

From the Director's Desk

Given widespread impact of the economic downturn, the changes in State and Federal government leadership in the past few months, and the uncertainty of the 2010 Illinois State budget you may be asking what is the impact on your State Fire Academy.

So far, we have been able to maintain programs with only a small impact on Cornerstone grant-funded programs. We conducted a comprehensive course cost review last fall and were able to hold the line on student fees on all courses except for five: Company/Command Officer \$675, FAST \$950, RIT Under Fire \$1500, Smoke Divers \$750, Truck Company \$650. IFSI receives 12.5% of the Fire Prevention Fund (a 1% fee on all fire insurance policies sold in Illinois – about \$2.5 million per year) which pays salaries and facility costs. We establish a budget for each course we offer, from which we calculate course costs. Often we are able to charge this fee against various public and private grant programs. When we can, you or your department are provided course seats at little or no cost. When we do charge a fee to a department or firefighter, it is only to cover the costs of the course.

In fact, last year 78.9 % of the 1281 courses we delivered were free to firefighters and departments. Because of your support and willingness to fill the seats available, we have been able to secure grant funding for the following programs and courses:

- 402 Cornerstone Program classes
- 450 Homeland Security courses
- 53 HazMat courses
- 83 LP live fire training classes
- Two Small Petroleum Facility live fire training courses
- 14 National Fire Academy courses
- Eight wildland firefighting (Red Card) classes

We need your help to sustain this grant-funding by ensuring that we fill every available seat. You can also help by telling your local, state and national elected leaders about the value that classes provide to you. There is something else you can do as well. Ask for training funding every time you submit an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The AFG grant program allows you to ask for training as part of your grant request for equipment, apparatus, facility modification or even a prevention program grant. In fact, if you ask for

equipment or apparatus, you must assure the grant program office that you have or will have firefighters properly trained to use them.

I would like to suggest that you add training to your AFG grant request. It will ensure that you have met the grant criteria, provide you training at a fraction of what you would have to pay (equal only to your local match requirement) and combine training with that new equipment or apparatus. If you regionalize your AFG training grant request, you may receive extra consideration during grant review. You may want to consider Fireground Company/Command Officer, RIT Under Fire, Engine/Truck Company Operations, Smoke Divers or any of our hands-on certification courses. We stand ready to help you with the facts and figures you need for the training portion of your AFG grant. I have been privileged to participate in the AFG criteria-setting meetings since their inception and IFSI has annually sent a half-dozen or so of our staff to participate in the peer Review Panels, including Bill Farnum, Les Albert, Roger Lunt, Greg Fisher and Ray Palczynski and others. They are willing to review your grant and share their perspective on how to make it stronger against the AFG program criteria and the peer review process.

The design effort for the new Learning Resource and Research Center has reached 95% design and we are now seeking construction bids. We will be able to show you the final design at this year's Fire College and hopefully break ground and begin construction this summer.

We look forward to serving you and in helping you weather these tough financial times. Several years ago we created Regional IFSI Representative positions to live and work in your area and to be our first set of ears to listen and respond to your needs. Invite them to your house, share a cup of coffee and discuss your training needs and challenges. Your feedback is always welcome, either through our regional reps, instructors or directly to me. You can e-mail me directly at Jaehne@illinois.edu. Thank you for your continued 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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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.

We are in the process of expanding the number and topics of classes available under "Cornerstone." One of these new courses available now is "Fires On The Farm" which presents ways to handle various types of farm fires including houses, barns, sheds, grain bins, silos, fuel tanks, trucks, machinery, ag chemicals, elevators and fields etc.

Other new courses are coming, including one on Ethanol Production Plants. Our intent is to update some existing courses such as Essentials, expand the number of topics available, and enable you to chose subjects that fit your department's specific needs.

Thanks to the efforts of several of our instructors we have added new roof props for chopping and saw training. We put a flat roof with parapet over some of our storage cans, and we added two levels and pitches of pitched roofs on the green smoke cans. Since the new roof props are made of wood, we will no longer be able to burn nor use smoke barrels in these cans. We will use only "pepperfog fake smoke" there, but it works well in this situation. We have also put another engine in service.

A routine structural engineering inspection of the burn tower showed the peaked area on the 3rd floor has become unsafe, so we will be removing it and replacing that section with sealand containers. Though the cans will be non-burn areas they will actually improve our ability to train and conduct evolutions in the tower.

We are in the process of designing a "downtown block" to simulate a commercial street scene. This prop will be over 120 feet long, 40 feet deep, two and three stories high, with bow string, sloping and flat roofs. The occupancies will probably simulate a machine/industrial shop, an office, a store and a restaurant, with apartments upstairs. There will be an alley in the rear along with forcible entry props, and parked cars and sidewalk in front, plus power poles. The intent is to use smoke barrels in parts of this prop. It will enable

News & Notes

*David F. Clark
Deputy Director*

us to run larger evolutions and simulate unique fire and heavy rescue situations which we cannot provide now.

Our work with China continues to grow. A Chinese visiting scholar has been with us for the past several months, and another one just arrived. We recently trained a group of their emergency managers in Unified Command, and another delegation is expected this spring. Also, we will be hosting and training some of their rope rescue personnel. In addition, the Hong Kong Fire Department is sending several of their firefighters for HazMat training. These visits promote common interests and help both parties learn from each other. We are looking forward to future joint research projects.

Ground breaking for the new IFSI Learning Resource & Research Center is expected early this summer. This facility will enable us to do things we are not able to do now, and to do other things better. One of those is conducting more internet-based training for firefighters in Illinois and around the world.



A new updated IFSI logo has been trademarked. To use the logo, you must have written approval from IFSI.

Table Talk

'MAC'
McCastland
Associate
Director

Well, here we go again – me and the “magic machine” spending some quality time together. The TV across the room is tuned the Speed Channel with the final practice taking place for the race in Las Vegas. Interesting to see the speeds that these cars are running and the RPM’s that they spin the engines, low-end R’s today would have been beyond reach a handful of years ago.

And where are we – the fire service – in the equation?? Are we moving forward? Are we moving forward so fast that we have lost sight of a bunch of basic “stuff?” The reason I ask is related to an opportunity I had a few months ago. Myself and buddy “double E” (aka Eddie Enright) did our Duty-Pride-Tradition presentation at a seminar co-hosted by the Chicago Fire Department and, I think, FireHouse Magazine. We were the opening act for another long-time IFSI instructor – a lad out of New York – John Norman. John sat through our presentation, and I really looked forward to spend the next couple of hours listening to John’s presentation.

John’s show out gunned the Mac & EE show and packed the room with young faces and some long-of-tooth. Many of us at IFSI have had the opportunity to work with John from his days as a firefighter up through the ranks that he advanced during his FDNY career. He is always interesting and down to earth – presenting good stuff – not trick, not coming out of left field, but solid “keep your dumb butt” out of trouble “stuff.”

The most interesting observation I made during John’s presentation was the number of folks in the audience that reacted like they were hearing this material for the first time. Now that’s troubling, when size-up, building construction, reading smoke, line selection, apparatus placement and Officer responsibilities are NEW. We as a profession had better revisit why we exist “to combat hostile fire,” in case you forgot. Yes we have accepted many

other tasks, but the primary had better be taken care of before we try to rev up our RPMs, or we will, without doubt, “cough” a few motors.

The lads who work the hands-on Officer programs, are seeing a lot of the troops come to these classes, holding career service ranks as Lieutenant and Captain within their respective Fire Departments/Districts, and who do not have the fundamental skills required to be a decent firefighter.

