ILLINOIS FIRE COLLEGE

America’s Oldest Annual Fire College
As the oldest continuous annual fire college in the United States, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) Fire College celebrates its 90th event in 2014. Since 1925, the Illinois Fire College has been training firefighters how to more effectively perform their duties. That first Fire College in 1925 saw a meeting of 219 fire service professionals and could not have occurred without the support of the Illinois State Fire Marshal’s Office, the Illinois Fireman’s Association (now Illinois Firefighter’s Association), and the University of Illinois. Fire College has grown from that first event in 1925 that was dominated by lectures and discussions where no firefighters spoke, to the hands-on event held today with a majority of classes taught by current or former firefighters.

The topics taught at Fire College have evolved over the years to adapt to the ever-changing responsibilities of firefighters. During World War II, courses on civil defense and protecting the United States war plants dominated the Fire College schedule. After the September 11th, 2001 Terrorist Attacks, the focus of training once again adapted to focus on homeland security and responding to terrorist attacks. By the 1950’s, Fire College had become so popular that it was clear that one training event a year was inadequate to meet the training needs of Illinois firefighters. In 1957, the Firemanship Training Section was formed at the University of Illinois to support fire training outside of Fire College both in Champaign and at local fire departments across Illinois. The further success of this effort led to the renaming of the Firemanship Training Section to the Fire Service Institute in 1976 and the passage of the Illinois Fire Service Institute Act of 1979 that established the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) as the official state fire academy at the University of Illinois. Fire College was such an important part of fire training in Illinois that the newly passed Act stipulated that Fire College be held every year by law.

This booklet provides a look into the history of Fire College with information about every event from 1925 to the present. You will be able to see photos, key figures, courses held, and important historical context. The year’s 90th Fire College continues a rich tradition of fire service training that is not only uniquely tailored to Illinois firefighters, but also sets a standard for similar events nationally and internationally. The Illinois Fire College has been and continues to be critical to achieving the Illinois Fire Service Institute’s goal to “help every Illinois firefighter do their work through training, education, information, and research.”

Royal P. Mortenson
Director
On January 11, 1922, Illinois State Fire Marshal John G. Gambler called for a formal fire training program for Illinois in a speech titled “The Fireman of Today and Tomorrow,” at the 34th Annual Convention of the Illinois Fireman’s Association in Rockford. The University of Illinois subsequently began planning for a fire training program at the university.

The University of Illinois in partnership with the Illinois Fireman’s Association and the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal to open a course on June 16, 1925. The name of the program was the Short Course in Fire Prevention, Control, and Extinguishment. The event was held at what is currently the site of the John Bardeen Engineering Quad on the University of Illinois campus. Over 200 students from across the United States attended this event. It should be noted that the course did not feature instruction by firefighters and consisted mainly of lectures and demonstrations by engineering professors and industry representatives. Engineering Professor with the University of Illinois Cyrus E. Palmer served as the director and chairman of this first short course.

**Lectures or demonstrations held at this Short Course include:**

“Demonstration of Resuscitation” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio

“Fire Alarm Systems” F.A. Raymond, Consulting Engineer, Gamewell Alarm Company, Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts

“Demonstration-First Aid” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio

“Care and Maintenance of Equipment” Harold F. Hunter, Engineer, Chicago Board of Underwriters

“Demonstration-Rescue Work” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio

“Demonstration-Raising Ladders, Hose Work” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio

“Fire Prevention and Building Construction” Raymond T. Nelson, Engineer, Western Actuarial Bureau
For 1926, the Short Course on Fire Prevention, Control, and Extinguishment became an annual event at the University of Illinois. The planning committee for the event solicited donations from local businesses and individuals in the Champaign-Urbana area for the construction of a temporary wooden fire training tower. A tower was constructed on Illinois field (likely on Wright Street, between University Ave and Springfield Ave) The program for the course states that all meetings were held in the Gym Annex on campus. 236 students attended the second short course. In the Foreword of the Proceedings written by director and chairman of the course Cyrus E. Palmer, he states “A rather general criticism, however, was that too much time had been given to lectures and not enough to demonstrations….It is a difficult matter to plan an instructive program which will appeal to the average fireman who attends conventions merely to have a good time.”

Lecture or Demonstrations appearing during this Short Course:

“Sprinkler Protection” Ira. G. Hoagland, Sec. and Treas. National Automatic Sprinkler Association

“Hydraulics of Fire Streams” Clarence Goldsmith, Assistant Chief Engineer, National Board of Fire Underwriters, Chicago


“Ventilation of Buildings. Smoke and Gas, with Demonstration” Thomas F. Dougherty, Deputy Chief, New York Fire Department
The Third Short Course held lectures in the Gym Annex on the University of Illinois campus. Cyrus E. Palmer was director and chairman of the short course. A temporary forty foot tower was constructed at Illinois Field.

Lectures or demonstrations conducted at this course include:

“Demonstration- First Aid for Injuries” L.L. Wolf, Cincinnati, Ohio

“Hose Work on Ladders” Lieutenant Matthew J. Murphy, Chicago Fire Department

“Overhauling and Salvage Work”

“Life Net”

“Ventilation”

“Gas Masks; Resuscitation”

“Demonstration of Fire Fighting”

“Sprinkler Systems”

“Pumpers, Fire Streams, Nozzles”
Lectures at the Fourth Short Course were moved to room 221 of Engineering Hall from the Gym Annex used in previous years. The University of Illinois provided land for the construction of a permanent training tower. The tower was constructed with funds appropriated from the Illinois General Assembly and was five stories tall. It was constructed out of steel and brick. The first story was enclosed on all sides and contained a combustion chamber with fire resistive glass where spectators could view demonstrations from outside the tower. The location of the tower was the intersection of Healey and Sixth Streets in Champaign. Chief Edward F. McGurn and firefighters from the Chicago Fire Department conducted demonstrations using the newly constructed tower.

**Lectures or demonstrations held at this course include:**

Illinois Fire College
June 18-21, 1929

The Fifth Short Course held lectures in Room 221 in Engineering Hall on the University of Illinois campus. Cyrus E. Palmer was director and chairman of the short course.

Lectures and Demonstrations conducted at this course include:

“Hydraulics of Fire Streams”

“Safe-Guarding the Storage of Photographic, X-Ray and Motion Picture Films” C.R. Brown, Asst. Physicist, Bureau of Standards, by courtesy of the United States Department of Commerce

“Storage and Fighting of Film Fires” H.N. Beets, Medical Division, by courtesy of Eastman Kodak Co.

“Gasoline Handling and Storage and Fighting Fires” Carl R. Miller, Safety Superintendent, Standard Oil Co., Decatur Division
The Sixth Short Course held lectures in Room 221 in Engineering Hall on the University of Illinois campus. Cyrus E. Palmer was director and chairman of the short course.

**Lectures and Demonstrations conducted at this course include:**

“Fire Records” Chief Harry Haynie, Peoria Fire Department

“Electrical Hazards” Victor H. Tousley, Electrical Field Engineer, N.F.P.A.

“Chemical Fire Extinguishers, Apparatus, Equipment, First Aid Equipment and Their Use” H.W. Lange, Asst. Engineer, Underwriters’ Laboratory, Chicago
The Seventh Short Course was renamed the Illinois Fire College for 1931. Lectures were held in Room 15 in the Electrical Engineering Building on the University of Illinois campus. This is the first year that Loring H. Provine was director and chairman of the short course. He had previously chaired the planning committee for the first six short courses.

Lectures and Demonstrations conducted at this course include:

“The Chemistry of Fire” D.T. Wright, Engineer, National Board of Fire Underwriters

“Arson Investigations and Fire Marshal Activities” S.L. Legreid, State Fire Marshal
Lectures at the Eighth Fire College were held in Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. The program for the Fire College directly specifies the afternoons are devoted to evolutions—“The benefits derived from the fire college will depend in a measure upon the participation in the evolutions. Bring work clothes to use every afternoon in the drills.” Every participant was divided into one of three groups—Red, White, or Blue. Each group participated in a specified group of tasks. The final afternoon of the college was devoted to “competitive drills and evolutions.”

The drills and evolutions consisted of:

I. Raise 50 foot Bangor ladder to 4th floor; carry line of hose through window with 50 feet of hose inside and with nozzle at a window; show water; secure lines.
II. Attach line to hydrant, nozzle to hose; carry up stairs to fourth floor and show water at window; secure lines.
III. Hoist hose with hand line to fourth floor, show water; secure lines.
IV. Rescue man from third floor using life line or ladder.

The Eighth Fire College was the first year that gas mask training was used to familiarize firefighters with protective respiratory equipment.

The program for this Fire College mentions awards for the first time. The National Fire Equipment Company, Wooster, Ohio, offered the following awards:

2 Akron small line shut-off nozzles with ½-inch tips.

1 Akron ball type quick-acting shut-off Siamese, 2 ½ x 1 ½ x 1 ½.
Illinois Fire College
June 20-23, 1933

Lectures at the 9th Fire College were held at in Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. As in the 8th Fire College, firefighters were divided into either Red, White, or Blue groups for evolutions and demonstrations. A feature new to this College was the use of three “schools” on the second day of the activities. Firefighters had the options of attending one of the following schools:

School One-Engineers’ School, which consisted of topics such as “Types of Pumps” and “Simple Hydraulics”

School Two-Inspectors’ School, which consisted of topics such as “Fire Hazards and Remedies” and “Sprinkler Systems and Inspections”

School Three-Firemans’ School, which was intended “For all men not electing to take any of the other two schools and those attending for the first time.” Sample topics include “Rope Work,” “Small Tools,” and “Forcible Entry”

A feature that appears for the first time at this Fire College was an “Open Forum: On the Following False and True Statements and Questions for the Ninth Annual Fire College.” The forum addressed 40 statements listed on a handout that focused on different aspects of the fire service. Students were to consider whether each statement was true or false. A sample question was:

8. Carbon tetrachloride is a good extinguishing agent for electrical fires.
Lectures at the 10th Fire College were held at Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. This is the first year that the program for the College lists a baseball game as part of the official activities. Approximately 400 students attended the 10th Fire College. In direct contrast to the lecture and demonstration dominated Short Course in 1925, the 10th Illinois Fire College focused on hand-on training. Of the four schools held on Wednesday, June 20th: Engineer’s School, Inspector’s School, Fireman’s School and Instructor’s School, only the Instructor’s School was lecture based.

One important change to this Fire College was the discussion of the Union Stockyard’s Fire in Chicago that had occurred on May 19-20, 1934. This fire burned for over 19 hours and destroyed six square blocks of the Union Stock Yards. The fire was fought by an estimated 1,600 firefighters and caused over 6 million dollars in damage. The impact of the fire was so great that the schedule of the first day of the program was changed to allow Chicago fire experts to present facts on the fire and show over 1,000 feet of film of the blaze. The program for the 10th Fire College states “Note: A registration fee of fifty cents per person will be charge. This one fee covers all the work of the entire Tenth College” This is the first time a course fee is mentioned in the program of the Fire College.

Another first appearance in the program is “Held Under the Direction of the Illinois Fireman’s Association, Inc.” printed on the front page under the title.

**Notable courses appearing at this Fire College:**

“Mob Psychology”-Chief Harry K. Rogers, Chief Engineer, Fire Prevention Department, western Actuarial Bureau, Chicago

“The Axe: Axemanship-Floor-wall-ceiling opening.”

“Electrical Conductivity of Fire Streams and Liquids”-Chief J.W. Just

**Bibliography**


“Firemen Listen to Reports on Chicago Blaze.” Urbana Daily Courier (June 19, 1934)

“Firemen Start Active Work in Sessions Here.” Urbana Daily Courier (June 20, 1934)
Illinois Fire College
June 11-14, 1935

Lectures at the 11th Fire College were held in Room 100 of the Physics Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. Frequent attendant Assistant Chief Elmer Dicke of the Downers Grove Fire Department was asked by the Illinois Fireman’s Association to lead “Group B-Volunteer Departments: Training Program, First Aid Extinguishers” on Thursday, June 13.

This is the first program where volunteer firefighters are separated from paid firefighters for some classes. On Wednesday, June 12, one of the four Schools was titled “Volunteer Departments”

Notable courses for this Fire College include:

“Hazards in Distilleries” - Col. Clarence Goldsmith

“Driving to the Fire” - Col. Clarence Goldsmith

“Junior Fire Departments”

*This appears to be the first mention of junior fire departments in a Fire College program.
Lectures at the 12th Fire College were held in Room 100 of the Physics Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. For the 12th Illinois Fire College, the College continued to divide courses into those for paid firefighters and those for volunteer firefighters. The division for the 12th College, however, was to a much greater extent. The morning sessions on June 10, June 11, and June 12 were completely separated into sessions for paid firefighters and sessions for volunteer firefighters. This separation allowed for courses specific to volunteer departments such as: “Volunteer Department Organization”- Ass’t Chief John Enthrop, Midlotian, and “Selling the Volunteer Department to the Public”- Chief Fred Haderlein, Carlyle.

Notable courses for this Fire College include:

“Organizing for Emergencies-Floods, Tornadoes, Conflagrations”-Battalion Chief W.E. J. O’Leary, Rochester, N.Y.

“Fire Prevention in the Public Schools”- Chief Frank C. McAuliffe, Chief of Patrols, Chicago Fire Insurance Patrol.

“Health and Safety of the Firemen”-Dr. H. P. Sullivan, Chief Surgeon, Chicago Fire Department.

“Legal Rights of the Fireman Outside his Community”- Simon Kellerman III, Attorney, Illinois Firemen’s Association, Inc.
Lectures at the 13th Fire College were held at Room 100 of the Physics Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. Four lectures from the College were broadcast over WILL radio and firemen put on a vaudeville show at the Orpheum Theater in Champaign. Director Provine notes in the Report of the Thirteenth Fire College that more emphasis must be given to volunteer departments, who are often “under-manned, with inadequate equipment, and without proper training.” Director Provine also stated that problems facing rural fire departments included “rural electrification, air conditioning, gas for domestic use, electric refrigeration, and many other conveniences now available.”

