



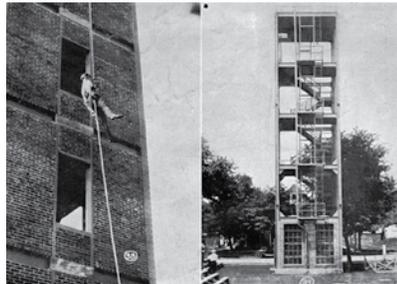
From the Director's Desk

On 28 January 2011, state elected and appointed officials, University and fire service leaders gathered to dedicate your new Learning Resource and Research Center (LRRC), which caps a decade-long effort to provide library, research, high-technology classrooms and high-speed access to your State Fire Academy. Included in the Ribbon Cutting were some three dozen officials, including: the UofI President, National Fire Academy Superintendent, state legislators, state agency leaders, the IFSI Advisory Committee and other fire and emergency service leaders from across Illinois. Major donors Paratech, Inc. and the University of Illinois Employees Credit Union were also in attendance. The LRRC is the latest addition in what has been an 86+ year-long visionary effort to provide Illinois firefighters the latest in information, training, education and research.

In 1925 a collaboration between the Illinois State Fire Marshal, the Illinois Firemen's

Association and the University of Illinois (UofI) School Of Architecture created the nation's first annual Fire College meeting of fire service leaders from Chicago, Illinois and the nation. Quickly, Fire College began to offer hands-on training courses, and with funding provided by the state legislature, constructed the first training tower on the Urbana Champaign Campus in 1928. Our first use of technology for distance learning occurred during World War II when UofI WILL radio broadcast Fire College classes to reach firefighters statewide who could not travel to Champaign due to wartime travel restrictions. After the war, firefighters demanded hands-on training throughout the year. In response, the UofI created the Firemanship Training Program

*Richard Jaehne
Director*



Continued on page 5



Left to Right: IEMA (Interim) Director Joe Klinger, ITTF Chairman Mike Chamness, State Rep & IL Legislative Fire Caucus Co-Chair Don Moffitt, UofI Vice President and Chancellor (Interim) Urbana Champaign Campus Robert Easter, IFSI Advisory Committee Chair Robert Bettenhausen, NFA Superintendent Denis Onieal, UofI President Michael Hogan, IFSI Director Richard Jaehne, IL State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis, City of Chicago OEMC Executive Director Jose Santiago, IL Fire Chiefs Association President Ralph Webster, State Rep Chad Hays, State Rep Chapin Rose, State Rep Naomi Jakobson.

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The Illinois Fire Service Institute Newsletter is the official publication of the Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois at 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 email information to Terri Hopper at hopper@fsi.illinois.edu. Please include appropriate graphics or digital photos.

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For the most up-to-date class information, class schedule and IFSI program information, visit our web site:

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 under ABOUT IFSI/Documents.

We have begun a new calendar year. The IFSI 2011 calendars are hanging in fire stations throughout the state and the IFSI 2010 Annual Report is in the mail.

The annual report highlights another busy year for IFSI. In FY 2010 IFSI registered more than 52,000 students. Three out of every four IFSI classes were provided through a local host. We delivered Homeland Security courses to more than 13,000 first responders. Our research efforts continued to expand in 2010 with the support of a \$1 million DHS grant. The IFSI Library referenced nearly 4,000 requests and circulated more than 1,500 items to library patrons. Training capabilities were expanded through new props, including the three-story, 9,500 square foot "streetscape." The Illinois State Legislature provided permanent, statutory funding for Cornerstone. A working relationship with Parkland College now allows college credit for firefighters completing IFSI courses. I invite you to read our 2010 Annual Report. If you can't find yours at the fire house, you can find it on IFSI's web site.

This past summer Dave Clark and I accepted an invitation to serve on a Project Technical Panel for the Fire Protection Research Foundation. The research focus is a hazard assessment of fire service training fires. The research objectives are first to develop practical guidance for instructors based on the hazards associated with live-fire training evolutions. The second objective is to identify knowledge gaps not addressed by the collected information and to establish a test plan to address these knowledge gaps.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute is nationally recognized and respected for our practical, hands-on approach for training firefighters. We have a full seven-month burn season on campus and support acquired structure "house burn" training sessions all twelve months of the year. We are happy to be able to bring our safe, hands-on training philosophy and history to this research project.

It is anticipated that the 2nd Edition of Down & Dirty Firefighting will be available on DVD this spring. Developed by the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute, the project is funded through a grant from the Illinois Firefighter's Association. The 2nd Edition will continue to support individualized training, as well as serve as a training aid in departmental level training sessions. Just as you can with the "Fireground Support & Aerial Operations" DVD, you will be able to download and print the 150+ page Instructional/Study Guide, included on the DVD.

News Notes

IFSI Staff are well into the planning phase for the following on campus, annual training opportunities. Mark your training calendar for:

Roger Lunt
Deputy Director

87th Annual Fire College, June 9 – 12, 2011
(This is NOT the same weekend as in the past.)

Annual Explorer/Cadet "HOT" Fire School
June 23 – 26, 2011

We have requested nine National Fire Academy (NFA) classes for FY2012 - taught by NFA instructors. The class **host** and topics are:

Quincy Fire Department

Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations

Aurora Fire Department

National Fire Incident Reporting System: Introduction to NIFIRS 5.0

Collinsville Fire Department

Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations

Randolph Township Fire Protection District

Training Operations In Small Departments

Teutopolis Fire Protection District

Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations

Roseville Fire Department

Training Operations in Small Departments

Peoria Fire Department

Incident Command System for High-Rise Operations

Williamson County Fire Protection District

Decision Making for the Initial Company Operations

Glendale Heights Fire Department

Decision Making for Initial Company Operations

Cornerstone is *the* down and dirty, local resource-driven training. There are more than 70 training topics and most of them are available in a one- to 16-hour format. Cornerstone supported training programs are occurring throughout the state. Contact your IFSI Regional Representative to schedule a training session or to discuss Cornerstone training.

A map and list of regional reps is on page 9.

Something you might want to know: More than 80 IFSI classes offer CEUs.

Table Talk

Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director

Well here we go again – time to spend some quality time with the “magic machine.” In a couple of months we will be running full bore at IFSI. I have said it numerous times, but here I go again. “The federal monies are on the decline” and each grant provides less, so if you have Team members on your training roster that have not completed a SWMD course, now is the time to do it.

