

IFSI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

From the Director's Desk

In the last newsletter, I told you about several exciting new projects we were undertaking. Here is an update on them:

Following up on the National Fire Explorer Conference we held last summer, we will again be hosting a statewide Explorer - Cadet "Hands On Training" Fire School 26-29 June 08. See "Fish Stories" inside for more details. We look forward to having Explorers and Cadets from throughout Illinois train with Explorers and Cadets from across the nation and even Canada.

I told you about the research grant we received from the US Department of Homeland Security that would allow our Firefighter Life Safety research team to build upon decades of heat stress research. With your extraordinary support, we completed testing of 123 firefighters in November and are working on the results now. The DHS review of the effort was very positive and we hope to be able to get the results in your hands later this year. Further, we hope to receive continuing grant funding that will permit us to continue the research next year.

The new design effort for the new Learning Resource and Research Center is well under way. Hopefully, we will be able to show you the design by Fire College 2008 and begin construction late this year. The library, research space, conference center, and emergency operations training center will all allow us to expand programs to serve you. We will create a Firefighter Memorial Hall that builds upon our Line-Of-Duty-Death (LODD) memorial project to honor each fallen Illinois firefighter (<http://www.fsi.uiuc.edu/content/library/IFLODD/>). It is our intent to offer bricks and capstones as part of the project to allow firefighters, families and organizations to participate in a permanent way in the memorial.

During the past year, fire service interest in training and preparing for emergencies involving ethanol (E-95, E-85, E-10, etc.) and other alternative fuels has grown. The growth of ethanol production and alternative fuels research has grown at an exponential pace in the past decade. Our challenge as first responders, particularly fire, rescue and HAZMAT is that the general knowledge and ability of the fire service to effectively respond to an ethanol or other alternative fuel emergency has not grown at the same pace.



Beginning this spring we will be offering a series of courses, seminars and an interactive web site specifically on ethanol. Type in this link for the page:

<http://www.fsi.uiuc.edu/content/courses/programs/ethanol/>

Here is a sample of the courses and resources we are assembling for you on ethanol:

- * Ethanol Awareness – Spring 2008
- * Ethanol Awareness – On Line - available July 1
- * Ethanol Production Plant Awareness, Emergency Preplanning and Response – Spring 2008
- * Ethanol "101" For First Responders (Railroads) – available now
- * Community Public Safety Considerations Regarding Ethanol Plants – available now
- * Terminal Awareness Emergency Planning & Response – under development
- * Ethanol Plant Personnel Emergency Awareness – under development
- * Fire Fighting Foam Applications Class – available now

Full course descriptions and registration details are available on the web site. We have also selected a series of links to other web sites and posted several documents that you may find useful.

We look forward to serving you both in traditional and new ways in 2008. Several years ago we created Regional IFSI Representative positions to live and work in your area and to be our first set of ears to listen and respond to your needs. Recently, Chief Roger Lunt joined IFSI as the Regional Rep for Central Illinois. Your feedback is always welcome to us, either through our regional reps, instructors or directly to me. You can e-mail me directly at Jaehne@uiuc.edu. Thank you for your continued support.



*Richard Jaehne
Director*

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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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Our website has the most current class information

www.fsi.uiuc.edu

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Ask to be added to the mailing list by email to Terri Hopper (hopper@fsi.uiuc.edu)

OR

A copy is available on our web site.

IFSI is offering a number of courses relating to ethanol emergencies, and these will be available at no cost to fire departments. Some are focused on fire departments that protect production plants, and others are for all firefighters, since ethanol is or soon will be, in every community in Illinois. This year ethanol will be the number one hazardous material, by volume, transported by rail in the U.S. Ethanol is a polar solvent, and requires special Alcohol Resistant foams and diking materials. Check the IFSI website for information about ethanol training, planning, and informational resources.

Thanks to the Des Plaines fire department IFSI now has a "new" 102 ft. ladder tower. This unit replaces an older tower from Aurora which we took out of service last summer. Our apparatus fleet now consists of 5 engines, 3 types of aerials, and an ambulance, which support our ability to provide realistic hands-on training, and also conduct multiple activities at the same time.

The most fundamental recent change here is the starting of the architects' work on our new IFSI Learning Resource & Research Center. We hope to have design work done in a few months, and start construction late this year. This new addition will significantly expand our capabilities in numerous areas, and enable us to do things we could not do before. The building will house a firefighters' memorial hall, 120 seat international conference center (we are working with a growing number of international students) with VTC capabilities, conference room, expanded library, computer classroom and IT/AV facilities, firefighter life safety research labs, and emergency operations center (EOC) training rooms. The new facility will be located adjacent to the current office/classroom building.

We are updating our "Cornerstone" Program with several new course offerings, as well as modifications and revisions to the Essentials classes.

Last fall, Field Instructor Roger Lunt joined IFSI full-time as our Central Illinois Regional Rep. He will be serving the departments in the center of the state, as well as updating the Essentials curriculum and doing various other

projects. He's keeping very busy.

Long-time field instructor Brad Bone has assumed additional duties as our new Fire Fighting Program Director. Brad has taught in our various Fire classes, particularly Academy, for many years, and he originated our EMS program which he ran initially.

I am sure he will do a similar great job with the Fire Program.

Paul Segalla has left us to become a fire chief in sunny California. We thank Paul for his efforts, and wish him the best. Jim Streu, long-time Training Officer with the Lombard FD, is coming on board this spring as our new Chicago Metro Regional Rep. Jim is well respected in the area, and we look forward to having him on our full-time staff.

Work is wrapping up on the "Fireground Support & Aerial Operations" DVD, and they should be distributed to all Illinois fire departments late this spring. This project has taken much longer than we had expected, but I am very pleased with the results. Not only will you like the numerous videos, but we have included PDF Study Guides that you can print out for your own study use.

News & Notes



David F. Clark
Deputy Director

IFSI is Offering Ethanol Classes

This spring IFSI is starting to deliver 6 different courses and 2 seminars related to ethanol. See our website for a full listing of courses and descriptions. (Some are available now, and others are coming soon.)

All firefighters, whether or not they have an ethanol plant in their area, need the Ethanol Awareness course which provides basic information, since ethanol is in all communities. This course will also be available online by summer.

Departments that protect ethanol plants need the Ethanol Production Plant Awareness, Emergency Preplanning and Response course. This deals with production and plant hazards, not just transportation and distribution incidents.

These courses will be offered to fire departments under Cornerstone at no cost to them.



IFSI Discontinues Affiliation with ACE

IFSI was one of the first fire training organizations in the U.S. to affiliate with the American Council on Education (ACE) in order to facilitate students having their IFSI courses approved for college credit. However, recent significant fee increases by ACE, coupled with limited use by students, have necessitated discontinuing this service which we have provided since the 1980s.

For students who still want to use IFSI courses for college credit, IFSI can help students on a case-by-case basis by providing a list of course objectives and documentation.

Table Talk



'MAC'
McCastland
Associate
Director

A couple of years ago we shifted some gears and added Paul Segalla to the mix of those responsible for program areas. Paul was given the responsibilities of taking care of the IFSI business in the Chicago Metro Area, including managing the Cornerstone fund and assisting in our efforts of working with the Chicago Fire Department. Additionally, Paul had oversight of the Fire Officer Programs for IFSI. Paul did an outstanding job in the performance of these duties and was helped greatly by Randy Schlichter, Lew Lake and a small cavalcade of stars building IFSI relations to a new height in the region. Well, Paul has sought to return to the uniformed Fire Service – taking the position of Chief of Department for the city of West Covina, California.

