

From the Director's Desk

The full impact of budget shortfalls is being felt by all, IFSI is no exception, so I want to provide you with an update on programs and suggest how we might work together in the short and long-term to retain and even expand the training resources available to Illinois firefighters and departments.

The first and greatest impact of the State budget crisis has been the sweep of \$10.4 million from the Fire Prevention Fund that has eliminated the Cornerstone grant for FY2010. Since 2000, this grant program has funded the delivery of 2,693 classes to 67,050 firefighters – in virtually every county and department across the state. Each year this program has substantially underwritten the training programs for volunteer fire departments and fire protection districts (FPD) and significantly contributed to the training programs of paid departments. Cornerstone provides one to two-day, hands-on training that is based upon the same skills required for certification, but does not provide the week(s)-long certification course. Virtually every department and FPD in Illinois qualified for Cornerstone, which paid all of the direct delivery costs of the training.

Cornerstone differs significantly from the statutory reimbursement program under the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Less than 200 departments/districts qualify for reimbursement as established by the Fire Protection Training Act (50 ILCS 740), to include only those departments that require by ordinance the completion of a Basic Firefighter certification course and successfully passing the OSFM certification exam. Unfortunately, funding has been inadequate to provide full reimbursement. In fact, less than 25 cents on the dollar has been reimbursed and often this is returned to city rather than fire department coffers.

Both programs have value. Both programs meet critical training needs of firefighters and departments. Both programs have been and continue to be supported by the Illinois fire service through the Illinois Fire Services Association and the member organizations. Unfortunately, only one is in



statute, so when “only essential, required programs” were considered during budget cuts, Cornerstone was cut.

What is being done? The Fire Services Association has formed a committee with membership from the OSFM and statewide associations to include: Illinois Firefighters, Illinois Fire Chiefs, Illinois Fire Protection Districts, International Association of Firefighters, Professional Firefighters and IFSI. This committee is working short-term to restore Cornerstone funding for FY2010 and long-term to establish it in statute. It is also working to expand the funding sources for the Fire Prevention Fund. Regardless, it is up to the members of the state legislature and the governor to provide adequate resources to provide the training and other state fire services to firefighters and local departments statewide. In fact, the Fire Protection Districts has provided grants in FY2009 and 2010 to help IFSI provide Cornerstone training. The Illinois Firefighters have made restoration of the Cornerstone funding grant their #1 goal in FY2010. All firefighting organizations have worked hard together to establish the programs we have and are fighting hard together to keep or restore them.

What can you do? Tell your local elected officials and state legislators what Cornerstone and other state-provided training means to you and your department. Help them understand that the only source of state funding for training for your department is through the Fire Prevention Fund. Together, with one voice we can send a clear message. Through our regional representatives we will work individually with departments to provide Cornerstone-like courses at the lowest possible cost. In the interim, you may be able to secure local assistance in underwriting the cost of a course delivery. Thank you for your continuing support.

Richard Jaehne
Director

Director
Richard L. Jaehne

Deputy Director
David F. Clark

Associate Director
John McCastland

Assistant Director
Brian R. Brauer

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

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

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

Persons interested in furnishing articles, should forward materials to: IFSI Newsletter, 11 Gerty Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 or E-mail information to Terri Hopper at hopper@fsi.illinois.edu. Please include appropriate graphics or digital photos.

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Our website has the most current class information

www.fsi.illinois.edu

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Want your own copy of the IFSI newsletter?

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

OR

A copy is available on our web site.

Effective July 1, 2009 **you can now print out your own certificate for virtually all IFSI courses.** In the past we only issued certificates for courses which were 12 hours or more in length. Now, certificates are available for you to document your training even for short courses. Visit our website for details of how to print your certificates. (This is not retroactive.) We will no longer be mailing out certificates.

Unfortunately, Cornerstone classes have been suspended, due to a legislative sweep of OSFM funds. The matter is in the hands of your state legislators, and is beyond our control. If you have concerns, contact them and let them know how important the funding is to you. Check our web site periodically to see if this funding is restored, as we hope it will be this Fall.

We are still able to offer LP burns, foam, ethanol, and oil & gas classes at no cost to you, since they are not funded by the state. We can deliver other Cornerstone courses, but for a modest fee. Contact your IFSI Regional Rep for details.

Work is progressing on the new IFSI Learning Resource and Research Center, in spite of the rains. They are pouring concrete and will soon be setting steel. We anticipate completion of the building itself next summer, and its opening in early Fall 2010 after the electronic and IT equipment is installed. This will enable us to reach you in new ways, including blended learning classes in which you can do much of the work on-line, and then go to a class site for a day or two of practicals. That will save everyone time and money, and make access available to more people.

Additional IFSI classes have been accepted by the Pro Board for national certification. We currently are approved

News & Notes

for NFPA: Fire Officer I and II, Inspector I & II, Fire Service Instructor I & II, Fire Apparatus Operator Pumper, and Fire Apparatus Operator Mobile Water Supply Apparatus. Over the next year we will be adding several rescue, HazMat, and other courses. Pro Board national certification is not retroactive.

*David F. Clark
Deputy Director*

Brad Bone has retired from the Champaign Fire Department, and is now devoting full time as our Fire Fighting Program Director. Heather Moore, has replaced Jeff Hilligoss as our Trench Program Manager, since Jeff's duties with his home FD were demanding more of his time.

We have reorganized and combined our technical Rescue and HazMat Programs into one Special Operations Training Program, to better reflect the structure used by many fire departments today. Mac McCastland, who oversees all our ITTF funded Rescue and HazMat training, will control this area through Program Director Ray Palczynski and the various Program Managers for the disciplines involved. See page 13 for more information and page 20 for contact information.

Last fiscal year was another record setter, with IFSI instructing more than 59,000 students. I hope you will participate this year. The 2010 calendar will be in the mail in early November to help you plan your training schedule.

Winter Fire School (January 23 - 24, 2010 in Champaign) offers an excellent educational opportunity in January. Watch your mailbox or the IFSI web site for class offerings and registration information.

Table Talk

'MAC'
McCastland
Associate
Director

Once again Mary Auth, the person responsible for this publication, sends the dreaded notice: "it's time for your newsletter article," which immediately causes the "what the heck am I going to write about now" reaction.

We could chit chat about what's going on in the TRT world with training and validation, or repeat that the funding is being reduced so you better get hot and jump on the train before it leaves the station, but that word has been spread for the last several years and those who paid attention have received the benefit and those non-believers will be left on the platform holding a ticket.

So let's take a different road out of Dodge for this edition.

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to be part of the Fire Service for 45+ years – a Chief Officer for 25 of those years – and never during any of that time have I witnessed what is taking place in Fire Departments across the country in today's environment, with reduction of force through layoffs and other cost cutting efforts.

Granted the economy is sluggish, but I doubt that the local Fire Department is the cause. This situation just did not jump up and present itself. Most places had indicators – vacant store fronts, car dealerships closing, businesses relocating, tax base eroding – all things that could be viewed as indicators that the need for emergency services will be on the rise.

So when the time comes for the political body to cut, they will go after what they don't understand and that is in too many instances the Fire Department.

Why are we on the top of the hit list?? I say in many cases we need to look no further that within our own organizations and ask what has the Fire Department leadership done to sell the Department's value to the community?

In my opinion, the main function of the Fire Chief is to be cheerleader for the troops, to keep them as positive images in the eyes of the Community and the political

body itself. Create programs that get the Fire Companies out on the street, in the public eye. Open the overhead doors and let the folks know that we exist. If we live in our little world of misbelieve "that they need us," we are doomed to fail. The reality of life is we need the community. When times get tough we need those folks to rally for us and not against us.

Internally each of us has to take stock of why we choose to do this thing that we do – no one I know took the job to become wealthy. We took it for the thrill of being challenged by the "beast" and kicking its butt! Well today the "beast" has taken on a different form, but has the same agenda. Granted overall Department morale may hit the dumpster, but each of us has a choice in how we will handle the adversity that surrounds us. No one can take from you what you are not willing to give up. Go to the firehouse and do your job, take care of your people, train them to work safe, with less people, work smarter. Look out for one another. Never let it be said that a Firefighter of yours was hurt, or killed because you got sucked into the political BS and failed to accept your responsibility. We tend to use the term "brotherhood" many times – now is the time to live it !!