### Notable courses at this Fire College:

- “Science as an Aid to the Investigating Officer” - Hon. D.M. Ladd, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice.

- “Travel of Fires” - Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Anthony J. Mullaney, Chicago Fire Department.
Lectures at the 14th Fire College were held at Room 100 of the Physics Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. Selected lectures continued to be broadcast via WILL radio.

Notable courses held at this Fire College include:

“Common Injuries to Firemen”- Dr. H.P. Sullivan, Chief Surgeon, Chicago Fire Department

“The Importance of Exits”- J. Burr Taylor, Special Representative, Fire Prevention Department, Western Actuarial Bureau, Chicago


“Special Equipment”- Anthony J. Mullaney, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal, Chicago Fire Department

According to the June 17, 1938 Daily Illini article “Firemen Finish 14th College Today,” this lecture explained factors important “in handling special equipment after automobile collisions, airplane accidents, train derailments, and other emergencies not usually connected with the fire department.”
Lectures at the 15th Fire College were held at in Room 100 of the Physics Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. According to the University of Illinois newspaper The Daily Illini, the oldest fireman in attendance was the chief of the Pekin Fire Department Julius Jaekel. Jaekel had been Chief of the Pekin Fire Department for 50 years in 1939 and a member of the department for 58 years. Lectures and demonstrations were organized into a General Group and an Advanced Group.

**Notable courses held at this Fire College include:**

“Round Table-Rural Agreements with Fire Departments” Simon Kellermann, III, Attorney I.F.A. Inc.; Chas. Foucek, Chief, Naperville; Paul Johnson, Oregon.

“ Developing Master Streams- Anthony J. Mullaney, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago”

“ Some Dangerous Chemicals” T. Alfred Fleming, Director of Conservation, National Board of Fire Underwriters, New York, N.Y.

In the lecture, Fleming discussed how electrolysis can destroy pipes and tanks, causing leakage of gasses. He also advised that the most dangerous spot in a hospital from the perspective of a firefighter is the operating room due to the use of highly inflammable gases used in anesthesia. These gases may be ignited, he warned that static electricity may ignite these gases at any time.
Lectures at the 16th Fire College were held in Room 100 of the Physics Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. According to the Report of the Sixteenth Fire College, 584 students enrolled and members from 113 volunteer fire departments attended. This was compared to members from 76 volunteer departments during the 15th Fire College. Radio Station WILL broadcast most of the formal program.

A first for this Fire College was the creation of a “Q & A” document with answers to common questions in the fire service. It was compiled by A.H. Gent, Engineer with the Illinois Inspection Bureau and H.H. Wolff of the Chicago Fire Department. Topics in this document included “Practical Hydraulics,” “Pumping Engines,” “Ladders,” and “Fire Apparatus General Maintenance,” among others. In all, the document contained 136 questions and answers as well as a bibliography of fire protection and fire prevention documents for further reading. Fire College Director Provine discussed the importance of the document for future Fire Colleges in the Report of the Sixteenth Fire College.

Notable courses held at this Fire College include:

“Demonstration-Mechanical Removal of Smoke and Gases” Chief John Hutchins, Macomb

“Sabotage” Emmet T. Cox, Fire Department Instructor, Indiana Inspection Bureau, Indianapolis
In this course, Emmet T. Cox discussed how sabotage was one of the most serious problems facing firemen in the United States. Cox cited the 1,650 sabotage cases investigated by the Indiana Inspection Bureau in 1939 as a sign of the seriousness of the problem. He went on to assert that the problem of dealing with sabotage often falls on the fire service. Some sabotage incidents affecting the fire service mentioned by Cox included fire extinguishers that had the chemicals removed by saboteurs and a case where a worker intentionally used an air hose to accelerate a minor fire in a factory producing bombers for France.

Lectures at the 17th Fire College were held in Room 100 of the Physics Building on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. Given the instability and conflict in Europe during this time period, there was a greater focus on national defense training.

The Daily Illini described one particular class detailing the threats posed by incendiary bombs. Emmett T. Cox of the Indiana Inspection Bureau in Indianapolis conducted a demonstration at Illinois Field to simulate the problems presented by incendiary bombs. Magnesium, which was used in incendiary bombs, was ignited and then extinguished using varying methods. Carbon tetrachloride, foam, soda acid, pyrene, water, and carbon dioxide made up the chemical spray applied to the burning magnesium. When using sand to smother the fire, it was discovered that the magnesium continued to burn for minutes after being completely covered. Students were also shown that small amounts of water applied to the burning magnesium increased the intensity of the fire.

Notable courses held at this Fire College include:

“Do You Rescue Cats?” Assistant Chief Joe Valentine, Rock Island

“Emergency Evacuation of Buildings” T. Alfred Fleming, Director of Conservation, National Board of Underwriters, New York, N.Y.

Lectures at the 18th Fire College were held in Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Laboratory on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. As with the 17th Fire College the previous year, the focus remained on wartime civil defense. The theme for the 18th Fire College was “A Mobilized Fire Service for Victory.” The Illinois Council of Defense, Civil Protection Division was a cooperating agency for this college.

Topics of lectures included the operation of air raid control centers and the effectiveness of air raid sirens in urban settings.

**Notable courses held at this Fire College include:**

“Mutual Aid and Running Schedules” A.H. Gent, Associate Fire Prevention Engineer, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

“Pump Priming Practices” H. Walker, Manager, America-La France-Foamite Corporation, Elmira, N.Y.

“Fire Fighting in Explosives” Thad Fife, Chief of the Fire Department and Safety Director, Western Cartridge Company, East Alton.
Lectures at the 19th Fire College were held in Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Laboratory on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. The ongoing involvement of the United States in World War II meant that the focus of this 19th Fire College remained on civil defense efforts.

John A. Neale, Chief Engineer with Underwriter’s Laboratories, Inc. in Chicago, presented a lecture titled “Are New Materials More Hazardous Than Old Materials?” While the lecture focused on the compromises in construction materials due to shortages of critical materials, it also discussed the use of adhesives in building construction and the new dangers posed by large area buildings such as defense plants. Neale also discussed the use of plastics in firefighting equipment due to wartime shortages of metals.

Another notable lecture held at the 19th Fire College was “Have You a ‘Cocoanut Grove’ in Your Community?” presented by Assistant State Fire Marshal George H. Anderson. Anderson examined the November 28, 1942 fire in Boston that killed almost 500 people. He used slides provided by the National Fire Protection Association to show the dangers of improper exits and combustible decorations used at Cocoanut Grove. Neale stressed that such a tragedy can occur at any place where flammable decorations are used, such as college assembly halls and roller skating rinks.

Yet another notable lecture was “Fire and Air Raid Precautions in Schools” conducted by the Hon. Vernon L. Nickell, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Illinois. Nickell spoke of 67 fires in Illinois in 1942 and the steps needed to reduce the number for future years. He firmly denounced school superintendents who refused to conduct fire drills and those who viewed fire escapes as unnecessary ornaments. Nickell told of reports of fire inspectors who encountered fire escapes at schools that were so dangerous that the inspector would not walk on them. He called for more frequent inspections school buildings and greater fire prevention education for students.
Lectures at the 20th Fire College were held in Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Laboratory on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. The ongoing involvement of the United States in World War II meant that the focus of this 20th Fire College remained on civil defense efforts. The first day of Fire College was June 6th, 1944, the day of the beginning of the D-Day invasion of Normandy by Allied Forces. The Opening Ceremony paid tribute to the Allied troops in Europe and the Fire College discussion forum for the evening on the 6th was cancelled so that participants could listen to reports of the invasion.

A rare opportunity to demonstrate extinguishment efforts at aircraft fires was offered with “Airplane Crash Fires” conducted by Richard E. Whalen, Chief of the Fire Department at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois. Over 250 participants were transported by charter bus from Champaign to Rantoul to see the demonstration. In reference to the airplane crash training, Fire College Director Provine stated in the Proceedings of the Twentieth Fire College that “With increased travel by air after the war, this is a coming problem of magnitude with which the fire fighters of the State must be familiar.”

Other notable courses held at this Fire College include:

Anderson discussed the efforts of the Office of the State Fire Marshal to demolish 159 dilapidated buildings in 1943 in Illinois. He described these houses as significant fire hazards that must be dealt with in accordance with local laws.

“Salvage Work” demonstrations by members of the Blue Island and Riverdale Fire Departments and directed by Chief Herb Dickelman of the Dolton Fire Department. The demonstrations included: various ways to fold and roll salvage covers; how to cover furniture at a residence fire and how to cover stock and counters in store buildings; several ways of building catch-alls and water chutes using salvage tarps; and various methods of throwing salvage covers such as the one-man roll.
In 1945, the U.S. Office of Defense Transportation’s War Committee on Conventions ruled that the full Illinois Fire College could not be held due to wartime gas conservation efforts. In place of the usual four-day program, a one-day Illinois Fire College was held at the Champaign Fire Department on June 14. In addition to local firefighters, fifty out-of-town firefighters were chosen by a drawing were permitted to attend the training session.
Lectures at the 22nd Fire College were held in Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Laboratory on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. Following the canceled Fire College in 1945, the 22nd Fire College had a record enrollment of 642. The increase in attendance was large enough to prompt Director Provine to look for a larger indoor meeting room than Room 215 of the Electrical Engineering Laboratory.

**Notable courses held at this Fire College include:**

“Petroleum Products and the Hazards Involved” George H. Anderson, Assistant State Fire Marshal, Springfield

“32 Uses of a Rope Hose Tool” The Naperville Fire Department under the direction of Chief Joe Valentine and Assistant Chief Joe Burke, and assisted by Firemen Patterson, Pettit, Wahlheim, Martin, Kenoferl and Norris

“Research in the Fire Department” William B. Larkin, Engineer, Missouri Inspection Bureau, St. Louis, Mo.
Lectures at the 23rd Fire College were held in Illini Theatre within Lincoln Hall on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. In the afternoon sessions, firefighters participated in one of three schools: Pump Operators, Salvage and Forcible Entry, or Fire Department Administration. During the last afternoon session, an additional specialty school was offered: “Plant Protection,” conducted by Chief Thad Fife of the Western Cartridge Company in East Alton, Ill. Chief Fife discussed the importance of conducting regular inspections at industrial plants and requiring all employees to attend basic fire safety and suppression training. This was the first specialized training session held at Fire College focusing on fire protection for industrial plants.

In the report of the Fire College, Director Provine discussed the National Conference on Fire Prevention called by President Truman to address the growing fire losses in the United States. Provine declared that Illinois has been a pioneer in fire prevention and that the Fire College was addressing the fire prevention issue since its inception in 1925. On the morning of first day of Fire College, Illinois Firemen’s Association, Inc. President Russell Wright addressed the participants with a lecture titled “Again We Roll.” Russell commented on the success of Fire College and stated that the idea of an annual Fire College had spread from Illinois to almost every state in the nation. He then went on to cite the three significant hotel fires that had occurred in the United States since the last Fire College: the Hotel Winecoff Fire in Atlanta in December, 1946 where 119 people died; the Hotel La Salle Fire in Chicago in June, 1946 where 61 people died; and the Hotel Canfield Fire in Dubuque, Iowa in June, 1946 where 19 people died. Russell highlighted these fires to advocate for sprinklers and fireproofing in hotels.

During the morning session of the second day, Illinois State Fire Marshal John H. Craig continued the theme started by Wright concerning hotel fire safety. Craig spoke of contributing factors in the fatal hotel fires such as careless smoking habits, flammable room contents negating the fire resistive properties of the rooms themselves, and open stairways and vertical shafts that allowed for deadly smoke to spread throughout the buildings. He also highlighted the efforts of the Office of the State Fire Marshal in Illinois and the National Fire Protection Association to create a guide containing model hotel fire legislation. The proposed guide would require more stringent building codes in hotels and could be easily adopted by state legislative bodies nationwide.

Notable courses include:

“How Would You Present Fire Prevention in Elementary Schools?” Professor Elmer Wetmore

Lectures at the 24th Fire College were held in Illini Theatre within Lincoln Hall on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. In the afternoon sessions, firefighters participated in one of three schools: Pump Operators, Industrial Plant Protection, or Fire Department Officer’s School.

**Notable courses include:**


“The Illinois State Fire Prevention Association” Herbert A. Elkin, Secretary, Springfield, Ill. In this lecture, Elkin discussed the history of the Illinois State Fire Prevention Association and detailed the creation of the Illinois State Fair Fire Prevention Exhibit Association in February of 1947. The association held its first exhibit at the Illinois State Fair in 1947 and was visited by an estimated 135,000 people and handed out over 90,000 pieces of literature. The Fire Show held in a 30 by 60 foot tent was the most attended event and was broadcast via a local radio station.
Lectures at the 25th Fire College were held in Illini Theatre within Lincoln Hall on the University of Illinois Campus. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. The programs for this Fire College were printed in a reflective silver finish to commemorate the “Silver Anniversary” of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. In the afternoon sessions, firefighters participated in one of four schools: Pump Operators, Industrial Plant Protection, Fire Department Officer’s School, or Inspector’s School.

During the opening address of Fire College, President of the Illinois Firemen’s Association William Thad Fife noted that Fire College was not only the first State Fire College in Illinois, but also the first state school for firemen’s training school in the United States. Fife estimated that over 1,000 people had participated in the running of Fire College and that over 800 subjects had been addressed in either lectures or demonstrations. Total attendance for the first 24 Fire Colleges was 10,188.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

In afternoon sessions each day, J.R. Fleming of the Mine Safety Appliance Company conducted demonstrations concerning “Combustion Gases and Respiratory Protective Equipment.” Fleming warned of the dangers of smoke inhalation by firefighters and that the reputation of firefighters as “smoke-eaters” had been rendered obsolete by new discoveries into the effects of oxygen deprivation on the human body. Participants had the opportunity to use a variety of respiratory protective devices in the smoke building, which was used for gas-mask training at Fire College.

“Building Collapse and the Fire Department” John J. Ahren, Director, Fire Protection and Safety Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago
Ahren used slides to highlight five main causes of building collapse: foundation failure, structural deterioration, overloading, alterations, and fire or explosions.