I know that while Paul will be “havin’ fun in the warm California sun,” he will bring some Midwest attitude to “surf city.”

I enjoyed working with Paul, and wish him and his family a long and happy move to the West Coast. As of this writing we are seeking to fill the Chicago Metro Representative spot, interviewing a list of good candidates.

Along other lines, we are having the Collapse Instructors from Oklahoma State University come to “da pound” in late March to complete the Train-the-Trainer for Structural Collapse Technician. This was a move made by OSU to ensure that the teams in the State of Oklahoma receive adequate instruction in Structural Collapse.

Another out-of-state relationship that has seen more activity is that with the City of Milwaukee Fire Department. They have been regulars in our Collapse classes, and last year contracted a RIT Under Fire class for their members. Additionally, several of the MFD command officers attended and then followed up with the Chicago Fire Department for some tips on implementation.

This June will again be a busy one at IFSI, we start with the annual Fire College, followed by the second annual HazMat State Deployable Team Validation. This

year HazMat will expand the event to include ten of the State Teams. The following week the TRT Validation will take place. This year the TRT Teams are starting to go through the second cycle of Teams coming to the State Training Academy, to test their ability to deploy and operate over an extended period of time.

We are in the process of preparing the 08 grant for submission to the Feds. There is no reason to think that the 08 process will yield more funding than 07 did. On the training side, we work a budget, then are told to figure what work we can do with about 40% of what was submitted – get the picture?? The funding is being shifted away from the states and more toward the population centers, resulting in less money to support the training of the State Deployable TRT & HazMat Teams. I only hope that the folks realize that the time is coming and they should be jumping on these classes, and building out their Teams. The ITTF has done a lot to eliminate much of the financial burden of sending your people to training.

Well, that should do it for this go-round, so I’ll strike it out.

Stay safe, put the coffee pot on, give me a call – we’ll talk.

MAC



Some comments about IFSI:

“This was an excellent course. Many areas that I have had previous training were reinforced and expanded upon. I also learned many things that I should have known and did not.”

“Thanks again. If it wasn’t for you, I would be so lost as a training officer. A lot of what I have accomplished in my department is directly credited to you and your staff. When I first contacted you four years ago with questions was one of the smartest things I did. Thanks again.”

Fire College Right Around the Corner

As I'm writing this update in my office, the snow is gently falling outside my window. We've had record snow and ice accumulations in many parts of the state, and we're averaging 25 degrees below average here in Champaign. How can we combat this cold weather? Think Fire College!

We're less than three months away from the oldest continuous Fire College in the US, the largest in the Midwest, and the most affordable hands-on first responder training in the nation.

For the 84th Annual Illinois Fire College classes will again reflect the diverse missions of the fire service.

For entry-level firefighters (less than three years, less than 25 structure fires), the 24-hour Entry-Level Recruit class, SCBA or the Core Competency programs are ideal. For the more experienced (3+ years, 25+ fires), the Coordinated Fireground Operations, Basic Wildland Firefighting, Single Family Dwelling, Truck Company Operations, and Commercial Engine Company Operations classes will help to broaden your skillset. Driver operators and officers will benefit from Pumper Operations and Tender Operations, Basic Fire Investigation and First-In Officer.

For leaders at any level within any organization, attending the new LEADERSHIP class with Chief John Norman (FDNY), Chief Ed Enright (CFD), and Colonel Royal Mortenson (USMC) will enhance your skills for moving your organization forward.

We're also offering five National Fire Academy programs at Fire College, including Leadership II and Small Department Training Operations.

We've expanded the rescue class offerings this year. Basic and Advanced Auto Extrication are returning, along with Farm Extrication and Rescue and Grain Bin Rescue, as is the popular "It Crashed in Your Backyard" aircraft rescue class. Four classes are aimed at industrial

emergency response and SWMD team members, as well as for firefighters interested in a working knowledge of rope and confined space rescue.

Also at Fire College is a 12-hour orientation to Hazardous Materials Monitoring-- from basic four-gas monitors to the more complex SWMD team equipment. The Basic CISM course is back -- preparing responders to work as a member of a CISM team. For EMTs, Wilder and Associates will be presenting two current programs for you: Managing Aggressive Behavior in EMS, and the Dirty Dozen Areas of EMS Liability.

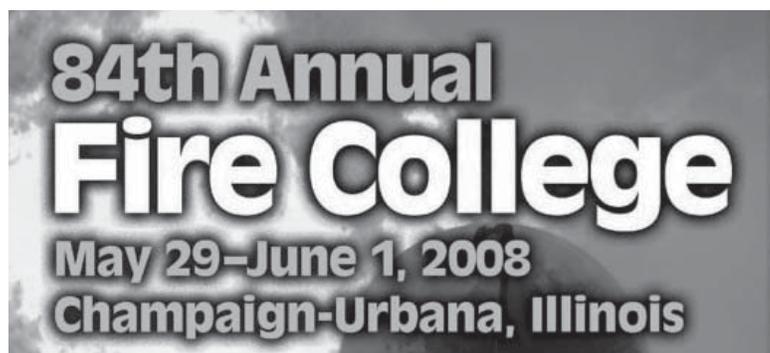
The University of Illinois Assembly Hall will continue as the registration and transportation hub for the event, and all students MUST check in at that location at least one hour prior to the start of their first class.

Regardless of your role in emergency response or the fire service, there are classes for you at Fire College. Visit www.fsi.uiuc.edu to check out the full brochure, and to register for classes. Remember many classes fill within the first two weeks, so get your registrations in soon!

I look forward to seeing you in Champaign early this summer, and welcome your thoughts and feedback about the direction *Your* Annual Fire College can head. Please contact me at brauer@fsi.uiuc.edu with your suggestions or feedback.



*Brian R. Brauer
Assistant
Director*



Winter Fire School 2008



*Eddie Bain
Fire Investigation
Fire Prevention
Program Director*

*Winter Fire
School Manager*

Winter Fire School 2008 is now in the record books. It was a great "Conference Based Venue" focusing on 11 classroom offerings. Three hundred nine fire and emergency service personnel took advantage of the winter weekend to raise their educational levels and network with other emergency service personnel from all over Illinois. Students came from as far north as South Beloit and as far south as O'Fallon. Many first-time attendees also took advantage of this year's program.

This year's event location was changed to the Hilton Garden Inn in Champaign. This change was made because of the availability of more meeting rooms and generally better facilities for the school. The location was also closer for the instructional and support staff to the IFSI campus and provided better evening dining options within walking distance of the Hilton.

There were seven short courses available, three National Fire Academy (NFA) classes and a Saturday evening bonus presentation. The "Short Course" format allowed a student to choose three different four-hour sessions during the weekend. The NFA classes provided students with twelve hours of nationally-recognized training provided by NFA instruc-

tors who came from California, New Jersey and Michigan to deliver the programs. The Saturday evening session was presented by Dan Madrzykowski from the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Dan is recognized as one of the top fire researchers in the U.S. His presentation provided very interesting and occasionally overwhelming insight into the fire tragedy that occurred at the Station Nightclub in Rhode Island.

A renewed effort was made this year to provide students with vendor and educational resources. Campus Sportswear representatives made available a variety of wearing apparel while Alexis Fire Equipment showcased numerous fire fighting and safety equipment. Representatives from Southern Illinois University were also on site to discuss their Baccalaureate and Masters Degree Fire Service Management programs.