Time to strike it out, I'll throw out a disclaimer on this one. These are my opinions, so if you need to disagree, put the coffee pot on, call me and we'll chat.

Take care, and be safe

MAC

Official IFSI Apparel Available Online

You can now order official IFSI apparel online from the Illinois Fire Services Institute Store. Hats, T-shirts, jackets and sweatshirts are available from the official supplier. Just click on the link at the bottom of opening page of the IFSI web site.

Pro Board - Now a Part of the IFSI Menu

Over the summer, IFSI became accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications for several programs. The NBFSPQ, or "Pro Board" as they are commonly known, reviewed IFSI's testing methods, practices, and documentation, and also compared each IFSI exam that we sought to have accredited against the appropriate NFPA standard.

To date, eight IFSI programs have had accreditation extended to them. These courses are:

- Fire Inspector I and II, based upon the 2009 edition of NFPA 1031
- Fire Instructor I and II, based upon the 2007 edition of NFPA 1041
- Fire Officer I and II, based upon the 2003 edition of NFPA 1021
- Fire Apparatus Engineer, based upon the 2009 edition of NFPA 1002
- Mobile Water Supply Apparatus, based upon the 2009 edition of NFPA 1002

While IFSI's primary motivation for seeking Pro Board Accreditation was to support the certification needs of military and Department of Defense entities in and around Illinois, certification can also be earned by municipal firefighters. There are two ways to obtain certification.

First, a firefighter can attend an IFSI course that has been accredited by Pro Board, after the date IFSI was granted Pro Board accreditation. There is no "grandfathering" or other mechanisms to obtain credit for a course that was taken before the accreditation date, except by challenging an exam (listed below). In some cases, a course that is delivered to meet an NFPA standard may not also meet the OSFM standard. For example, IFSI has developed a 40-hour Fire Officer I course for

the military that satisfies the requirements for national certification, but does NOT meet the requirements for the Illinois OSFM. Classes in this category will be clearly indicated.

Upon successful completion of all written examinations, practical evaluations, and certification prerequisites for the course, the firefighter can complete an application, pay a certification fee, and apply for a certificate from the Pro Board.

The second way to obtain Pro Board certification is to challenge the exam and evaluation for a course for which IFSI has been approved. In this case, the firefighter must demonstrate certification by the OSFM (or equivalent proof of course completion) at the level they wish to challenge the exam for, and then register for a challenge exam as listed on the IFSI calendar. On the day of the challenge exam, the firefighter will take a written exam that covers the entire NFPA standard and level they are seeking certification for. Next, the firefighter will demonstrate some of the practicals from that standard, drawn at random from the standard. Upon successful completion of the examination and evaluation, the firefighter can submit an application to Pro Board for that level.

Accreditation by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications will allow IFSI to better serve the armed forces branches that provide for and protect our freedoms, as well as offering national recognition for courses that firefighters are already taking as part of their work. We are proud to be partnering with these Illinois soldiers, airmen, marines, sailors, and reservists to meet their training needs.

Pro Board does not replace OSFM certifications, but is in addition to them. IFSI offers both.

*Brian R. Brauer
Assistant
Director*

Upcoming Management Classes at Champaign Campus

Management 1: December 7 - 11, 2009 -- The Management 1 course is designed to provide the Fire Officer, who is in charge of a single fire company or station, with information and skills in supervisory practices and personnel management.

Management 2: December 14 - 18, 2009 -- The Management 2 course expands upon what is covered in Management 1 and includes basics of communications, report writing, interpersonal communication, group dynamics, coaching and counseling skills, and performance appraisal.

Register online at www.fsi.illinois.edu

Training the Next Generation: Part I

Brad Bone
Fire Fighting
Program
Director

Over the years many fire service instructors have been frustrated by the behavioral differences in their generation and these “new kids” we are hiring today. Most of you have probably expressed this frustration yourselves, or at least heard someone else generate some creative expletives in reference to “their behavior.” The realization that this problem exists is nothing new. *Fire Engineering* published an article in 2003 that spoke specifically to this issue (Stein and Berardinelli, 2003). Sadly they quote one fire captain as saying “I don’t understand them. How can they think that way? They have no work ethic. I just don’t like them.”

In spite of whether we like “them” or not, we have to train them and that is why I wanted to open this topic for discussion. Our job as fire service instructors/training officers is to connect with our students and the fact is that the age old attitude that, “they can learn our way or they can hit the road” is a losing proposition and will certainly result in a failure on our part as instructors. Communication is critical in preventing failure and how we choose to accomplish that is even more critical to our success as fire service instructors. With that said, admittedly this is a two way street and some responsibility rests on the part of the students to connect with their instructor, as well. In this article, I want to address the following points; Generational Differences, Social Differences, and Technology in training.

Generational Differences

Most of the “old salts” would probably indicate that the group(s) they have the most problems connecting with are

the Generation Xers (born 1965-1981) and the Millennials (born 1982-1999). Understanding their values will help us all to understand what motivates them and more importantly how they learn. Some general statements that apply to these two groups are:

1. They do not view work as the most important thing in their life. They do have a work ethic and they are resourceful, but when their work day is done “they’re out of there.”

2. They have a firm grasp on technology and do not have patience for a generation that does not. They are not motivated by one way learning and do not really care to hear our old war stories.

3. They are accustomed to interactive and self-directed learning. Over 50% of today’s 21-year-olds have created content on the web, and the average 21 year old has sent and received 250,000 emails or text messages. They are not accustomed to face to face communication.

4. They are eager to learn and often question things (to the frustration of their supervisors and older peers). They are not motivated by mission statements, or the good of the organization philosophy; an attitude that often clashes with the paramilitary – rules and regulations nature of the fire service.

These are some general observations that Stein and Berardinelli made in their 2003 article that are still relevant in 2009. The full article is available on the *Fire Engineering* website and is titled, “Bridging the Gap Among the Generations.” The next newsletter will address Social Differences among the generations.

East Central Region Report

*Greg Fisher
Cornerstone
East Central
Region*

In the Spring Newsletter I wrote of the tremendous amount of work that the Regional Representatives put into enhancing the Cornerstone Program menu of classes. The original intent of Cornerstone was to provide fundamental down and dirty training by qualified instructors for fire departments throughout the state. The initial menu included Essentials I through III, House and Tower Burns with Rural Water Supply and Basic Pumps added in 2000. The firefighter's job description has changed a great deal over the last decade since the inception of the Cornerstone Program. Whether volunteer, paid-on-call, or career, Illinois firefighters have taken on consequence management of terrorist events, hazardous materials, increased role in rescues, and face an increase in fire activity with the decline in the economy. This new menu with a greater number of selections reflects the basic "need to know" topics integral in our modern mission.

Career ranks are suffering station or company shut downs while volunteer and paid-on-call ranks lose responders to employment issues beyond the traditional turnover every three years or so. These concerns make the Cornerstone Program even more important in preparing firefighters for the job at hand.

As IFSI Director Jaehne addressed earlier in the newsletter, the Cornerstone Program funding was swept with other funds at the state level. Cornerstone classes can still be offered in the east central or other regions; however, they must pay for themselves. Even though the classes were not charged to the individual departments or sponsoring mutual aid associations in the past, the classes do have a cost. With the shrinking funds for training, purchasing a Cornerstone class may be the most cost effective return for the training dollar. Bringing anyone of the 60 plus classes to a local fire department for the entire membership to participate makes training more economical than paying to send a limited number of staff off site. Agencies contracting Cornerstone

classes may also invite other departments to help defray their cost until funding is restored. In addition to the Memorandum of Agreement many are already familiar with, an additional contract from the University of Illinois requires local agency signatures. A turnaround time from 45 to 60 days between request and delivery is more realistic with this system.

