



DOWN & DIRTY

FIREFIGHTING WEEKEND



SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025

2025 SPONSOR:



FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU

ILLINOISFIREFIGHTERS.ORG



DOWN & DIRTY FIREFIGHTING WEEKEND



FREE LODGING IS AVAILABLE

See all lodging details and requirements on back page.

FREE PARKING

Free event parking will be available on the IFSI training grounds.

FREE REGISTRATION

Organizations registering multiple attendees will receive one complimentary registration for every three members registered.

FEES & DATES

Before August 22, 2025: IFA Member: \$50 | Non-Member: \$75

After August 22, 2025: IFA Member: \$100 | Non-Member: \$125

Last day to cancel registration for a full refund: September 5, 2025

WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY ► 9.19

8:00AM-1:00PM
12:30PM
1:00PM-5:00PM
5:00PM-6:00PM
6:00PM-8:00PM

REGISTRATION
OPENING CEREMONY
TRAINING
DINNER PROVIDED BY IFA
TAKING THE CAPE OFF

SATURDAY ► 9.20

6:30AM-8:00AM
8:00AM-12:00PM
9:00AM
12:00PM-2:00PM

2:00PM-6:00PM
8:00PM

REGISTRATION
TRAINING
CHIEF'S ROUND TABLE
LUNCH & MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
TRAINING
EVENING AUCTION
AT EASTLAND SUITES

SUNDAY ► 9.21

6:30AM-8:00AM
8:00AM-12:00PM

REGISTRATION
TRAINING

All events will be held at IFSI unless noted otherwise.
11 Gerly Drive, Champaign, Illinois

REGISTER ONLINE: **FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU**

Register online through the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI).

PAYMENT LINK: **CLICK HERE**

IFA will process conference payments. Once registration materials are submitted to IFSI, you will receive a direct link to the IFA event payment page.

FRIDAY EVENING PRESENTATION, 6-8PM

PAT KENNY – TAKING THE CAPE OFF

In this very personal address, Chief Pat Kenny will bring attention to one of the most critical issues facing not only fire service leaders today but any leader of an organization that values their employees, Mental Health. Armed with a career of advocacy for mental health, Chief Kenny will share his personal story and put forth a call to action to stand up and face these challenges head-on, by examining the myths and stigmas. He will share leadership mental health strategies and tactics and discuss the complications that arise of being a cape wearer whether in your work, family, or personal life.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL COURSES



NVFC INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER, 4 HOURS | FRIDAY 1-5

The NVFC's Incident Safety Officer (ISO) training will give students an overview of the role of an ISO and cover communications and safety, as well as the practical application of this information. Please note, this is not an ISO certification program.

NVFC EV/AFV INCIDENT MANAGEMENT: SAFETY AND RESPONSE TECHNIQUES, 4 HOURS | SATURDAY 8-12

As the number of electric vehicles on the roadways increases, it is important for first responders to understand how a response involving these types of vehicles is different than those with an internal combustion engine. This awareness and fundamentals course sponsored by General Motors will introduce first responders to hybrid and electric vehicles, share data and resources, and equip first responders with the knowledge and tools to respond more safely when a hybrid or electric vehicle is involved in an incident.

NVFC VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE CULTURE: ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS, 4 HOURS | SATURDAY 2-6

The NVFC published the textbook Volunteer Fire Service Culture - Essential Strategies for Success as a guide to fire service leaders who desire to change their department's culture and attitude towards personal health and safety. This training delves into key points from the guide to reinforce the need for change and provide a roadmap to improve the health and safety of volunteer fire and EMS responders.

CLASSROOM COURSES

RESPONSE TO BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLE INCIDENTS, 4 HOURS | FRIDAY 1-5

The Response to Battery Electric Vehicle Incidents course is designed for first responders seeking current information on hybrid and battery electric vehicle (xEV) incidents. The class covers how to safely engage with xEVs in all potential hazard conditions. Course topics include a comprehensive discussion on electric vehicle concepts and instruction on strategies, techniques, and procedures for responding to electric vehicle fires and emergencies. Instructors will address how to identify a xEV, stabilization procedures, extrication methods, and xEV fires. The class provides an in-depth look at several emergency response guides for various makes and models.



DOWN & DIRTY CHAPLAINCY TRAINING, 4 HOURS | SATURDAY 2-6

The Down and Dirty Chaplaincy Training course is for anyone who is currently a fire chaplain wanting to sharpen their skills or wanting to step into the role with confidence. This class will have two components: classroom and fireground training. Topics include scene safety, command structure and communications, situational awareness, critical firefighter stressors, basic fire equipment knowledge, and best practices for interacting with scene victims. This course will include time on the training grounds with fire equipment. Trust in God's Grace!

Required Equipment: NFPA compliant personal protective equipment.