I want to thank everyone who worked to register, instruct, attend and support Winter Fire School. My goal is to continue to provide a week end of quality emergency service instruction at a reasonable cost. The dates for 2009 are set for the weekend of January 24 and 25, 2009. Mark your calendars and watch for the exciting lineup of course offerings.

Fire Fighting Program Updates



*Brad Bone
Fire Fighting
Program Director*

Greetings to all of you from the Fire Fighting program office. In case you hadn't heard, I have accepted the Fire Fighting Program Director's position here at the Institute. I am excited about beginning this new chapter of my career and hope to serve students and fellow staff all well. I have been in the office for a couple months now working on an interim basis. I am proud to say that Tad, Eric and Kurt are keeping me busy and well informed.

I wanted to give you a short update on the office structure and activities for this year and to let you know whom you will be talking to, relative to fire fighting training. Tad Schroeder will continue to work as the Assistant Program Director. I have asked Tad to focus primarily on operational issues for the classes, while Kurt Glosser, Eric Gold-

stein and I focus on curriculum updates. We have outlined curriculum goals for 2008 and beyond, with Deputy Director Clark assisting with establishing priorities for the next couple of years.

I hope to meet with as many of the lead instructors as possible in the next few months, to make certain that we are meeting the needs of our students. .

We want to make sure that our office is supporting students and staff to the best of our ability. Our priority is the student, and the product that we are delivering in the field.

Fire Fighting Program Updates

Wildland Program Update

Since its inception in 2005, the IFSI Wildland fire fighting program has offered Basic Wildland Certification classes to firefighters throughout the state. In the past two years, 635 students have participated in the Wildland fire fighting program, completing more than 12,000 student hours. These classes have covered the width and breadth of the state – from Lake County to Marion County. It is becoming clear to fire departments statewide that structural training and equipment may not be the best or safest option during a Wildland or Wildland/urban interface incident. The NFPA has also adopted this opinion, including a practical requirement for Wildland skills in the latest 1001 standard for Professional Qualifications.

In order to meet the needs of Illinois firefighters and to fulfill increasing demand, IFSI

is expanding its offerings of Basic Wildland Certification classes, allowing more departments to gain access to this crucial training. In addition, beginning this year IFSI will offer more advanced Wildland training, including Wildland Fire Behavior, Wildland/Urban Interface and Engine Boss. These classes will allow fire departments to increase the competency and knowledge of their company and chief officers, as well as operate more safely and effectively at a Wildland incident. As with the Basic Wildland Certification courses, the advanced classes are covered under a grant administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and therefore are free of charge to the student. Questions concerning the IFSI Wildland program can be referred to Eric Goldstein at elgoldst@fsi.uiuc.edu.



*Eric Goldstein
Assistant
Fire Fighting
Program
Director*

Cornerstone Program Update

As the lead on the Cornerstone Program, I am extremely pleased to welcome Roger Lunt as a regional Cornerstone representative for the central portion of the state. Roger has been a Field Staff Instructor for IFSI, even as he wound up his career as Fire Chief in Taylorville. He brings back his love of the “job” and the skills of 30-plus years of career and volunteer fire service experience. Roger will be taking the central counties of the state that include Cass, Christian, Logan, Macon, Marshal, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Peoria, Sangamon, Shelby, Tazewell and Woodford.

There are additional changes on Cornerstone’s regional map: Kankakee County returns to my area of responsibility. Clay, Richland, and Lawrence Counties now fall under Les Albert in the south. Stark, Bureau, Putnam and LaSalle Counties become the work of Ray Palczynski in the northwest.

The Cornerstone Program has again been a tremendous success throughout the state – successful in that funds provided by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal will be exhausted prior to the end of the grant period. It is somewhat bittersweet when the

continual stream of requests for fundamental “hands on training” have again exceeded the funds available.

This should not, however, deter fire departments, mutual aid associations, and MABAS Divisions from sending in Cornerstone requests. Some classes get canceled and free up funds for others, while some organizations utilize less time than scheduled. Occasionally some classes postpone until the next fiscal year. In some cases aggressive training schedules have taxed the limited amount of free time of our paid on call and volunteer firefighters who recognize they just need a break.

Those familiar with the process know providing three sets of dates on the form are critical for scheduling. Training Officers and Chiefs utilizing the **Cornerstone Request For Training** form need to make at least one of their choices for training after July 1, 2008. This will provide the greatest potential for fulfilling the request in a timely manner. It will maximize the requesting department’s potential to receive the training they want with the instructor they prefer.



*Greg Fisher
Cornerstone
Program
Director*

Cornerstone Program Update *(continued)*

The east central region has numerous training opportunities remaining this fiscal year. Browse the IFSI website to find and register for those schools, which include Tazewell and McLean County Fire Schools, Light and Fights in Champaign, Effingham, Beardstown, **as well as** Essentials and other classes in Fairbury.

Keep an eye out this summer for a new Cornerstone brochure that will show what will

be available. Working with the Cornerstone Grant Guidelines and department requests throughout Illinois, the present “menu” reflecting the needs and spirit of fundamental “hands-on training” will be included in class topics. All of the Regional Reps, many Program Directors and numerous Field Staff have been working on these items for over a year to insure the training is relevant to the needs of the Illinois firefighter. Stay tuned and be safe.

Seasoned Face – New Role



Roger Lunt
Central
Regional
Representative

Do you remember what you were doing at 5:45 a.m. of January 26, 1978? While I struggle to remember family birthdays and anniversaries, I know exactly where I was and what I was doing at that time and date. That was the day and time that I nervously, but proudly, approached the front door of the Urbana Fire Department. My first shift on a fire department did not begin until 7:00 a.m., but my interest in making a good first impression compelled me to arrive at the station more than an hour early.

I recall crossing Vine Street, carrying my brown bag holding the meals for my first duty day and approaching the door that literally would open a way of life for me and my young family. I recall feeling uncomfortable and self-consciousness. I wanted to make a good first impression – despite carrying this paper bag, having no uniform yet and having zero level of fire service skills and experience. All I really had to offer this department was a heart driven to be a part of a team that helped anyone in need.

At the station door, I thought all I would have to do is turn the knob and enter quietly, so as not to disturb anyone. The door was locked. I paused and giving only a moment of thought to the first challenge of my new career, I noticed the solution - a button above a sign that read “For a firefighter push button.”

I figured for a business that is open 24/7 that a firefighter would come to the door and let me in. But within seconds, there were firefighters sliding down the pole and coming down the stairway from the second floor. Two things I learned that morning: Number one the door button typically signals an emergency and number two, not all members of the shift are up at 5:45 a.m.

Fast forward to January 26, 2008 on my 30-year anniversary of fire service and I am sitting in a University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Winter Fire School class, Reading Smoke. I received some joking – that if after 30 years of experience I was still attending a class that focuses on the skills of reading smoke – well, as it was suggested by a couple friends, “You must be a slow learner.”

During my 30-year job span I believe I have experienced rewards that would shadow those of any other career. I feel so very fortunate to have had the support of my family who, by default, have also lived a fire service way of life beginning the morning of January 26, 1978. Even two sons have chosen to follow in their father’s footsteps: one son serves on the Kansas City, Mo. Fire Department and another son on the North Kansas City, Mo. Fire Department.

Today, I am at your service as IFSI’s Central Illinois Regional Representative and charged with updating the Cornerstone Program’s Essentials classes. As the Regional Representative, I will be responsible for coordinating Cornerstone training in a 14-county area that includes over 150 fire departments.

A final question: What were you doing on November 16, 2007, at approximately 5:30 a.m.? It was another memorable date and time for me. In the company of my supportive wife, Peggy, I am driving Interstate 72 east bound for the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute for my first day of work – again arriving early, but this time finding the door unlocked.