Various fire service organizations are working towards having Cornerstone funding restored, but unless and until that happens we must charge a modest fee to cover costs. Since the beginning of the fiscal year I have been asked to provide the number and title of Cornerstone classes held at individual departments, as well as entire counties. Chiefs and Training Officers have been asking about the total number of students attending Cornerstone classes and what the agencies would have paid without the funding. Many were surprised, yet pleased, about those figures and have a greater appreciation for what Cornerstone was able to do in terms of cost-effective training.

Some departments in the east central region chose to send members to mutual aid association and MABAS Division schools such as Effingham and McLean County rather than request classes in house. These two schools alone were comprised of 383 students from 66 different fire departments with just under 3,000 student contact hours. Many others in the region have participated in the Light and Fight and Tower Burn classes at Regional Training Centers and the IFSI campus reflecting tremendous practical learning situations. Various fire service organizations holding "hands-on" training classes here at IFSI have also benefited from the Cornerstone grant with instructors, live-fire training, and numerous props for ventilation, forcible entry, agricultural rescue and auto extrication.

Please let me know if there is any information you need regarding your department's use of the Cornerstone Program in the past and how I can assist in setting up a contract class for you in the future.

From the Northwest Territory

Ray Palczynski
Northwest
Regional
Representative

Greetings from the Northwest Territory! By now many of you are aware of the fact that the funding for the Cornerstone Program was not provided this time around. That doesn't mean the Cornerstone Program is dead – it is just not funded. Training can't stop because there are no funds. We'll just have to take another approach to how we do business.

With that said, this may be the best time for groups of departments to get together to see what their needs are, then work collectively to cover the cost of the needed training. IFSI is committed to continue delivering quality training in your region by top notched instructors. If the cost of individualized training is too much of a burden for one individual department then perhaps several departments or districts getting together can defray the costs making regionalized training affordable. This might be just what is needed to help bring regional responders closer together before there is an emergency need to do so.

There are still subject areas where training is available at no cost. There are also

National Fire Academy hand-off classes. Many folks have asked about classes such as Instructor I being delivered locally. To date the costs has usually been at the breaking point. Contact your regional representative to see if there are some cost sharing options available that would work for your region.

The bottom line is we are all here ready, willing and able to help meet your regional training needs. For the time being the training will be at a reasonable and competitive cost. The economy has been tough for everyone, but it can't be the excuse for not training and keeping the health and safety of your members your number one priority. The old saying, "where there's a will there's a way" has never been more timely. If you have the will to train your members I'll help find the way to get it done!

Stay safe!

Cornerstone Regions

Northwest
Ray Palczynski
563/468-8385
rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu

Central
Roger Lunt
217/820-1281
rlunt@fsi.illinois.edu

Champaign Campus
Brian Brauer
217/333-9027
brbrauer@fsi.illinois.edu

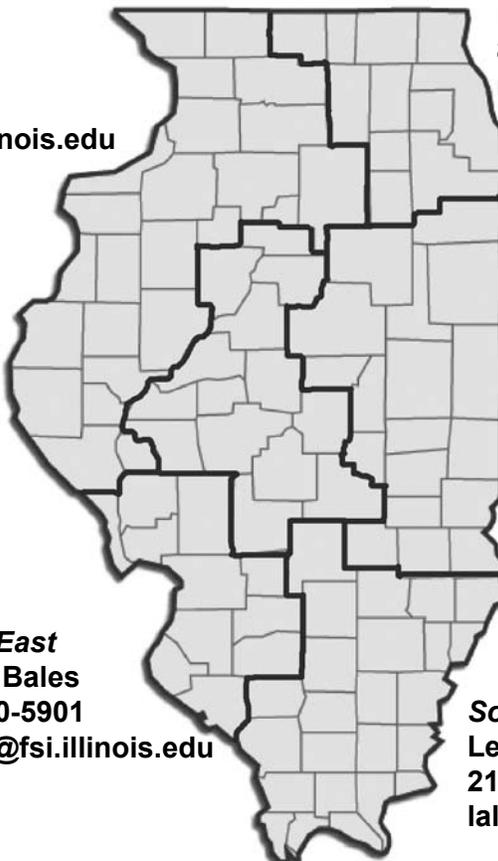
Metro-East
Duane Bales
618/920-5901
rbales@fsi.illinois.edu

Northeast
Randy Schlichter
847/343-4039
rschlich@fsi.illinois.edu

Chicago Metro
Jim Streu
630/605-5278
streujg@fsi.illinois.edu

East Central
Greg Fisher
217/244-1220
gafisher@fsi.illinois.edu

Southern
Les Albert
217/714-6500
lalbert@fsi.illinois.edu



Cornerstone Chicago Metro and Fire Officer, Too

Fire Officer; From the Classroom

The Fire Officer classes that are conducted at the Southern Kane Training Association are scheduled and registrations are being taken. This series of classes will be held at two different locations. Some of the classes will be at the Geneva Fire Department location and some will be at the Batavia Fire Department. Please check the web site for dates and location... (www.southernkane.org)

As in the past, the instructors for the Fire Officer classes are Illinois Fire Service Institute field staff and meet all Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) standards for certification.

In addition to Southern Kane Training Association, Fire Officer I & II classes are also offered at several other locations throughout the state. They are at the Blue Island Fire Department, which will be held on the weekend in order to accommodate the part-time student. Les Albert coordinates and assists in teaching all the Fire Officer classes at the Fire Service Institute, Edwardsville and Williamson County. The Edwardsville and Williamson County classes are delivered on the weekends. Information for these classes is also on the web site. (www.fsi.illinois.edu)

SPARTA. National Guard Officer Training

This summer the Institute delivered a new program to the National Guard at the SPARTA military location. The National Guard officers came to the base to attend Fire Officer classes that are recognized in other states. The classes that the Institute offered are Pro Board certified Fire Officer classes. The classes consist of a 40-hour Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II class. The Fire Officer classes are a compilation of material from the Management I, II, III, and IV, as well as Tactics I and II. In addition, the guardsmen attended Fire Inspector I and Inspector II along with Instructor I and Instructor II. Les Albert scheduled and

coordinated the instructors for these series of classes. The Institute received excellent reviews on the new program.

Cornerstone

Many departments have asked me if Cornerstone classes are gone. The answer is "no." All the classes that are on the Cornerstone menu are still available on a contract basis. They are excellent core classes at an affordable cost. In addition there are Leadership I, II, and III classes available which are National Fire Academy certified classes.

Chicago FD

September ends another Chicago fire academy class. The March 3, 2009 class of 146 candidates from the Chicago Fire Department finished their training in September at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Champaign campus before shift assignments. IFSI worked with CFD in delivering training to the candidates on their Technical Rescue Awareness, and live fire tower burns. In addition, IFSI conducted another series of officer classes for the newly promoted Officers of the Chicago Fire Department. Lew Lake and Pete Van Dorpe coordinated the classes between the RJ Quinn Fire Academy, Carol Stream FD and the IFSI Burn Towers.

Regional Field Staff Meetings

This year we have been holding regional field staff meetings in our local areas. These meetings replaced the annual meeting. To date we have had a meeting in McHenry, Cherry Valley, Carol Stream and Chicago. IFSI Field Instructors should keep an eye on their email for future meetings. Communications for these meetings will be sent out by email notification.

***As always, You Learn
Something New Everyday.***

***Till next time
Be safe***

*Jim Streu
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative
and Fire Officer
Program
Director*

Cornerstone Central Region and Innovative Training Options

Roger Lunt
Central
Regional
Representative

Last year nearly 90 Cornerstone training sessions were hosted throughout the 14 county area of the Central Region.

The Beardstown Regional Training Center was well attended on March 14. There were over 50 firefighters from 11 counties, representing 14 fire departments participating in one of the regularly scheduled Light and Fight training activities. Mark your training calendar to attend the 2010 Beardstown RTC Light and Fights, March 13 and July 17.

In May, the Tazewell County Fire School experienced an increase in attendance from the previous year. There were 270 firefighters representing 63 fire departments. Mark your calendar for the 2010 Tazewell County Fire School scheduled for May 1 and 2.