“Radio in the Fire Service” Wayne E. Swanson, Fire Chief, Rockford, Ill.
Swanson discussed the efforts of the International Association of Fire Chiefs to maintain the radio wave band used by the Rockford Fire Department when commercial interests attempted to acquire the band from the Federal Communications Commission. He also stressed that radios are underutilized in the fire service but have great value in calling for additional equipment at the fire scene. Swanson also stated that radio equipment could be used to more effectively dispatch fire companies to fires and prevent unnecessary trips back to the fire station for orders.
Lectures at the 26th Fire College were held in Smith Recital Hall Auditorium on the University of Illinois Campus and the afternoon “Schools” were held in the Civil Engineering Hall. Professor Loring H. Provine served as Director of the Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. In the afternoon sessions, firefighters participated in one of four schools: Pump Operators, Industrial Plant Protection, Inspections by Fire Department Personnel, or Basic Evolutions School.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“Diesel Locomotive Fires” Robert G. Kooser, Fire Protection Engineer, Atlantic Coast Line R.R. This lecture was conducted by playing two recordings of papers presented at the 1950 Fire Department Instructors Conference.

Unlike many of the previous Fire Colleges, evolutions conducted in the afternoons at the Training Tower were not pre-planned. Instructors conducted demonstrations based upon the requests of the attendees.
Illinois Fire College
June 19-22, 1951

In 1951, Professor George Harper of the University of Illinois College of Engineering served as Director of Fire College for the first time. Also in 1951, Fire College was placed under the administration of the Engineering Extension Program, Division of University Extension. This move was a result of the intentions of the University of Illinois to offer fire training courses in addition to the annual Fire College.

Lectures at the 27th Fire College were held in Smith Recital Hall Auditorium on the University of Illinois Campus and the afternoon “Schools” were held in the Civil Engineering Hall.

This was the first year that a preliminary meeting was convened prior to Fire College to plan for the event. It was held in Champaign-Urbana one month prior to Fire College from May 10 through May 12th, 1951.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“Smoke Room Gas Demonstration” J.R. Fleming, Mine Safety Appliances Co.

“Tandem Pumping Demonstration” Chief Russel Wright

“Fire Resistant Paint Burning Demonstration” Mr. Wm. P. Slattery, Albi Products

In addition, motion pictures were shown several nights during Fire College. Notable films include:

“Motion Picture on the Atomic Bomb” (The latest available information on the atomic bomb)

“It Can Happen Here” (Motion picture on “The Texas City Disaster” and Civil Defense)

“Fire on the Farm” (A new motion picture on Rural Fire Protection)
Lectures at the 28th Fire College were held in Smith Recital Hall Auditorium on the University of Illinois Campus and the afternoon “Course Classes” were held in the Civil Engineering Hall. Professor George Harper served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. In the afternoon sessions, firefighters had the choice of participating in either one of five course classes: Inspection for Firemen, Industrial Fire Protection, Pump Operators, Fire Department Administration, or Forcible Entry and Salvage or attending one of three “Evolutions Classes”: Small Tools and Emergency Equipment, Hose Evolutions, or Ladder Evolutions.

A special note in the programs for the 28th Fire College announced the First Fire Instructors’ Training Conference to be held November 17 through 20 at the University of Illinois. This event would be the first non-Fire College event offered by the University of Illinois.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:


“Exploratory Committee on the Application of Water” M.I. Parker, Engineer, Missouri Inspection Bureau

This lecture presented the findings of the Exploratory Committee on the Application of Water conducted in Miami, Florida in 1951. The Committee was convened to discuss the growing use of “fog nozzles,” or hose streams broken into finely divided water particles. In this Fire College lecture, Parker discussed the need for further study to determine the effectiveness of fog nozzles and any possible dangers to firemen, including steam burns when applying the fog streams.
Lectures at the 29th Fire College were held in Lincoln Hall Theater on the University of Illinois Campus and the afternoon classes were held in the Civil Engineering Hall. Professor George Harper served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions changed with this Fire College to include nine classes that were scheduled for eight hours each. Firefighters attending all eight hours of the class were issued a certificate from the University of Illinois. The classes were: Pump Operators, Inspection by Fire Departments, Industrial Fire Protection, Fire Department Administration, Respiratory Protection in the Fire Service, Rescue Squad Techniques, Forcible Entry and Salvage, Ladder Use and Maintenance, Hose Care and Use.

For the first time, the proceedings of this Fire College included a complete listing of participants as well as the individual certificates issued for specialized classes.

Also for the first time, Fire College hosted a live on-site radio broadcast of firefighting tests conducted. The Galena Fire Department conducted live fire tests that were meant to determine the effectiveness of indirect fog streams in extinguishing a fire in an enclosed space.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“Using Portable Pumps and Tank Trucks” Chief Robert Poffenberger, Polo, Illinois

“The Question Box Panel” where a panel of fire service professionals answered questions posed by firefighters.
Lectures at the 30th Fire College were held in the Gregory Hall Auditorium on the University of Illinois Campus and the afternoon classes were held in the Civil Engineering Hall. Professor George Harper served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of thirteen eight hour classes. Participants who attended all eight hours of a class were issued a University of Illinois certificate. The thirteen classes were: Pump Operators, Basic Inspection for Firemen, Advanced Inspection Techniques, Arson Investigation, Industrial Fire Protection, Fire Department Officership, Respiratory Protection, Care and Use of Resuscitators, First Aid for Firemen, Salvage Methods, Basic Firefighting, Ladder Evolutions, and Hose Care and Use.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:


“How We Handle Mutual Aid” panel discussion moderated by Mr. George Tatnall- National Board of Underwriters, Chicago
Lectures at the 31st Fire College were held in the Gregory Hall Auditorium on the University of Illinois Campus and the afternoon classes were held in the Civil Engineering Hall. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Newton had previously been Supervisor of Engineering Extension at the University of Illinois. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of nine eight hour classes. Participants who attended all eight hours of a class were issued a University of Illinois certificate. The nine classes were: Pump Operators, Inspection by Firemen, Industrial Fire Protection, Fire Department Leadership, Forcible Entry and Salvage, Hose and Ladders, Basic Fire Fighting, and Respiratory Protection and Care and Use of Resusitators.

During the opening address of this Fire College, Director Newton honored two firefighters who had attended all 31 Fire Colleges. They were: Roy Alsip, Secretary of the Illinois Fireman’s Association and Fred Haderlein, Deputy State Fire Marshal.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“Demonstration of Indirect Application of Fog Streams and Covering Exposures”- Joe Fetters, Assisted by Chief O.E. Hirst and members of the Galena Fire Department and Victor C. Wimmer and members of the Urbana Fire Department.

“Electricity and the Fireman” demonstrations by Chief Load Dispatcher of the Indiana-Michigan Electric Company John F. Phelan. Phelan used a “High Line Hazard Demonstrator” model to show the dangers that electrical lines pose to fire fighters.

Robert K. Newton
Lectures at the 32nd Fire College were held in the Gregory Hall Auditorium on the University of Illinois Campus and the afternoon classes were held in the Civil Engineering Hall, Gregory Hall and University of Illinois Memorial Stadium. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of ten classes. The ten classes were: Pump Operations, Pump Operators, Fire Inspection, Industrial Fire Protection, Fire Department Leadership, Salvage Techniques and Forcible Entry, Fire Department Operation, Breathing Apparatus, Rural Fire Fighting and Protection, and Arson. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

Demonstrations at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul consisted of:

A fire on a F-80 Jet aircraft, with 150 Gallons of gasoline serving as the fuel that must be extinguished

A 2900 square feet gasoline pit filled with 200 gallons of gasoline and 200 gallons of oil to be extinguished

A B-29 aircraft fire control and rescue operation where 500 gallons of gasoline and 200 gallons of used oil will need to be extinguished and three dummies in the fuselage to be rescued.

“Oil Fire Under Pressure Spraying from a Broken Pipeline”- John Fligg, J.V. Deadmore and members of the University of Illinois Fire Department
Classes at the 33rd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Gregory Hall Auditorium, Physics Laboratory and University of Illinois Memorial Stadium. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of twelve classes. The twelve classes were: Fire Apparatus and Pumps, Fire Streams, Fire Inspections, Hose and Ladder Evolutions, Fire Department Management for Paid Departments, Fire Department Management for Volunteer Departments, Salvage Techniques and Forcible Entry, Fire Department Operation, Breathing Apparatus, Rural Fire Fighting and Protection, Arson, and Industrial Fire Protection. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

The Firemanship Training Program sent out a questionnaire prior to this Fire College to a select group of firefighters asking for program suggestions. They convened a twenty-man program planning committee in March of 1956 to discuss the suggestions at the Champaign Fire Department. The result of the responses to the questionnaire led to the scheduling of the 83 speakers and panelists in the 33rd Illinois Fire College program.

The program for the 33rd Fire College was starkly different from previous years. Many photos of speakers are included as is a listing of participants and their addresses.

**Notable courses and demonstrations include:**

Maintaining the Fire College practice of tailoring Fire College training to current events, the 33rd Fire College held a class titled “Emergency Evacuations” that discussed methods of evacuating hospitals and nursing homes. This course addressed the Katie Jane Nursing Home Fire in Warrenton, Missouri in February of 1957 where 72 chronically ill and elderly residents were killed.

Two houses were burned in “Demonstration of Practical and Impractical Methods of Fire Fighting Using Indirect Application of Fog Streams and Covering Exposures.” The demonstrations achieved national attention and were featured in newspapers as far away as Florida.
Classes at the 34th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in Smith Music Hall, Gregory Hall Auditorium, Physics Laboratory and University of Illinois Memorial Stadium. Demonstrations were held southwest of Memorial Stadium and north of St. Mary’s Road. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of eleven classes. The eleven classes were: Fire Streams (Booster to Master), Rural Fire Fighting, Arson Detection, Aerial Ladders, Rescue, Fire Dept. Inspection, Command Class for Chief Officers, Fire Tactics-Company Officers, Apparatus Drivers, Basic Class-Hose & Ladder Evolutions, and Industrial Fire Protection. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Chief O.E. Hirst of the Galena Fire Department gave the keynote speech for the 34th Fire College and in his address effectively summarized the evolving fire service. Hirst asserted that firefighters needed more courage to face new challenges, and that training would provide that courage. Hirst stated that “modern fire fighting requires all of the mental alertness and good judgment that comes from steady training.”

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“A Vital Fire Fighting Tool: The Fire Hydrant,” Abe Gent, Chief Engineer, Illinois Inspection Bureau, Chicago

“Saving Communities Through Mutual Aid” panel discussion, Chief William E. Murphy, La Grange Fire Department, Moderator; Chief E.H. Elliot, West Suburban Fire Protection District, Rockford; Chief J.L. Harris, Richwoods Township Fire Protection District, Peoria; Chief C. Mayers, Herrin Fire Department; Norman P. Hirsch, President, Madison County Firemen’s Assn., St. Jacob; Chief Roy Beer, Illinois Fire Chief’s Association and Chief of Roanoke.

O. E. Hirst
Classes at the 35th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Gregory Hall Auditorium. Demonstrations were held southwest of Memorial Stadium and north of St. Mary’s Road. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of eleven classes. The eleven classes were: Fire Streams (Pumps), Rural Firefighting, Arson Detection, Aerial Ladders, Rescue, Command Class-Chief Officers, Fire Tactics-Company Officers, Apparatus Drivers, First Aid for Firemen, Basic Evolutions, and Industrial Fire Safety. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Director Newton noted in his opening address that the fire tower erected in 1928 had been recently demolished to make room for the National Council of Teachers of English. In return for demolishing the training tower, the University of Illinois provided a twenty acre plot to the Firemanship Training Section on which to build a new training facility. The plot of land was located southwest of the stadium and is the current site of the Illinois Fire Service Institute campus in Champaign.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

Chief Harryman conducted demonstrations displaying the dangers posed by liquid metal and rocket fuel fires. His first demonstration involved the liquid metal sodium potassium alloy known as NAK. Chief Harryman ignited NAK and showed the effects that water and a common extinguishing agent, carbon tetrachloride, had on the fire. He stressed that NAK would react violently with water and almost any fire extinguishing agent. Chief Harryman explained the health hazards associated with NAK, the types of protective clothing that firefighters should wear, methods of shipment and shipping containers used, and methods for cleaning up spills and disposal. Chief Harryman also conducted demonstrations of fires involving solid rocket fuels and jet fuels combined with liquid oxygen.

“Toxicity of Fire Gases,” Dr. Lester L. Williams, Fire Dept., Surgeon, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Dr. Williams detailed the dangers posed by the products of combustion including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, cyanide, hydrogen sulfide, and others. He explained the early ventilation of a burning structure is a compromise between protecting life and property and protecting firefighters from toxic smoke. Dr. Williams stressed that the density of the smoke is not a reliable indicator of its danger to human health and that respiratory protective equipment such as the self-contained breathing mask is essential for the health of firefighters.

Classes at the 36th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Gregory Hall Auditorium. Demonstrations were held southwest of Memorial Stadium and north of St. Mary’s Road. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of thirteen classes. The thirteen classes were: Rural Firefighting, Pump Operators, Rescue, Fire Prevention for Firemen, Apparatus Driving, Firemanship, Arson Detection, Ladders, Officer’s Command, First Aid, Industrial Fire Safety, Salvage Operations, and Inspection. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“Stay on the Rig,” Dr. L.C. Williams, Fire Department, Physician and Surgeon, Colorado Springs.

Dr. Williams discussed the dangers posed to firefighters in traffic accidents involving fire apparatus. He argued that the main cause of injury and death among firefighters in apparatus accidents was not wearing a seatbelt. Dr. Williams cited studies showing the safety of seat belts while arguing against popular myths surrounding their use. He stated that ejection from a vehicle is not safer than being seat belted in place and that vehicle fires or submersion in water is an extremely rare occurrence. Dr. Williams argued that wearing a seatbelt is beneficial in vehicle fires or water submersion because it helps to prevent serious injuries that would hamper escape. He also cited the fact that the Chicago Fire Department installed seatbelts in all of their apparatus in the mid 1950’s and that they did not noticeably increase response times.