From the Northwest Territory

The region has grown from the original 20 counties to 24 counties. The counties of Bureau, LaSalle, Putnam and Stark are now part of the "Northwest Territory" Welcome! There are already classes scheduled in Arlington and Wyanet. Dalzell will be hosting a basic engine Company Operations class.

Plans are already in process for the regions 2008 fire schools. Quincy held their school March 7 and 8. Amboy's school is Saturday April 5. The Quad-City School is set for Saturday May 16.

Demand remains high for Cornerstone classes. The central region of the state has been divided into two regions. Roger Lunt now works the counties bordering my eastern counties. We all work together, so if you ever have questions don't hesitate to call one of us. If the request is from someone else's county,

we will direct you to the correct regional representative.

The regional reps along with IFSI curriculum development and directorial staff have been working to update and revamp the courses that are offered though the Cornerstone program. We have been listening to you, the firefighters in the field, and are working on new course titles and formats. We are trying to offer more class topics that can be delivered on a drill night. We are also working to offer objective lists for the individual training topics offered through the Cornerstone program.

If you have any questions or needs don't hesitate to call!



*Ray Palczynski
Northwest
Regional
Representative*

Stay Safe.
Ray

Cornerstone Regions

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“Goin” South



*Les Albert
Southern
Regional
Representative*

Often when we think of going South, we think of slowing down, kicking back, relaxing and enjoying the weather. Well, that was not the case this past year, except for the weather. IFSI completed a weekend Fire Officer I program this past year in Marion. Williamson County Fire was host to the program. The classes were held on consecutive Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays. A second weekend Fire Officer I Program is underway this year. Also starting in November 2008, a Fire Officer II Program will be initiated for Southern Illinois in Marion. This southern area training allows volunteer participation and saves the fire departments money on expenses. The area was also host to Wildland Fire, HazMat, and Technical Rescue training along with numerous Cornerstone training programs.

The Salem Regional Training Center was host to a weekend FAE class this past Fall. This allowed area volunteer and combination fire departments to participate that would have

otherwise not been able because of work conflicts. The Salem Regional Training Center is host to monthly training throughout the year.

Several county Farm Bureaus supported their firefighters by co-hosting Ag and Grain Bin rescue classes. These are Cornerstone programs that are becoming very popular and needed. Each year, a number of farmers and workers are killed or injured while working around ag equipment and grain bins. One area fire department and their mutual aid responders successfully rescued a worker who became trapped in a grain bin. Several of the fire department responders had recently attended an IFSI grain bin rescue class.

The Southern Region has four regional training sites that host “Light & Fights” twice a year. They are: Carbondale, Harrisburg, Mt. Carmel, and Salem Regional Training Centers. This is a day of live fires and plenty of hose and SCBA drills. Come on out for the training and enjoy some Southern hospitality while you are at it.

Hazardous Materials Program Report



*Ray Palczynski
HazMat
Program
Director*

A meeting of the hazardous materials response team leaders was held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute on Thursday February 14, 2008 with more than 60 people were in attendance. Director Jaehne opened the meeting with a briefing on ITTF funding for HazMat training through 2009. Don Kauerauff provided updates on the policies concerning back fill and overtime for team training. He reviewed the new stipend option for volunteer members of a regional team. Mac McCastland briefed the group on team training rosters and issues associated with members obtaining training who are eligible for the back fill and overtime provisions. Mac handles the training rosters for both the TRT and HazMat response teams. If anyone has any questions about team training rosters, Mac is the person to see.

The hazardous materials team validation exercise for 2008 was discussed. Dates for the validation this year are June 11th and 12th with June 10th being a set-up day. The IFSI HazMat division, working with the MABAS HazMat steering committee, has asked ten teams to participate this year. This is up from the six teams validated last year. The effort is to get the HazMat teams on the same rotation

as the TRT teams. In reality, every aspect of each discipline's validation exercise is identical, response-wise (i.e. reception, BoO, staging, IC, etc.) right up to the point where the end tasks are performed. A state IMT team has been requested to assist with the incident management for the HazMat validation.

Course requests for all levels of hazardous materials classes continue to be received and processed as funding allows. The HazMat office processes requests as they are received. It is best to allow at least a six- to eight-month window of time to request, process and set up any of the 40-hour classes. Ideally if training is needed in the winter months of a particular year, requests need to be submitted to IFSI by mid-summer the year before. Fall training requests should be submitted during January and February of that year. The eight and 24-hour classes are somewhat easier to process and schedule and do not require a six month lead time. The best way to keep up to date with what is being offered is to frequently check the IFSI web site. The web site can and does change often.

If you have any questions concerning the hazardous materials division please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grain Bin Rescue Training – Put into Action

In January, members of the Fillmore Fire Protection District were dispatched to a grain bin incident. Two workers had entered the bin from above and one became engulfed in the grain. Fortunately for them, members of the district had recently completed the IFSI Grain Bin Rescue class and what they learned in class was still fresh in their minds.

Darin Becks, 1st Assistant Chief for Fillmore, was first on the scene and served as senior officer. Through his training, he knew to assess the scene and patient and to request the grain auger be turned off. Becks was joined by Captain Rex Boliard, who also had been through the Grain Bin Rescue class, and Lieutenant Steve Bell, who both entered the bin as inside contacts. They knew to tie off the patient with a safety belt to stabilize him from sinking further. Fillmore's Chief Bill Wood was briefed when he joined the crew about 45 minutes into the call. Chief Wood had also been through the IFSI Grain Bin Rescue class.

Chief Wood asked Becks to take over operations and to assess the patient and the inside

of the bin. After further assessment, they put together a rescue plan, drawing on what they had learned through their IFSI training. They also requested and received mutual aid from the Ramsey Fire Department, Nokomis Fire Department, and Nokomis Witt Rescue squad. They broke up the scene into two divisions – east and west. Becks took the east division and Captain Michael Smalley of the Nokomis Fire Department took charge of the west division. Captain Smalley has also been through a Grain Bin Rescue class with IFSI.

The patient was rescued from the bin at 19:29 and transported to Fayette County Hospital for evaluation and was released. "We were fortunate that all those placed in the command staff of this incident had previously been through a Grain Bin Rescue class with the IFSI. Without these individuals in place, I can only imagine what the final outcome of this incident could have been," Becks said. "I would like to give a special thanks to the Illinois Fire Service Institute and the instructors for their devotion and dedication to training."

Homeland Security Training Update

The Illinois Fire Service Institute continues to conduct Command and General Staff Classes throughout the State. We are extremely pleased to see that students are coming from a multi-disciplinary base. Many of the Command and General Staff Classes are now populated with police officers, public works employees and administrative staff from communities.

The IFSI staff and field staff instructors continue to assist in the delivery of IS 300 and 400 courses throughout the State. The students in these courses are from many response disciplines, as well.

So how are the courses helping people prepare and respond to incidents around the State? No community can determine their own fate and no responder can predict when they will be called upon to respond to a large event. Such was the case with the response community in the DeKalb/Northern Illinois (NIU) area. Within a matter of seconds, the peaceful university community was transformed into a scene of horror and death. Within hours, the first Incident Action Plan was drafted to help coordinate and direct the efforts of responders. The planning process continued throughout the response, the highly-publicized memorial service that was held to honor the victims and into the resumption of classes at NIU.