The answer, in my opinion, lies within each individual to answer the question “why am I here?” Are you able to be all that is expected of you by your community, by your Department, and most importantly by your troops?? Most of the troops can figure out when to clean the john, when to clean the windows, when to cut the grass, when to “stroke” the Chief. But when push comes to shove, they need good street smart Officers, with a Plan “A” and a Plan “B” if Plan “A” fails.

If you have been blessed with an opportunity to have been promoted, relish the challenge, accept the responsibility, learn the trade and most importantly – LEAD.

Time to get off the pulpit, so take care, stay safe keep the coffee pot on and we’ll talk.

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.

Your citizens can't afford for you to NOT to come to Fire College.

Your fire department budget is shrinking. It's not just your department; it's happening all over the state, and across our "changing" nation. When monies are tightest, what's the first budget area to cut? Training. While training exists in nearly every fire department, business, and organization, very few businesses outside of Fire, EMS, and Police provide a service that makes life-or-death decisions on terribly limited information. In our business, regardless of how funding is, training must go on.

Our nation is in a recession, and each of us feels the pinch professionally as well as personally. But this is *NOT* the time to stop attending training.

The 85th Annual Illinois Fire College is keeping its fees unchanged this year to help you budget and be able to attend. *YOU* are ultimately responsible for your safety on the fireground and at other emergency scenes.

In the business world, companies that abandon quality training during times of budget stress see a slippage in services, and many never return to their pre-cutback levels. In our business, that means that fire losses are greater, and our sacred trust to protect and save our citizens is breached.

In addition to being the oldest Annual Fire School in the nation, and the largest state-wide event in the Midwest, Fire College remains the lowest-cost program of its kind in the nation. Compare the cost of 24 hours of training at Fire College to any state or national event, and you'll find our costs below any other similar training in the nation. And you don't need to travel more than three hours in most cases to get

here. Additionally, the cost of living here in Champaign is less than a big city conference, so your food and lodging dollars go farther.

The Fire College Team, with input from the IFSI staff, has again put together a program that has classes to grow the skillset of any firefighter – from the smallest volunteer department to the largest career department. Wherever you are in the fire service, there is at least one class that can help you add to your skillset to provide better service.

The 85th Annual Illinois Fire College is the most cost-effective way to keep your training current. Visit the brochure online now at www.fsi.illinois.edu to review the classes, and register for the ones that best help you keep our commitment to your public. They need you to keep training and learning now more than ever.

*Brian R. Brauer
Assistant
Director*

Important Dates for Fire College

April 24: Last day to register without late fee

May 15: Last day to cancel without penalty

May 22: Last day to advance register

May 28: On-site registration and check-in

***Complete class listings is
available on the IFSI web site at
www.fsi.illinois.edu***

IFSI's web site is hosting information about the **Illinois Prescribed Fire Council**. For information about the Council and about upcoming training events, visit <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/outreach/fire%20council/index.cfm>.

Three Things: Props, Changes and our High Standards

Brad Bone
Fire Fighting
Program
Director

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone well and rested after a winter off from the burn season. The entire Fire Fighting Program office has been working hard to prepare for the upcoming on-campus teaching season. There have been modifications made to props, apparatus and course material. Tad and I hope to share these changes with all of you when the final decisions are made on how and when to use them. For now it is important to note two significant and immediate changes in policy here on the IFSI campus.

The first is in relation to the Regional Training Prop (or the green cans). During the fall of 2008, several members of the Collapse staff worked hard to construct a roof simulator built on top of the RTC prop. After some discussion, new policy regarding the RTC prop will limit it to a “no burn” prop. We purchased a smoke machine for use with this prop that will replace “live smoke” traditionally produced by burn barrels. The smoke machine is located in building 1172 and can be requested for use in any of the Fire Fighting classes.

Second, Tom Rushing and Tim Miester dedicated a few days to completely rebuilding the scaffold in the old sprinkler room. I think you will find it is much more stable, offers more tasks for students to complete, offers better access for instructors and also offers some new challenges for the students. This room has also been designated as a “no burn” prop and will utilize the smoke machine. This change in policy and the one regarding the RTC were made with consideration to the safety of the students, realistic training and the recurring costs to repair the props.

The last thing I wanted to share with you is a quote from a friend and mentor who has taught me a great deal about teaching and training firefighters. Jack “JR” Rutledge is an instructor who was

on staff when I started teaching at IFSI. JR, Dave Clark, Jim Straseske and Howard Eskridge were willing to invest a large amount of their time in mentoring me as an instructor and I will always be in their debt. Recently, JR sent me an email with some information that he is putting together as a sort of history of IFSI (the early days). I would like to share a quote from his email with you:

“...Our reputation was developed and sustained by the quality of firefighter we turned out in the academy. Each instructor felt a strong desire to turn out the best firefighter they could. . . we felt a strong desire to hold a high standard and teach students to reach that standard. Getting rid of problem student was not an option we often considered. We considered that a failure on our part as instructors.” (Underline added).

I hope that JR finishes his paper soon and you will be able to read it in its entirety. He speaks to the values and commitment that many of us are familiar with and share; however, his email forced me to look at it from a different perspective. Our successes and failures as instructors are not our legacy alone. The names of those who came before us will always be attached to the classes taught here at IFSI. Any failures on our part tarnish their legacy as well as our own. Our commitment as fire service instructors is to them as well as the students.

Thanks for taking the time to read this as well as your commitment to being the best firefighter you can be. This involves training constantly to enhance and maintain your skills. We hope to see you at some of our Fire Fighting classes this year. Please let Tad and me know if there is anything we can do to better support you.

Cornerstone East Central

Last fall I mentioned the Cornerstone Program would be introducing a new brochure, a new request form and a larger menu of practical “Hands-On Training” available throughout the state. The menu of classes is complete and about 95 percent of the objectives for these topics will be up and running by the time you read this newsletter.

The Cornerstone classes will maintain the Essentials I through III series, with a few changes to cover exactly that...the Essentials. The Essentials IV is no longer the “catch all” for customizing training, but rather will require either an acquired structure or training building to put the first three Essentials classes to the test under smoke and heat.

The Cornerstone Program and its classes are dynamic and changes have already been made since the brochure was printed. IFSI will no longer provide NIMS 700 in the field since it is readily available at no cost online. Additionally, Ethanol “101” dealing predominantly with rail emergencies will not be offered. The Routine Emergencies category is a sec-

tion still under development. Feel free to ask your regional representative if he can support one of the topics in that area of instruction.

The new request form, although two-sided, has changed to allow the addition of new classes. You will now fill out all of the contact and scheduling information on the first page. Attention should be paid to the section on scheduling with the regional representative. Prearranging dates with the instructor is encouraged prior to submitting the request. Arranging a Cornerstone class is spelled out on the front. The second page is where you will fill in the department name and contact above the boxes where you have chosen your class.

IFSI is offering downloadable certificates for the Cornerstone classes. Any student successfully completing an **entire** Cornerstone class and properly registered will have the ability to print their certificates. One hundred percent attendance is required for those classes. We will post a flyer on the website when this service becomes available this fiscal year.

Greg Fisher
Cornerstone
Program
Director

The Cornerstone classes have been divided into new and different categories. Short descriptions can be found in the brochure, with more information available on the website for the following categories.

- Fire Ground Training** – Specific skills for an evening class or training up to 16 hours
- Company Operations** – Engine or Truck, RIT, Foam, etc for team building skills.
- Live Burn Classes** – Burns at RTC’s, House Burns, Oil Well and LPG
- Wildland Firefighting** – National control & supervision classes (limited offerings)
- Apparatus Operations** – Aerials, Pump Ops, FSVO, Rural & Municipal Water Ops
- Ethanol Emergencies** – Awareness and Plant Preplanning.
- Agricultural Emergency** – Anhydrous, Grain Bin, Ag Rescue & Fires on the Farm
- Vehicle Rescue** – Basic & Advanced Auto Extrication, Large Vehicle & New Car Tech.
- Command and Control** – NFA-ISO, Basic Co. Officer, Leadership, Strategy & Tactics.