Illinois Fire College
June 12-15, 1961

Classes at the 37th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Gregory Hall Auditorium. Demonstrations were held at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet, Illinois, southwest of Memorial Stadium and north of St. Mary’s Road on the University of Illinois Campus, and in Urbana. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of ten classes. The ten classes were: Rural Firefighting, Pump Operators, Salvage, First Aid and Rescue, Structural Firefighting-Ventilation, Flammable Liquid Firefighting, Compressed Gases Firefighting, Arson Detection, Industrial Fire Safety, and Officer Command. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“How Safe are You on the Way to the Fire,” Harry Jordan, Roy Johnson, and Gary Davison, Courtesy Chief R.C. Mahnquist, Minneapolis Fire Department, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
In this skit put on by the Minneapolis Fire Department, the benefits of using reflective tape on firefighter clothing were stressed. The firefighters from the Minneapolis Fire Department explained how using reflective tape on firefighting gear can increase visibility of firefighters on roadways and during firefighting operations.

The demonstrations at the Lake of the Woods in Mahomet consisted of:

In this demonstration, two automobiles were submerged in 38 feet of water and divers with Scuba Gear simulated rescue of the occupants and recovery of the vehicles.

“19 ft. Jet-Propelled Fireboat,” C. (Jimmie) Johnson
In this demonstration, a jet-propelled fire boat conducted maneuvers on the Lake of the Woods. The newer type of boat was smaller and more maneuverable than previous fire boats. The fire boat could be used on smaller community lakes such as those in Springfield, Ill. and riverside communities where larger fire boats could not operate.
Classes at the 38th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Gregory Hall Auditorium. Demonstrations were held southwest of Memorial Stadium and north of St. Mary’s Road on the University of Illinois Campus and in Urbana. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of eleven classes. The eleven classes were: Rural Firefighting, Pumper Operators, Salvage, Rescue, Structural Firefighting, Flammable Liquids Fires, Compressed Gases Firefighting, Arson Detection, Radiation Hazards, Industrial Fire Safety, and Officer Command. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“A Look at the European Fire Service,” J.C. Robertson, Senior Instructor, Fire Service Extension, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland [Note: Between the time of the publication of Fire College materials and Fire College, J.C. Robertson was appointed Assistant State Fire Marshal of Maryland]

“Supermarket Fire Prevention and Control,” Emanuel Fried, Chief, Fire Department, Hinsdale, Illinois
In this lecture, Chief Fried stated that in 1960 supermarket fires ranked fourth in terms of large-loss fires in the United States. He noted that the challenges of fighting supermarket fires include lengthy response times by fire departments, poor building construction, and often terrible housekeeping conditions in stockrooms.
Classes at the 39th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Gregory Hall Auditorium. Robert K. Newton served as Director of Fire College. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of twelve classes. The twelve classes were: Rural Firefighting, Pumper Operators, Salvage, Rescue, Structural Firefighting, Flammable Liquid Fires, Compressed Gases Firefighting, Arson Detection, Radiation Hazards, Industrial Fire Safety, and Officer Command. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

“Municipal Liability for Fire Protection,” James W. Morgan, Attorney at Law, Madison, Wisconsin

“Cold Weather Operations,” Chief Frank Oberg, St. Paul, Minnesota
Classes at the 40th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Gregory Hall Auditorium. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Fire College. Eckert, a former fire chief, assumed both the role of Fire College Director and Head of the year-round Firemanship Training Section that was established in 1957. Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of thirteen classes. The thirteen classes were: Efficient Use of Limited Water Supply, Pumper Operations, Rescue, Structural Firefighting, Radiation Hazards, Officer Command, Industrial Fire Safety, Structural Stability Under Fire Conditions, Ventilation, Fire Prevention Activities, Arson Detection, and Fire Department Administration and Records. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Notable courses and demonstrations include:

Keynote Address “Training Means Safety, Success,” J.I. Fetters, Commissioner, Metropolitan Fire Department, Nashville, Tennessee

This address was given by former Head of the Firemanship Training Section at the University of Illinois, Joseph Fetters. Fetters discussed what he believed to be the three requirements of good training: the selection of good methods for doing the jobs in the fire service, thorough and continuous study, and religious practice. He stated “When all of these facets of training technique are considered and employed by the dedicated fire training officers, then, and then only, will the quality of fire protection work be finer, and the service rendered will be a source of never-ending satisfaction.”

The 41st Fire College was held on the University of Illinois Campus in Gregory Hall Auditorium. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Fire College. Under the leadership of Eckert the Illinois Fire College continued to grow both in terms of courses and visibility with public demonstrations and increased media coverage. The 41st Fire College also included a notable change to the schedule. Instead of having the Fire College happen during the week, it was moved to its current Thursday through Sunday Schedule. This allowed firefighters that worked jobs during the week to attend the Fire College.

Activities in the morning sessions consisted of lectures and demonstrations. Afternoon sessions consisted of thirteen classes. The thirteen classes were: Efficient Use of Limited Water Supply, Pumper Operations, Rescue, Structural Firefighting, Radiation Hazards, Officer Command, Industrial Fire Safety, Structural Stability Under Fire Conditions, Ventilation, Fire Prevention Activities, Arson Detection, and Fire Department Administration and Records. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

**Notable courses and demonstrations include:**

In this demonstration, the staff from the Illinois Bell Telephone Company used 1/64 models of manholes and connected areas to show the dangers of the buildup of different types of gases within manholes without proper ventilation. The presenters stressed that the demonstration would also apply to the dangerous buildup of gases in basements and other enclosed spaces in buildings. The presenters also stressed the importance of always testing for dangerous gases such as carbon monoxide and natural or petroleum based gases before entering manholes connected to sewers or utilities.

“Chicago Fire Department Photography at Work,” Patrick F. Lewis, Lieutenant, Photography Unit, Chicago Fire Department
In this lecture, Lieutenant Lewis explained the history of duties of the Chicago Fire Department Photography Unit, which was formed in 1958 to document fires, accidents, training activities, and other important events in the department. Lewis explained that photography is valuable to any fire department and can aid in legal cases, public relations, fire investigations and many other areas of the fire service.
Classes at the 42nd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Gregory Hall Auditorium, the Mechanical Engineering Building, the Training Center Tower, the George Gym and Pool, and the S.E. corner of Memorial Stadium, whereas workshops were only held in the Gregory Hall Auditorium. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Illinois Fire College. Firefighters who attended the 42nd Illinois Fire College in 1966 were among the first to train on the permanent, six-story fire training tower constructed near South First Street in Champaign. Scheduled classes were Thursday afternoon, Friday morning and afternoon, and Saturday morning. The eleven classes were Pump Operations, Hose and Ladders, Rescue, Ventilation and Protective Breathing Equipment, Resuscitators, Arson Detection, Structural Stability Under Fire Conditions, Fire Prevention and Inspection Activities, Water Rescue, Aerial Ladders and Elevated platforms, and Efficient Use of Limited Water Supply. Morning sessions started with a lecture. Evening sessions consisted of a demonstration, lecture, or a motion picture film night. Other demonstrations were conducted Sunday morning. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Notable lectures, courses, and demonstrations include:


“How to Handle Bombs and Bomb Scares,” Terry Hayes, Director, Bureau of Fire Prevention, Shreveport Fire Dept., Shreveport, LA, and C.G. Vaughn, Training and Education Officer, Caddo-Bossier Civil Defense, Shreveport, LA. In this lecture, confusion created when departments have not made sufficient plans to cope with bomb scares is discussed. It also addresses setting up a workable plan of operation through establishment of which department will be responsible for the operation. Examples of how this was addressed are given in stores, schools, and a hospital, as well as means of acquiring training for such situations and what should be done after discovery of a bomb.

“What the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation Can Do for You,” Joseph D. Nicol, Supt. Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation Laboratory, State of Illinois, Joliet, IL, and Forrest Litterly, Asst. Superintendent, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation Laboratory, State of Illinois, Springfield, IL. This lecture covered Historical and Legal Background of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, present record facilities of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, laboratory facilities of the Bureaus of Criminal Identification and Investigation, service facilities of the bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, polygraph Service of the Bureau of Identification and Investigation. There was an emphasis on the Laboratory facilities available with particular attention to the recognition, collection and preservation of evidence in arson investigation.

“Structural Stability Under Fire Conditions,” Charles Roblee, Instructor, Firemanship Training, University of Illinois, and Capt. Thomas Hanson, Fire Prevention. In this course, the effects of fire on building materials, stability of masonry walls during fires, and roof types and constructions were discussed.
Classes at the 43rd Annual Illinois Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Illinois Fire College.

The twelve classes were Pump Operations, Efficient Use of Water for Rural Firefighting, Hose and Ladders, Photography, Peacetime Radiation Hazards, Fire prevention and Inspection Activities, Resuscitators, Rescue, Ventilation and Protective Breathing Equipment, Arson Detection, Aerial ladders and Elevated Platforms, and Structural Stability Under Fire Conditions. Before morning sessions after afternoon session, a speaker addressed the whole group Thursday through Saturday. Workshops occurred Saturday afternoon, and demonstrations occurred Sunday morning. Participants who attended a minimum number of classes were issued a University of Illinois certificate of completion.

Notable lectures and demonstrations:

The lecture concerned properties of Anhydrous Ammonia, emergency procedures involving Anhydrous Ammonia, properties of Ammonium Nitrate, and emergency procedures involving Ammonium Nitrate.

“Problems in Fighting Industrial Fires,” George Wineland, USI Chemical Co., Tuscola, IL, and M. W. Stalker, Chief of Plant Protection, Caterpillar Tractor Co., E. Peoria, IL.
The lectures concerned industrial fire problems, fighting transformer and sub-station fires, and fire problems at grain processing plants.

“Caisson Rescue,” Mundelein Fire Dept.

“Rescue by Helicopter,” University of Illinois Instructors and Participants.
Classes at the 44th Annual Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Armory Building, the Administration Building, Gregory Hall, the Illini Union Building, Southwest of Stadium at St. Mary’s Road, the Training Center Tower, and East Great Hall of Memorial Stadium. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Illinois Fire College.

The twelve classes were Pump Operations (6 hours, a basic course), Pump Operation (12 hours, an advanced course), Efficient Use of Water for Rural Firefighting, Basic Firemanship, Fire Department Administration, Fire Prevention and Inspection Activities, First Aid and Resuscitators, Training for Fire Department Instructors, Ventilation, Protective Breathing, Salvage and Roper Work, and Arson Detection. Workshops commenced Saturday afternoon. Speakers presented mornings and evenings.

Notable lectures and workshops:


“911 Emergency Telephone Number,” J. E. Hinchcliffe, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, O’Fallon, IL.

“Civil Disturbances,” Arthur W. Appel, Associate in Firemanship Training, University of Michigan and Joseph Deichman, Division Fire Marshal, Chicago Fire Academy, Chicago, IL.

“Solving Your High Rise Problems Before They Are Built,” Assistant Chief Thomas Hanson, Fire Prevention Bureau, Evanston, IL.

 Illinois Fire College  
 June 5-8, 1969  

Classes at the 45th Annual Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in Gregory Hall, in the East Great Hall of Memorial Stadium, in the Illini Union Building, in the Armory Building, and at the Training Facilities off South First Street Road. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Illinois Fire College.

The seven classes were Firemanship Training, Officer’s Training, Pump Operations, Inspectors, Instructor Training, Limited Water Supply, and Resuscitators. The workshops occurred Thursday afternoon, and the demonstrations happened. Sunday morning.

Notable lectures:


The lecture covers what is necessary for a fire or explosion to occur, how charges are created, and what can be done to reduce or stop charges, fires, and explosions because static electricity can occur anytime at any place.
Classes at the 46th Annual Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Illini Union Building, in East Great Hall of Memorial Stadium, in the Lecture Room of the Northeast Tower at the Memorial Stadium, and in the Armory Building. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Illinois Fire College.

There were seven classes taught: Ventilation, Officer Leadership, Breathing Apparatus and Resuscitators, Rescue Practices, Fire Inspection and Prevention, Firemanship Training, and Pump Operations. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

**Notable workshop and lectures:**


Classes and workshops at the 47th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois Campus in the Illini Union Building, in the Armory Building, in the East and West Great Halls at Memorial Stadium, and in Gregory Hall. Demonstrations were conducted at the Training Center. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Illinois Fire College. The highlight of the 47th Annual Illinois Fire College is the beginning of Hazardous Materials training.

There were 10 classes offered: Ventilation, Breathing Apparatus, Resuscitators, Fire Prevention and Inspection Methods, Building Construction, Pump Operations – Advanced, Pump Operations – Basic, Firemanship Training I, Firemanship Training II, Hazardous Chemical Firefighting. Workshops occurred Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations Sunday morning. Lectures were presented mornings and evening from Thursday through Saturday.

Notable workshops, classes, lectures, and demonstrations:


“Hazardous Chemical Firefighting,” Gerald E. Monigold, Assistant Professor and Howard D. Eskridge, Firemanship Training, University of Illinois, and George Wineland, USI Chemical, Tuscola, Illinois. For the instruction, several aspects were examined: Chemistry of hazardous materials; tactics for handling hazardous materials, fire, and explosions; demonstrations of hazardous materials; actual firefighting practices.


“From Prefire to Postmortem,” Louis Galante, Division Fire Marshal, Chicago fire Department, Chicago, Illinois.

“Relations with the News Media,” Paul M. Davis, News Director, WCIA, Midwest Television, Inc., Champaign, Illinois, Howard M. Ziff, Assistant Professor of Journalism, University of Illinois, and William C. Groninger, Columnist and Reporter, Champaign-Urbana Courier, Urbana, Illinois.