This was no fluke that the incident planning

process was activated. DeKalb and Northern Illinois University began a system to train and activate a Type IV Incident Management Team two years ago. DeKalb and NIU responders have attended training in Command and General Staff, Unified Command and All Hazards Incident Management Training. In addition to the training the DeKalb/NIU community staffed their Type IV team and spent a considerable amount of time analyzing the hazards that faced the community. IAPs were also written to prepare for large events at NIU such as concerts and the Spring commencement activities at their arena (the Convocation Center). IAPs were also written to respond to natural hazards such as flooding and snow storms that affected the university and community.

The lesson we can learn from the DeKalb/NIU response community is one of preparedness. The responders used all the methods available to them to prepare for the horrific event. While we all hope that we are not the next community to be affected, we can be sure of one thing – when we train and prepare as a community of responders we are doing a necessary service to all our colleagues and the citizens that we serve.

Keep the responders and the families affected by the terrible tragedy at NIU in your thoughts and prayers.



*Joe Gasparich
National
Incident
Management
System (NIMS)
Program
Director*

Vehicle/Machinery Program Update



Duane Bales
Vehicle/
Machinery
Program
Director

At the end of 2007, the Federal Government mandated that the automotive industry increase their fuel economy 40% by the year 2020. In order to do this, there is the need to lighten the vehicles and at the same time strengthen them for protection of the passengers inside. There are a couple of different ways in which we are seeing this done.

First, magnesium was pretty much eliminated in vehicles back in the 70s, but the last few years we are seeing more and more magnesium in cars. Magnesium is durable and lighter in weight than steel. Now you can find it supporting the dash, many components in the engine compartment and even on the under side of the vehicle. Magnesium is not affecting our extrication process, but is creating more of a problem in vehicle fires as you can see



Magnesium
fires can be
quite dramatic.

from the photo in which the fire becomes quite dramatic when water is applied to a fire with magnesium.

Second, more and lighter weight exotic metals such as Ultra High Strength Steel are being used in the vehicles along with the High Strength Steel that has been used recently. In the "B" post, Figures 1 and 2, multiple wraps, with rods coming up inside the wraps are where we see some difficulty in cutting. Some of the older hydraulic tools may not be able to penetrate the post. Most of the newer tools could have difficulty, but can still cut through the post.

The biggest thing to remember is that there can be less material to cut through towards the top of the post instead of down closer to the Nader pin where we practiced cutting for years. It is important that we remember where the most strength of the cutter is and that is as close to the base of the cutter you can get. So far I have found that a good reciprocating saw (13 amp) has been able to cut through most posts as long as you have a good extrication blade in the saw (14 tpi is a good working blade).

The last thing that needs to be stressed is the importance of "strip and peek." Whenever you are going to make a cut, "strip" the lining open on the inside and "peek" to make sure you are not going to cut into a gas cylinder. Some of these air bag cylinders are at 3000 psi and will do a lot of damage/injury if you mistakenly cut into them.

We are getting ready to do some research with State Farm on 2007 and 2008 vehicles to determine what kind of extrication problems we might encounter. We'll keep you up-dated.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I'll try to find the answer.



Figure 1. "B" posts showing rods.



Figure 2: "B" posts showing multiple wraps.

Rescue Program Update

The IEMA/ITTF share of homeland security funding that provides baseline and maintenance training to members of sanctioned technical rescue teams has turned out to be substantial, especially in comparison to other states. Although it reflects a substantial commitment of federal dollars, the level is much less than last calendar years.

Training opportunities are at fewer locations. But at least four classes are available in each of the disciplines required to comply with the sanctioned Technical Rescue Team baseline training. SWMD: Confined Space Technician and SWMD: Structural Collapse Technician are only available on the Champaign campus at this time. Many of the remaining classes will be held at Regional Training Centers where attendance was greater in the last two years.

We are still encountering some confusion with the IEMA/ITTF-approved classes and others with similar names under the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Certification program. Hopefully this will help clear things up.

The **ONLY** classes eligible for backfill **OR** overtime reimbursement **OR** volunteer stipend **AND**, lodging at the double occupancy rate **AND** tuition waiver for IEMA/ITTF technical rescue team training are those offered using the IFSI-approved curriculum on the Champaign campus or at regional training centers as listed on the IFSI calendar. You can find the official calendar at www.fsi.uiuc.edu.

Those classes are SWMD: Rope Rescue Operations, SWMD: Rope Rescue Technician, SWMD: Confined Space Rescue Operations, SWMD: Confined Space Rescue Technician, SWMD: Trench Rescue Operations, SWMD: Trench Rescue Technician, SWMD: Structural Collapse Operations, and SWMD: Structural Collapse Technician.

Prerequisites for OSFM courses for certification are different than those required to take the aforementioned SWMD-approved technical rescue classes. Essentially, the SWMD:Operations level of a given discipline

is required to take the SWMD:Technician level. SWMD: Rope Operations is a baseline for both Rope Rescue Technician AND Confined Space Rescue Operations.

Classes in Rope Rescue Operations, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue Operations and Technician, and Structural Collapse Operations and Technician at other venues may provide certification with the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). However, those classes do not qualify for reimbursement from the IEMA/ITTF. Many of the SWMD: Technical Rescue classes through IFSI already qualify for OSFM State Certification. IFSI SWMD classes without an equivalency presently will be submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for approval. The OSFM Ad Hoc Committees have been working hard to complete the Rope Rescue Technician and Confined Space Technician certifications.

Remember, the federal investment in the Technical Rescue Teams is intended to put all teams on "the same page" with a nationally-approved set of courses. According to the most recent rosters, many of the 35 "plus" teams still need the SWMD: Rope Rescue Technician and SWMD: Confined Space Rescue Technician classes. It would be a shame for teams to lose out on this required training which is virtually free to the individual and departments involved.

For questions regarding Confined Space and Rope Rescue classes contact:
Greg Fisher gafisher@fsi.uiuc.edu
217-244-1220

For questions regarding Structural Collapse Rescue Programs contact:
Mike McCastland mmccastl@fsi.uiuc.edu
630-546-0667

For questions regarding Trench Rescue Classes contact:
Jeff Hillgoss jhillgoss@fsi.uiuc.edu
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*Greg Fisher
Rescue
Program
Director*

Developing eLearning for the Fire Service



*Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director*

Nothing takes the place of hands on firefighter training. eLearning has its place in teaching cognitive materials and can show how a skill is done, but firefighters still and will always need practical training.

For the past seven years I have been involved with the development of eLearning at IFSI and the University of Illinois. Early on, while developing the Online Firefighter II Course, a Captain of the Lake in the Hills Fire District asked me if online learning would really work in the fire service. My answer: "I really don't know." Now, I have no doubt that it does really work.

Word is out and training officers of fire departments are more interested in including eLearning and technology in their training programs. Nearly every day I get a call from a fire department asking how they can develop and deliver eLearning.

In the next several issues of the IFSI newsletter I will cover "A" process for utilizing eLearning at your department. I say "A" because there many ways you can use technology in training. I happen to feel that for the cost, my process provides a good place to start if you choose to introduce eLearning into your department. Since the newsletter is published only twice a year, I have established a Fire Service eLearning Blog so we all have a place to meet and I can provide more of what I have learned. You can access my blog at, <http://rich-elearningdevelopment.blogspot.com/>

eLearning: Where to Start

First, ask yourself what you want to accomplish with eLearning. Next, what hardware and software do you currently have? I ask those two questions on every call and the answer I typically get to the first question, "I need to conduct training without bringing all companies to one location, and I really want to standardize what our firefighters are taught."

