at no charge through the "Cornerstone Program" to 179 firefighters, who came from as far away as South Beloit, IL to attend the School.

Ten classes were offered ranging from Basic Auto Extrication to Fire Scene Officer. The Galesburg Regional Training Center features a 2-story smoke building, roof simulator and a "Saving Our Own" prop.

Visit IFSI's web site to learn about more upcoming Regional Fire Schools.

www.fsi.uiuc



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