“Industrial Defense Against Civil Disturbances,” Jervie Fox, Department of the Army – Office of the Provost Marshal General, Washington, D.C.
Classes and workshops at the 48th Fire College were conducted on the University of Illinois Campus in the Illini Union Building, in the Quarterback Club Room at Memorial Stadium, in the West Great Hall at Memorial Stadium, in the Armory Building, and at the Fire Training Tower. Lectures were presented at the Illini Union Building. Demonstrations were conducted at the Training Center. Wilford J. Eckert served as Director of Illinois Fire College. This was the first occasion on which members of the Illinois Fire Service have been honored by the participation of the Governor of Illinois in their annual Fire College. Governor Ogilvie appointed the Illinois Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education Commission. The Governor spent more than an hour at the school listening to representatives of the various fire service organizations of Illinois present and greeted the assembled firemen, some 850 strong for the first day of the three and one half day school.

There were eight classes offered: Arson Detection and Fire prevention, Protective Breathing Apparatus, Resuscitators, Common Sense Training Programs, Firemanship Training I, Firemanship Training II, Pump Operations – Basic, and Pump Operations – Advanced. Workshops were offered Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were given Sunday morning. Lectures were given every morning and evening Thursday through Saturday morning. Lectures were given every morning and evening Thursday through Saturday morning.

Notable workshops, classes, lectures, and demonstrations:

“Keynote Address,” The Honorable Richard B. Ogilvie, the Governor of the State of Illinois. The Governor pledged continued support to the fire service of Illinois on the programs involving increased fire protection and training and for legislation affecting personal benefits for firemen.


“Ambulance Requirements In The Fire Service,” Panel Members: Dr. Lawrence hursh, Director Health Services, University of Illinois; Bob Burkham, Burkham Ambulance Service, Decatur, Illinois.

“Common Sense Training Program,” Gerald E. Monigold, Assistant Professor and F. Dale Cozad, Instructor, Firemanship Training, University of Illinois. The class instruction covered developing curriculum, organizing and scheduling the program, administering the program, and training tips.

Classes at the 49th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, in the Armory building, in the West Great Hall at Memorial Stadium, in the Quarterback Club Room at Memorial Hall, and at the Fire Training Tower. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Wilford J. Eckert served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

The eight classes offered were Fire Prevention and Inspection Practices and Procedures, Protected Breathing Apparatus, Common Sense Training Programs, First Aid in the Fire Service, Pump Operation I, Pump Operation II, Firemanship Training I, and Firemanship Training II. Lectures were given every morning and evening Thursday through Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were conducted Sunday morning.

Notable lectures and workshops:


Classes at the 50th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, at Memorial Stadium, in the Armory Building, and at the Fire Training Tower. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Wilford J. Eckert served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

The “Golden Anniversary” of fire training on the University of Illinois campus celebrated the 50th year of the oldest Fire College in the nation. The commemoration included film footage from previous fire colleges, and a number of long-time administrators, instructors, and students were recognized for their contributions to the success of the annual program. The event drew attention from national media outlets, and the general public enjoyed firefighting demonstrations and a parade of historical and contemporary fire apparatus. Elmer Dicke, a retired member of the Downers Grove Fire Department, was honored for his long-time participation in the annual training event. Dicke was awarded a lifetime honorary membership in the University of Illinois Alumni Association by Director Donald Dodds, even though he had never been formally enrolled as a university student. Dicke had attended the Short Course in Fire Prevention, Control, and Extinguishment in 1925, and he returned as a student and instructor for sixty more Short Courses and Fire Colleges before his death in 1990.

Classes were offered Friday morning through Saturday afternoon. The ten classes offered were Ventilation, Determining Cause and Origin of Fires, Fire Prevention and Inspection, Firefighting Tactics, Breathing Apparatus, Ladders, Hose, Salvage and Overhaul, Pump Operation I, and Pump Operation II. Lectures were given Thursday morning, Friday morning and evening, and Saturday morning. The films, “Fire” by the ABC Television Network and “Fire College Films,” were shown Thursday evening. Workshops were held Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were conducted Sunday morning.

Notable lectures and demonstrations:


“Parade of Old and New Fire Equipment,” any and all departments that were willing to participate.
Classes at the 51st Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, in Gregory Hall, at Memorial Stadium, in the Armory Building, and at the Fire Training Tower. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Wilford J. Eckert served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

The ten classes offered were Determining Cause and Origin of Fires, Rural Firefighting Tactics and Water Supplies, Ventilation, Breathing Apparatus – Care, Maintenances and Use, Firefighting Tactics, Fire Prevention and Inspection, Forcible Entry, Ladder and Hose Evolutions, Pump Operation I, and Pump Operation II. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning also. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable lectures and demonstrations:


According to a press release for the 51st Fire College, demonstrations included “a series of set explosions illustrating improper storage of flammable liquids,” a simulated tanker-car collision, a contest comparing aerial versus snorkel rescue, high-rise fires demonstrated at the training tower, and a competitive old-fashioned bucket-brigade operation.
Classes at the 52nd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, in Gregory Hall, at Memorial Stadium, in the Armory Building, and at the Fire Training Tower. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Gerald E. Monigold, Associate Professor, served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

Gerald E. Monigold became Director of Firemanship Training in 1976, following the retirement of Wilford J. Eckert the previous year. Monigold had been a full-time fire training instructor at the university since January 1963.

The Firemanship Training Section was reorganized as the Fire Service Institute in 1976, two years after being placed under the administration of the Office of the Associate Vice President for Public Service.

The ten classes offered were Fundamentals of Bomb and Arson Investigation, Fire Fighting Tactics in Areas with Limited Water Supplies, Ventilation and Proper Use of Ventilation Tools, Breathing Apparatus, Fire Fighting Strategy and Tactics, Rural and Urban Prefire Planning Inspections, Hazardous materials, Rescue Operations – Auto Extrication, Pumps I, and Pumps II. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable lectures and demonstration:


“Fire Service Dealings with the News Media,” Helen Farlow, Head of Information Services, University of Illinois, Paul Davis, WCIA-TV, Champaign, Illinois, and Frank Beaman, WBBM-Radio, Chicago, Illinois. This lecture focused on such problems as the rights and responsibilities of the media to act in a way that would not hamper the efforts of the fire fighters in an emergency situation and the rights and responsibilities of members of the fire service to assist the press and provide full disclosure of the facts.

Illinois Fire College
June 16-19, 1977

Classes at the 53rd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, in Harker Hall, in the Metallurgy and Mining Building, in Noyes Laboratory, at Memorial Stadium, in the Armory Building, and at the Fire Training Tower. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Gerald E. Monigold, Associate Professor, served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

The eleven standard classes and one special class offered were Fire Ground Pumping Operations, Hazardous Materials, Ventilation Procedures, Bomb and Arson Investigation, Defensive Driving for Emergency Vehicle, Breathing Equipment, Implementing and Managing Fire Prevention Activities, Fire Department Management, General Maintenance for Fire Apparatus, Fire Fighting Strategy and Tactics, Rescue Operations, and Home Fire Safety. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning also. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable lectures and workshops:

“Keynote Address,” the Honorable James R. Thompson, Governor of the State of Illinois.


“The Fire Service Association and What They Do,” Chief Rennie Bedar, Chairman, Illinois Fire Services Association, DuQuoin, Illinois; Chief Robert Turner, Secretary, National Volunteer Firemen's Council, Rockton, Illinois; Carl McCoy, Executive Director, Illinois Fire Commission, Springfield, Illinois; and Gerald E. Monigold, Director, Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois.


Jack Rutledge  David F. Clark
At the 54th Fire College classes were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, at the Fire Training Tower, in the Electrical Engineering Building, at Gregory Hall, and at Burril Hall. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Gerald E. Monigold, Associate Professor, served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

The twelve classes offered were Fireground Pumping Operations, Fire Investigation, Fire Fighting Strategy and Tactics, Hazardous Chemicals, Ventilation Procedures, Fire Equipment Maintenance, Breathing Equipment – Smoke Divers, Rescue – auto and aircraft, Defensive and Evasive Driving of Emergency Vehicles, Fire Inspection and Public Education, Service Testing Pumpers, and Home Fire Safety and C.P.R. – For the Ladies. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning also. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable lectures and workshops:

(1) Why are we rated? (2) Who rates us? (3) What is considered? (4) What are the ratings used for?

(1) Getting into the program, (2) Levels of Certification, (3) Funding, (4) What’s in it for me?

“What is Happening to the Fire Engines of America?,” Jeffery Schielke, Batavia, Illinois Fire Department.
Classes at the 55th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, at the Fire Training Tower, in the Electrical Engineering Building, and at Gregory Hall. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Gerald E. Monigold, Associate Professor, served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

In November 1979, Illinois Governor James R. Thompson signed the Illinois Fire Service Institute Act (Public Act 81-1147), which established the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) as the state fire academy at the University of Illinois. The act took effect on July 1, 1980, and designated IFSI’s main duties as “instructing fire protection personnel through the State of Illinois, providing service to public and private fire departments in Illinois, and conducting research in the methods of maintaining and improving fire protection and control services consistent with the needs of Illinois communities.” The act also established permanent annual funding for IFSI through the Illinois Fire Prevention Fund. Prior to this, the University of Illinois had negotiated funding from the Illinois Office of the State Fire marshal on a yearly basis. Recognizing the continued value of the Illinois Fire College, the Illinois Fire service Institute Act also made special mention of the fifty-five-year-old event by specifically designating that “the Fire Service Institute shall plan and conduct an annual Fire College and other short courses of instruction.

Classes were offered Friday and Saturday morning and afternoon. The thirteen classes offered were Fire/Arson Investigation, Hazardous Material, Fire Fighting Strategy and Tactics, Breathing Equipment – Smoke Divers, Fireground Pumping Operations and Service Testing, Fire Equipment Maintenance, Ventilation Procedures, Rescue – Auto, Fire Inspection and Public Education, Fire Department Management and Leadership, Breathing Apparatus Maintenance, Fire Service Law, Home Fire Safety and CPR – For the Ladies. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable Lectures, Workshops, and Demonstrations:

Keynote Address: Gordon Vickery, Administrator, United States Fire Administration, Washington, D.C.


Classes at the 56th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, at the Fire Training Tower, and at Gregory Hall. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Gerald E. Monigold, Associate Professor, served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

State Representative Virgil C. Wilkoff received a service award from the Illinois Fire Advisory Commission. Wilkoff cosponsored the Illinois Fire Service Institute Act.

The thirteen classes offered were Fire/Arson Investigation, Fire Fighting Strategy and Tactics, Ventilation Procedures, Hazardous Material, Fire Department Management and Leadership, Home Fire Safety, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, Fire Service Law, Fire Equipment Maintenance, Fireground Pumping for Fast Attack, Rescue – Auto, Fire Inspection and Public Education in Rural Areas, and Breathing Equipment – Smoke Divers. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable Lectures, Workshops, and Demonstrations:


“So You Want to Train for Certification,” Fire Service Institute Staff, University of Illinois.

“Gasahol,” – demonstration.
Classes at the 57th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union, the Fire Training Tower, the Electrical Engineering Building, and Gregory Hall. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union, and demonstrations at the Training Center. Gerald E. Monigold served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

Notable Lectures, Workshops, and Demonstrations:

“Handling the Juvenile Fire Setter,” Panel Members: William Peterson, Chief, Waukegan, Illinois, Fire Department; and Frank Manella, Professor, Police Training Institute, University of Illinois.

“CHEMTREC,” John Zercher, Director, Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, Washington, D.C.

“Pesticide Fire and Spill Control,” Instructors: Gene P. Carlson, Editor, IFSTA, Oklahoma State University and Adjunct Instructor, National Fire Academy, Emittsburg, Maryland. Facilitator: James Straeske, Instructor, Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois.

Instructors in this course discussed the safe handling of pesticide fires or spills, labeling of pesticides, dangers from exposure and associated first aid, and environmental impact.


Dean Mercer
Jim Berggren
Classes at the 58th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, at the Fire Training Tower, and in the West Great Hall at the Memorial Stadium. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Gerald E. Monigold served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

The eleven classes offered were Fire Fighter Tactics & Strategy, Ventilation Procedures, Pump Operators – Hydrants, Limited Water Supply Operations, Breathing Apparatus – Smoke Divers, Fire/Arson Investigation, Water Accidents and Rescue, Fire Training I, Fire Department Management & Leadership, Specialized Rescue, and Patient Handling and Extrication. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

**Notable Lectures, Workshops, and Demonstrations:**


“National Fire Academy Update,” Joseph Donovan, Superintendent, National Fire Academy, Emmittsburg, Maryland.
Classes at the 59th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, at the Fire Training Tower, in the Armory Building, and in Gregory Hall. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. Gerald E. Monigold served as the Director of Illinois Fire College.

Classes were offered Friday and Saturday morning and afternoon. The thirteen classes offered were Public Education and Fire Prevention, Breathing Apparatus – Smoke Divers, Arson Detection, Instructional Techniques for Fire Fighters – Company Level, Continuing Officer Training, Ventilation, Tactics & Strategy – Mutual Aid, Hazardous Materials, Pump Operators, Limited Water Supply and Manpower, Specialized Rescue, and Patient Handling. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable Lectures, Workshops, and Demonstrations:


“ Toxicology and the Fire Fighter,” Dr. George Wood, Department of Drug and Material Toxicology, College of Pharmacy, Center for Health Sciences, University of Tennessee.


“Continuing Officer Training,” Instructors: Dr. Robert Ferry, Chicago Police Academy – College Division, Chicago, Illinois; and Father William Wentink, St. Rita’s Catholic Church, Rockford, Illinois.


“Mobile Home Fire.” – demonstration.
Classes at the 60th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, at the Fire Training Tower, in the Armory Building, and in the Electrical Engineering Building. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Center. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The fourteen classes offered were Public Education and Fire Prevention, Breathing Apparatus – Smoke Divers, Arson Detection, Instructional Techniques for Fire Fighters, Company Officer Management, Tactics and Ventilation, Fire Training I, Flammable Liquids and Extinguishing Agents, Hazardous Materials, Hydraulics, Pumper Operations, Rural Water Supply Operations, Micro Computers, and Specialized Elevator Rescue. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable Lectures, Workshops, and Demonstrations:

This class discussed a general introduction to micro computers, word processing functions, the use of spreadsheets, database management, and conducting needs assessments.