That answer makes perfect sense to me. In many cases, fire departments have several fire stations and shifts. Whether the department is volunteer, paid-on-call, or career, it is very difficult to bring all firefighters together with the training officer at one time. So that means you have to have several training sessions on the same topic with an array of instructors. While I am a strong proponent of officers training their companies, I believe that if you want to provide standardized training on a skill it must be taught the same way to all your firefighters. There is little doubt that if you take three people, you will get three different deliveries of the same training. With that thought in mind, I will share my idea for

standardization and your introduction into eLearning.

Video and CD / DVD Development

You might think this an odd place to start your eLearning development, but to me it makes perfect sense. As I said, the second question I ask is what hardware and software do you currently have? I find that most fire departments or training officers have a newer computer and a video camera. If they don't have a video camera, someone on the department does. In essence you have everything you need to get started.

Let's dive a little deeper. Most computers purchased in the last three years have CD/DVD burners. Video editing is very common. Microsoft provides "Windows Movie Maker." This is a relatively simple point, click and drop video editing system. If you wish, you can purchase a product like Pinnacle Studio for around \$100 and have a pretty powerful video editing tool.

So now you have a computer that can burn your CD/DVD's and a camera and video editing equipment -- all the tools you'll need. You can create videos of your training; burn them to CD or DVD. Once you distribute them to all fire stations, you as the training officer can be in more than one place teaching standardized training to your entire fire department. The company officer delivers your training, and takes the company out to practice what they have been taught. Just think of it, training on those new air packs for the entire fire department done at minimal of cost.

Why not Develop for the Web?

The answer is short and sweet. You must have more hardware, or access to a server, and software. The learning curve on web-based eLearning is much greater.

Meet me at my Blog.

While I tried to make this process sound easy, with a little practice you can develop a respectable product. There is much more that goes into development. One of the most important aspects is storyboarding and content development. Meet me at my blog and I will address those points.

<http://rich-elearningdevelopment.blogspot.com/>

Take care, and be safe.

Some Research Completed More on the Horizon

In 2007, the IFSI Life Safety Research Center was formed to provide action-oriented research focused on improving the health and safety of the Fire Service. In the short time that the Center has been in place, we have initiated four large projects that we believe will help accomplish this goal.

As many of you are aware, IFSI received a \$900,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to investigate the effects of firefighting activity and PPE on the firefighter's cardiovascular system and biomechanical responses. Over five weeks in October and November of 2007, we tested 123 firefighters throughout Illinois. We want to once again thank all of you who participated in this important project. The additional time and effort that you put forth will make a significant impact on the entire Fire Service. Please keep an eye out for the results of this project in the later half of 2008.

We are currently working on a project sponsored by the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) to further our understanding of the effects of fire fighting on the human body, and specifically whether simple changes in rehab procedures can counteract some of the physiological stress associated with fire fighting.

Finally, the IFSI Life Safety Research Center has successfully teamed with two private companies who are developing

technology that we believe can be deployed in the Fire Service to enhance safety and improve performance:

- Hydration monitor – developing and testing a rapid hydration monitor that can assess an individual's hydration status in the field in a matter of seconds.
- Real-time physiological monitoring – testing an ambulatory monitoring system that can provide high quality data that will allow measurement of physiological data during firefighting operations

Every research project that we undertake is designed to answer an important question about how to improve the health, safety, and performance of firefighters. These studies are developed with input from the Fire Service and are intended to serve the Fire Service. Furthermore, every research project that we conduct requires the participation of firefighters – and we are grateful for the enthusiastic response to requests for participation. The IFSI Life Safety Research Center exists to serve you – and to do that most effectively we are always looking for involvement from you each step of the way. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us if you have any questions or comments regarding how we may serve you better!



*Gavin Horn
Research
Program
Manager*

Gavin Horn

Denise Smith

Twice as many firefighters are injured each year performing fireground duties as there are fire injuries to the civilian population, according to a report by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

Eighty-nine percent of firefighter injuries reported to NFIRS in 2004 were associated with structure fires. Of these injuries, 76 percent occurred on residential properties. Injuries to the upper and lower extremities accounted for 30 percent of all reported fire-related firefighter injuries. An additional 20 percent of injuries were to the head, neck, and shoulder areas. For the nature of the injury, 34 percent were related to sprains, strains, cuts, and wounds. Burns accounted for an additional 11 percent of the reported injuries.

Scholarships for “You”



Marcia Miller
Director of
Budget &
Resource
Planning

Firefighters confront new and different challenges each day. Keeping abreast of the changing threats that are faced on the job becomes difficult. There are a number of unconventional hazards and rescue situations and each firefighter must be prepared to adapt quickly to new equipment and technologies. To prepare for these responsibilities firefighters need continuous training and education.

Each year the IFSI Education and Research Awards Program coordinates a scholarship program made possible by donations from our Field Staff Instructors and others interested in supporting training and education for Illinois firefighters. This program is the largest of its kind where firefighters donate their own dollars to support others in their pursuit of training and education that allows personal and career growth and development. This endowment fund has grown each year with personal donations, which has allowed scholarships to be awarded continuously since 1998 using only the earnings from the Fund. This is a great achievement and we thank everyone for their support.

Our scholarships are supported by IFSI through the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association's Educational and Research Foundation. The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist individuals in their pursuit of further academic background, training or certification. These scholarships are important and encourage Illinois firefighters to become involved in training and education. This is an excellent mechanism for supporting personal goals and objectives.

Each of our scholarships are memorial tributes to those that have been active in the fire service and in making a difference in firefighter training and safety to provide a safe environment that supports the principle of “everyone goes home.”

Gerald M. Monigold Memorial

Gerald M. Monigold was the Director

of the Illinois Fire Service Institute from 1976 until his death in 1996. One \$1,000 grant is awarded for the pursuit of education in a Fire Service related field at the graduate level.

The 2007 recipient was Larry Moran of the Willow Springs Fire Department.

Dean Mercer Memorial

Chief Dean Mercer was, for three decades, the lead IFSI field staff instructor and area representative in southern Illinois until his death in 2001. This \$1,000 grant is to be used in the pursuit of fire service training.

The 2007 recipient was Joseph McClelland of the Midlothian Fire Department.

Andrew Fredericks Memorial

Andy Fredericks was an IFSI field staff instructor and FDNY firefighter who lost his life at the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001. This \$1,000 grant is to be used in the pursuit of fire service training.

The 2007 recipient was Scott Kimmell of the Park Forest Fire Department.

Pete Lund Memorial

Pete Lund was an IFSI field staff instructor who was instrumental in creating the IFSI Structural Collapse rescue program. He was a retired FDNY lieutenant and volunteer fire chief who lost his life in the line of duty at a house fire in June 2005. One \$1,000 grant is awarded for the pursuit of fire service training.

The 2007 recipient was Rebecca Pinc of the Lisle Woodridge Fire Protection District.

William Renaker Memorial

William Renaker was a well-known expert in rope rescue operations and served as the Rescue Program Director for

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the Illinois Fire Service Institute until his untimely death in July 2005. This \$1,000 grant is to be used in the pursuit of education in a Fire Service field.

The 2007 recipient was Randy Haschemeyer of Camp Point Fire Department.

James T. Berggren Memorial

Chief James T. Berggren was a nationally recognized authority on rural

water supply. He was an IFSI field staff instructor from the 1960's until his death in 2006. This \$1,000 grant is to be used in the pursuit of fire service training.

The 2007 recipient was John Gianelli of the Hinsdale Fire Department.

We congratulate each of the winners of these scholarships and wish them every success in achieving their personal and professional goals.