When you reserve a seat in a firefighter training class, you make a commitment to get the best training available from IFSI. It is important to honor your commitment -- especially with grant-supported classes -- so that IFSI can continue to offer classes at little or no-cost to departments.

**Sign Up
Show Up**

From Cornerstone's Northwest Territory

Ray Palczynski
Northwest
Regional
Representative

Greetings from the Northwest Territory! As we cross into the second half of the Cornerstone fiscal year, classes continue to be requested at a steady rate. The number of regional schools has declined but the request for individual classes has remained steady. I have seen a substantial increase in the number of online or pre-registrations for Cornerstone classes. This is a **big help** when determining how many instructors will be needed for a given class. Please continue to pre-register your people for all Cornerstone classes!

Remember when requesting a Cornerstone class that you need to assemble a minimum of 15 students from at least two different agencies. A lead time of four to six weeks is appreciated. Once a class

is submitted for processing a memorandum of understanding or "MOA" is sent to the host department. Once the host department signs and returns the MOA, the class is posted on the website to allow and encourage other firefighters to attend. Of course, we encourage the host department to also help market the class to neighboring departments. If you have any questions about the process please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance.

I encourage you to discover the new classes being offered under the Cornerstone Program. There are many new topics to choose from!

Stay safe.

Cornerstone Regions

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

Central
Roger Lunt
217/722-5125
rlunt@fsi.uiuc.edu

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

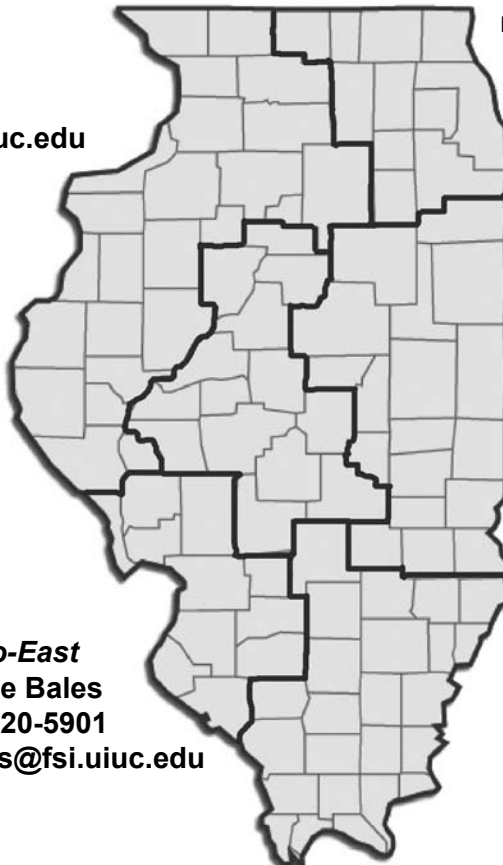
Metro-East
Duane Bales
618/920-5901
rbales@fsi.uiuc.edu

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

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

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

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



Cornerstone Chicago Metro and Fire Officer, Too

The Fire Officer classes for the winter/spring semester are in full swing – with classes are conducted at the Southern Kane Training Association (SKTA), Geneva Fire Department location. (www.southernkane.org)

Instruction is delivered by IFSI field staff and meets all Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal standards for certification.

Since our last printing, the Chicago Fire Department conducted another officer promotion training series. These efforts were coordinated by Chief Edgeworth from the Chicago Fire Academy and Shift Commander Lew Lake of the Wheaton Fire Department and IFSI. Once again a job well done. The new officers were pleased with the knowledge they gained from our instructors to prepare them for their new positions as leaders.

In addition to SKTA, Fire Officer I and II classes are also offered at several other locations throughout the state, including at the Blue Island Fire Department, Bourbonnais Fire Department. In the southern part of the state, Les Albert coordinates and teaches all the Fire Officer classes at IFSI's Champaign campus and elsewhere, such as at Edwardsville and Marion. These classes

can occur on the weekends to accommodate part-time personnel. Information for these classes is on the web site. Les will fill you in on his locations news and updates. (www.fsi.illinois.edu)

We have been working with the Illinois Fire Chief's Association on updating the Fire Officer curriculum in order to meet all NFPA standards for Fire Officer qualifications. This has been a joint effort, with the new curriculum to be implemented for the Fall 2009 series of classes.

On a personal note, I have been working with IFSI field staff for about a year now and I find them to be very professional, dedicated and knowledgeable. They have one goal – to provide the best up-to-date information and training to our firefighters in Illinois. For their hard work I would like to say Thank You.

As always, You Learn Something New Everyday.

*Jim Streu
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative*

*Until next time
Be safe
Jim Streu*

Cornerstone Northeast

As a result of this winter's extreme cold weather, many of our outside hands-on classes were switched to lecture classes. Lake, McHenry, Boone and Winnebago Counties hosted IFSI's "Ethanol Awareness" and "Fire Service Vehicle Operations" lecture classes. Everyone stayed warm and we didn't freeze up any equipment.

"Aerial Apparatus Operations" classes are becoming more popular as more departments get their first aerial apparatus. The students enjoy our instructor's experiences and safety tricks of the trade – things not found in the apparatus owner's manual.

The North Park Fire Department and MABAS Division 8 continue hosting the Fire

Officer I series. These are weekend classes to accommodate the volunteer departments. See our Web page for dates. (www.fsi.illinois.edu)

The Northeast Region has a Regional Training Center (RTC) at the Cherry Valley Fire Department in Winnebago County. The Cherry Valley RTC hosts one IFSI class per month, including four "Light & Fights" per year. The Light & Fights are weekend live-fire trainings and a perfect place for students to get experience and complete Firefighter II and III live-fire objectives.

*Randy Schlichter
Northeast
Regional
Representative*

Cornerstone “Goin” South

Les Albert
Southern
Regional
Representative

Spring is in full swing and so is the Fire Officer Program in Williamson County. They are hosting the Fire Officer I and II classes this spring. It is the second year for the Fire Officer I Program there. Edwardsville Fire is hosting the Fire Officer I Program also this spring. If your department or Regional Training Center (RTC) is interested in the Fire Officer Program, please contact James Streu, Program Director or myself for additional information. We will be hosting Instructor I and II classes this summer at IFSI using the weekend format. Please check the calendar for the dates.

Cornerstone training is in full bloom. Please take advantage of this “free” training to meet your fire department’s needs. Grant money for this program was cut last year. We

need to use this money wisely and efficiently. I recommend your MABAS Divisions, county associations, chiefs’ associations, etc. set as much training as possible at the RTCs in your area. This will allow more departments to participate in the training. Regional Training Centers usually have more room for training than other areas. If a fire department has a large training area, go ahead and request the training, but we need to get as many personnel to the training as possible. The money may not always be there for training when and where you want it otherwise. I may be asking fire departments to co-host training in their area if two departments are requesting the same type of training. The Regional Training Center concept makes this a lot easier.

Cornerstone Central and Grant Applications

Roger Lunt
Central
Regional
Representative

The 2009 DHS/FEMA grant support for fire departments will soon be upon us. And while a large number of fire departments have taken advantage of this fiscal project support opportunity, it seems that a minority have been successful with their respective application attempts.

This article is based on personal experience and observation encompassing active participation with this process since 2001. I hope it provides support and productive thought for those departments that have yet to complete a DHS/FEMA application or have failed in their previous attempts.

Question #1. Does your Fire Department have a budget to provide equipment needed to serve your community?

Question #2. Is your Fire Department budget able to keep your active firefighters in NFPA turnout gear?