A few things that are in the works:

- 2011 Validation—this year Validation will be a five-day event, rolling numerous State Mobile Support Teams through the IFSI campus.
- A Mobile Support Team Leadership course is getting ready to roll out this fall. This will be a five-day program that will reinforce the roles and responsibilities of Team Leadership.
- We are also working on a five-day program that will best be a con-ed for team members who have completed the core courses at the Technician level – more to come as this gets closer to reality.

I’m sitting in front of this machine in late January and events of the past month should put this job in perspective. These events have also sparked a lot of opinion on fire fighting, and the safety of the fire fighting force. Our IFSI Deputy Roger Lunt recently attended a meeting on the east coast that was convened to address this very issue. I’m not really up to speed on the exact nature of this event, but the little that Roger did share, led me to believe that my opinions would not have been with the

majority of the group. There are folks out there who want to “in the name of safety” get rid of live fire training and put your butt into a power point fire fight. I wonder if the “combustion process” that we know as FIRE, received the memo that the fire fight is now a more kinder and gentler experience. Did any of us sign on with the understanding that this job could be done without scrapes, bruises, broken bones, and everybody always goes home?? THEY DON’T!!!!!!

I remember going through “boot camp” in June of 1967. In the 7th or 8th day of training, the DI sat the platoon down to have one of those heart-to-heart talks that only DIs can deliver. He informed us that the Commandant has stated there are only two kinds of Marines in his Corps – “those in Vietnam and those going.” I fell into the latter group. The DI then proceeded to say “in one year, half of you will be dead.” It was the reality of war – 58,000+ names on the wall.

I have on the wall in front of me a 1908 quote by Chief Edward Croker, FDNY, speaking on the deaths of five firefighters. “Firefighters are going to get killed. When they join the Department they face that fact. When a person becomes a firefighter, their greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What they do after that is all in the line of work. They were not thinking of getting killed when they went where death lurked. They went there to put out the fire, and got killed. Firefighters do not regard themselves as heroes because they do what the business requires.”

Never leave home without telling those you love that you love them.

Rest in peace-brothers!!

MAC



*Here’s an opportunity to
invest in the new
Learning Resource and
Research Center*

Simply visit the IFSI web site, click on the IFSI Memorial Plaza Paving Bricks link under Quick Links at the bottom of the home page. Information is also available from Harry Clore at hclore@fsi.illinois.edu

as part of Engineering Extension. The State Fire Marshal began to provide annual funding for delivery of hands-on training in firehouses statewide, but there were no permanent fire training facilities on the Uofl campus.

In 1963, the Uofl Board of Trustees approved the purchase of property on which IFSI now stands and the construction of a permanent training tower. In 1973, Congress approved the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control which resulted in the publication of *America Burning* - to recommend what must be done to reduce fire loss in America, to include:

- Creation of the National Fire Academy
- Work to understand fire hazards in both built and rural environments
- Exponentially enhance fire prevention and use of technology to reduce and prevent fire loss
- Conduct real research into fire-related issues

In 1976, recognizing the importance of training, education, information and research as part of this effort, the Uofl Board of Trustees reorganized the Firemanship Training Program into the Fire Service Institute. In 1980, the Illinois State Legislature passed the Illinois Fire Service Institute Act designating the IFSI as the statutory State Fire Academy, with an annual budget from the Fire Prevention Fund. Construction of classrooms, a fire station and additional live-burn training buildings proceeded, culminating in their dedication in 1989.

As the statutory State Fire Academy, IFSI expanded its curriculum to embrace emerging fire service missions such as HazMat, technical rescue and EMS, and began to conduct nationally-recognized scientific research into the impact of new technology and building materials on firefighter life safety. In 1999, in partnership with the State Fire Marshal and all of the statewide fire service organizations, we re-established the statewide hands-on "Firemanship Training Program" as the Cornerstone Program, which now has statutory funding and reaches some 10,000 firefighters annually. We began to develop and offer online courses. We partnered with the Illinois Firefighter's Association to create and distribute Down-and-Dirty CD and DVD training programs at no charge to every Illinois fire department/district. We joined the Illinois Terrorism Task Force and developed nationally-recognized HazMat, technical rescue and NIMS courses.

Now we dedicate a new building, which will provide:

- A permanent firefighter Memorial Hall memorializing each Illinois firefighter killed in the Line of Duty.
- A permanent home for the state's only library dedicated to fire and emergency services.
- A high tech, connected board room and international conference center.
- Dedicated research labs for both firefighter life safety and fire protection engineering research.
- A dedicated computer classroom for dynamic fire modeling with a 10 gigabit connection to the web.
- An Incident Management Training Facility with the same capabilities as FEMA's National Emergency Management Institute. This facility has also been upgraded with a grant from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force to provide this campus with a modern Emergency Operations Center for actual emergencies.

What is the point of this walk through IFSI's 87-year history? Every step we have taken has been a partnership with the firefighters and fire service leadership of Illinois, the University of Illinois and Illinois' elected and appointed state leadership. It has also required vision to see what may and should be and how to achieve it together. Today we are beginning to construct IFSI Vision 2020 to guide us through the next decade. What must we do to meet the current and emerging needs of the fire service? How can we fully implement a national research program to define fire service issues for scientists and translate scientific fact into operational policies and protocols with the fire service? How can we use technology to reach every firefighter with the latest training, education and information, without losing our focus as the nation's premier hands-on fire fighting school? Who are our new partners that can better help us help you?

What can you do? Share with us your vision of IFSI. What are your priorities, concerns and greatest needs for training, education, information and research for the next decade? Please email me your thoughts at jaehne@illinois.edu. Thank you for your continuing support!



R.L. Jaehne, Director

A ProBoard Primer

Brian R. Brauer
Assistant
Director

This semester I'd like to use this space to help Illinois firefighters and officers develop a better understanding of the ProBoard, why IFSI has undergone the lengthy and difficult accreditation process, and why we are continuing to format and submit additional programs for accreditation.

Since 1972, the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, or the ProBoard, has been promoting professional standards and certification, and has established a certification registry for fire and emergency responders. It consists of agencies across the U.S., Canada and around the world. At the annual meeting new entities were recognized, bringing the number of accredited entities to 60.

It may help to think of this as the fire equivalent of the national registry (NREMT) that you're familiar with for EMS. They don't conduct training, but have strict criteria for the administration of written and practical testing. Through reflection and self-study during the ProBoard application process, we found that our testing practices could be strengthened and improved.