RENEWABLE ENERGY, 4 HOURS | SUNDAY 8-12

The Renewable Entry course is designed to teach renewable energy sources from hydropower, geothermal, biomass, wind, hydrogen and solar and how they support decarbonization of the planet. This class will cover energy storage systems and how their use supports the grid and issues of the fire with safety tips for control and handling of emergencies.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND DECISION MAKING: LEADERSHIP LOE & RESILIENCY FOR FIRE OFFICERS, 8 HOURS | SATURDAY 8-6

The Leadership Development & Decision Making-Leadership LOE & Resiliency for Fire Officers course is a unique training opportunity for fire officers and those interested in becoming a fire officer. The class provides four hours of leadership and four hours of resiliency discussions. Morning topics will include the essence of leadership, identifying the difference in leadership and management, leadership values and tools, and followership. Students will engage in afternoon resiliency discussions focused on the tools necessary for fire officers to assist with leading and responding to stressful situations, whether it be on the job or off the job. Facilitated group discussions will create open dialogues and an immersive training experience.



REGISTER ONLINE ► FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU
PAYMENT LINK ► **CLICK HERE**

HANDS-ON COURSES

DOWN & DIRTY FIREFIGHTING SKILLS, 12 HOURS SATURDAY 8-6 AND SUNDAY 8-12

The Down & Dirty Firefighting Skills course incorporates multiple training topics into one convenient schedule. The course will cover the usage of SCBA, line advancement, forcible entry, ventilation and basic fire ground operations. Students will participate in hands-on drills and live fire scenarios that support skill development and competency. This class is appropriate for students with limited to moderate fire service experience.

Required Equipment: *NFPA compliant personal protective equipment and SCBA.*

FIRST-IN OPERATIONS WITH LIMITED STAFFING, 12 HOURS SATURDAY 8-6 AND SUNDAY 8-12

The First-In Operations with Limited Staffing course is appropriate for students who have competency in core firefighting skills and SCBA usage, and a general understanding of traditional company assignments and tasks. Class topics will include long lead outs and forcible entry, to include tool usage and familiarity. Students will also receive hands-on training in search techniques, victim removal, and webbing while dealing with issues that can arise due to minimal staffing.

Required Equipment: *NFPA compliant personal protective equipment and SCBA.*

MAKE YOURSELF A GOOD VICTIM, 4 HOURS SUNDAY 8-12

The Make Yourself a Good Victim course will review a real-world mayday and firefighter rescue and discuss how training and preparation had a direct impact on survival, injuries, and compliant execution. Participants will practice calling a mayday, self-packaging for rescue, connecting SCBA RIT packs, and focusing on strategies for ensuring if they find themselves the victim, they are able to survive. Students will discuss and practice actions that can be taken by a firefighter who finds themselves in a mayday situation to aid in their rescue and survival.

Required Equipment: *NFPA compliant personal protective equipment.*

WILDERNESS SEARCH AND RESCUE AWARENESS, 8 HOURS SATURDAY 8-6

The Wilderness Search and Rescue Awareness course is designed to train first responders whose responsibilities include searching for lost persons in urban and austere land environments. The course is an introduction to the wilderness search and rescue process. Topics include recognition of weather and environmental concerns, appropriate clothing, gear and PPE, and mitigation of incident hazards. It also includes basic search techniques and procedures including navigation. This course is approved by Pro Board and meets the requirements listed in NFPA 1006 Chapter 11 Wilderness Search and Rescue.

Required Equipment: *Heavy duty long pants and long-sleeved shirt, leather gloves, eye protection and boots.*

FREE LODGING REQUIREMENTS:



Conference attendees may receive up to 2 nights of hotel accommodations for FREE*.

The Illinois Firefighter's Association (IFA) has received a grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshal to cover a portion of the hotel rooms for the annual Down & Dirty Conference. Funded hotel rooms are limited and available to Illinois registrants only on a first-come, first-served basis.

The deadline to request free hotel accommodations is September 5, 2025.

Lodging Details:

Rooms will be reserved once IFA course registration is complete.

Online enrollment: Once course enrollment is complete, registrants will be directed to a housing reservation system if their class selections meet room coverage requirements.

Paper enrollment: Registrants must complete the housing request form. Forms will only be accepted if accompanied by a course enrollment form.

- IFSI will pay for the hotel room and hotel room taxes only.
- IFSI will manage all room reservations including payment to hotels for room rates and taxes.
- A personal credit card in the registrant's name will be required at the time of check-in to cover incidental expenses including parking.

Room Assignments:

- Single room assignments are based on availability and not guaranteed.
- IFSI will accept requests for double occupancy rooms and specific roommate assignments. The requests must be submitted through the online reservation system or on the paper housing request form.
- Hotel placements are at the discretion of IFSI.
- Registrants from the same department will be assigned to the same hotel whenever possible.

Hotel assignments will be emailed to registrants the week of September 8, 2025.

Room Coverage Eligibility:

- Friday night accommodations will only be covered for registrants who attend both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions.
- Saturday night accommodations will only be covered for registrants who attend both Saturday sessions or registrants who attend both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning sessions.

Individuals must attend all portions of the registered training sessions for the room expenses to be covered by IFSI. Failure to attend all portions of registered training sessions will result in the registrant or registrant's department being billed for ineligible hotel charges post event.

For questions about hotel accommodations, please contact:
Julie Lard - jlard@illinois.edu

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