Last June the first Sangamon County Fire School was hosted by the Riverton Fire Department. The department deserves a great deal of credit for providing an ideal training environment. I also think we all enjoyed the meals that were provided. Though disappointed with a lower than expected attendance, there is optimism that the 11 departments attending will return in even greater numbers next year. Mark your training calendar to attend the next Sangamon County Fire School on June 13, 2010.

A withdrawal of state Cornerstone funding is now old news that holds a daily reminder and impact on us all. However, the removal of this training support has not stopped all firefighter training.

The fire service community is innovative and determined to serve lots of folks. Though seriously impacted, departments in Central Region are demonstrating a determination to find ways to continue hosting FSI training sessions. A few approaches include:

- Applying for and using Assistance to Firefighter Grant training funds.
- Cost sharing with other departments.
- Using registration fees to cost share or completely cover class contract cost.
- Soliciting local business support. Example: I recently met with the Rochester Fire Department and the Sangamon County Farm Bureau regarding Ag Rescue Training.
- Utilizing training budget funds that have not been used over recent years.
- Re-aligning traditional department expenditures.
- Requesting classes that have funding support, for example Foam, Ethanol, LPG, and National Fire Academy supported classes.

If there is a silver lining in the loss of this year's state Cornerstone support, it is that it reminds us that there really is no such thing as free Cornerstone training. The training has held a firefighter safety and community service value and now we realize once again, the monetary value. We should be optimistic that Cornerstone funding support will return. It simply holds too great of a community value for me to think it will never return. When it does, I hope departments continue their Cornerstone training requests and also continue the local creative funding support, that grow from a sweeping of the state funds.

It is expected that this list will change by the time this newsletter is released, but offered here to show training has slowed down but not disappeared.

Training Completed With Contract or Free

Henry FPD: Ag. Rescue Techniques

Raymond FD: Firefighting Foam Operations

Petersburg FD: Basic Pumps

Morton FD: Fire Behavior and Smoke

Timber Hollis FPD: Fire Ground Management

For Small Career and Rural FDs

Dunlap FD: Looking At Smoke Tactically

(LAST)

Training Scheduled and Contracted or Free

Logan/Trivoli FPD: Fire Behavior and Smoke,

Grain Bin Rescue, LAST

Pawnee FD: Foam Operations

Raymond FD: Ethanol Awareness w/ Foam

Timber Hollis FPD: Fire Fighting Foam Applications

Training Being Discussed for Contract or Free

Peoria Heights FD: Essentials-II, Essentials-III, TRA, Light & Flight

Logan/Trivoli FPD: Thermal Imaging Camera

Timber Hollis FPD: Rural Engine & Tender Operations

Rochester FD: LAST, Ethanol Awareness, Foam Operations

Pawnee FD: Essentials IV, Fire Ground Management for Small Career and Rural FDs

Tuscarora FPD: Rural Engine & Tender Ops.

Contact one of these departments or me regarding these training sessions. Contact any FSI Regional Representative concerning training needs and questions. I would also be happy to speak at one of your association or department meetings.

Be Safe

www.fsi.illinois.edu

Modern Auto Construction Continues to Present New Extrication Challenges

Every year the auto manufacturers are coming up with different ways to build the structures of their vehicles to make it safer for passengers and each year hydraulic manufacturers are working to build their tools to be effective for an extrication. The auto manufacturers are using extra wraps of metal, different exotic metals or additional metals inside the “posts.” Realizing that you cannot buy new tools each year, what are some of your options?

As you can see with this post, there is spacing between the wraps. When we take our “O” cutter, we compress the post before the cutting process begins but if we have a “scissor” type cutter, the cutting begins immediately. With the “O” cutter, the compression makes the post almost a solid piece of stock before the cutting begins, which makes the cutting more difficult. The second photo shows the cutting done with a hydraulic tool and the next photo shows the post cut with a reciprocating saw. One of the things we have found is that it is easier to cut the “B” post right below the roof line. Where the hydraulic cutter may not complete a cut farther down the post, we have never had a problem completing a cut at the top of the “B” post. I keep mentioning the “B” post, but it seems that it is the strongest and most difficult post to penetrate. The other posts have not seemed to present a cutting problem for the hydraulic tools. So continue the extrication process, but cut the “B” post at the top and if that does not work, consider your reciprocating saw as a backup.

Also, remember that manufacturers are putting the laminated glass all around some of their vehicles or at least replacing some of the tempered glass with laminated glass. When trying to break glass and it doesn't work, think lamination or look for the “laminating” inscription marked on the glass.



Note spacing between the wraps.



This post has been cut with a hydraulic tool.



This post has been cut with a reciprocating saw.

*Duane Bales
Vehicle Rescue
Program
Director*

Watch the online calendar for upcoming vehicle/machinery program classes.

See page 19 for photos from Mitsubishi North America Customer Appreciation Day.

Hazardous Materials Program Update

*Ray Palczynski
Special
Operations
Training
Program
Director*

When I wrote the Spring article we were on the brink of hosting the third hazardous materials team validation exercise. Number three is in the books with ten more teams having completed the validation process. We have now validated 24 of the 44 state teams. If we stay on track during 2010 and 2011, we will validate the remaining 20 teams. 2010's validation dates have been set for April 7 and 8. Those of you on the short list will be hearing from MABAS soon with your invitation to the 2010 validation. As with any exercise of this magnitude, there are growing pains and learning curves. The rules and regulations governing validation have directed us to become an "exercise" for financial and reporting purposes. We are moving in the right direction but each year brings new guidelines and requirements, so it's very likely that each passing validation will be slightly different from the prior sessions. Stay tuned for more details.

In September Col. Jaehne approved the creation of the IFSI Special Operations Training Program or "S.O.T.P". This new structure will help streamline the delivery of all the SWMD classes. See the chart on the next page. It is no secret that the fire service can and has been parochial with its many disciplines. This subject could be the topic for a great paper on its own. The fact remains that we all head out the door on a "B.R.T." and decide what hat we're going to wear when we get to the call. Sometimes it's actually the fire hat. Other times it maybe HazMat, technical rescue, EMS, prevention, SCUBA or investigation. You get the idea. Our thought is that the more people who work together in training and education, the easier it will be for those same folks to transition into their specialty areas when it really counts. Those responders with special talents will have to work side by side on scene. We can't be strangers before the bell rings and expect to jell into an operational group on scene. This idea might come as a surprise to some people. The fact is, as time and resources shrink or disappear, we can least afford to compromise or sacrifice the health, safety and training of our members.

I hope you all give this new structure a "look see" to get on board. I think this could be a great ride!

As always baseline training, better known as HM Awareness, Operations, Tech A, Tech B and IMS classes are being scheduled all the way through Spring of 2010 (as of this writing). Right now, March of 2010 is "sold out" for any additional HazMat classes. Please remember to plan "at least" six months in advance for any 40-hour class. Contact Ann Jack Haluzak in the HazMat office for any class scheduling questions.

We will continue to deliver maintenance training in the area of monitoring and sampling this Fall with classes scheduled in Cherry Valley, Batavia and Sugar Grove. The first maintenance training or "regional readiness evolutions - RRE" were delivered this Spring in Decatur. These classes are designed for those responders assigned to regional teams. Part of this effort is to bring responders from a region together to not only do refresher training, but also get to know one another better. These classes are advertised regionally and not on the website so watch for local information on this training.