Question #3. Is your Fire Department able to provide all of the training that your firefighters need and want?

Question #4. Is your Fire Department roster full and has no difficulty keeping it that way?

Question #5. Is your Fire Department budget able to support a variety of interesting community safety programs?

Question #6. Have you ever applied for a FEMA Grant?

If you answered “No” to the first three questions, did you realize The Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) primary goal is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical services organizations?

If you answered “No” to question number 4, did you realize that The SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant was created to provide funding to help departments increase the number of trained, “front-line” firefighters available in their communities?

If you answered “No” to question number 5, did you realize that The Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S) are part of the Assistance to Firefighter Grants? The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and mitigate high incidences of death and injury.

If you answered “No” to question number 6, you have chosen a path that is the only route of absolute guarantee within any given grant process. The path is, “If you do not apply, you are guaranteed NOT to receive grant support.”

I have been fortunate to be a member of three central Illinois fire departments that have received a combined total of more than \$600,000 since 2001. This support of eight successful applications has clearly enhanced community service and, more importantly, firefighter safety.

Throughout the year I have had opportunities to review and discuss applications that have had disappointing results. It is from these discussions and reviews that I have formulated this list of Impressions:

This is a condensed version of Roger’s article that appeared in. Fire Engineering’s e-newsletter in late February.

continued on the next page
www.fsi.uiuc.edu

Impression #1. Did Not Follow the Grant Rules. Asking for support of a project that is not within the identified grant goals. Asking for items that are not approved under grant guidelines.

Impression #2. Greedy. You are asking to spend someone else's money and your want list reflects that you are too comfortable with that fact.

Impression #3. Lazy and Arrogant. The narrative seems to focus on and may even state, "We need it. We want it. It is our turn now".

Impression #4. Not Nice to Try to Trick the Evaluator. Too much reference to saving lives and property through a constant reference to a myriad of NFPA standards. You should write your application expecting each of the review specialists to be just as smart as you.

Impression #5. Hiding Something/Not Truthful. Any explanation of department funding and expenditures are vague, while the project needing grant support takes not only center stage, but all of the stage.

Impression #6. Too Wordy. Way too much community history and fluff.

Impression #7. Narrative is Difficult to Follow. Paragraphs run together. Evaluative points scattered throughout, forcing the peer review specialist to have to search for them.

Now for the Positive: Grant Writing Suggestions

1. Start early and plan based on your strategic needs and resource assessments. Review other successful grants. Discuss and learn from others who have gone through the application processes.

2. Read and Study the Grant Program Guidelines. Read the entire guideline packet at least twice. Make yourself aware of just how the characteristics and service demands of your department can benefit from the expressed AFG goals within the guidelines.

3. Conduct a "Risk - Rewards Assessment" Not a "Want Assessment." Only the Risk Assessment relative to the goals of the grant is relevant. Focus on what your department needs that fits within the priorities of the grant guidelines.

4. Have a Goal Oriented Budget. As you develop the cost surrounding your proposed project you should develop a clear itemized budget that will support clear measureable goals.

5. Format/Layout your narrative as suggested by the Application. Follow the category order as specified in the application.

6. Write your application to the priorities of the grant program. The priorities of your project should satisfy the priorities of the grant program. A well-written application that matches the priorities of the grant program is more likely to receive support.

7. You will not get extra points for rhetoric volume. Just because space is allotted to write a

five page narrative, there is no rule that you have to use it.

8. Make your project challenge clear for the reviewer. Your project must correlate with other areas within the application. (i.e. number of runs, types of runs, community characteristics, budget, etc.).

9. Remember to discuss the training status of your department. In 2008 DHS/FEMA established a much stronger emphasis on the connection between training and the project reflected in the application. It is fair to say that every Peer Review Specialist takes the project-to-training relationship very seriously. Do not view this correlation lightly.

10. Share your near final draft of the application with at least two sets of critical eyes. One set holding a fire service background and the other having no fire service background.

11. Write your narrative so the Peer Review Specialist feels your challenge to serve while protecting your firefighters. Strive to demonstrate your commitment to serving, and though your challenge may be similar to thousands of others, make it seem uniquely overwhelming for your department.

12. Request only what you need and what is authorized by the grant. This is not an opportunity to purchase things that your department holds little, if any history of needing and likely cannot support in the future. Items fitting into this category, but mixed with items you truly could use support for, can jeopardize your score.

13. Attend AFG Workshops, network with other departments. It is a mistake to look at the application process as a competition with your neighboring department. A very beneficial approach is to compare notes, and even mutually evaluate applications between departments.

14. Check the Web for support. There are countless of Web resources to assist you in writing a successful grant. Use them for inspiration and as a starting point: www.firegrantsupport.com, www.action-training.com, www.usfa.dhs.gov

15. Don't expect anyone to hold the passion you have for the support you need. Be sure the passion you and your department hold for the grant project is reflected in your application.

16. Group vs one person approach. It is important to encourage ideas early on in the "Risk Assessment" process. However, just as the focus of the ideas must narrow, so must the number of people involved in the writing of the application. Solicit ideas from a group, but designate one person responsible for the application.

17. Templates from the Web may not help your cause as much as you think. While they are well written, easy to obtain and speed up the development of your application, they risk making your narrative look similar to hundreds of others. The passion expressed in suggestion 14 is lost.

I wish you the very best in your pursuit to improve upon community service while enhancing the safety of your firefighters.

In 2008 DHS/FEMA established a much stronger emphasis on the connection between training and the project reflected in the application.

Ag Program Update

Duane Bales
Vehicle/
Machinery
and Ag
Program
Director

Since February, 11 grain bin classes have been held or are on the calendar for this spring – driven by the number of incidents we have had since last fall in Illinois that included injuries and/or deaths. Is your department prepared should that call come in for a rescue? If not, Cornerstone offers a free eight-hour class on grain bin rescue where we bring a grain bin prop and practice various evolutions in rescue. The Illinois Farm Bureau is working with us for sponsorship of these classes by providing lunches for the day. If you need more information, feel free

to contact me anytime. You can reach me at rbales@fsi.illinois.edu.

A new Cornerstone class is being offered called “Fires on the Farm.” This class covers the kinds of fires that can be encountered in a rural setting. The course will address types of buildings and their construction. It will cover the hazards that can be encountered in the home, barns, machine sheds, silos and grain bins – from type of construction, livestock, machinery, chemicals and fuels. In addition, we spend time on addressing the water supply problems that we can encounter.



IFSI's Newest Addition

The Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety at Carle Foundation Hospital purchased this tractor at auction in early March and gave it to IFSI. This donation was made possible by a generous gift to The Carle Development Foundation. A cultivator was also donated. Both pieces of equipment will be used as part of IFSI's ag rescue training.

The Center for Rural Health and Farm Safety also sponsors a Farm Emergency Class that is hosted by IFSI on its Champaign Campus.

Pictured are Amy Rademaker, Farm Safety Specialist with the Center and Duane Bales, IFSI's Vehicle/Machinery and Ag Program Director.

Vehicle/Machinery Update

Reflective Wear

Many of you are aware of the new Federal requirement for wearing reflective vests. 23 CFR 634 states that anytime you are “within the highway right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway” a class 2 or class 3 reflective vest is required for all personnel. After some input by the fire service, they amended the ruling stating that if firefighters are “engaged in emergency operations that directly expose them to flame, fire, heat and/or hazardous materials, retroreflective turn-out gear that is specified and regulated by other organizations, such as NFPA...” is acceptable. I had a comment one time that “our roads are not Federally funded.” I would recommend that when you are responding to any incident on

any road, have all your personnel in reflective vests. It's another means of greater visibility for our people.