The ProBoard accepts applications from training agencies that are interested in meeting stringent certification practices and methodologies, validates the written and psychomotor testing policies and procedures used by the agency, and maintains an ongoing system to help the member agencies maintain a high level of testing integrity. Additional information about changes that IFSI is making to our testing practices to be in compliance with the ProBoard and to have more secure and educationally sound testing practices is

provided by Jason Griest, IFSI's testing coordinator, on page 8.

IFSI's initial interest in ProBoard Accreditation was to better serve military units in Illinois. Our first classes were based upon the needs of National Guard firefighters in Sparta, Illinois. The needs and demands of Illinois Armed Forces are helping IFSI set priorities for which classes to seek accreditation next. ProBoard certification is also being considered as the minimum level

of certification for the national credentialing system for interstate response. This plan is still in its infancy, but the working group has been seeking a minimum standard that was uniformly tested for across the nation, and ProBoard has that continuity.

Additionally, for many states, having a ProBoard recognized certificate makes the transition to another state's system smoother. In 2005, Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy, listed this type of certification portability as one of the criteria that was necessary to help establish fire fighting as a profession. ProBoard certification allows firefighters to have similar transitions between states as other professions, for example doctors, nurses, engineers, and architects. While testing may still be required, firefighters would not have to be re-trained in basic topics that they have already demonstrated proficiency. While there are other aspects of professional status that need to be achieved, certificate portability is a big step in this direction.

IFSI sought ProBoard accreditation to improve our testing practices and to provide a gateway for Illinois firefighters to enter the ProBoard system. ProBoard certification neither replaces nor circumvents the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal's testing process. IFSI courses that are approved as an OSFM end-of-course exam will still enable the student to receive both IFSI course completion credit and OSFM certification upon successful completion. By adhering to the ProBoard testing standards, students can also apply for ProBoard certification at an additional cost. The ProBoard self-review and accreditation process has also allowed IFSI to create more educationally sound testing methods, up to the level of the instruction provided by our field staff instructors. This is a new idea, and change is always a challenge. If I can answer any questions on where we're going next with ProBoard certification, or answer other questions, please contact me at brbrauer@fsi.illinois.edu.



Put Fire College on Your Calendar

Right now you are probably thinking more about those New Year's resolutions that you have broken than you are about Fire College. However, the truth is that Fire College will be here faster than most of you realize and you need to start thinking about it now. June 8th will kick off the 87th Annual Fire College and I wanted to share a few bits of information with you.

Since the economic situation has not improved much over the past year, IFSI has taken every measure to keep the fees the same as last year. Fire College continues to be one of the best educational opportunities, as well as one of the best values for your department's training dollars. Training is one of the most significant factors in reducing firefighter injuries and fatalities, and Fire College is one of the most cost-effective ways to address the safety issues that training can correct.

This Fire College will offer a wide variety of courses from Entry Level Recruit to several Leadership courses. Please look through the course menu at www.fsi.illinois.edu as soon as you can, and when registration opens April 11, get your registration in before the classes you want fill up. Online registration is still the best way to register. Check now to see if your department has a PIN. The PIN Form link is <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/documents/forms/PIN%20AUTHORIZATION%20FORM.pdf>.

With that said, there will be some major changes to Fire College this year. With the opening of the new LRRC, IFSI will have enough classrooms to hold all of Fire College on site with the exception of Pumper Ops, which will be at the traditional location at the airport. It is important that you make note of the following informations:

- Registration will be held onsite in the LRRC.
- Student parking for registration and class sessions will be in the lots located east of IFSI (maps will be available on the web-site). It is important that you car pool!
- Shuttle busses for onsite classes will make the rounds from the parking lots to class locations inside the fence. You can also walk to class using the pedestrian gate on the southeast corner of the LRRC.

- IFSI is NOT renting parking spaces at the Assembly Hall this year and limited shuttle service will be available at some hotels.

*Brad Bone
Fire Fighting
Program
Director*

Lastly, please be sure to read ALL of the Fire College brochure carefully! There are some important changes to the registration process that you need to know, as well as information for when and if you need PPE. I would hate to see you miss out on the nation's oldest Annual Fire College because of a registration error. We look forward to seeing you and providing you with a challenging four days of quality, cost-effective training.

Important Fire College Dates

April 11: Registration begins

May 5: Last day to register without a late fee

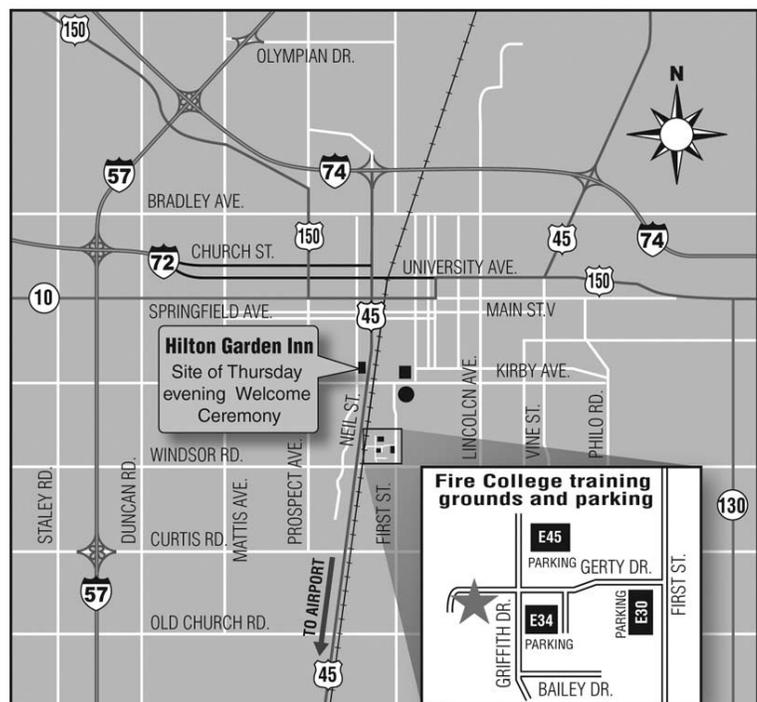
May 27: Last day to cancel without penalty

June 3: Last day to advance register

June 9-11: Onsite registration and check in

Complete information is on the IFSI web site

www.fsi.illinois.edu



New Testing Procedures

Jason Griest
Curriculum
Support

Upcoming Testing Changes

The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has updated its testing policies to strengthen the credibility and reliability of the testing process. If you have taken an IFSI course during the past six months, you have most likely heard about these changes that become effective in the spring of 2011. Many of the remaining changes occur behind the scenes and relate to how exam questions are created, validated and secured. However, you will observe some differences in the exam format, answer sheet, course processing time, and the student-proctor relationship.