***The following classes fill up fast.
Reserve your spot today.***

Advanced Breathing Apparatus Specialist (Smoke Divers): May 3 - 7, 2010

Fire Attack and Suppression Techniques (FAST): May 10 - 14, 2010

***Fire Apparatus Engineer: May 3 - 6
and May 10 - 14, 2010***

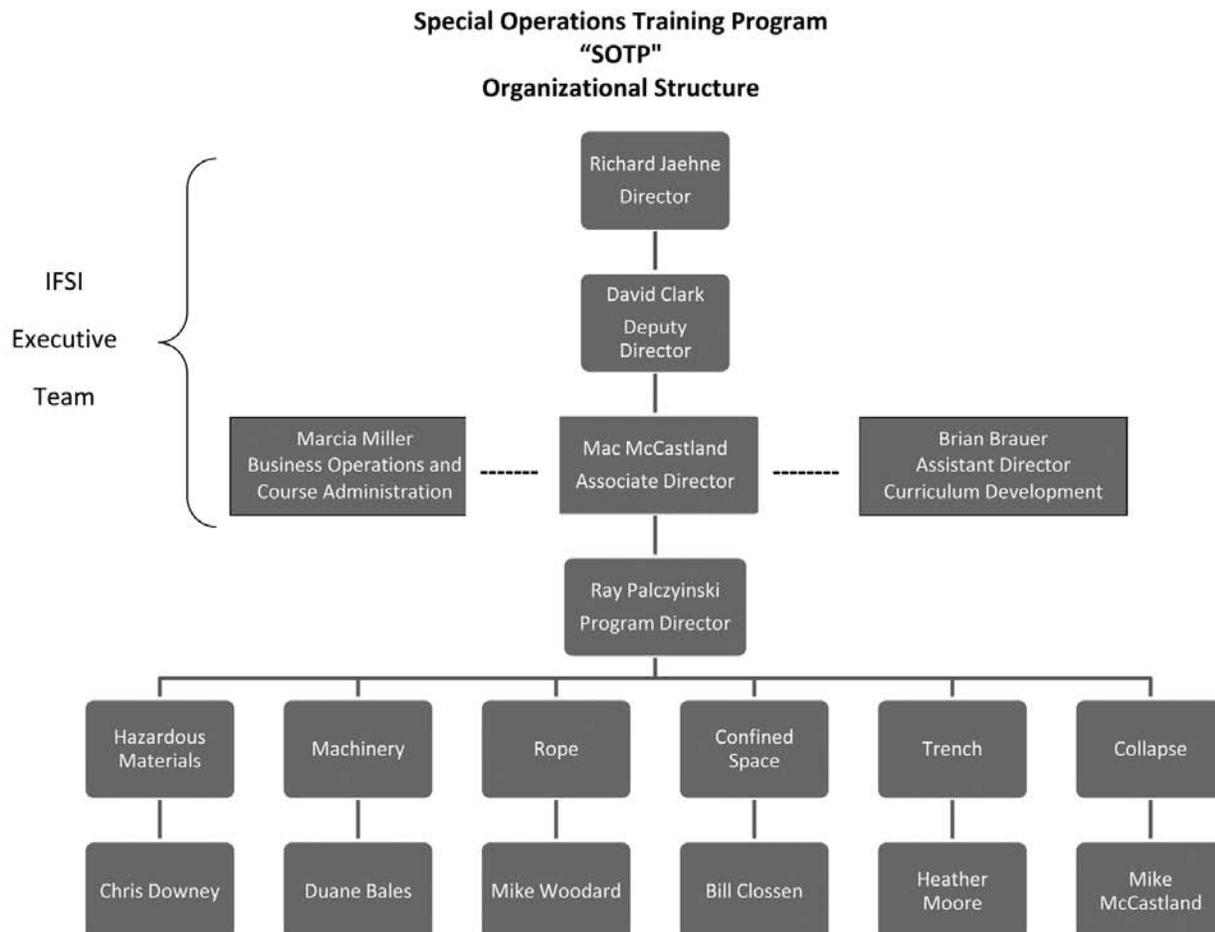
Out in the Field

As you have already read, the Cornerstone Program, while still being offered, includes a cost factor to hold the classes instead of them being at no cost. I know budgets can be strained with this economy and where are the first cuts? Training. That is happening all over the country right now – but training can be the most important to keep our firefighters safe. What can we do to keep the training program going?

If you want courses like Agricultural Rescue, Grain Bin Rescue or Anhydrous Ammonia, consider that the local implement dealers, chemical/grain dealers, elevators or local businesses might be willing to contribute a small amount towards sponsoring a class. Tell them that each has a stake in keeping their communities and residents safe – something that is probably easier to sell in the rural areas. Work with them collectively or individually to help cover the cost of important ag-program training.

Duane Bales
Ag Program
Director

In September, Director Jaehne approved the creation of the new Special Operations Training Program (SOTP). This new structure will streamline the delivery of all State Weapons of Mass Destruction (SWMD) classes.



“Tune-Up Your Training”

Eddie Bain
Fire Investigation
Fire Prevention
Program Director

Operating within the proper balance between art and science is a significant factor for fire and arson investigators. At one time experience and art were considered to be the major application factors for an investigator's craft. Today science has caught up to redirect some investigation applications and to provide a better foundation for public and private “truth seekers.” Finding the truth in any fire investigation scenario now relies on the utilization of the correct balance between, experience, art and modern scientific research.

An investigator must continually practice the delivery of modern fire investigation techniques. Participating in an “occasional” fire scene doesn't keep an investigator's skill at peak level. Educational and training opportunities are an important way to stay sharp in a continually changing environment. Even if an Investigator may not work a large number of incidents within their specific jurisdiction they can through educational networking benefit from the experiences of other investigators.

Beginning in the Spring of 2010 IFSI will introduce a new series of training opportunities for fire and arson investigators. The series will be called “Tune Up” Training for Fire Investigators. The topics to be presented in the series will generally include the foundational topics from

the full fire and arson investigation program (Modules) presented by IFSI. Other topics may become a part of the series based on the success of the program. The “Tune-Up” classes will be designed to deliver a classroom based training session of four to five hours in length. While the final course design details are still not finalized the classes will most likely begin between 9 and 10 am and finish by 3 pm. This scheduling approach will allow students to take advantage of quality training while minimizing the economic impact. The cost for the classes will be kept to a minimum to encourage participation. This type of training will also meet the Office of the State Fire Marshal's re-certification requirements for investigators. The documentation regarding the classes will be available online through IFSI.

A future extension of the “Tune-Up” training may be a series of hands-on training sessions called “Ramp-Up” Training for Fire Investigators. This series would be more activity based and allow students to practice various investigative skills. This Spring watch the IFSI web site (www.fsi.illinois.edu) for details regarding class dates and locations. If you have ideas or suggestions for the “Tune-Up” or “Ramp-Up” training please feel free to contact me at edbain@fsi.illinois.edu or by phone at 217-333-9014.

IFSI Library Audiobooks Available for Circulation and Interlibrary Loan

The IFSI Library has recently added a new format to its multimedia collection: audiobooks. Audiobooks are perfect for road trips or for making time spent on routine tasks mentally stimulating and enjoyable. Drop by the library to borrow one of the titles listed below, make a web request (<http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/>), or contact us (1-800-437-5819; 217-333-8925; fsi@library.illinois.edu) to receive an audiobook at your local public library through our free interlibrary loan service.

- **Leadership** by Rudolph W. Giuliani
- **The Book of Leadership Wisdom**
- **Classic Writings by Legendary Business Leaders** edited by Peter Krass

● **Primal Leadership : Realizing the Power of Emotional Intelligence** by Daniel Goleman, with Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee

● **The Leadership Secrets of Colin Powell** by Oren Harari

● **It's Our Ship : The No-nonsense Guide to Leadership** by D. Michael Abrashoff

● **Joker One : A Marine Platoon's Story of Courage, Leadership, and Brotherhood** by Donovan Campbell

● **Real Leadership : The 101 Collection: What Every Leader Needs To Know** by John C. Maxwell

Moving eLearning to the Next Level

Intro to Blended Learning

The Illinois Fire Service Institute has been offering online courses since December 2000. The Firefighter II (FFII) course is still a one-of-a-kind course in that it allows firefighters to work toward state FFII certification by completing the classroom portion online and the student working with instructors and departments to acquire the practical component. There is not another fire academy that offers an instructor led FF II online course. Using this delivery method means that the student must have access to a certified fire instructor to proctor the practicals.

Thus far the FF II online course has met with great success. Without a doubt, providing an online FF II course has provided a way for hundreds of Illinois firefighters to achieve their FF II certification – especially those who could not have attended an on-site class session. Feedback for the FFII online course has been very positive. One request that has been presented to IFSI is for online courses that include practical sessions.