More on the Auto Side

Amkus, Genesis and Holmatro have all loaned us brand new tools to be put on the trailer for our extrication training. We also have the Hurst high pressure and low pressure tools which are being converted over to the Streamline couplings (single coupling attachment). In addition, Hurst has donated the Moditech software which now has 20,000 American and foreign models listed. This software shows locations of batteries, airbags and other hazards of each vehicle.

Hazardous Materials Program Update

It seems like every time a newsletter rolls around, the talk in the HazMat division revolves around Validation. Validation is a relatively new phenomenon in the HazMat world but one that is here to stay. This year will see several new twists to the Validation process.

First, the event is being held April 1 and 2 – earlier than the last two year's June dates. The idea is to take advantage of better weather conditions while operating in the various mitigation ensembles. Next, we plan to have a full compliment of ten teams. If we get on track with the prescribed ten teams participating over the next three years, all 44 state HazMat teams will be able to validate by 2011. The base of operations (BoO) is scheduled away from the IFSI grounds. This location change will enhance the validation experience and truly test the team's abilities to adapt to a real-life event. The fall newsletter will let you know how it went!

The delivery of HazMat classes continues at full speed. The lead time to request a 40-hour class should be at least six months before the requested dates. We are trying out a new ten-hour class format for the HazMat Operations that was developed by our instructors in Salem. Instead of including the two Friday nights for a weekend delivery schedule, we are trying four ten-hour days or two Saturdays and two Sundays. We will let the students be our judges. If the responses are positive we will continue to offer this format. At this time I do not look to offer the same ten-hour format for the Technician Level classes since the practical portions of these classes would be harder to distribute using this time frame.

Please check the website frequently to stay abreast of what classes are available. We do our best to spread the classes all around the state so the greatest numbers of responders have access to training.

Stay safe. Ray

*Ray Palczynski
HazMat
Program
Director*

Does the Fire Service Need Glasses?

Last year I had the honor of participating in a national forum designed to examine our nation's fire safety problems and to develop national strategies to reduce fire-related losses. The project was funded in part by a DHS Assistance to Firefighters Prevention and Safety Grant and by the Institution of Fire Engineers. Illinois' participation in the project was hosted by Allstate Insurance and supported by the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association.

The purpose of the effort was to develop solutions to the problem of why despite significant progress in fire safety over the last 30 years America still has one of the worst fire loss records of the industrialized world. The project ultimately became known as Vision 20/20. Similar efforts took place in 1973 with the President's Commission Report known as "America Burning" and again in 1987 with the publication of "America Burning Revisited." All three of these major studies concluded that the American fire service should focus more on fire prevention related activities.

The Vision 20/20 report includes five strategies identified by the numerous fire safety experts involved in the project. They are:

- Strategy 2: Conduct a national fire safety education / social marketing campaign.
- Strategy 3: Raise the importance of fire prevention within the fire service.
- Strategy 4: Promote technology to enhance fire and life safety.
- Strategy 5: Refine and improve the application of codes and standards that enhance public and fire fighter safety and preserve community assets.

Each strategy concept includes a facilitating organization and a series of supporting action steps. The overall approach attempts to fill "gaps" in existing fire prevention efforts while recognizing successful programs presently underway.

I would encourage each of you to read the full report online at "www.strategicfire.org/" and then to make every effort to help support and implement the strategies in your fire department.

*Eddie Bain
Fire Investigation
Fire Prevention
Program Director*

Strategy 1: Increase advocacy for fire prevention.

E-Learning and Online Class Update

Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director

Down & Dirty Fireground Support & Aerial Operations

By now your fire department has received your copy of the new Down & Dirty Fireground Support & Aerial Operations DVD. With the support of the Illinois Firefighter's Association and Underwriters Laboratories, IFSI developed, produced and distributed this training package to all Illinois fire departments at no charge. With this training package, IFSI introduced a new training delivery format. A 270-page Study Guide Drill/Manual is provided on a CD to download and print. The manual is supported by four DVD's with ten videos.

The training package concentrates on two areas. The first is "Fireground Support" which is essentially truck company operations. We understand that not all fire departments operate truck companies. That said, the functions normally associated with truck operations are still vital to safe and sound fireground operations, thus firefighters must train on support operations. The second area of the project covers "Aerial Operations." After working with several major aerial apparatus manufacturers, we determined that comprehensive training is needed in all facets of aerial operations. The project starts with instruction on the different types of aerials and construction then moves on to the proper positioning and usage. While this training package is great for group training, firefighters can use the package for individual training as well.

If you have not had the chance to see this new Down & Dirty training package, check with your chief or training officer.

Ethanol Awareness

IFSI has produced an Ethanol Awareness online course that is now available. This course represents a new format for firefighters to take online courses. With previous courses, students registered and started a course under the direction of an instructor. The students had a finite time

period that they would study course materials and take their final test. At the end of the course, students would have to wait for their certificates from the IFSI office. With the introduction of the Ethanol Awareness Online course, students register and receive an email on how to access and take the course. Unlike the traditional online courses, students are left to complete the course on their own. The final test is administered online and upon successfully passing the test with a minimum 70% score, students are instructed on how to print their own certificate. The entire learning process is self-directed by the student.

Now a little about the course. The IFSI Ethanol Awareness Online course is designed to give a basic understanding of the emerging ethanol industry. While you may not have an ethanol plant in your operating area, ethanol (E-95 and E-85) is becoming the number one hazardous material being transported today. The ten modules of instruction are:

- Properties
- Terminology
- Production
- Transportation
- Distribution
- Hazards
- Fire Fighting Considerations and Procedures
- Basic Foam Operations
- Spills
- Sources of Additional Information

You will find this course valuable for your safety and knowledge when responding to ethanol emergencies. There is no fee for this course.

I hope you use these new training products. They are designed to help you work safer and more efficient at your incidents.

Be safe!

See the photo on page 19.

Research and the Fire Service

While many of you are aware of the Assistance to Firefighter Grants, SAFER and Fire Prevention and Safety grants available to fire departments, there is another smaller pot of money that is also set aside for Research and Development (R&D) studies. These R&D grants are unique in that they are focused solely on the needs of the fire service, particularly in the areas of injury and fatality reduction. This arrangement has brought some of the leading research institutions in the country – Harvard, Cal-Berkley, Johns Hopkins and Illinois – to work on problems that are inherent to the fire service. As there are so many needs and relatively little money, these grants are highly competitive. They are also unique in that they receive reviews from the academic community, *and* from representatives from the fire service. As such the project must be scientifically accurate and firefighter appropri-

ate. This approach ensures that these funds are not used solely for academic research with little concrete applicability, but also curbs the unsubstantiated science that can lead the fire service astray.

Gavin Horn
Research
Program
Manager

The state of Illinois has greatly benefited from the FPS Research & Development projects. IFSI and Underwriter's Labs (Northbrook, IL) have each received multiple years of funding for several independent research projects ranging from health and safety studies (IFSI's cardiovascular, biomechanics, and heat stress studies, UL's smoke analysis study) to technologies studies (UL's lightweight construction and extinguishing agent studies). While each of these projects has been run from the state of Illinois, they are having an impact on the entire country. The results of these studies are broadly distributed as is the goal of this grant program.