Testing Phase

Upon completion of the course delivery, instructors will require students to clear their work areas and an instructor will switch to their role as the exam proctor. At this point, it will be made clear that INSTRUCTION has been completed and TESTING has begun. The proctor is responsible for certifying a student's eligibility to sit for the exam by 1) physically comparing the student with their government issued photo ID, 2) verifying required course attendance, and 3) verifying any other course requirements. If the proctor is unable to verify any of these requirements, the student will not be allowed to sit for the exam.

After each student's eligibility has been verified, exams and answer sheets will be distributed. The proctor will provide instructions regarding proper completion of critical information required on the answer sheet. The answer sheet must be correctly completed by the student to be eligible for grading.

Proctors are prohibited from offering assistance, interpreting questions or commenting on students' performance once the exam has started. A proctor is permitted to answer questions about the testing policy or procedures, but only before or after the

exam period. A feedback form is available for students to ask questions regarding test items. Feedback from the students taking the exams is critical to the quality of the exams, and this will allow the student to offer comments on specific questions.

After the Test

Upon completion of the test, all the testing materials must be returned to IFSI for grading. Instant feedback is no longer available and it could take up to six weeks for a class to be processed and certificates to become available online.

In the event a student fails to pass the course examination the first time, s/he can view their grade through accessing the resource center on IFSI web site. Students will be notified by email when grades are posted. Each failing student is eligible to retake the course examination once and must request the retake to be taken in the 12 calendar months following the end of the course. Retesting can occur at any IFSI certified testing location where testing is already scheduled to occur. Retesting must be formally requested in advance through the curriculum support office on the IFSI campus. You cannot walk in and take an IFSI exam.

Any student that has taken a class at IFSI and is seeking ProBoard certification for a particular level, will have the opportunity to take a challenge exam. Any student that has taken a class outside of IFSI and is seeking state certification must contact OSFM and test through them.

At IFSI, we are committed to doing everything we can to make this transition as smooth as possible. If questions arise regarding the new testing policy, please contact the curriculum support office at (217) 244-8340 or email Jason Griest at jgriest@fsi.illinois.edu.

Your Regional Representative is your personal link to Cornerstone classes and information on how to take advantage of IFSI training.

From the Field: Cornerstone Reports

East Central Region

As the year gears up for Fire College and the Explorer-Cadet HOT Fire School, significant class offerings designed for the paid-on-call or volunteer firefighter are available throughout the East Central Region.

Other Cornerstone classes offered throughout the East Central Region include: **Champaign County:** Light & Fight, Basic Company Officer, Fires On The Farm; **Coles County:** Light & Fight; **Crawford County:** Light & Fight; **Cumberland County:** Grain Bin Rescue; **Douglas County:** Basic Engine Officer; **Edgar County:** Basic Company Officer; **Effingham County:** Rural Engine and Tender Operations, Fire Ground Search & Rescue; **Ford County:** Essentials 1, New Car Technology; **Iroquois County:** Grain Bin Rescue; **Kankakee County:** R.I.T., Fire Behavior & Smoke, NFA's Incident Safety Officer; **Livingston County:** Basic Company Officer, Agricultural Rescue; **McLean County:**

Building Construction and Ventilation, Light and Fight; **Moultrie County:** Grain Bin Rescue; **Piatt County:** Fire Ground Search and Rescue, Hose, Ladders and SCBA, T.I.C.; **Vermilion County:** Essentials III & IV and Anhydrous Ammonia Emergencies.

Rantoul Fire Department will be finishing up their contract Certified Firefighter Class with Module C beginning in March. Students with Mod A & B are welcome to register. A large scale forcible entry, salvage, overhaul and ventilation class with some acquired structures is in the works for late spring.

Finally, a number of houses became available in Champaign, Douglass, Piatt and Ford Counties for Live Burn Training and those dates will be posted as their EPA permits are obtained.

At this time some funding is still available in the East Central Region for Cornerstone classes. Don't hesitate to contact me at gafisher@fsi.illinois.edu to arrange a class in your department or division.



Greg Fisher
Cornerstone
East Central
Region

Check the IFSI web site for all upcoming classes in the East Central Region.

Northwest
Ray Palczynski
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rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu

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Cornerstone Regions

From the Field: Cornerstone Reports



*Ray Palczynski
Northwest
Regional
Representative*

Northwest Region

2011 is off to a fast start. January 28 saw the ribbon cutting for IFSI's new state-of-the-art LRRC. It's really a cool facility. Please make time to check out this great new facility and resources. From the library to the EOC, computer classrooms and lab areas, this building has it all. The Illinois fire service will be well supported for many years to come.

I was invited to attend the Hancock County Fire Association meeting in January. They served up some delicious chili and we shared training information. It was good to see some familiar faces and share some stories in addition to taking care of business. From this meeting, I was invited to the Adams County meeting in April. These types of meetings are the best way for me to be able to share information with many departments at one time. Several departments have me on their mail lists. That notification system works great. If your organization would like an update from

IFSI please let me know and we'll line it up.

Cornerstone funding appears to be set for the 2012 fiscal year, so I am already lining up classes after July 1. Some classes that need mobile IFSI props, such as ag rescue and grain bin rescue, require advanced planning. With only one of each of these props for the entire state you can bet they are in high demand. All of the regional reps stay in contact with each other and try to share the resources. The more members you can draw in from your region for these classes the better.

I try to send out an email at the beginning of each month to let the folks in the Northwest Territory know that classes are scheduled. This is a big area and I don't expect folks to travel the entire area to attend classes, but if there is a class in the next county over, check it out. If you'd like to get on this email list please drop me a note at rpalczyn@fsi.illinois.edu and I'll add you to the list.

Stay Safe!



*Les Albert
Southern
Regional
Representative*

Southern Region

The birds have gone north, now the training is going south! Fire departments are requesting Cornerstone training throughout the Southern Region – does your department have your request in?

Fire Service Vehicle Operator is still in great demand. If you only have a handful of members that need this training, or any other topic, consider checking with your neighboring departments to host a regional class. Fire Officers, please evaluate your department's training needs and complete an IFSI "Request for Training" (RFT) form. Remember to allow at least 30 days for scheduling your class.