Scholarship Application Process

To be eligible, a person must be an active member of a recognized Fire Department in the State of Illinois. Applications are solicited each winter with a March deadline for application. For additional information on eligibility and application process, please check out the following website:

<http://www.illinoisfirechiefs.org/ifcfoundation.asp?id=40>

If you are interested in providing monetary support for this program, please contact Mac McCastland at jpmcastl@fsi.uiuc.edu who is serving as the Chairman of the IFSI Education and Research Awards Program Committee.

Illinois Fire Service Institute Library Wish List

Air management for the fire service (Book, Fire Engineering, 2008): \$69

And the beat goes on (DVD, Fire Engineering, 2007): \$39

Elevator and escalator rescue (Book, Fire Engineering, 2007): \$59

From buddy to boss: effective fire service leadership (Book, Fire Engineering, 2006): \$59

Get to know EDITH (DVD, NFPA, 2007): \$315

Industrial firefighting for municipal firefighters (Book, Fire Engineering, 2007): \$49

Pride & ownership: a firefighter's love of the job (Book, Fire Engineering, 2006): \$49

Real leadership in the fire service is not for wimps (CDs, <http://shop.kimberlyalyn.com>): \$295

Strategy of firefighting (Book, Fire Engineering, 2007): \$69

If you would like to donate to the IFSI Library by purchasing one or more of these items, please contact Head Librarian Lian Ruan at lruan@fsi.uiuc.edu or 217-265-6107. Donors can also visit the IFSI Library's wish list at Amazon.com: <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/XD7L2-GC5FDC7>

Building Corporate Relations



Dennis Spice
Director of
Corporate
Relations

As usual, the 2008 calendar year is starting out to be a very busy one. Planning is underway for the 2008 Industrial Forum which will be held on August 26 in Champaign, at the Hilton Garden Inn.

This year's Forum is sponsored, in part, by Abbott Laboratories and Ansul.

The keynote speaker will be Michael Chamness, Chairman of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. Mr. Chamness will be speaking on **disaster planning and response for industry**.

There will be four simultaneous breakout sessions for roundtable discussions.

Industrial Fire Brigades moderated by Rick Haase, Emergency Response Coordinator/Fire Chief for ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery.

Continuity of Operations moderated by Brad Bone, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Champaign, member of the Champaign Fire Department and IFSI Fire Fighting Program Director.

Risk Management moderated by David Burns, Consultant, Risk Consulting Practice, Marsh USA, Inc.

Renewable Fuel moderated by Mark Maday, Manager, Hazardous Materials, Union Pacific Railroad.

A registration fee of \$25.00 per person will be charged.

The Institute is pleased to host the Forum and provide a venue where individuals from different industry sectors, not only from Illinois, but around the Midwest, can come together and discuss current issues effecting their businesses.

Our networking through the Forum, as well as other sources, has provided us an opportunity to meet with companies and individuals who want to learn more about our mission, develop partnerships and provide support to the Institute.

The mission of the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute is: "to help firefighters do their work through training, education information and research." We would like to thank, again, the following companies for

their continued support of that mission this past quarter.

- AEC and Holmatro
- AMKUS
- Caterpillar
- Concrete Technology, Inc.
- EMC and Genesis Rescue Systems
- GROWMARK
- GSI Group
- harVestco, LLC
- Hurst
- Illinois Farm Bureau
- State Farm Insurance

The financial support and "gifts-in-kind," like that provided by the companies listed above, makes it possible for IFSI to train more firefighters and to assure that they have access to the most up to date facilities, props and materials. This also includes our new building, the Illinois Fire Service Institute Learning Resource Center which will house an expanded library, an Illinois firefighter memorial hall, laboratory space and an EOC training area.

Individuals as well as companies can help us fulfill our mission. You can play an important role in delivering training and building safer communities by becoming an IFSI Partner.

The IFSI Fund has been created to support our training efforts. It is easy to help. Go to our web site at: www.fsi.uiuc.edu and push the **Donate** button. You will receive step-by-step instructions on how to donate to the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute by credit card. Even a \$20.00 contribution will provide over one hour of firefighter training!

IFSI takes pride in guaranteeing that 100 percent of every donation will be used to directly support firefighter training, education and research programs.

Gifts may be fully tax deductible. IFSI is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and will provide full support documentation for all donations.

If you would like to learn more about the Industrial Forum or how to support IFSI training, research and education programs through the IFSI Fund, please contact Dennis D. Spice, Director of Corporate Relations at 217-359-0671 or by email at: dspice@fsi.uiuc.edu.

You can help. Even a \$20.00 contribution will provide over one hour of firefighter training.

Library Updates & Highlights

Illinois Online Disaster Preparedness Pathfinder: Head Librarian Lian Ruan received an LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) safety grant award from the Illinois State Library to create the Illinois Online Disaster Preparedness Pathfinder. For this project, the IFSI Library is building a web-based guide to internet resources that provide information about how to respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies. By gathering this information together into a single online pathfinder, the IFSI Library is efficiently and effectively contributing to the safety education of the general public throughout Illinois. To access the Illinois Online Disaster Preparedness Pathfinder, please visit: <http://www.fsi.uiuc.edu/content/library/iiodpp.cfm>.

Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths (IFLODD): The IFSI Library continues to enrich the Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Digital Image Collection Database with new historical information and images collected from partner fire departments. Of special note, users can now download audio recordings and transcripts of oral history interviews that document fallen firefighters and the incidents where they died. Memorializing the state's line-of-duty death firefighters in the database remains an ongoing library project, so if you can contribute any information about fallen firefighters, please contact Adam Groves at agroves@fsi.uiuc.edu or 217-265-6107.

IFSI China Programs: A total of six Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed between IFSI and the following China's institutes from 2006 to 2007: Tsinghua University's

Center for Public Safety Research, Key State Fire Laboratories at University of Science and Technology of China, Shanghai Fire Research Institute, Beihang University, Northeast China Normal University, and Beijing Normal University.

In November 2007, a delegation of 15 members led by Professor/Director Weicheng Fan, Tsinghua University, including professors from Tsinghua University's Center for Public Safety Research and high-ranking officials in emergency management from central and municipal governments visited UIUC, IFSI, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and the Chicago Fire Department. A collaborative plan in research, training and international conferences was proposed.

In June 2007, the Freeman Fellows Partner Initiative Grant Committee from the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, awarded funding to Lian Ruan and Professor Terry Weech from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to support the project titled, "Information Access and Library Resources in the Social Sciences and humanities in China – A Proposal for Development of a Graduate Course for Librarians and Researchers." The project's key partners are Peking University Library and Department of Information Management, and Wuhan University and Department of Library and Information Science. In January 2008, Ruan visited both partner universities.

In January 2008, Ruan traveled with Associate Chancellor and Director Jesse Delia and visited 15 libraries in China.



*Lian Ruan
Head Librarian*

Visit the IFSI web site to see the line-of-duty-death memorial project

IFLODD, the Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Digital Image Collection Database, documents the ultimate sacrifice of more than 750 Illinois firefighters over the past 150 years.

www.fsi.uiuc.edu/content/library/IFLODD/

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Explorer - Cadet “Hands-On Training” Fire School 2008

Another busy June is just around the corner and the Illinois Fire Service Institute is gearing up for a return to the mission of providing a true-to-life “Hands-On Training” Fire School for Illinois’ Fire Service Cadets, Junior Firefighters, Explorers, Venturing and bonafide fire department youth programs with structural fire fighting emphasis.