To see just a couple of examples of these results, please visit the following sites:

IFSI's Cardiovascular and Biomedical Responses to Fire Fighting and PPE:

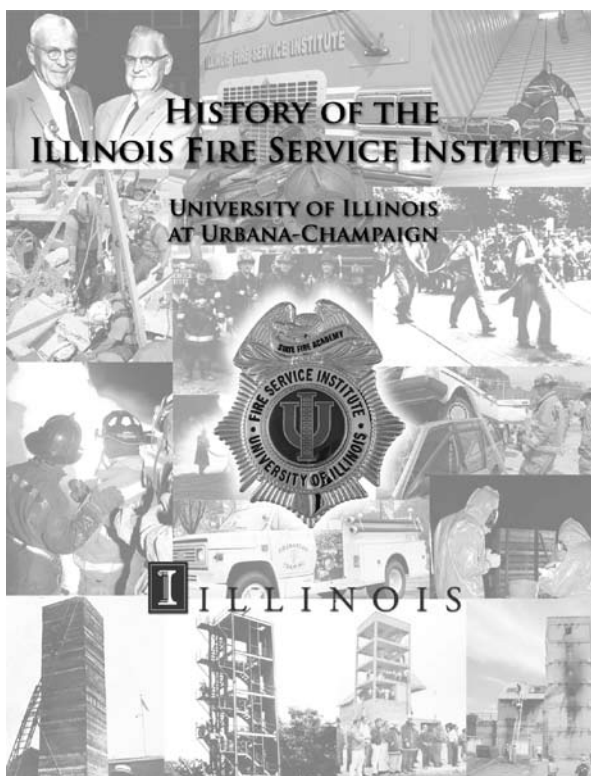
http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/documents/research/FFLSRC_FinalReport.pdf

UL's Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber in Fire Conditions:

<http://www.uluniversity.us/catalog/display.resource.aspx?resourceid=187716>

IFSI to Offer History Publication

"History of the Illinois Fire Service Institute" commemorates 85 years of fire training at the University of Illinois. Through text and images, this historical narrative chronicles IFSI's rich history, including the creation of the Illinois Fire College during the 1920s, the development of the year-round Firemanship Training Program during the 1950s and the designation of IFSI as the State Fire Academy in 1980. "History of the Illinois Fire Service Institute" will soon be available for purchase and will also be presented as posters and on the IFSI Web site later this year.



Who and What for ICS Classes

Bill Farnum
ICS Program
Manager

NIMS compliance is a self-certification process. It is much like a police department certifying that an officer is proficient with a weapon or a fire department certifying a firefighter as being proficient in the use of breathing apparatus. Each agency will determine the training requirements for its own personnel. As an agency completes the NIMSCAST document, those requirements will become apparent.

First – the meaning of course names: IS stands for Independent Study. It is *not* instructor-lead and usually occurs at a computer terminal. Most IS courses are available at the following website:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>

ICS stands for Incident Command System. These classes are instructor-lead and cannot be completed online. ICS 300 and ICS 400 are only offered in a classroom setting. The list of these classes in Illinois can be found at the following website:

<https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/schedule/>

If you enter “300” when it asks for a keyword, you will find all the ICS 300 and ICS 400 classes being offered.

Who should take IS 700?

This is the easiest question to answer. If your agency takes tax dollars in any capacity and responds to emergencies in any capacity, your entire staff should take IS-700. This includes:

- Agency administrators and department heads.
- Unified and incident command personnel.
- Command and general staff personnel working in incident or area command posts.
- EOC managers and personnel.
- Branch directors, division or group supervisors, unit leaders, technical specialists, strike team and task force leaders, single resource bosses, and field supervisors.
- Emergency responders, disaster workers, emergency medical personnel, firefighters, police officers, public health personnel, public works and utility personnel,

and any one else who will respond to an emergency in any capacity.

Who should take IS 800?

All federal, state, tribal, and local emergency management or response personnel who responds to emergencies, including:

- Federal employees who respond to emergencies in any capacity.
- State and local employees who respond to emergencies in any capacity.
- Personnel from agencies who support and interact with the 15 Emergency Support Functions outlined in the national response framework and support annexes.
- Any state, local, and tribal employee with emergency management responsibilities as dictated by law or ordinance.
- Anyone who has been delegated emergency response responsibilities or is involved in emergency planning.

Who should take IS 100 and IS 200?

All federal, state, local, and tribal personnel who respond to emergencies including:

- Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, Shift Commanders, Battalion Chiefs, Division Chiefs, District Chiefs and Commanders
- Anyone working in Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration.

Who should take ICS 300?

All mid-level managers working for federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector or non-governmental agencies including:

- Anyone serving as command staff, section chief, strike team or task force leader, unit leader, division or group supervisor or branch director.
- All personnel working in a multi-agency coordination center or emergency operations center.

Who should take ICS 400?

All federal, state, local, tribal, private Sector and non-governmental employees including:

- Anyone who serves in a command or general staff position.
- Department heads with multi-agency coordination responsibilities.

You are no more than 50 miles away from the nearest IS 100 or IS 200 class.

- Area commanders, emergency managers, anyone with multi-agency coordination responsibilities and emergency operation center or multi-agency operations center managers.

FEMA is starting to recognize the fact that some of our agencies have not met these obligations. If your agency is behind the curve, register for and attend these classes now. You will be asked for compliance history before

FEMA will award grants and other services. They have been warning us for five years to become compliant. They are now asking the questions they have promised they would ask.

Following is the link to the state of Illinois NIMS website. All the information you could ever want, including information regarding the NIMSCAST document is available here.

<http://www.iml.org/dbs/NIMS/index.cfm>

What Can We Learn From the Chinese

Recently, IFSI was honored to have Dr. Tao Chen from Tsinghua University participate in IFSI training for NIMS and advanced ICS modules. Dr. Chen came to learn how we have incorporated NIMS into the response framework of our country. He spent a great deal of time trying to understand how emergency responders in this country “do business.” From his observations came questions – intelligent questions and questions that struck right at the heart of why we do what we do.

When you have to define your business and fundamental changes that you are making to it, you are forced to answer some questions yourself. Why do we need NIMS? Why does Illinois approach Incident Management and Emergency Management Activities the way we do? What do neighboring States do as they manage large and complicated events? And how do FEMA and DHS support us?

Is there a central theme to which we can address these questions? I think it all comes to one thing – improvement – to make improvements in the way we do things and strive to work more effectively and efficiently. Why? We owe it to our people in the fire service and to those we serve. Why have fundamental changes occurred in the way the fire service, in particular, responds (and emergency response agencies in general)? Usually it is in response to monu-

mental problems that have led to deaths and injuries in the response agencies.

So, I suppose, a fundamental question emerges – are we changing things for the better and I think we are. To make the entire system better we must look at the overall picture from the tactical and strategic perspectives and decide what additional improvements we can make.

We can learn from our Chinese friends at Tsinghua. They have worked extensively in the computer modeling area to look at the effect of hazards on populations and the environment. Imagine a tool that could help you determine future activities such as long term evacuations, resource deployment, private-sector interface and recovery costs. This information could be available to help develop strategies for effective response and recovery and incident action plan development. We are looking to incorporate such technology into the way we do business – not because we have to but because it is an improvement.

So the moral of the story is that as Dr. Chen came to learn from us – we also learned from him!

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

See the photo of the Chinese delegation on page 23.

Building Corporate Relations

Dennis Spice
Director of
Corporate
Relations

Planning is underway for the 2009 Industrial Forum which will be held on Tuesday, September 1st in Champaign at the Hilton Garden Inn.

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

This year's program will consist of three sessions 1) **Training to Regulatory Compliance, Moving from Paper to Practical** presented by Jon Jenkins, IFSI and Champaign Fire Department and other IFSI instructors 2) **Continuity of Operations Planning** presented by Brad Bone, IFSI and Champaign Fire Department and other IFSI instructors, and 3) **The Who, What and Whys of Industrial Fire Brigades** presented by Rick Haase of ConocoPhillips and IFSI instructor. A certificate will be awarded to each attendee completing the one-day session.

The registration fee is \$50.00 per person and includes lunch.

More information will be provided as we get closer to the date or you can check our website at: <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/industrial-forum/>

The Institute is pleased to host the Forum and provide a venue where individuals from different industry sectors, not only from Illinois, can come together to gain information in a classroom setting and discuss current issues affecting their businesses.