Check the IFSI calendar and website for "Light and Fight" training being provided at the Carbondale, Salem, Mount Carmel, and Harrisburg Regional Training Centers. This free live-fire training is a great supplement to any department's training program, and an even better way to maintain or improve your individual skills. It's critical that staying safe and "everyone going home" involve all members having the skills and knowledge

to perform their tasks successfully. Training can increase their abilities and skills, thus increasing safety. The Cornerstone training program can provide this training for free at your department.

I had the opportunity this spring to speak to an international audience in Mumbai (Bombay), India. While there, the IFSI team met with the head of Maharashtra Fire Service, the state where Mumbai is located. He shared a comment that is true whether you're a firefighter in southern Illinois or southern India, "Whether you're in a big city or small village, the fire all burns the same!" Take the time this spring to attend at least one class, either here in the Southern Region or in Champaign at the Annual Fire College to become a better firefighter.

Thank you for all you do to serve your community!

From the Field: Cornerstone Reports

Central Region

There are three rules you can learn through the Cornerstone Program to keep yourself out of trouble.

1. When arriving on scene, get the big picture. Look at all sides of the incident prior to making any decisions. If possible do a 360 degree look. Get as much information visually and verbally as possible.

I remember a single family dwelling fire that I responded to that from the street looked like an attic fire. Smoke was coming from the ridge and vents on the roof. When I took a look at the back, the entire deck was on fire and was just starting to extend to the overhang in the back.

If there are people standing outside, ask if they are the occupants. If they are, they will be a good source of information about two things: first, if everyone is out; and second, how to get to the area of the fire. Bystanders are not always a reliable source of information, but they can provide some information.

Determine the occupant survivability. Are conditions such that a person is unlikely to survive the fire conditions that you see? The fire conditions should dictate your tactics. Tactics should be directed at the fire if occupant survival is unlikely. Marginal situations

Southwest Region

Hello from the Southwest region of Illinois. As we dug ourselves out of the snow and ice we received this winter, I know some areas got hit a lot harder than my city of Collinsville. I just hope everyone got through it safely.

I was really impressed by the pre-planning the state and local governments did. I remember back in 1982 when the blizzard hit downstate there had been no pre-planning done locally. They just dealt with it as it happened.

For this storm they had plans in place for any emergency that they might encounter. In the St. Louis area they had an EOC operating. They had the National Guard in the area and moved them around the area as needed. The power company brought in linemen from as far away as Arkansas.

should direct tactics toward both the fire and occupant rescue, with a backup plan ready.

2. Do I have enough manpower, water and needed resources coming on the initial dispatch? If not, get help. The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) started in Illinois and became a model for the nation. Many Illinois departments can be overwhelmed by a structure fire in the daytime work hours. If you find yourself in this situation, get help.

3. Finally, maintain situational awareness. Changing conditions require that you maintain focus on the problem at hand and the changing conditions. Take calculated, measured risk to save lives. Take reduced risk to save property, and take no risk for property that is already lost. One of the most important factors to consider in situational awareness is how rapidly conditions are changing. If conditions are changing rapidly and lines in place are not having an effect on the fire conditions, change tactics. Also, if you as incident commander make the decision to withdraw personnel from a fire area, do not let them talk you out of it, stick to your decision.

If you would like education on this topic or any other fireground topic, let us partner with you to provide this hands-on training through the Cornerstone program. I look forward to hearing from you. Be safe my fellow firefighters!

These are prime examples of the value from training in ICS and NIMS. Because of this training, everyone involved handled the results of this storm by working together and concentrating on the same goals.

Speaking of EOC's, I was lucky enough to attend the dedication of the new LRRC building at the end of January. I would like to congratulate the Colonel and his staff for their efforts in putting on the event. You should take time to see the LRRC building the next time you are at IFSI. It will be well worth your time.

Regarding the Cornerstone program: it has been very busy since the first of the year. I am receiving requests for training almost daily. I have also made contact with some areas that have not had any classes in their area for a while. I hope to be setting up the classes soon for these areas.

In closing, I am glad that with each passing day we are one day closer to SPRING!!!



*Les Lockwood
Central
Regional
Representative*



*John Nichols
Southwest
Regional
Representative*

From the Field: Cornerstone Reports



Jim Streu
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative

Northeast and Chicago Region

As we begin 2011, I would like to remind all Training Officers and Training Committees that there is still money available in Cornerstone. Now is the time to put in your requests for your spring training. The Cornerstone list of classes can be found on the IFSI web page under Cornerstone. Please allow at least 30 days to process the request and schedule the instructors.

All the classes on the Cornerstone menu are excellent core Firefighter and Officer Classes designed to be delivered on drill nights and weekends. In addition, the Institute offers several hand-off classes which are delivered by our field staff and are National Fire Academy certified. These subjects are Leadership I, II, III and Incident Safety Officer. Description of the classes can be found on our web site. They are 12- to 16-hour classes that can also be delivered on weekends to

assist the Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments.

As a reminder, the Northeast Region has a Regional Training Center at the Cherry Valley Fire Department in Rockford. The Cherry Valley RTC hosts one IFSI class per month including four "Light & Fights" per year. The Light & Fights are weekend live-fire training exercises and an excellent opportunity for students to get fire fighting experience and complete their Firefighter II and III skills assessment for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The next class date is May 7. Contact the Cherry Valley Fire Department to register (815-332-5382).

If you have questions on anything for the Chicago Metro Area, please do not hesitate to contact me at streujg@fsi.illinois.edu.

As always, *you learn something new every day.*

Until next time, be safe.

From the Campus: Program Reports

Ray Palczynski
Special
Operations
Training
Program
Director

S.O.T.P.

The **Special Operations Training Programs** are set for a busy 2011. All of the ITTF classes have been scheduled and mapped out for calendar 2011. Many of the SOTP disciplines are delivering contract classes in addition to the mandatory ITTF scheduled classes. From March through October, Collapse, Confined Space, and Rope and Trench are all in high gear. HazMat continues to deliver classes year round. If you need training in any of the SOTP disciplines, sign up soon. What you see on the calendar is all that will be offered for 2011.

Many departments are working to understand the new OSFM basic and advanced firefighter programs. Hazardous Materials Operations is a component of this new certification program along with Technical Rescue Awareness and Fire Service Vehicle Operator to mention a few specific classes. As you can imagine the demand for HazMat Operations classes has skyrocketed. Almost every class is booked to capacity at 30 students – some

with a waiting list. With this type of demand we cannot honor every request. We try to space the classes out across the state as best we can. If your neighbor is hosting a class, it's highly unlikely you will be granted the same class. Some exceptions occur when the student count in a region is so high that all the classes are at capacity. The days of IFSI delivering HazMat Ops classes with empty seats should be a thing of the past. If you have any questions about HazMat classes please contact the HazMat Program Manager Chris Downey at cjdowney@fsi.illinois.edu.