A Blended Learning Approach

Blended learning combines online with face-to face learning. The main objective of blended learning is to provide efficient and effective training at a reasonable cost. Several IFSI online courses offer intensive instructor/student interaction through the use of live chat sessions, discussion forums and emails. Actual face-to face instructor/student contact is not part of that course delivery.

Advantages of Blended Learning

There are three distinct advantages of the blended learning delivery method.

First, this approach provides high quality hands-on training. For fire departments

and students who wish to obtain practical skills, the blended learning approach will bring students to either IFSI's Champaign campus or regional training sites. There are a few distinct advantages of obtaining your practicals in this fashion. IFSI facilities offer a superb environment (i.e. structures with practical fire fighting props) taught by IFSI instructors. Firefighters assembled as part of a team (companies) providing more realistic firefighter training.

Next, blended learning offers a full certification course to those who cannot take time from their jobs to attend the traditional IFIS Fire Academy.

Finally there is a cost savings. While the IFSI Firefighter II Academy course offers the optimum fire certification training, the blended approach provides high-quality classroom and practical training without fire departments incurring the extra costs of lodging, transportation, meals and possible overtime backfilling.

Blended Learning Course Offerings

Initially, IFSI will offer two courses in the blended learning format. They are, Firefighter II and Fire Apparatus Engineer Online. Both of these courses will incorporate an online classroom followed by students meeting at the Champaign campus or at a regional training facility for practical instruction and certification. More in-depth course delivery information will be available when these courses are rolled out.

This new delivery method will provide continued hands-on training to meet one of the main goals of IFSI. It will put quality training at affordable cost in the hands of Illinois firefighters.

*Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director*

online + on-site = blended learning

Firefighter Life Safety Research Center to Expand to Rope Research

Gavin Horn
Research
Program
Manager

New Escape Rope Testing Project

The Firefighter Life Safety Research Center (FLSRC) at IFSI has recently received news from FEMA's Fire Prevention & Safety Grant office that we will receive a three-year grant to study firefighter escape rope systems. This project will focus on providing laboratory testing protocols that can accurately predict the performance of escape rope in actual service conditions. The current NFPA-mandated strength testing requirements for a rope to be classified as "escape rope" only need to indicate strength at room temperature. Furthermore, the rope materials must melt at temperatures above approximately 400F, well below that expected in a flashed over room. As a result, there are no currently standardized tests that allow us to understand how well a rope will behave in service conditions.

The second portion of this study is to investigate methods to improve the capabilities of escape rope systems in the actual fire environment. We will study several concepts that are designed to provide an escaping firefighter with more time to effectively self rescue from a fully involved room. In this study, we are fortunate to partner with Underwriters Laboratory (Northbrook, IL), who provides a unique set of testing capabilities that complement those at the University of Illinois.

Work Continues on Firefighter Cardiovascular Health Studies

In the latter half of 2009, the research team will begin wrapping up two multi-year projects that focus on firefighter cardiovascular health and heat stress. In a project funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety &

Health, we have studied physiological and cardiovascular responses to a short term bout of fire fighting followed by a controlled rehab and two-hour recovery period. While the physiological deficits caused by firefighting were documented in our last project, the controlled study of the recovery period has provided some new and valuable insights. For example, we have found that the timeline for a firefighter to return to normal values of core temperature and heart rate after working through only one cylinder of air is on the order of hours, not minutes – even with aggressive rehab. A more detailed report will be available in late 2009 or early 2010.

A second study funded by FEMA's Fire Prevention & Safety Grant office is producing an incredibly detailed description of the effects of fire fighting on the cardiovascular system. With a state-of-the-art ultrasound system and world renown cardiologists, we are obtaining images of firefighters heart function before and after approximately three hours of live-fire training. Additional measurements include changes in vascular function and hemostatis (balance between blood clotting and clot breakdown as well as coagulatory potential) as a result of long term fire fighting activities. We expect that this study will present some new insights into the mechanisms by which the human body responds to the stresses of fire fighting that may help us understand the triggering events that lead to heart attacks suffered as a result of fire suppression activities. More than 60 firefighters from across the state have participated in this project, with roughly 20 more to be scheduled by the end of the year.

LRRC - Opportunities to Partner with IFSI

The Learning Resource and Research Center (LRRC) is under construction!

This new facility is being built adjacent to the current headquarters building in Champaign. Once completed, it will house an expanded library, an Illinois firefighter memorial hall, laboratory space, additional conference rooms and an emergency operation center. This expansion will allow IFSI to continue its cross-campus translational research in a variety of areas critical to enhancing the health, safety and security of firefighters.

The Center will be a focal point for our corporate partners to work with IFSI on collaborative research that will improve products for the marketplace. We will be taking research from the laboratory directly to the fire-training field.

This is an innovative project that is requiring the help of our colleagues within the university, the State of Illinois, Illinois firefighter organizations and our corporate partners.

Your support is needed now!

The LRRC Fund has been created to help support the cost of the new building. We are creating a link through our website to make your donation easy. Go to IFSI web site at: www.fsi.illinois.edu and push the **Donate** button. You will see a button called **LRRC Fund**. Push the LRRC Fund button and you will receive step by step instructions on how to donate to the new building at University of Illinois Fire Service Institute by credit card.

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

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

If you would like to learn more about how to support the Learning Resource and Research Center please contact Dennis D. Spice, Director of Corporate Relations at 217-359-0671 or by email at: dspice@fsi.illinois.edu.

*Dennis Spice
Director of
Corporate
Relations*

***Watch our
web site for
updated
photos of
construction.***



June 23, 2009



July 20, 2009



July 31, 2009



August 18, 2009

Options vs. Limitations

Joe Gasparich
National
Incident
Management
System (NIMS)
Program
Director

A popular police movie in the 1970s had the lead character stating, “A man’s got to know his limitations.” I guess if I had a chance to re-write the script, I’d have to change the line to, “A man’s got to know his options.” This is a statement that paraphrases what we have attempted to do at IFSI’s Homeland Security Program this past four years. We have made it a point to show command personnel how to recognize their options.

The process hasn’t really involved imparting any new knowledge to command level personnel. These people are very good at devising or recognizing their options. What they have not been able to do is organize, categorize and share their ideas in an efficient and effective fashion with their staffs. We have attempted to change that.

I can’t tell you the number of times that we have had students in our Command and General Staff for local IMT’s tell us, “I’m just more comfortable in the tactical realm,” – as well they should be. This area has been a training “benchmark” for many years in the emergency services areas.

So how do we break out of the standard? How do we make our training more “strategic?”

Well, let’s start with simple steps. If you have been in EMS for awhile, you may remember when the “new” curriculum was introduced many years ago and the concept of multiple patients was introduced and discussed in the training. What happened? EMS personnel started spending more time on multi-casualty situations and the ability to handle many patients improved.

So how do we look at the “strategic” side of emergency response? Simple answer – look forward. Don’t concentrate on where you are in the response “now;” rather ask where will I be in 3, 6, 12, 24 hours? And then consider your options. Where will the resources come from, how long will they take to get there? How can

I organize them? Who can help me get where I want to be?

You may decide that you need a plan to help you and that is where the Incident Action Plan (IAP) and the Incident Management Team (IMT) can help. The IAP is a “forward-looking” document. The focus of the plan is an operational period that has not started yet, but will begin and end in a set timeframe.

You may decide that you cannot manage the current situation and, at the same time, plan ahead. This is logical and perfectly acceptable. This is where the IMT can help. The IMT is a group of people that are trained in the Command and General Staff functions and can help assemble the IAP for you.

So this sounds good and you think, “well, once I get this operational period managed – I’m done!” Well, it isn’t that easy. You need to look at what you are doing in the first operational period (the one you are in control of) and ask: What am I doing? Is it working? What resources do I have and what is coming?

The IMT will ask you to help them develop objectives for the operational period that they are planning for. Here’s the show stopper for most of us. We now have to collect our thoughts and decide what we are really trying to do. We have to come from the tactical level and rise above the scene. We have to (in our minds eye) look at the whole scene from above and ask what am I in control of?