A new networking tool has been added to the Institute's website. This tool will allow discussion about industry issues with members of our Forum. If you have not received an email from Dennis Spice asking you to join the group, then you may request membership to the Forum list server by going to our website under Corporate Relations and clicking on **Industrial Training Discussion Group**. This new tool has replaced the Industrial Bulletin Board. This is a much easier way for you to communicate with your peers. You can ask questions, and share information using your current email account. It is convenient, safe and secure. We hope you will use it to ask questions and provide information about your industry. We also hope that fire departments that protect industries will join the Forum and share their issues and ideas.

Our networking through the Forum, as well as other sources, has provided us an

opportunity to meet with companies and individuals who want to learn more about our mission, develop partnerships and provide support to the Institute.

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

Abbott
AEC and Holmatro+
AFLAC
Allied Waste Services
Ansul
AMKUS+
Aventine Renewable Energy
Caterpillar+
Concrete Technologies+
ConocoPhillips Propane Marketing
Dimond Bros. Insurance Agency
EMC and Genesis Rescue Systems+
Growmark
GSI Group
Hurst+
Illini Contractor Supply+
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Firefighters Association
Illinois Propane Education and Research Council+
Mitsubishi Motors North America+
NICOR
Pierce
RiverNorth Capital
Seagrave
Scott Health & Safety+
State Farm Insurance
Task Force Tips+
University of Illinois Employees Credit Union
Underwriters Laboratories
Worden Martin

+ These companies have attained the Platinum Level of sponsorship by providing \$20,000 or more in cash or gifts-in-kind donations.

The financial support and "gifts-in-kind" make it possible for IFSI to train more

continued on the next page

Save
September 1
on your
calendar
for the 2009
Industrial
Forum.

firefighters and to assure that they have access to the most up-to-date facilities, props and materials. This also includes our new building, the Illinois Fire Service Institute Learning Resource and Research Center which will house an expanded library, an Illinois firefighter memorial hall, laboratory space and an EOC training area.

Individuals, as well as companies, can help us fulfill our mission. You can play an important role in delivering training and building safer communities by becoming an IFSI Partner or referring us to companies in your area so that we may introduce them to the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

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

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

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

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



Reserve a brick - see page 23.

Calvin Plumer (left), Facility Security Manager for Caterpillar is recognized for Caterpillar's support. He is shown with Harry Clore, IFSI's Business Operations Coordinator (center) and Dennis Spice, Director of Corporate Relations.



Seagrave Fire Apparatus is recognized for their help in providing expertise and factory access during the production of the Down & Dirty Fireground Support & Aerial Operations DVD. Pictured from left to right are Winn Croft, Rich Valenta, Terry LaCanne, Kathleen Kettenhoven and Hugh Stott. Pierce Manufacturing was also instrumental in assisting with the DVD.

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

CORNERSTONE PROGRAM

Greg Fisher, *Program Director*
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*
217/722-5125
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

FIRE INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

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

HAZMAT PROGRAM

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

Chris Downey, *Program Manager*
217/202-0879
cjdowney@fsi.illinois.edu

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

LP, OIL AND GAS PROGRAM

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

**HOMELAND SECURITY/
NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

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

Bill Farnum, *Incident Command*
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

RESCUE PROGRAMS

Greg Fisher, *Program Director*
Rope & Confined Space Rescue Program Manager
217/244-1220
gafisher@fsi.illinois.edu

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

Jeff Hilligoss, *Trench Rescue Program Manager*
217/962-1187
jhilgoss@fsi.illinois.edu

Mike McCastland, *Structural Collapse Rescue Program Manager*
630/546-0667
mmccastl@fsi.illinois.edu

CURRICULUM

Kurt Glosser
217/265-0582
kglosser@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*
Adam Groves, *Archivist/Metadata Librarian*

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

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

Bob Foster, *Facilities Support*
217/840-5951

**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

Christie Ingleman, *Business Operations*
217/333-8923
ingleman@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

This year's Explorer – Cadet “Hands On Training” Fire School will be held Thursday June 25 through Sunday June 29. We are excited to present this year's youth-oriented fire training event and hope to see many of the attendees from previous years.

Experience has indicated the format of fundamental “Hands On Training” is a positive approach for future responders. The skills obtained from this event will assist young cadets, junior firefighters and Explorers in advancing to active members of paid on call, volunteer and career fire departments.

This year's school will be a similar format to our annual Fire College. Skill sessions will begin at 1 pm on Thursday, rather than 7 pm as in the past. The schedule will allow for two different 12-hour sessions per student. The attendees registered for the first time will have 12 hours of Core Competencies, insuring the skills are there to progress to the next step. The next level will be Coordinated Fire Ground Operations which is 12 hours of a variety of fire fighting skills practiced in a smoke-filled atmosphere.

The student veterans who have attended this event in the past will begin with the Coordinated Fire Ground Operations. This group's second session will be live fire, as well, entitled

Basic Company Officer. The students here will rotate through additional fire suppression activities in the smoke and heat while Youth Officers will step up to act as the Company Officers leading them through the drill. As always, the youth are closely supervised and all evolutions are carefully scripted to minimize risk.

The classes will be held during daytime hours. Evening sessions will be offered in Leadership and Auto Extrication. The evening drills are optional and participants who wish to receive certificates need to attend Thursday from 1 pm to 5 pm, 8 am to 5 pm Friday and Saturday, and 8 am to 12 noon on Sunday.

The brochure is available on the IFSI website in addition to the registration forms. All the information you'll need to register and participate in the 2009 Explorer – Cadet “Hands On Training” Fire School is contained in the two forms. In the event that a question does arise, please do not hesitate to contact me at gafisher@fsi.illinois.edu.

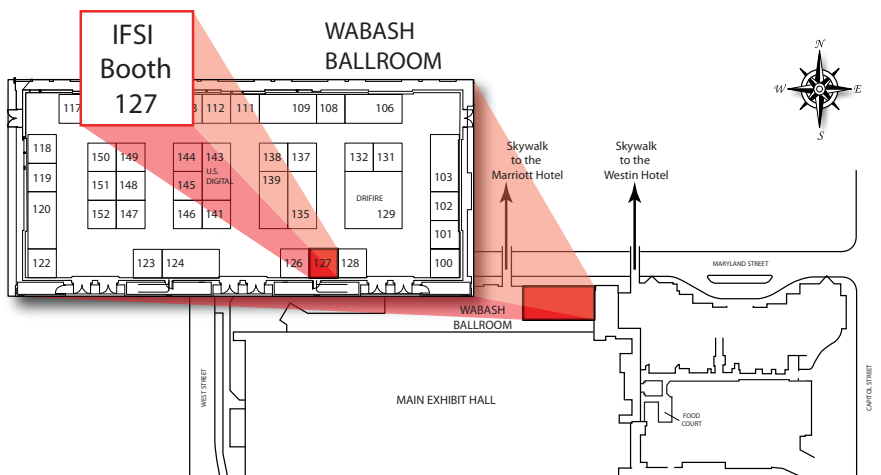
Greg Fisher
Explorer-Cadet
Fire School
Coordinator

**Complete details available on the
IFSI web site
www.fsi.illinois.edu**

Understanding the value of investing in the future

Greg -- I am still planning on working the entire weekend for the Explorer School. Let me know of any changes or anything else that I can do to help you out. I am looking forward to giving back to the program that gave me my start.