If you are a member of an SWMD HMT or TRT, be on the lookout for an invitation to the fall exercise. During the week of October 23, we will be validating and exercising HMT teams, TRT teams, IMERT, IMT, public works and may other state recognized responders. This will be our first attempt at a five-day continuous exercise. Details are still in the formative stages. Those teams targeted for participation should be hearing from their MABAS subcommittee chairs in the very near future.

From the Campus: Program Reports

Wildland

As the spring wildland fire season in Illinois is only weeks away, one of the key concepts I wish to stress in this message is that Illinois firefighters respond to fires in the most dangerous 'fuel model' in the United States: light, flashy fuels. Taking this for granted or misreading the behavior of fire in this environment is a recipe for disaster. This component of the wildland fire environment is also one of the five common denominators of fire behavior on tragic fires. With so much specialized training available today and so little time in our training schedules, we often put the necessary training on the "we'll-get-to-it-later" list. Delaying this fundamental training is not good, considering we almost always have to work with our neighbors to bring our grass, brush and field fires (wildland) under control. With people responding from all points on the compass this organized chaos can often become a near-miss situation or worse.

Let's ask ourselves some basic questions. From a terminology standpoint, are we all on the same page? Tactically, are we still chasing fires across broken terrain? What about our actions when we can't get a rig close enough to utilize our water supply? Organizationally, does everyone understand the resource configurations on these events? The challenges responders face on these incidents can be intimidating and a delay in effective actions can cause these incidents to rapidly become out of control.

The IFSI Wildland Fire Fighting Program Team would like to help. Since its inception in 2005, the Wildland/Prescribed Fire program at IFSI has been helping address the safety, tactical and organizational considerations of

state, regional and national responders by delivering the most recognized wildland curriculum in the world (National Wildfire Coordinating Group). From the 20-hour Basic Wildland (S-130/S190) to Tactical Decision Making (S-336); from Followership to Leadership (L-280) to Multi-resource Incident Commander (S-300); we can provide the training you need to keep these standard responses from becoming chaotic or out of control, life threatening events.

With funds provided through a grant from the U.S. Forest Service and administered through our partners at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, most of this training is **free to firefighters**. Partnering with other natural resource agencies and private sector interests we can deliver prescribed fire planning, implementation and management training on a cost recovery basis. As with all programs delivered by the institute, the staff is made up of professionals from the Illinois fire service, state, and federal agencies who have the practical experience and proven qualifications to provide you with the best training available. Please invite us to "your house" to assist you in making your wildland response activities safer, more organized and efficient.

The first step to request training is to submit a completed Request for Training to IFSI. For information about upcoming classes in your region log on to www.fsi.illinois.edu or contact Tom Richter, Wildland/Prescribed Fire Program Manager at trichter@fsi.illinois.edu for more information on what's available to meet your wildland training needs. As always, adhere to standard fire order number 10: "Stay calm, think clearly, act decisively."

*Tom Richter
Wildland Fire
Fighting
Program*

***The Request
for Training
forms are
found on the
IFSI web site
under the
Cornerstone
Program.***

Let's take the "wild" out wildfire.

Trench Rescue



The Trench Rescue Program has added the RescueVac to its list of tools. The RescueVac can transport soil, water, mud, sand and collapse material away from the trench rescue site.

*Heather Moore
Trench Rescue
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports

Joe Gasparich
National
Incident
Management
System (NIMS)
Program
Director

Homeland Security

Position-Specific Training – Helping to Emphasize the Team Concept

The Illinois Fire Service Institute, in cooperation with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, is scheduling position-specific training courses in Illinois. These classes are designed to improve individual skills in the eight Command and General Staff positions. The ideal candidate for these classes has completed the ICS series through ICS 300 or Command and General Staff and is working or wishes to work as a part of a local incident management team.

The position specific training enhances the student's ability to work within the incident action plan development process, as well as helping the student to perform the duties of the individual position better.

Many ICS 300 and Command and General Staff graduates have expressed frustration at knowing only "part of the job" and they have commented about how much more there is to learn in the individual ICS positions. The training classes and the ability to work in the team structure help to enhance the skills that

the individual needs to understand their roles and the roles of the other ICS positions.

The classes are being taught in various locations throughout Illinois. To help the IFSI staff in teaching the courses, instructors who have helped teach the All Hazards Incident Management Team classes have been brought in as mentors. Many IFSI instructors have journeyed to Emmitsburg, Maryland, College Station, Texas, and other parts of the United States to attend the Train-the-Trainer classes to be able to help bring this training to Illinois.

To illustrate how the training enhances the individual's ability to do their jobs - in a recent Planning Section Chief Class, students learned as much about what a Situation and Resource Unit Leader does as they did about the Planning Section Chief. In the same class emphasis was placed on the interaction of the Planning Section Chief with the Incident Commander, Logistics Section Chief and the Safety Officer. The class helped the individuals to realize that the Planning Section Chief was part of the ICS "Team."

To locate the position specific training classes that are being offered, visit the IFSI website and go to the Search and Register tab. The key words *position specific* will get the list for you.

Agricultural Rescue

Dave Newcomb
Ag Rescue
Program
Manager

Spring is on the horizon, which means that class requests are coming in and calendars are filling up. A lot has happened over the winter. We have traveled the state formally recognizing those organizations supporting our programs. You can see them on the IFSI Facebook.

In January, I spoke at the Farm Bureau Young Leaders conference in Springfield. I did a program with young children about fire safety: stop drop and roll, along with crawl low in smoke. I talked with a group of young adults about the hazards that are always waiting for them on the farm. We talked about complacency and how being in a hurry can have devastating effects on them and their families.

A new ag-focused organization has been formed in Illinois. The Grain Handling Safety Coalition was formed after the deaths of three people last summer in grain bins. IFSI and a host of other organizations at the local and state level are involved. We have produced some public service messages that will be aired in the near future.

In November, IFSI assisted with a video about grain bin safety for the National Corn Growers. Hopefully that will be out soon.

Once again Brothers and Sisters, spring is coming and planting season will be upon us.

Remember safety always!!