This class examined the mechanics and operation of modern passenger elevators as well as rescue methods and a demonstration of emergency elevator rescue techniques.
Classes at the 61st Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illini Union Building, at the Fire Training Tower, in the Armory Building, and in the Electrical Engineering Building. Workshops were held in the Illini Union Building and in the Electrical Engineering Building while lectures were only held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Tower. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The seventeen classes offered were Breathing Apparatus, Hydraulics, Pumper Operations, Rural Water Supply Operations, Fire Training I, Public Education and Fire Prevention, Company Officer Management, Tactics and Strategy, Ventilation, Micro Computers, Instruction Hints, LP Trailer, Administration and Management of Small Fire Departments, “Generic” Rail Emergencies, Community Fire Prevention Program Evaluation, Building Construction, and Hazardous Materials: The Pesticide Challenge. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable Workshops, Classes, Demonstrations, and Special Attractions:

“Stress Management,” Panel Member: Dr. Robert Ferry, Chicago Police Academy, College Division.

(1) Characteristics of LP gas, (2) Tactics and strategy for handling LP incidents, (3) Basic hydraulics for fire flow, (4) Safety (hose evolutions), (5) Application of classroom training information to fireground, (6) Hands-on hose line evolutions.

“Shell Oil Response Team,” – demonstration.

Classes at the 62nd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Fire Training Tower, in the Electrical Engineering Building, in the Armory Building, in the Illini Union Building, and in the Old Agricultural Engineering Building. Workshops and lectures were held in the Illini Union Building, and demonstrations were at the Training Tower. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The twenty classes offered were Advanced Breathing Apparatus, Hydraulics, Rural Pump Operations, Basic Pumper Operations, Rural Water Supply, Essentials of Firefighting, Fire Prevention and Public Fire Education, Company Officer’s Management, Tactics and Strategy, Ventilation, Micro Computers, Flammable Liquids and Gasses, Administration of Small Fire Departments, Familiarization with Hazardous Materials – Railroad Locomotives and Tank Cars, Arson Investigation, Building Construction, Vehicle Extrication, Farm Equipment Extrication, Forcible Entry, and Water and Ice Rescue. Lectures were given Thursday and Friday mornings and evenings, and Saturday morning. Workshops were Thursday afternoon, and demonstrations were Sunday morning.

Notable Workshops:

“Forcible Entry,” Victor DeMartini, Staff Instructor, Illinois Fire Service Institute; Peter Lund, Lieutenant, Rescue 3, and John Norman, Firefighter Rescue 3, FDNY (Fire Department City of New York) In the first appearance of fire college instructors from the FDNY, this class covered methods of forcing different types of locks, how to force padlocks, the importance of size up in choice of tools and methods of operation, the convenience of through-the-lock forcible entry, and hands-on training in use of forcible entry tools.


“Residential Sprinklers – Urban and Rural Applications,” Panel Member: David Hilton, Chief, Cobb County Fire Department, Marietta, Georgia.
Classes at the 63rd Fire College were conducted on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Old Agricultural Engineering Building, in Commerce West, in the Armory Building, in the Illini Union Building, and at the Fire Service Institute Training Tower. Lectures were held in the Illini Union Building. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.


Notable Classes:

“Dealing With Sensitive Issues,” Instructors: Greg Berk, Field Instructor, Robert Coleman, Morris Fire Department, Clyde Mariotti, Tri-State Fire Protection District, Darien, Illinois, Jim Straseske, Assistant Director, Illinois Fire Service Institute, and David Clark, Staff Instructor, Illinois Fire Service Institute. This course discussed with critical incidents, personnel conflicts, and handling stressful situations.
Classes at the 64th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in Commerce West, the Armory, the Fire Service Institute Training Tower, the Illini Union, the Fire Service Institute, and in the Old Agricultural Engineering Building. Lectures were held in the Illini Union. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.


In addition to a full roster of courses, the 64th Annual Fire College participants were also invited to an open house at the new office/classroom building. The new building was constructed at 11 Gerty Drive in Champaign adjacent to the Fire Training Tower.

Notable Lectures:

Keynote Address- Louis T Galante, Fire Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department.

“Joliet Grain Elevator Explosion” David Foreman, Joliet Fire Department.

“Milford, Michigan Training Accident” Richard Powell, Executive Secretary, Michigan Firefighter’s Training Council, Lansing, Michigan. Powell discussed the accident that took the lives of three firefighters during a training exercise.
Classes at the 65th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Commerce West Building, on the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds, in the Illini Union Building, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, and in the Old Agricultural Engineering Building. Lectures were held in the Illini Union Building. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

After more than five years of phased construction, IFSI hosted the dedication ceremony for the improved fire training facility during the 65th Fire College. New facilities included the classroom and office building, the fire station, and two additional structural burn buildings. Existing facilities, such as the training tower, were also enhanced during the construction project. Subsequently, the training facility was expanded even further to include arson burn buildings, a four-story vertical rescue and confined space training prop, a structural collapse “rescue city,” and a liquefied petroleum burn area, as well as agricultural rescue and automobile extrication training areas.

The twenty-three classes offered were divided into three categories. The Fundamentals of Firefighting category consisted of Structural Firefighting Operations, Essentials I, Essentials II, Inspection Procedures and Public Education, Fire Cause Determination, Pump Operators, Rural Water Supply, and LP and Flammable Liquids. The Officer’s Training category consisted of Incident Command System; Organizing the Fire Ground; Legislation, Regulations and Safety: Their Impact and Implementation; Interpersonal Relations, Communication, and Motivation; Operation and Tactical Considerations for Aerial Devices; and Open Forum. The Technical and Specialized Training category consisted of Auto Extrication; Farm Extrication; Advanced Breathing Apparatus; Rope Rescue I; Rope Rescue II; Tank Car Construction, Features, Identification, and Field Trip; Juvenile Fire Setters; Building Construction and Ventilation; and Hazardous Materials Tactical Considerations for Incident Command. Lectures were given Thursday morning and evening as well as Friday evening.

Notable Class and Lecture:

This class was designed to give officers exposure to the ways in which personnel interact and communicate, verbally and non-verbally; and how to best lead personnel to quality performance.

“Crash of a military aircraft into an occupied hotel, Indianapolis, IN. (Wayne Township),” Chief Richard Lamb.
Classes at the 66th Fire College were conducted on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Illini Union Building, on the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, and in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building. Lectures were held in the Illini Union Building. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

This year also marked the loss of longtime Fire College instructor and attendee Elmer Dicke, who passed away on January 31, 1990. He served in various capacities during Fire College, as a student, as an instructor, and as registrar. He attended 62 of the past 65 Fire Colleges until health reasons would not allow his participation.

The thirteen classes offered were divided into three categories. The Fundamentals of Firefighting category consisted of Essentials I, Essentials II, Fire Prevention Education Programs and Managing a Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Inspection Techniques, Pump Operators, and LP & Flammable Liquids. The Officer’s Training category consisted of Incident Command System, Organizing the Fire Ground, Operation and Tactical Considerations for Aerial Devices, and Interpersonal Relations. The Technical and Specialized Training category consisted of Advanced Breathing Apparatus, Auto Extrication, and Hazardous Materials Practical Workshop. Lectures were given Thursday morning and evening as well as Friday evening.

**Notable Class:**

“Organizing the Fireground,” Instructors: Ed Enright, Tom Freeman, Field Instructors, Illinois Fire Service Institute: Clyde Mariotti, Chief of Tri-State Fire Protection District, Darien Illinois
Classes at the 67th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Illini Union Building, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, and on the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds. Lectures were held in the Illini Union Building. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The sixteen classes offered were divided into three categories. The Fundamentals of Firefighting category consisted of Practical Firefighting Skills I, Practical Firefighting Skills II, Inspection Techniques and Public Education, and Basic Fire Investigation. The Officer’s Training category consisted of Building Construction and Ventilation, Officer’s Duties and Responsibilities, National Fire Academy – Firefighter Safety and Survival: A Company Officer’s Responsibility, and Organizing the Fire Ground. The Technical and Specialized Training category consisted of Advanced Breathing Apparatus; Pump Operators; Single-Family Dwelling Fires; LPG & Flammable Liquids; Fires in Commercial Buildings, Taxpayers, and Malls; Detection and Suppression Systems; Auto Extrication; and Advanced Topics of Hazardous Materials – Explosive and Reactive Chemicals, and Clandestine Drug Laboratories. Lectures were given Thursday morning and evening as well as Friday evening.

Notable Classes:


“Fires in Commercial buildings, Taxpayers, and Malls,” Instructors: David Clark, Staff Instructor, Illinois Fire Service Institute; Lt. Don Hayed, Truck 111, New York City Fire Department, New York City, NY; Lt. Sal Marchese, Truck 113, New York City Fire Department, New York City, NY.

Classes at the 68th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Illini Union Building, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, in the Old Agricultural Engineering Building, and at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower. Lectures were held in the Illini Union Building. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.


Notable Lectures, Workshops, and Demonstrations:

“Administering a Fire Department in Illinois: An Overview,” Attorney John Brady, Peoria, IL and representatives from the Illinois Fire Service Institute, the Insurance Service Office, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Labor, the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Network, and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal
This course discussed information concerning laws, programs, and agencies that can be of assistance to fire department administrators and officers.

This lecture discussed a January 1992 high-pressure gas explosion on Chicago’s west side and the Chicago Fire Department’s complex methods used to manage the massive incident.
Classes at the 69th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Illini Union Building, at the Everitt Lab, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, and at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower. Lectures were held in the Illini Union Building. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.


Notable Classes and Lectures:

“Empowerment vs. Entrapment: Accomplishing Personal and Organizational Excellence,” District Chief Bennie Crane, Chicago Fire Department; and Field Instructor, Illinois Fire Service Institute.

“Elwin Pipe Explosion, Elwin, Illinois,” Chief Dave Belskamper, South Macon fire Protection District; Chief Don Wright, Mt. Zion Fire Protection District; and chief Steve Gambrill, Harristown Fire Protection District.

Classes at the 70th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Illini Union Building, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, and on the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds, and in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building. The Opening Ceremony was held in the Illini Union Building while the lectures were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Facility. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The twenty classes offered were divided into three categories. The Fire Fighting Fundamentals category consisted of Practical Firefighting Skills I, Practical Firefighting Skills II, Practical Firefighting Skills III, and Practical Firefighting Skills IV. The Officer’s Training category consisted of Firefighter Safety and Survival: A Company Officer’s Responsibility, Firefighter Health and Safety: Program Implementation and Management, Fire Officer’s Duties and Responsibilities, Fire Ground Size-Up, and Advanced Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. The Technical and Specialized Training category consisted of Single-Family Dwelling Fires; Fighting Fires in Commercial and Industrial Buildings; Ventilation, Truck Work/Fire Ground Support Operations, and Building Construction; Auto Extrication; Fire Arson Investigation; Hazardous Materials Olympics; Juvenile Fire Setters Program; Inspection Techniques and Public Education; Petro-Chemical Emergencies; Basic Pump Operations; and Rural Tanker Operations. Lectures were given Thursday morning and evening as well as Friday evening.

Notable Lectures and Demonstrations:

“Keynote Address,” Colonel Richard L. Jaehne, Acting Director, Operations Division, Plans, Policies, and Operations Department, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps.

“Myths and Reality,” David Clark, Staff Instructor; Bradley Bone, Ray Hoff, Robert Hoff, John Hojeck, Rick Kolomay, Robert McKee, John McCastland, Stephen Wilcox, Field Instructors, Illinois Fire Service Institute. In this new general session, attendees observed first-hand fire behavior, the effects of straight stream versus fog application, and techniques for handling 2 ½ hose and hand tools.


This was the first year for this 2 hour night session held twice during Fire College. This general session discussed the properties and hazards of dealing with an LP gas emergency followed by hand-on fire control methods with propane fire scenarios. Participants practiced handling split line and sheared line incidents, as well as incidents involving multiple vessels with flame impingement and heat exposure.

Richard L. Jaehne
Illinois Fire College
June 1-4, 1995

Classes at the 71st Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Illini Union Building, in the Commerce West Building, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, and on the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds. The Opening Ceremony was held in the Illini Union Building while the other lectures were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Facility. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The twenty-one classes offered were divided into three categories. The Fire Fighting Fundamentals category consisted of Basic Recruit Training, Basic Engine Operations, Basic Fire Ground Support, and Coordinated Fire Attack. The Officer’s Training category consisted of Fire Officer’s Duties and Responsibilities, Fire Ground Size-Up, Where the Battle Begins, Duties and Responsibilities of a Safety Officer, Hazardous Materials Incident Commander, Hazardous Materials Awareness, and Advanced Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. The Technical and Specialized Training category consisted of Single-Family Dwelling Fires, Fire Ground Operations/Support and Survival, Operation and Tactical Considerations for Aerial Apparatus, Auto Extrication, Fire/Arson Investigation, Junior Fire Setters Program, Emergency Response for Fixed Site Industrial Complexes, Introduction to Crash/Fire Rescue, Basic Pump Operations, and Rural Tanker Operations. Lectures were given Thursday morning and evening as well as Friday evening.

Notable Lecture:

“Where the Battle Begins,” John McCastland, Field Instructor, Illinois Fire Service Institute; Colonel Richard Jaehne, United States Marine Corps

This program dealt with the unique nature of management in a force of readiness such as the Marine Corps or the fire service. Company officers learned techniques for accomplishing tasks on the fireground while motivating firefighters. Situations that can physically and emotionally overwhelm firefighters were addressed, along with methods of coping with them.
Classes at the 72nd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Illini Union Building, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, on the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds, in the Commerce West Building, and at the University of Illinois Willard Airport Aviation School. The Opening Ceremony was held in the Illini Union Building while the other lectures were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds. James B. Straseske, Assistant Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The twenty-four classes offered were divided into three categories. The Fire Fighting Fundamentals category consisted of Entry Level Recruit Training, Basic Engine Operations Practices, Fire Ground Support Activities, and Coordinated Fire Attack. The Officer’s Training category consisted of Duties and Responsibilities of an On-Scene Safety Officer, Fire Ground Size-Up: The Key to a Successful Operation, Where the Battle Begins, Duties and Responsibilities of a Safety Officer, Incident Command for Hazardous Materials, Incident Command for Volunteer Fire Departments, Useful Resources for the Newly Appointed Fire Officer, and Where the Battle Begins. The Technical and Specialized Training category consisted of Advanced Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus; Basic Fire and Arson Investigation; Advanced Fire and Arson Investigations, including Clandestine Drug Laboratories; Auto Extrication; Basic Pump Operations; Supplying Water with Tankers in Urban and Rural Settings; Carbon Monoxide: The Silent Killer; News Media and Public Relations; Introduction to Crash/Fire/Rescue; Saving our Own: Techniques for Firefighter Rescues; The Firefighter Killer: Single-Family Dwelling Fires; Emergency Response for Fixed-Site Industrial Hazards; Introduction to Technical Rescue; and Awareness for Confined Space Entry and Rescue Activities. Lectures were given Thursday morning and evening as well as Friday evening.