The Institute’s youth oriented weekend training school will be inclusive to serve ALL fire service organizations future firefighters. Those young people must meet the Illinois Department of Labor’s requirements for respiratory fitness and have properly fitted respiratory protection and “turn out gear.” All participants must have self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), fit-tested mask and be covered by their organization’s insurance.

The school brochure is available at www.fsi.uiuc.edu by clicking on the “5th Annual Explorer Cadet School” trailer as it rotates through the News Section. From there, print the flyer, registration form, agenda and other requirements to insure a safe and meaningful training experience for the department’s future firefighters. Cost and other pertinent information is also available. Pricing includes lodging, food and souvenir package. Questions can be directed to Greg Fisher at gafisher@fsi.uiuc.edu.

This year’s event will provide participants with 16 separate evolutions involving live fire attack, rapid intervention team operations, hose line advancement, standpipe work, search and rescue forcible entry, ventilation, ladder work with tools and hose lines, and extensive work with SCBA.

A certificate is issued to participants that fulfill all training evolutions and drills provided in the morning and evening hours. These hours are intended to minimize potential heat stress issues and give participants a chance to cool off at local swimming venues. Another option allows participants to learn some high angle rescue skills, water rescue, compete in some water-related contests or participate in optional fire fighting events that are more challenging.

The Fire Service Institute is excited about this year’s event and looks forward to welcoming back Cadet and other groups unable to attend the national event held last summer. With inquiries from Hawaii, Canada, Florida, Georgia and other states we are looking forward to another great “Hands-On Training” Fire School that piques the interest and provides tremendous baseline training for future firefighters in communities throughout Illinois.

Hope to see you here this summer!



Greg Fisher

From a Provisional Report: On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities in the U.S. in 2007

49 Career 42.6%

3 Wildland Full-Time 2.60%

2 Paid-on-Call 1.73%

59 Volunteer 51.3%

1 Wildland Contract 0.86%

1 Industrial 0.86%

Number of Multiple Firefighter Fatality Incidents: 7

Number of Firefighter Fatalities Associated with Wildland Incidents: 10

Some comments about IFSI instructors:

“These guys are passionate about their craft and enthusiastic about what they teach. They also allowed interaction.”

“The hands-on instructors have a great working knowledge of the subject...no short-cuts or ‘easy way outs’ allowed...good learning while under fire conditions. All evolutions were set up for success!”

“The instructors were all excellent. They provided constructive criticism and were very open to questions and giving guidance.”

IFSI Launches New Look for Web Site

www.fsi.uiuc.edu recently got more streamlined and easier to navigate. Take a look at the new site, navigate to look for classes and get the latest news from IFSI.

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Courses Virtual Campus Research Corporate Relations About IFSI
Library Homeland Security Outreach Donate

Student/Staff Login

DL/Login:
LEVELAND L
Password: Login
Register Forgot Password
Resource Center Webmail
News

IFSI News Ticker
[Show All]

Library
Library Search
[Find]

Popular Searches
Homeland Security
Fire Fighting
Hazardous Materials
[More Library]

IFLODD
Today's Illinois Firefighter
Line of Duty Deaths:
Dennis Olson 1993
Edward Peters 1926
Donald R. Wilson 2000
[View More]

[IFLODD Homepage]

Links
• North American Fire Training Directors
• Illinois Homeland Security Research Center
[Other Links]

FEATURED ITEM
Fireground Company Officer School
This class is designed to help company officers gain the knowledge and practical skills required to effectively lead a fire company. Classroom discussions of leadership, responsibilities, and tactics will be coupled with four days of demonstrations and hands-on practice of directing live-fire evolutions. Each student will take the role of a company officer. Afterwards, each evolution will be critiqued by their fellow students and instructors.
Register

QUICK LINKS
Ethanol Training
Information about ethanol emergencies and links to courses.
Director Jaehne WDWS Podcast
Listen to IFSI Director Richard Jaehne discussing new technology and education in the fire service with this WDWS-AM Newstalk 1400 Newsmakers podcast.
Course Search
Find and Register for upcoming classes. You can find it in our menus under "Courses."

FIREGROUND COMPANY OFFICER SCHOOL

Top Notch Leadership Class Scheduled for Fire College

Where else will you have the opportunity to hear from three established leaders -- sharing their knowledge and experience that you can take back to your department?

Tap into the leadership experiences of Deputy District Chief (ret) Ed Enright of the Chicago Fire Department, Chief of Operations (ret) John Norman from the New York Fire Department and Colonel Royal Mortensen (USMC).

Focusing on:

Duty, Pride and Tradition: strength and tradition of the Class "A" uniform

Making Sure the Bench is Three Deep

Passing the Baton: Succession planning

Principles of Personal Leadership and Setting the Example for Those you Lead

Leadership: Context, Competencies, Character, Climate and Culture

Executive Leadership: Translating leadership strategies between small and large organizations

Combat Leadership: Examining the human response to challenges

The 12-hour class is being offered twice during this year's Fire College, with 60 seats available for each session. Reserve your spot early.

84th Annual Fire College **May 29 - June 1** **Champaign-Urbana, Illinois**

FIRE FIGHTING CLASSES

Entry Level Recruit Training
Fire Fighting Core Competencies
Coordinated Fire Ground Operations
Commercial Building Operations for
Engine Companies
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
Essential Truck Company Operations
★ **This class fills quickly** ★
Advanced Response to LPG Emergencies
Fighting Single-Family Dwelling Fires
★ **This class fills quickly** ★
Basic Wildland

DRIVER/OPERATOR CLASSES

Pumper Operations
Tender Operations

OFFICER CLASSES

Firefighter Initial Fire Investigation
NEW Leadership
First-In Officer
★ **This class fills quickly** ★
High Rise Fire Fighting Operations

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY CLASSES

Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialist I
Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success
Health & Safety Officer
Intro to Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Fighting for
Structural Company Officers
Training Operations in Small Departments

RESCUE CLASSES

Technical Rescue Awareness
Basic Auto Extrication
Advanced Auto Extrication
★ **This class fills quickly** ★
"It Crashed in Your Backyard"
Grain Bin Rescue
Farm Extrication & Rescue

RESCUE CLASSES FOR FIREFIGHTERS, INDUSTRIAL RESPONDERS AND TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAMS

Down & Dirty Operations Level Confined Space
Rescue
Down & Dirty Operations Level Rope Rescue
Down & Dirty Technician Level Rope Rescue
Confined Space Rescue: A Step Beyond
Awareness

EMS CLASSES

NEW Managing Aggressive Behavior for EMS
NEW Dirty Dozen for EMS: Twelve Common
Areas of EMT and Paramedic Liability
Firefighter Rehabilitation and Heat Stress Man-
agement

HAZMAT CLASS

HazMat Monitoring

RETURNING THIS YEAR:

Basic CISM Certification
★ **This class fills quickly** ★

**Register online and early for best choices of
classes.**

IMPORTANT DATES

March 31: Registration begins
April 25: Last day to register without late fee
May 16: Last day to cancel without penalty
May 23: Last day to advance register
May 29: On-site registration and check-in

NEW THIS YEAR

There will no Wednesday evening registration
or check-in.

**Illinois Fire College – still
the most affordable
hands-on training in the
Midwest.**

84th Annual Fire College

May 29–June 1, 2008
Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Still the
best value
for hands-on
training
in the
Midwest!



Look on page 23 to get a list of classes for this year's Fire College or visit the IFSI web site to download the brochure and registration form.

Remember to register early, some classes fill quickly.



Illinois Fire Service Institute
11 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820



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