Vehicle/Machinery

By the end of 2011, the fire service will once again meet new challenges in vehicle extrication and fire fighting. Why? Three new electric cars will be introduced – the Chevy Leaf, Mitsubishi Miev and the Nissan Leaf.

Extrication challenges will be similar to those encountered with hybrid vehicles, where you need to:

1. Identify and recognize which vehicles are powered by electricity.
2. Determine whether the vehicle is on and what gear it is in. This is accomplished by looking at the dash board. If it is lit up, the vehicle is on. REMEMBER the car does not make the same sound as a gas or diesel driven engine. Check to see if the vehicle is in park. If not, put it in park and shut off the engine to protect the emergency responders.
3. As with hybrid vehicles, do not touch or cut any orange wiring – this indicates the high voltage system.

The vehicle fire challenge will be with the Lithium-ion battery packs. These are sealed containers to which you have no access. In the event of a fire in the battery container, it is recommended that you keep the battery pack container cool with a water stream until the batteries cool down and the danger no longer exists. In the event the car is in an enclosed structure such as a garage, have a second line readily available to protect the exposure.

Thanks to State Farm Insurance, who continues to partner with IFSI, and to IFSI Field Instructor Duane Bales and the automobile industry who all help us keep this information in front of our students. If you want more information on this new technology, please get in touch with your respective IFSI Field Representative to schedule a four-hour New Car Construction and Technology Course.

More and more electric cars will be hitting the streets this year. In 2011, there will be 13,000 applications in the U.S. to install charging stations at Cracker Barrel restaurants, Wal-Mart stores and rest areas. IFSI is responding by including an electric vehicle component in the Vehicle/Machinery Operations curriculum.

Joe Drennan
Vehicle/
Machinery
Rescue
Program

How to Print a Certificate

The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) initiated a new process regarding certificates effective July 1, 2009. We are now issuing a certificate for any training taken through IFSI, regardless of the number of hours of the training. This certificate will not be mailed through the U.S. Postal System, however it is available on the Student Resource Center (see page 24 on how to access the Student Resource Center).

The certificates will include any EMS hours and site code, if applicable. There will no longer be a separate certificate just for this.

These certificates will remain on your course history and can be printed by you at any time that you need.

Process to access a certificate:

- Log into the Student/Staff Resource Center on the IFSI website www.fsi.illinois.edu.
- Choose My Account tab.
- Click on Course History under Tools.
- Your Unofficial History will now be displayed. Scroll to the far right of the screen and under Status will say Certificate.
- Click on the word Certificate and the document will open and is now available for printing.

PLEASE NOTE! It may take up to six weeks for a class to be processed and your certificate link to become available.

Pro-Board certificates are obtained outside of IFSI's system. Contact Terri Hopper at hopper@fsi.illinois.edu for the application.

Learning at a Distance

Greetings. Recently I learned that since the last newsletter numerous questions about the online courses have been asked. I hope I can answer those questions here.

First, IFSI offers nine online courses. They are listed below, plus you can find specific information about each class in the Virtual Campus on the IFSI website. <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/virtual%20campus/courses/>

IFSI has three delivery methods for the online courses. First, we have totally self-directed or independent study courses. Two examples are Ethanol Awareness and Enhanced Grant Writing for FEMA Grants. With these courses, upon electronic registration, you receive an email providing directions on how to log in and take the course. You are provided all instructional materials to work through modules and complete an electronic exam. After passing the exam you can print your certificate.

The next type of course is a blended hybrid course. For these courses students complete weekly learning modules. Students must then complete a practical component for these courses, which can be completed at your own fire department. Certified Firefighter II and the Fire Service Vehicle Operator courses are examples of blended hybrid courses. During the online portion, students complete the following: reading assignments, written homework, online media presentations, audio lectures, and participation in live scheduled weekly keyboard chat sessions. Students will also complete one of two weekly online quizzes, and at the end of each module take the State Certification Exam.

Finally, IFSI offers a totally blended course. For these courses, students attend

the online class and then must travel to IFSI for a weekend practical session. The online classroom components are the same as the blended hybrid courses. Currently, Fire Apparatus Engineer is the only totally blended course. Hazardous Materials Operations will be a blended course and is scheduled for delivery in the fall of 2011.

Some other questions you might have.

Q: Are their prerequisites for these courses?

A: In some cases, yes. You can select each course at this link and find specific course prerequisites. <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/firefighting/>

Q: How much do courses cost?

A: Many courses are free. Fees can be found by using the search and register link provided. Simply enter the name of your course and search. The description provides the course fee. <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/schedule/index.cfm>

Q: Who can sign off on the practicals at my fire department?

A: Practical's must be proctored in accordance with Office of the State Fire Marshal regulations. To find who is eligible to proctor practical's follow this link. <http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/fireservice/certification/types.aspx>

I sure hope this has cleared up some of your questions about the online courses. IFSI is working to provide quality training that is accessible to firefighters throughout the state. Learning at a Distance is a great way to obtain your training. It is also very economical.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions about our courses.

Take care,
Rich Valenta
rvalenta@fsi.illinois.edu
847-226-6106

Online Courses

- Certified Firefighter II
- Technical Rescue Awareness
- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Origin and Cause Awareness
- Ethanol Awareness
- Enhanced Grant Writing for FEMA AFG Grants
- Fire Service Vehicle Operator (Classroom portions only)
- Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Emergency Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts

Research Update

In the spring of 2011, the Illinois Fire Service Institute Research Program will begin a new study sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security through the Fire Prevention & Safety Grants. As part of this research project, we will study the effects of taking a “baby aspirin” on risk for cardiovascular events after fire fighting. We know that heart attacks are the number one cause of line-of-duty deaths in the Fire Service and firefighters are at an up to 100x higher risk immediately post-fire fighting. Based on some of the research we have conducted in the past, there is evidence that low dose aspirin may help us reduce that risk, but it has never been studied in firefighters. To fill that void, this spring, we are going to test whether taking aspirin immediately before fire fighting can help reduce the negative changes in the cardiovascular system after fire fighting. This fall we are going to look at the effect of long-term use of aspirin, which will involve firefighters taking an aspirin for 14 days prior to fire fighting activities.