Notable Lectures:

“Useful Resources for the Newly Appointed Fire Officer,” Instructors: John Brady, Attorney, Peoria, IL; Robert Buhs, Chief Orland Fire Protection District, Orland Park, IL; Lenore Killam, Manager of Safety Inspection and Education Division, IL Department of Labor, Springfield, IL.

Classes at the 73rd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Station, in the Illini Union Building, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, in the Mechanical Engineering Building, and at the University of Illinois Willard Airport Aviation School. The Opening Ceremony was held in the Illini Union Building while the other lectures were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds. James B. Straseske, Interim Director, served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The nineteen classes offered were divided into three categories. The Fire Fighting Fundamentals category consisted of Entry Level Recruit Training, Basic Engine Operations Practices, Fire Ground Support Activities, and Coordinated Fire Attack. The Officer’s Training category consisted of Fire Ground Size-Up: The Key to a Successful Operation, Where the Battle Begins, Managing the Fire Service in the 21st Century, Handling the Other 80%, and Incident Command for Fire Departments. The Technical and Specialized Training category consisted of Advanced Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus; Basic Fire and Arson Investigation; Basic Auto Extrication; Basic Pump Operations; Supplying Water with Tankers in Urban and Rural Settings; Saving our Own: Techniques for Firefighter Rescues; The Firefighter Killer: Single-Family Dwelling Fires; Truck Company Operations; It Crashes in Your Backyard; Industrial Tactics and Strategy. Lectures were given Thursday morning and evening as well as Friday evening.

Notable Classes:

“Managing the Fire Service in the 21st Century,” Instructors: John Brady, Attorney, Peoria, IL; representatives from Illinois Fire Chief’s Association.
Management issues affecting the fire service of the future.

“Handling the Other 80% (non-fire incidents).” Instructors: Ray Kay, Phil Ruscetti, Eugene Ryan, Field Instructors, Illinois Fire Service Institute.
Students were introduced to a general procedural process aimed at aiding firefighters in simplifying the handling of complex emergencies. Subjects discussed included: confined space rescue, above and below-grade rescues, trench rescue, building collapse rescue, hazardous materials emergencies, EMS calls, auto extrications, and terrorist attacks.
Classes at the 74th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds, at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, and at the University of Illinois Willard Airport Aviation School. The opening ceremonies were held at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center while the other lectures were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds. David B. Fulmer served as the Fire College Coordinator.

In 1997, Richard L. Jaehne, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel, was hired as Director of the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Jaehne had been the keynote speaker at the 70th Illinois Fire College in 1994, when he was Director of Operations for the U.S. Marine Corps, and taught at subsequent Fire Colleges.

The theme of the 74th Fire College was “Challenging the Future.” One significant change made for Fire College this year included creating 24-hour blocks of instruction based upon levels of responsibility in the fire service. There was a recruit/basic firefighter track, a line officer track, and a fire chief track. Another key change was the addition of 2 “Saving Our Own” training simulators.

The eighteen classes offered were divided into five categories. The 24-Hour Fire Fighting Classes consisted of Entry Level Recruit Training, Coordinated Fire Ground Operations, and The Fire Scene Officer. 12-Hour Fire Fighting Classes consisted of Advanced Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Rural Engine/Tanker Operations, The Firefighter Killer: Single-Family Dwelling Fires, and Saving our Own: Techniques for Firefighter Rescues. The 12-Hour Officer’s Training Classes consisted of The Fire Ground Safety Officer and Juvenile Firesetters Seminar. The 12-Hour Technical and Specialized Training Classes consisted of Basic Fire and Arson Investigation, Basic Auto Extrication, Advanced Auto Extrication, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Vertical Rescue, Grain Bin Rescue, and It Crashes in Your Backyard. The 12-Hour Industrial Program category consists of Storage Tank Emergencies. Lectures were given Thursday morning and evening as well as Friday evening.

Notable lecture:

“Vision 2000 – Town Meeting,” Presenter: Richard L. Jaehne, Director, Illinois Fire Service Institute. Fire Service Institute Director Jaehne hosted an open-forum, town meeting to discuss the way ahead for the institute. Jaehne discussed the FSI Vision 2000 project that was initiated in August 1997. Vision 2000 stated that without a fundamental alteration in the current program structure, FSI would not be able to expand its reach and meet the demand for both certification and hands-on, skill training, for every level of firefighter from recruit to experienced Chief. At this meeting, Jaehne focused on the five broad strategic goals established by Vision 2000. The first goal consisted of enhancing activities at the Champaign campus of IFSI, including developing action-oriented fire research programs. The second goal consisted of the development of regional training hubs in Illinois that would facilitate low-cost and hands-on training to firefighters in every region of the state. The third goal was to develop a distance learning program accessible to all Illinois firefighters. The fourth goal was to develop and strengthen programs that focused on the volunteer firefighters in Illinois, who made up 70 percent of all firefighters. The fifth and final goal was to develop sponsorship of fire service training at IFSI from all sources ranging from corporations to individual firefighters themselves.
Classes at the 75th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Building, at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center (formerly Chancellor Hotel), at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, and at the University of Illinois Willard Airport, Aviation School. The opening ceremonies were held at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds. James B. Strzeske, Ph.D., and Terry Sutphen served as the Fire College Coordinators.

The theme was “Learn From The Past, Train for the Present and Prepare for the Future.” A display room of past fire colleges was created, and those who had attended those colleges were invited to share their experiences. Participants were asked to reflect upon how far the fire service had come in the past 75 years and an oral history of Fire College was created. Also at the 75th Fire College, a plaque was dedicated commemorating the Illinois Fire College as the “oldest continuous annual fire college in the United States.” To further commemorate the milestone Fire College, an Alumni Cookout was held.

The twenty-three classes offered were divided into four categories. The Fire Fighting Courses consisted of Entry Level Recruit Training, Firefighting Core Competencies, Coordinated Fire Ground Operations, Fighting Single-Family Dwelling Fires, Saving our Own: Techniques for Firefighter Rescues, Rural Engine/Tanker Operations, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. Officer Courses consisted of Fire Investigation – Origin and Cause, The Fire Scene Officer, and Training Officer Duties. The Rescue Courses consisted of Basic Auto Extrication, Advanced Auto Extrication, Confined Space Rescue, Grain Bin Rescue, Trench Rescue, Structural Collapse Awareness, and It Crashed in Your Backyard. The Technical and Specialized Training Courses consisted of Emergency Response to Terrorism – Basic Concepts, EMS – Issues & Care of Firefighters on the Fire Ground, NFA – ICS for Emergency Medical Services, NFA – Methods of Enhancing Safety Education, NFA – Incident Safety Officer, and NFA – Community Risk Issues & Prevention Interventions. General sessions were held Thursday morning and evening and Friday evening.

Notable Lectures, Activities, and Classes:

“Keynote Address,” Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy.


This course was designed to provide students with a general understanding and recognition of terrorism, defensive considerations (biological, nuclear, incendiary, chemical, and explosive), as well as command and control issues associated with criminal incidents. Students learned to be able to recognize and implement self-protective measures; secure the scene; complete appropriate notifications to local, state, and federal authorities; and assist in completing a smooth transition from emergency to recovery and termination operations.

“NFA – ICS for Emergency Medical Services.”

Students were introduced to the concepts of EMS-specific ICS through lecture and guided discussion. They used scenarios, case studies, graphics, audiovisuals, and role-play to demonstrate understanding of the concepts.
Classes at the 76th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center Burn Tower, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center Classroom Building, at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Tower, and at the University of Illinois Willard Airport Aviation School. The opening ceremonies were held at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds and in the Fire Station Classroom. Terry Sutphen served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The theme was Train Today…Perform Tomorrow.


Notable Lectures, Activities, and Classes:


“Fire Service Institute Library Online Demonstration,” Lian Ruan, Librarian, Illinois Fire Service Institute Library.

This demonstration provided an overview of the fire safety information available through the Fire Service Institute Library. Students learned how to use the Online Public Access Catalog and the new Web Site Home Page. Students also learned effective uses of e-mail and listservs regarding fire safety.

“Beyond the Paper & Plans – The City of New Orleans Train Wreck.”

A combination of lecture and panel discussion gave students an opportunity to gain valuable information from those who were on the scene of the City of New Orleans AMTRAK wreck in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

“How to Manage the Unforeseen – The Firefighter Funeral.”

When the unforeseen happens, a firefighter dies, are you ready to manage the funeral preparations? Students learned how to arrange for help in managing a firefighter funeral. Learn how to utilize outside resources to help.
Classes at the 77th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center Burn Tower, at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center Fire Station, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Center Classroom Building, at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center, and at the University of Illinois Willard Airport/Airline School. The opening ceremonies were held at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Grounds and in the Fire Station Classroom. Terry Sutphen served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The theme was Partnerships – Train Together Today, Perform Together Tomorrow.

The program for the 77th Fire College discussed how partnerships had helped IFSI to provide training to Illinois firefighters in the previous two years. Examples of partnerships cited were the 21 fire departments and districts that had joined IFSI in creating regional training sites at their facilities for IFSI courses, the substantial gift provided by the Illinois Propane Education and Research Council (IPERC) to IFSI so that LP burn training could be provided at no cost to firefighters, and the Illinois Firefighters Association tuition scholarships for 100 Fire College attendees.


Notable Lectures, Activities, and Classes:

“Keynote Address,” Deputy Governor Matthew Bettenhausen.

“EMS – Firefighter Rehab and Heat Stress Management.”

This course, for firefighters and EMS personnel, was designed to instruct rescuers how to develop and implement a rehab program for your area or department. It focused on the needs, common injuries, and problems encountered on the fireground. Based on the findings through IFSI heat stress studies, rehab guidelines and preventative measures for the firefighter on the fireground were presented. Treatment and transport recommendations were covered in the class room portion of this program. Students setup and operated rehab stations at various firefighter and rescue classes held during Fire College.
Classes at the 78th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Center Classroom Building, at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center, at the University of Illinois Willard Airport Aviation School, and at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center Fire Station. The opening ceremonies were held at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center and in the FSI Classroom Building - Library. Terry Sutphen served as the Fire College Coordinator.

The theme was United We Train; United We Serve: To be Battle Ready for Homeland Defense. Attendees paid no registration fees as much of the programming was covered by a one-time state grant to IFSI. As the fire service sought to define the role that firefighters would play after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Fire College still offered traditional first responder courses but also integrated new training that helped to make the traditional skills relevant to homeland security issues.


**Notable Lectures, Activities, and Classes:**


“NFA: Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts.” This program taught responders how to recognize and understand acts of terrorism, both domestic and international. It provided responders with basic knowledge on implementing self-protective measures, scene security and tactical considerations when dealing with terrorism. Explosives, chemical, radiological and etiological types of harm were also discussed.
Classes at the 79th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center, in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Center Classroom Building, at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center, at the University of Illinois Willard Airport Aviation School, and at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center Fire Station. The opening ceremonies and one lecture were held at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center and in the IFSI Classroom Building - Library.

The theme was Training the Best to Lead the Rest.

The twenty-five classes offered were divided into six categories. Firefighting Classes consisted of Entry Level Recruit Training, Firefighting Core Competencies, Coordinated Fire Ground Operations, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Fighting Single-Family Dwelling Fires, Saving our Own: Techniques for Firefighter Rescues, Commercial Building Operations, Pumper Operations, and Tanker Operations. The Officer Class consisted of The Fire Scene Officer. Rescue Classes consisted of Basic Auto Extrication, Advanced Auto Extrication, Technical Rescue Awareness, Building Collapse Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Farm Extrication and Rescue. Technical and Specialized Classes consisted of Thermal Imaging Camera Training, Firefighter Initial Fire Investigation, Prescription Burns: Managing and Controlling Prairie and Grassland Fires, and First on the Drug Lab Scene: Awareness and Operations. Hazardous Materials Awareness, Hazardous Materials Incident Command System (ICS), and. The EMS Class consisted of Essentials of Aggression Management. NFA Classes consisted of NFA: Emergency Response to Terrorism: Tactical Considerations – Company Officer, Emergency Response to Terrorism: Tactical Considerations – Hazardous Materials, and NFA: Training Operations in Small Operations. General sessions were held Thursday morning and evening and Friday evening, but the exception was for the Fire Service Institute Library Online Demonstration which had numerous sessions Thursday afternoon and Friday morning through afternoon.

Notable Lectures and Class:

“Keynote Address,” Carl Hawkinson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Public Safety.


Chief Norman was the senior advisor to the Incident Commander and was intimately involved in the day-to-day operations of the largest single scene disaster in the nation’s history. He described the events as they developed, highlighting areas where first responders had to prepare for future events. Among the topics that were discussed by the four FDNY firefighters and IFSI field staff instructors were: Initial Incident Command, Pre-Collapse Rescue Efforts, Post Catastrophe Regrouping, Causes of Structural Collapses, Post Collapse Rescue Operations, Long-Term Operations-WTC Task Force, and Interagency Operations.
Classes at the 80th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the IFSI Training Grounds, in the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center, IFSI Training Tower, in the IFSI Office/Classroom Building, at the Rescue Dirty Classroom, and the IFSI Grain Bin area. The opening ceremonies were held at the Chancellor Hotel and Convention Center, and the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center and in the IFSI Library. Brian Brauer served as Fire College Director, and Brad Bone served as Assistant Fire College Director.