*Thanks, Be Safe...
Nate B.*



**Look for IFSI in
a new location at
FDIC.
April 22 - 25, 2009**

Library Updates & Highlights

Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

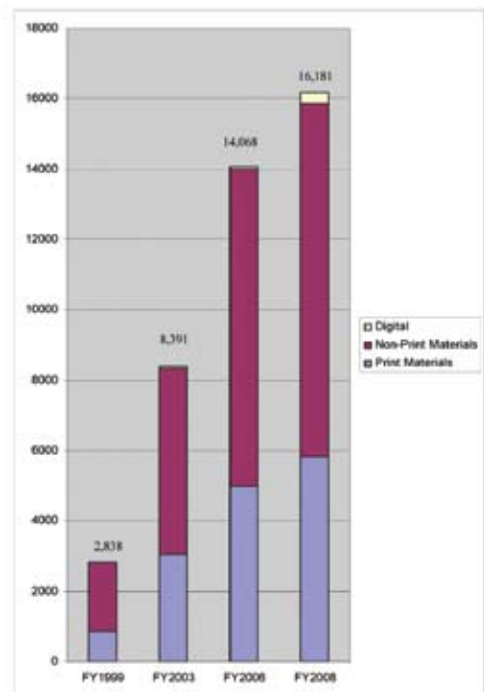
The **Illinois Fire Service Institute Library Outreach Program** was launched in 1999 to provide no-cost fire emergency library and information assistance and services. Ten years after the inception of these innovative efforts, the IFSI Library has experienced transformational growth in both collection size and reference/circulation statistics (see graphics below and on next page).

Interlibrary Loan remains a key component of the IFSI Library Outreach program. Service through the Illinois Library & Information Network lets you borrow fire and emergency training resources from the IFSI Library and have them delivered to your local library if you have an active library card. You can request materials directly from the IFSI Library or from your local library. When you are done, simply return them to your local library. Requested materials are checked out for 45 days, but delivery can take up to two weeks, so be sure to send in your request early if you are facing a deadline. Please contact the IFSI Library at fsi@library.illinois.edu or 217-333-8925 if you have any questions about this free service.

IFLODD: The Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Digital Image Collection Database was recently featured in both the *Scout Report* and the *Newberry Library Genealogy News*. One of the oldest and most respected Internet-based current awareness services, the *Scout Report* is published by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries and is read by more than 250,000 readers each

week. The *Newberry Library Genealogy News* is published by Chicago's Newberry Library, which many scholars consider to be one of the most prestigious research libraries in the United States. The IFSI Library is constantly collecting new resources documenting Illinois firefighter line of duty deaths for inclusion in IFLODD. Please contact Adam Groves at agroves@fsi.illinois.edu or 217-265-6107 if you can contribute any information about your local fallen firefighters.

IFSI Library Collection Growth
FY1999-FY2008



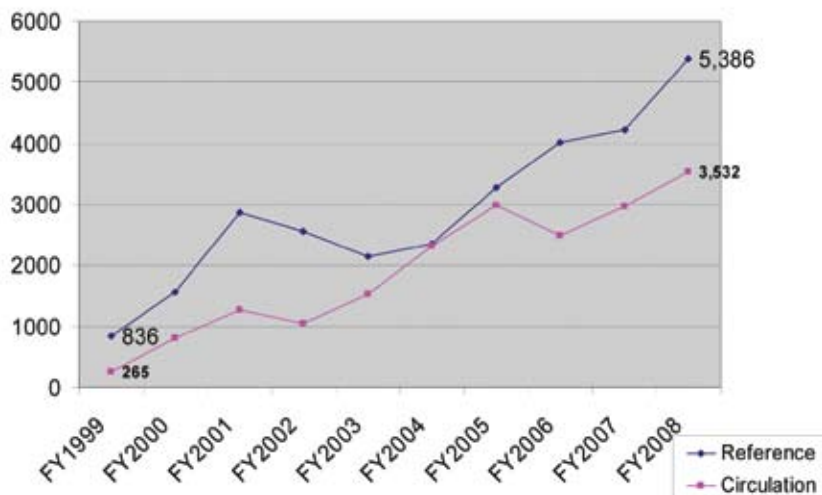
IFSI China Programs

In October 2008, Director Jaehne and Head Librarian and Director of IFSI China Programs Lian Ruan were invited to attend the 7th International Symposium on New Technologies for Urban Safety of Mega Cities in Asia at Tsinghua University. Director Jaehne gave a keynote speech on U.S. emergency response systems and was invited to serve as a board member of the new Asia-Pacific Association for Public Safety, Science and Technology. They also visited the Hong Kong Fire Services Department and Rescue Training Center at Tsim Sha Tsui Area, and met with Director Gregory Lo, Training Director Kin-yat Li, and other key personnel to discuss a collaborative training partnership. As a result, five Hong

Kong firefighters will travel to IFSI this spring to attend hazardous materials classes. (see photo on next page)

In December 2008, Ruan visited Beihang University and gave a series of talks on library management. She also met with library directors in Beijing, Shanghai and Changxin, Zhejiang Province. Also in December, IFSI hosted in Champaign the first Chinese Emergency Management Training Program for participants from Tianjin Emergency Response Office, Beijing Emergency Response Office, and Tsinghua University's Center for Public Safety Research. The program was well-received. (see photo on next page)

**IFSI Library Reference and Circulation Transaction Statistics
FY1999-FY2008**



Director Jaehne and Professor FAN, Weicheng, Director of Center for Public Safety Research, Tsinghua University at USMCA in Beijing.



IFSI-Tsinghua-Tianjin Emergency Management Training Programs, December 2008. The delegation arrived at IFSI on December 17 for Unified Command, and Command and General Staff training. They also visited Chicago OEMC and the Chicago Fire Academy. The group returned to China on December 26.

Reserve a Brick

A Firefighter Memorial Hall will be part of the new Learning Resource and Research Center and you can be part of it by sponsoring a brick on the memorial walk. Or your department, employer or organization can take a larger role and sponsor a bench or wall section. Details will be announced in the fall of 2009.



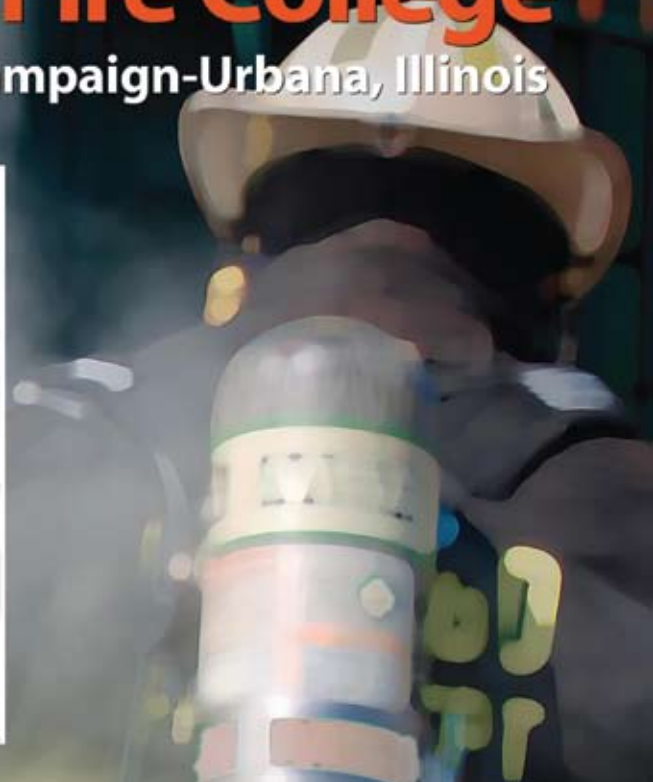
85th Annual **Fire College**

May 28-May 31, 2009 Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Still the lowest-cost program of its kind in the nation...offering seven new classes, plus 17 other popular classes.

Complete details on the IFSI web site

www.fsi.illinois.edu



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