We teach command staff “buzz words” for developing objectives like establish, continue, develop, determine and such. These words make us go from having seven engines and three trucks to continue suppression efforts throughout the affected area. These words take us from having seven law enforcement officers to establish perimeters to contain the area affected by the tornado.

continued on the next page

So now the IC thinks of objectives and what happens to the engines, trucks and law enforcement vehicles. They become something the operations section chief thinks about. The incident commander is now free to handle the incident with a set of objectives that determine the organization and resources that will be brought to bear on the incident.

The objectives help set a course that allows resources to be requested, utilized and demobilized and the objectives give us benchmarks to gauge our effectiveness. Now operations, planning, logistics and safety can work the response and recovery operations based on our objectives. By determining the overall course of action for

the scene we have given the Command and General Staff options on how to deal with the incident.

We have increased our options by organizing our thoughts and allow others to help us manage the incident. Want to know more? There is a Command and General Staff for Local Incident Management Team Class coming to your area soon!

I guess it wouldn't have been as good of a movie if the character had organized a strike team of officers, called in an ordinance disposal task force and had the logistics section chief secure more rounds for his weapon!

IFSI Participates in Mitsubishi Owners Day



A new 2010 Mitsubishi Galante was used in a demonstration to show how firefighters use tools to cut victims from cars. The car was donated by Mitsubishi Motors and was part of their Mitsubishi Owner Day in September in Bloomington. Using a new car underscored the value of having new vehicles with new technologies available for first responder training.



Shiro Futaki (center), President and CEO of the Manufacturing Division for Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. is joined by Dennis Spice, IFSI's Director of Corporate Relations (left) and Duane Bales, Vehicle Rescue Program Director (right). Together Dennis and Duane shared how valuable Mitsubishi's role has been in training firefighters on the latest automobile models.

ADMINISTRATION

Richard Jaehne, *Director*
217/333-8926
jaehne@fsi.illinois.edu

David F. Clark, *Deputy Director*
217/244-9674
dfclark@fsi.illinois.edu

John (Mac) McCastland, *Associate Director*
815/834-9201
jmccastl@fsi.illinois.edu

Brian R. Brauer, *Assistant Director*
217/333-9027
brbrauer@fsi.illinois.edu

Marcia Miller
Director of Budget & Resource Planning
217/333-9013
miller11@fsi.illinois.edu

Harry Clore
Business Operations Coordinator
217/244-6359
hclore@fsi.illinois.edu

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Duane Bales, *Program Director*
618/920-5901
rbales@fsi.illinois.edu

REGIONAL/CORNERSTONE REPS

Greg Fisher, *East Central Illinois*
217/244-1220
gafisher@fsi.illinois.edu

Les Albert, *Southern Illinois*
217/714-6500
lalbert@fsi.illinois.edu

Duane Bales, *Metro-East*
618/920-5901
rbales@fsi.uiuc.edu

Raymond Palczynski, Jr.
Northwest & West Illinois
563/468-8385
rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu

Roger Lunt, *Central Illinois*
217/820-1281
rlunt@fsi.illinois.edu

Randy Schlichter, *Northeast Illinois*
847/343-4039
rschlich@fsi.illinois.edu

Jim Streu, *Chicago Metro*
630/605-5278
streujg@fsi.illinois.edu

E-LEARNING PROGRAM

Richard Valenta, *Program Director*
847/226-6106
rvalenta@fsi.illinois.edu

EMS PROGRAM

Sharon Dotson, *Program Manager*
217/333-4215
tbear@fsi.illinois.edu

FIRE FIGHTING PROGRAM

Brad Bone, *Program Director*
217/265-9438
bgbone@fsi.illinois.edu

Tad Schroeder
Assistant Program Director
217/333-8927
tjschroe@fsi.illinois.edu

LP, OIL AND GAS PROGRAM

Mark Clapp, *Program Manager*
217/244-7134
clapp@fsi.illinois.edu

FIRE INVESTIGATION PROGRAM**FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Eddie Bain, *Program Director*
217/333-9014
edbain@fsi.illinois.edu

VEHICLE RESCUE PROGRAM

Duane Bales, *Program Director*
618/920-5901
rbales@fsi.illinois.edu

**HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM
ICS/NIMS/UNIFIED COMMAND/IMT**

Joe Gasparich, *NIMS Program Director*
217/244-4487
jgaspari@fsi.illinois.edu

Bill Farnum, *Incident Command / ICS*
217/333-0660
wfarnum@fsi.illinois.edu

OFFICER PROGRAM

Jim Streu, *Program Director*
630/605-5278
streujg@fsi.illinois.edu

Les Albert, *Downstate Coordinator*
217/714-6500
lalbert@fsi.illinois.edu

INDUSTRY PROGRAM

John (Mac) McCastland, *Chicago Metro
Coordinator*
815/834-9201
jmccastl@fsi.illinois.edu

Jon Rogers, *Downstate Coordinator*
217/265-8120
jarogers@fsi.illinois.edu

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING
PROGRAM**

Ray Palczynski, *Program Director*
563/468-8385
rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu

Chris Downey, *HazMat Program Manager*
217/244-4451
cjdowney@fsi.illinois.edu

Bill Clossen, *Confined Space Prog. Mgr.*
217/244-4168
wclossen@fsi.illinois.edu

Duane Bales, *Machinery Rescue Prog. Mgr.*
618/920-5901
rbales@fsi.illinois.edu

Mike Woodard, *Rope Rescue Prog. Mgr.*
217/244-4168
mwoodard@fsi.illinois.edu

Mike McCastland, *Structural Collapse
Program Manager*
217/244-4168
mmccastl@fsi.illinois.edu

Heather Moore, *Trench Rescue Prog. Mgr.*
217/244-4168
hmoore@fsi.illinois.edu

CURRICULUM

Kurt Glosser
217/265-0582
kglosser@fsi.illinois.edu

Greg Fisher
217/244-1220
gafisher@fsi.illinois.edu

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Mary Auth
217/351-6373
mary@maryauth.com

LIBRARY

Lian Ruan, *Head Librarian*
217/265-6107
lruan@fsi.illinois.edu

Diane Richardson, *Reference*
217/333-8925
dlrchar@fsi.illinois.edu

Adam Groves, *Archivist/Metadata Librarian*
217/265-6107
agroves@fsi.illinois.edu

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Gavin Horn, *Research Scientist*
217/265-6563
ghorn@fsi.illinois.edu

Steve Petruzzello, *Associate Professor*
petruzz@uiuc.edu

Denise Smith, *Health and Safety Research*
dsmith@skidmore.edu

Sue Blevins, *Support*
217/265-6564

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Barry Wagner, *Facilities Manager*
217/333-9015
bkwagner@fsi.illinois.edu

Eric Barnes, *Fire Service Support Specialist*
217/265-0830
ebarnes@fsi.illinois.edu

Mark Berg, *Operations Specialist*
217/333-2905
markberg@fsi.illinois.edu

Bob Foster, *Facilities Support*
217/841-5951
rfoster@fsi.illinois.edu

BUSINESS, INSTRUCTIONAL & STUDENT**SUPPORT STAFF**

Jodi Beccue, *Program Secretary*
217/244-6674
jbeccue@fsi.illinois.edu

Kristy Berbaum, *Program Secretary*
217/244-6185
kberbaum@fsi.illinois.edu

Ellen Hall, *Program Secretary*
217/333-8921
econrad@fsi.illinois.edu

Nicole Hopper, *Business Operations*
217/244-6838
nbillman@fsi.illinois.edu

Terri Hopper, *Chief Registrar*
217/244-7131
hopper@fsi.illinois.edu

Christi Ingleman, *Business Operations*
217/333-8923
ingleman@fsi.illinois.edu

Ann Jack Haluzak, *HazMat Program Operations
Specialist*
217/244-6228
jackhal@fsi.illinois.edu

Beth Niswonger, *Business Operations*
217/244-6004
niswonge@fsi.illinois.edu

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Tim Lash, *Manager of System Services*
217/244-6910
timlash@fsi.illinois.edu

John Boyd
217/333-2163
jgboyd@fsi.illinois.edu

Kevin Kessler
217/265-9890
kkessler@fsi.illinois.edu

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RELATIONS

Dennis Spice
217/359-0671
dspice@fsi.illinois.edu

Explorer – Cadet “Hands On Training” Fire School

Twenty-five Cadet, Explorer and Junior Fire fighting organizations participated this year from Illinois. Students came from throughout Illinois as far north as Fox Lake, south to Germantown, east to Frankfort and west to Savanna to train in live-fire conditions. From outside Illinois, West Covina, Calif. participated for the second time with the largest registered group of 29 youth and adults. Anchorage, Alaska; Highland, Mich.; Bettendorf, Iowa; and Venturers from Toronto, Canada returned and have been involved with the Illinois Fire Service Institute even before the National Fire and Emergency Service Exploring Conference in 2007. Explorers from Northville, Mich.; Lake Geneva, Wis. and members of a vocational education program from Wadesville, Ind. joined us for their first experience at the Champaign campus obtaining training they cannot duplicate in their home departments.

As mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, the “HOT” school format changed from previous years to include two separate 12-hour sessions. This format “akin” to Fire College was well received. More than 100 first-time students completed 12 hours of Core Competency Training preparing them with the skills required to advance lines, work with ladders and SCBA. They followed it up with 12 hours of Coordinated Fire Ground Operations where every drill took them into smoke and heat. Those who had participated in past Explorer Cadet Schools spent both sessions in heat and smoke – challenging them to hone the skills in as realistic conditions as safely possible. The addition of an optional Auto Extrication class was so overwhelmingly received students had to be divided into three separate sections exceeding 40 students per session.

The program would be impossible if not for the dedicated advisors, chaperones, leaders and parents who paid their way to be here for their youth membership.

The need for two deep leadership assured safety and accountability but the additional adult presence meant the organization’s budget took a hit. It is our intention in 2010 to reduce the event price for those adults who volunteer to be a part of this event. Hopefully, we can maintain tuition, room and board at the same rate as this year but may require another look at providing a souvenir package. Time and the changing economy will determine where we need to go with this.

Next year’s Explorer - Cadet “Hands On Training” (HOT) Fire School is scheduled for June 24-27, 2010. Each class section will have a certificate specific to the topic or title that students will be able to download and print. The objectives for each session will also be available to record in department “training jackets” as these young people move into the ranks of the career, volunteer and paid-on-call organizations.

Have a great Fall and we look forward to seeing Explorers, Cadets and Junior Firefighters at the 2010’s Winter Fire School in Champaign. These four-hour classroom settings are ideal for young and old firefighters alike.

*Greg Fisher
Explorer-Cadet
Fire School
Coordinator*



Library Updates & Highlights

Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

Annual Library Advisory Committee

On May 21, 2009, the annual library advisory committee met at IFSI. Ruan made a general library report, followed by Diane Richardson on reference services, Adam Groves on archives, IFLODD and special collection, plus Lian Ruan and Adam on the progress of the Learning Resource and Research Center.

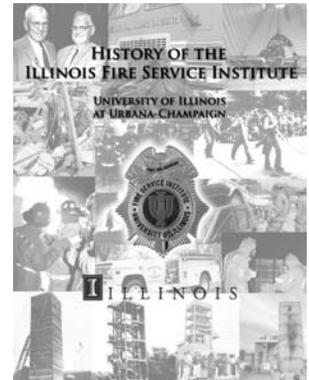
Library Reference Services

Have you had difficulty locating the answer to an emergency response-related question, finding a training resource, or accessing a code or other necessary piece of information? Have you considered asking the librarians at the IFSI Library for assistance? IFSI Librarian Diane Richardson and the rest of the reference staff thrive on helping users find the information they need. Over the last few months we've provided standards on decontamination shower units, DVDs on smoke reading and hose placement, and CDs on command training and fire officer principles and practice. We have also helped a number of fire departments locate fire codes and statistics for inclusion in their Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) applications. Please contact

us at fsi@library.illinois.edu or (217) 333-8925 or 1-800-437-5819 to find out how we can help you.

IFSI History Booklet

The IFSI Library has compiled another key aspect of state fire history with the recent publication of the "History of the Illinois Fire Service Institute." The booklet documents 85 years of fire training at the University of Illinois and highlights the contributions of many individuals. The booklet, which contains many photographs, is currently on sale at the IFSI Library for \$10.



Library Disaster Recovery Training Workshop

In partnership with the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois, more than 40 librarians from throughout Illinois gathered at IFSI on June 9 and 11 for Library Disaster Recovery Training Workshops. IFSI Firefighting Program Director Brad Bone and Archivist Adam Groves helped facilitate and ensure the success of two workshops. Print and audiovisual library materials were exposed to fire, heat, smoke and water. Participants learned and practiced strategies and techniques for salvaging, assessing, cleaning and drying the damaged materials. The workshops also included classroom lectures focusing on disaster planning, continuity of operations and emergency preparedness. Workshop participants included professional librarians from the University of Illinois, Northern Illinois University, the Illinois State Library, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. See photo at left.



The Library Disaster Recovery Training Workshop engaged more than 40 librarians from throughout Illinois to learn and practice strategies for salvaging, assessing, cleaning and drying library materials exposed to fire, heat, smoke and water.

IFSI China Programs

In March 2009, five officers from Hong Kong Fire Services Department joined the IFSI Hazardous Materials training program led by Program Director Ray Palczynski and his instructional team.



In April 2009, thirteen members from the China Ropeway Association attended Rescue Management Training at IFSI. The members also visited the Frankfort RTC and ropeway sites in other cities.



In June 2009, Lian Ruan visited China with Dean John Unsworth, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. They visited a number of academic libraries throughout China. Lian also met Professors Fan Weicheng and Yuan Hongrong, and Dr. Chen Tao from the Center for Public Safety Research at Tsinghua University, and researchers from Sichuan Fire Research Institute. See photo top of next column.

In July, the fifth Chinese Librarians Summer Program was successfully held at the University in partnership with Beihang University Library and the Association of China University and College Libraries.



*Lian Ruan
China Program
Director*

Nineteen participants reported that they learned greatly from presentations given by speakers from UI Library, GSLIS, Illinois State Library, National Library of Medicine, and other institutions. They attended the 2009 American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago, and also enjoyed site visits to libraries in Washington, D.C., New York City and other cities.

In August, in partnership with the University's International Programs and Studies, IFSI helped organize and coordinate the University of Illinois Higher Education Administrative Training Program for Beihang University. The 15 participants learned from 57 high-level university administrators, and also visited Purdue University, University of Chicago and Stanford University.



It's not too early to plan ahead for Winter Fire School

***January 23 - 24, 2010
Hilton Garden Inn,
Champaign***

Planned classes:

- “Avoiding Fire Department Induced Chaos”
- “Is it just me or is it hot in here?”
- “They Never Told Me About This”
- “Fire Suppressions Sprinklers on the Farm”
- “Duty-Pride-Tradition”
- “Firefighting Hazards in the Farming Community”

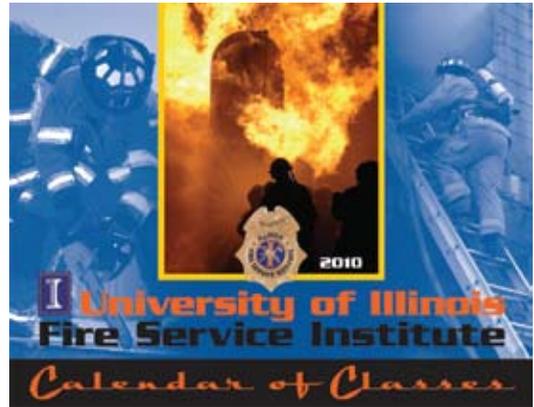
We'll also have a Saturday evening “bonus” session. Saturday lunch is included with the \$50 registration fee.



**Illinois Fire Service Institute
11 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820**



Coming your way



The 2010 calendar will be in mailboxes by mid-November. Watch for your department's copy and begin planning your 2010 training schedule.

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