The theme was Training for the 21st Century – Protecting our Communities and Ourselves.

During the 80th Illinois Fire College in June 2004, IFSI unveiled a plaque on the John Bardeen Engineering Quad on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus, the original site of the annual fire training even. The plaque commemorated the program’s status as the oldest continuous fire college in the United States. IFSI Director Richard Jaehne was joined at the unveiling by National Fire Academy Superintendent Denis Onieal, Illinois State Fire Marshal J. T. Somer, university officials, and a variety of fire service leaders.


Notable Lectures, Activities, and Classes:

“Keynote Address,” Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy.

“From Incident Command to Unified Command.”

This class was designed to bring a department’s Incident Command System in line with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) approved system. The first portion of the 12-hour class was an NFA Train-the-Trainer Incident Command class. Upon completion of the class, the officer was provided with a CD presentation to use at his department. The second portion of the class was dedicated to Unified Command, which would help the officer integrate the roles and responsibilities of his local response agencies to prepare for more significant events. The class was approved by the ITTF to satisfy the NIMS requirement for the Fire Act Grant 2005 funding.
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Classes at the 81st Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the IFSI Training Grounds, in Altgeld Hall, at the Tower Classroom, at Everitt Lab, in the IFSI Office Building, at Willard Airport, and at the South Graber Building. The opening ceremonies were held at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center and in the IFSI Library. Brian Brauer served as Fire College Director.

The theme was United We Stand: Preparing for Statewide Response.


Notable Lectures, Activities, and Classes:

“Keynote Address,” Mike Chamness, Chairman, Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

“Propane Fire Fighting and Open House”
A live propane burn was conducted at the Institute’s LP Burn Pad. Students were invited to participate (registration required on-site) and the public was invited to witness how to deal with fires resulting from propane tank leaks and punctures. The new LP burn prop showcased how to extinguish fires from residential and agricultural propane tanks. Demonstrations were made possible through a grant for the Illinois Propane Education and Research Council (IPERC).

An evening Open House for the public included a Live Line Demonstration, safety demonstrations for outdoor gas grills, residential sprinkler demonstrations, vehicle extrication demonstrations, as well as tours of IFSI training grounds.

“RIT Team Basics: Theory, Tools and Implementation.”
This class was designed to introduce students to the basics of Rapid Intervention Team operations and covered tactical and strategic operations using typical “Mayday” deployments. The class covered RIT tools, staging, and equipment, as well as practice with RASP (Rope Assisted Search Procedures).
Classes at the 82nd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the IFSI Training Grounds, in Altgeld Hall, at Everitt Lab, at the Assembly Hall, and at the South Graber Building. The opening ceremonies were held at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center and in the IFSI Library. Brian Brauer served as Fire College Director.

The theme was Training for Routine to Catastrophic Incident Response.


**Notable Lectures, Activities, and Classes:**

“Keynote Address,” Colonel Jill Morgenthaler, Governor’s Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Safety and Homeland Security Advisor

This class was designed to provide chiefs or company officers with the essential tools and skills to operate safely in a wildland/urban interface incident. The content covers interface incidents, fire behavior, safety and operational considerations.

“Bus Extrication,” Instructors: Dan Czarnecki, Brian Doyle, Joe Drennan, Marty Schoonover, and John Nichols. These 12 hours involved a brief presentation helping the student get a basic understanding of bus construction and showing the problems one can encounter compared to a normal auto extrication challenge. The students spent the rest of the time doing hands-on with various types of extrication tools. They practiced extrication exercises by making entrance to the bus from the side, back, front and roof of the bus. In addition, students were taught the proper removal of patients from a bus.
Classes at the 83rd Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the IFSI Training Grounds, in Altgeld Hall, at Everitt Lab, at the Assembly Hall, and at the South Graber Building. The opening ceremonies were held at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center and in the IFSI Library. Brian Brauer served as Fire College Director.

The theme was Training for Routine to Catastrophic Incident Response.


Notable Classes and Lectures:

“Keynote Address,” Colonel Royal Mortenson, USMC, Commanding Officer of the Basic School. Mortenson spoke on leadership in peace and war from a warrior’s perspective.

“NFA: Executive Skills Series: Managing & Leading Change,”

In this class, students were introduced to a four-step model for managing change effectively. These activities included analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation. The same model was used to examine the executive role of leading change. This class was designed for the senior officer of both career and volunteer fire/emergency services organizations.

“Basic CISM Certification,”

The Basic CISM Certification Program was designed to present the core elements of a comprehensive, systematic, and multi-component crisis intervention curriculum. Participants were trained to understand a wide range of CISM services and interventions including pre- and post-event crisis education, small group defusing, and demobilizations after large-scale traumatic incidents and ICISD group interventions. This course satisfied the minimum training requirements to be a member of a regional CISM team. Membership in the International CISM organization and textbook were included in the materials fees. This class was open to all police, fire, EMS, nursing, and dispatch personnel.

Royal P. Mortenson
Classes at the 84th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the IFSI Training Grounds, at the Homewood Suites, at the Tower Classroom, at the Motorcycle Classroom, at the Hilton Garden Inn, at Willard Airport. The opening ceremonies were held at the Hilton Garden Inn while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center and in the IFSI Library. Brian R. Brauer served as Fire College Director.


Notable Classes and Lectures:

“Leadership.”
Tap into the leadership experiences of Deputy Chief (ret.) Ed Enright of the Chicago Fire Dept., Chief of Operations (ret.) John Norman from FDNY and Colonel Royal Mortensen (USMC) to learn how to apply the lessons they learned in their careers to help move yours forward.

“Dirty Dozen of EMS: Twelve Common Areas of EMT and Paramedic Liability.”
This class, taught by Chief Steve Wilder, looked at the 12 common areas of liability exposure faced by EMS providers, and examined proactive steps the provider can take to minimize the exposure without compromising the quality of care.
Classes at the 85th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the IFSI Training Grounds, at the Hilton Garden Inn, at Willard Airport, and at the IFSI Training Center. The welcome ceremonies were held at the Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom while the other general sessions were held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Training Center and in the IFSI Library. Brian R. Brauer served as Fire College Director.


General sessions were held Thursday morning and evening and Friday evening.

Notable Classes:

“Big Fire – Big Water.”
There is a common tactical error found in the fire service where departments and individuals have a blind allegiance to the pulling of small lines for all fires, including large fully-involved structures. This class provided an overview of fire ground tactics regarding large fires, including estimating required GPM flow, techniques for deploying and managing larger lines and use of unmanned devices to supplement personnel on the fire ground.

“Ethanol, Anhydrous and Foam – Oh My!”
During the first four hours of the class, students got first and overview at ethanol production, properties, transportation, distribution of denatured alcohol (E-95) and ethanol (E-85). The second four hours is hands-on, with students learning about and understanding the common fire fighting foams for Class A, Class B and Polar Solvent fuels. Students practiced setting up and operating foam lines. The Sunday morning portion of the class taught first responders about basic ammonia characteristics and environmental concerns and reviews case studies and lessons learned with releases and accidents. Discussion included the use of risk benefit analysis.
Classes at the 86th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus on the IFSI Training Grounds, at the IFSI Training Grounds Tower, at Willard Airport, at the Hilton Garden Inn, and in the IFSI Training Grounds Firehouse Classroom. The welcoming ceremonies were held at the Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom, and the open house was held at the IFSI Training Center. Brad Bone served as Fire College Director.

The eighteen classes offered were divided into five categories. Fire Fighting Classes consisted of Entry Level Recruit Training, Fire Fighting Core Competencies, Coordinated Fire Ground Operations, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Pumper Operations, NWCG: Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface (S-215), and Fighting Single-Family Dwelling Fires. Officer Classes consisted of Leadership in the Tranches, First-in Officer, NFA: Leadership I – Strategies for Company Success, and NFA: Leadership III – Strategies for Supervisory Success. Rescue Classes consisted of Basic Auto Extrication, Advanced Auto Extrication, and Dealing with the Hole in the Ground – Trench Rescue Hazards Awareness. The Combination Classes consisted of Ethanol, Anhydrous and Foam – Oh My! and On the Farm Emergencies. The EMS Classes consisted of Firefighter Rehabilitation and Heat Stress Management and Basic CISM Certification. The open house was Friday evening, and the IFSI Library was open throughout Fire College to give students the opportunity to learn what resources were available.

**Notable Classes:**

“Dealing with the Hole in the Ground – Trench Rescue Hazards Awareness.”

The first eight hours of the class were held in the classroom and covered hazards associated with excavations, use of specialized equipment, shoring systems, victim evacuation, scene safety, and federal and state regulation. Students participated in on-site demonstrations for the last four hours that highlighted the task and strategies that could be employed by the first arriving units.

“Firefighter Rehabilitation and Heat Stress Management”

This class provided an overview of heat stress research conducted at IFSI and prepared students to recognize common injuries and problems encountered on the fireground. Students learned how to establish rehab guidelines and define treatment and transport recommendations for various fireground injuries and illnesses. The class was conducted by Firefighter Life Safety Research Center researchers Dr. Gavin Horn and Dr. Denise Smith.
Classes at the 87th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus at the IFSI Training Grounds, the IFSI Training Grounds Tower, Willard Airport, the IFSI Administration Building, the IFSI Fire Station. Classes were also held in the newly completed Learning Resource and Research Center (LRRC), a 21,000 square ft facility housing the IFSI Library, Research Center, Emergency Operations Training Center, Firefighter Memorial Hall, Memorial Plaza, and a 109 seat conference center. The welcome ceremonies were held at the Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom and the open house was held at the IFSI Training Center. Brad Bone served as Fire College Director.

The fifteen classes offered were divided into six categories. Fire Fighting Classes consisted of Fire Fighting Core Competencies, Coordinated Fire Ground Operations, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Pumper Operations, Fighting Single-Family Dwelling Fires, and Fire Dynamics-Streams. Officer Classes consisted of Leadership in the Trenches, First-in Officer, and NFA: Decision Making for Initial Company Operations. The Investigation Class consisted of Firefighter Initial Fire Investigation. Rescue Classes consisted of Basic Auto Extrication and Advanced Auto Extrication. The Combination Classes involved Ethanol, Anhydrous and Foam – Oh My! and On the Farm Emergencies. The EMS Class consisted of Basic CISM Certification. The open house was Friday evening, and the IFSI Library was open throughout Fire College to give students the opportunity to learn what resources were available.

Notable Lectures, Activities, and Classes:

“Avoiding Fire Scene Chaos,” Roger Lunt, Illinois Fire Service Institute Deputy Director.

“Fire Dynamics-Streams.”
This class provided the chance to experience how compartment fires start, spread and develop, through a detailed study of influences fire behavior, including causes of flashover. Laboratory and field demonstration allow students to observe firsthand fire growth as a function of fuel properties, fuel quantities, ventilation, compartment geometry, location of fire, and ambient conditions. This class then equips the learner to make the connection between fire dynamics and fire control methods; students will have the opportunity to sharpen their stream application skill through hands-on drills.
Classes at the 88th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus, and one class was at Collins Pond, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Champaign County, IL. Brad Bone served as Fire College Director.

The fourteen classes offered were Entry Level Recruit, NWCG: S-234 Ignition Operations (Offsite), Fire Fighting Core Competencies, Coordinated Fire Attack, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Pumper Operations, Fighting Single-Family Dwelling Fires, Fire Dynamics-Streams, Fire Dynamics in Modern Construction, Leadership in the Trenches, First in Officer, Fire & Arson Investigation, Fire Department Public Education, Basic Auto Extrication, Advanced Auto Extrication, and On the Farm Emergencies.

“Fire Dynamics in Modern Construction,” FDNY, Underwriters Laboratories, National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST)
This class provided firefighters and fire officers with critical insights on how modern building construction techniques and modern contents impact the development of fires in these structures. New building construction techniques and material, along with new furnishings and content materials, ignite more easily, support rapid flame spread and contain more energy per pound than the natural materials used previously. This class shared the results of research to help the student understand the fire dynamics, as well as the influence of firefighting tactics in this environment. This class also discussed the practical implications for the firefighter, company officer and command officer operating on the fireground at today’s fire scene. Students were able to interact with and ask questions of leading researchers in the industry.

“Grain Bin Rescue”
This class combined classroom with a hands-on component. Students learned about grain storage types, their construction and operating features. OSHA/IDOL regulations, physical-environmental hazards and potential rescue resources were identified to ensure the response falls within the requirements minimizing fire department civil or criminal liability. Various cutting tools were used in a simulated rescue to assist in the removal of grain from the system and explain the dynamics of grain movement within a space. Patient packaging was also covered in the class.
Classes at the 89th Fire College were held on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus. Brad Bone served as Fire College Director. The guest presentation was at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The fourteen classes offered were Entry Level Recruit, Fire & Arson Investigation, AG Rescue Techniques, Basic Auto Extrication, Coordinated Fire Attack, Fighting Single-Family Dwelling Fires, Fire Dynamics-Streams, Fire Fighting Core Competencies, First in Officer, Leadership in the Trenches, Advanced Auto Extrication, Fire Dynamics in Modern Construction, Pumper Operations, and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. The guest presentation was on Friday evening.

**Notable Lecture and Class:**

“Making Yourself Hard to Kill,” Major Jason Brezler (USMC), FDNY
In this special Friday evening presentation, United States Marines Corps (USMC) Major and firefighter with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) Jason Brezler spoke about the “culture of survival and discipline” he developed for the fire service based on his experiences in the USMC in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as with the FDNY. Brezler utilized his personal experiences, military studies, and academic research to educate fire service professionals about developing mental toughness and crew discipline to save lives on the fireground.

“NWCG:G-130/190 Basic Wildland Firefighter”
This class provided basic training to the entry-level firefighter who may respond to a wildland or urban interface fire. The class included instruction in fireline methods, extinguishment, and factors impacting firefighter safety at a wildland incident. The class also taught the primary factors affecting the start and spread of wildfire and recognition of potentially hazardous situations. The 24-hour class introduced the firefighter to the wildland incident management systems and included a hands-on component.