At this time, we are still looking for a few firefighters to participate in the study. For this particular effort, we are recruiting male

firefighters in the age range of 40-60 (that includes those who are 40 and 60). There are a few medications that will hide the effects of aspirin, so we cannot recruit firefighters who are taking cholesterol lowering medication (statins) and allergy medication, as well as a few others. We would also require participants to refrain from taking aspirin, Advil, Tylenol, etc. for 14 days prior to the study and we would need to have an NFPA 1582 based physical within the past year (we would be happy to provide one free of charge at Carle Occupational Medicine in Champaign). The fire fighting activities will be done in IFSI’s burn tower and will take about 20 minutes. We will collect various measurements of the cardiovascular system before and after the activity (it should take about an hour each time). For anyone who may be interested, please get in touch with the Research Program either by e-mail (ghorn@fsi.illinois.edu) or phone 217-265-6563.

*Gavin Horn
Research
Program
Manager*

Change and Growth

One thing that I often have trouble adjusting to and even find myself resisting is... change. I don’t suppose that’s a surprise to most of you since I think everyone experiences the pains that can accompany change in our lives. It seems, however, that as I get older change becomes even more difficult, especially in our very fast paced, technological society. The pace of new information and updated material seems to increase year after year and the methods of its dissemination can become a bit overwhelming.

My purpose in writing an article about change is to encourage you (and me) to embrace positive change in such a way as to improve our professional abilities. Certainly not all change is positive, but learning how to sort through new information and decide what to keep and what to reject is part of the reason that change can be stressful. In the professional world of fire prevention and fire investigation new ideas, theories and material are being produced at a record pace. Some of this material becomes a “requirement” for professionals while some must be carefully considered. Scientific research and professional publications produced by international

associations are usually quality materials that can be used to improve our abilities to complete our work. Two such items include the 2011 edition of the National Fire Protection Association’s “Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations” and the International Association of Arson Investigators endorsed “Fire Investigator – Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and 1033,” third edition. These documents present some tried and true concepts and some ideas that may generate stress as you attempt to understand and apply them.

Part of our challenge as professional fire prevention officers and fire investigators is to learn, interpret and apply information in order to best accomplish our work. Don’t ever stop learning and challenging yourself. Take advantage of networks of professionals such as the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, the International Association of Arson Investigators and the Illinois Chapter of the IAAI that provide training, education and communications for prevention and investigation work related fields. Learning to understand and manage change is a first good step to growing and becoming the skilled professional we all desire to be.

*Eddie Bain
Fire Investigation
Fire Prevention
Program Director
and Winter
Fire School
Director*

Library Updates & Highlights

2011 Annual inFIRE Conference

Dr. Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

The 2011 Annual inFIRE Conference will be organized by Dr. Lian Ruan working with the inFIRE Committee and held at IFSI's LRRC from May 9 to 12. The conference theme is *Issues and Challenges in the Digital Age of Fire Information*. Participants will come from the U.S., Canada, China (including Hong Kong), and Sweden. inFIRE (the international network for Fire Information and Reference

Exchange) is a worldwide consortium of fire libraries and information centers. The 2011 conference audience will include information managers, professional librarians, and other fire specialists and experts. This is the second time that IFSI has hosted the conference. Ten years ago, the inFIRE Conference was co-organized by Head Librarian Ruan, and held at IFSI and RJA Group in Chicago.

Take Advantage of the IFSI Library Resources

Diane Richardson
Reference and
Training
Librarian

The IFSI Library is now located in its beautiful new facility, still at 11 Gerty Drive, Champaign, in building 1261. The phone number (217-333-8925) and email address (fsi@library.illinois.edu) remain the same. IFSI Library materials are available to all Illinois emergency response personnel and other fire/emergency-related users.

Accessing IFSI Library Materials

The IFSI Library houses more than 18,000 items, including books, periodicals, training manuals, codes and standards, DVDs, CDs, e-resources, audiobooks, and other fire emergency resources. Users can request materials in-person, via telephone or email, or through the Online Public Access Catalog.

Searching the Library's Collection

Browse by popular subject using the **Virtual Bookshelf**, which is linked from the IFSI Library's homepage or accessed at <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/bookshelf.cfm>.

- Click on a hyperlinked subject term to retrieve a list of IFSI Library materials on that subject.

Search for a specific title, author, subject or format using the IFSI Library's Online Public Access Catalog at <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/search/>.

- Search for materials by **Title, Subject** or **Author**. You may limit your search to one or more formats (i.e. Book, Article, DVD, etc.).

- Search for a specific **Subject** by accessing the **FireTalk** thesaurus to find recommended search terms. Copy the recommended term(s) you find in **FireTalk** into the **Subjects** field.

- Search the **Any Keyword** field when you have incomplete title or author information or when you do not know the recommended subject search terms. The **Any Keyword** field searches for words anywhere in the catalog record.

- To narrow your search parameters, combine search terms from among multiple fields. For example, a **Subjects** search for "rapid intervention teams" can be narrowed by typing "training" into the **Any Keyword** field.

Requesting Library Materials

Request items by contacting the library directly or from your retrieved list of search results.

- From your list of results, click on the title of an item to retrieve a **Record Details** window containing additional information about that item, such as subject, format, publication year, and availability for interlibrary loan.

- Click on the **book icon** next to an item to add that item to your **Request Bin**, which is accessible in the upper left hand corner of the webpage.

- Click on the **Checkout** button in the **Request Bin** to request that item.

Lending and Interlibrary Loan

The standard loan period is 30 days; however, the Library will consider extended loans upon request. Requested materials can be picked up in person at IFSI. A photo ID is required to establish a lending account at the IFSI Library. Lending is limited to Illinois residents.

IFSI Library materials can also be delivered to a patron's Illinois local library through interlibrary loan service. A public library card is required. Public library cards can be obtained without charge to residents of the local library's municipal limits. A photo ID and proof of residency (usually one or two pieces of mail addressed to the applicant at his/her residence) may be required to obtain a card. Please allow two weeks for interlibrary loan delivery to your public library.

IFSI China Program

Lian Ruan visited China with Dean John Unsworth, Graduate School of Library and Information Science last October. They visited five universities. At Wuhan University, they attended and presented respectively at the *Third Sino-U.S. Symposium on Library and Information Science Education in the Digital Age*. Ruan also visited library directors and organizers of IFSI-China training programs in Nanjing and Beijing.

Ruan visited China with Director Jaehne and Dr. Gavin Horn in December. They attended the Fire Conference in Guangzhou at Sun Yat-sen University.

Ruan also visited libraries at Sun Yat-sen University, Jinan University, Guangzhou University, Shenzhen City University in Shenzhen, East China Normal University in Shanghai, Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, Chongqing University in Chongqing, Harbin Normal University in Harbin, Beihang University and Beijing Jiaotong University.

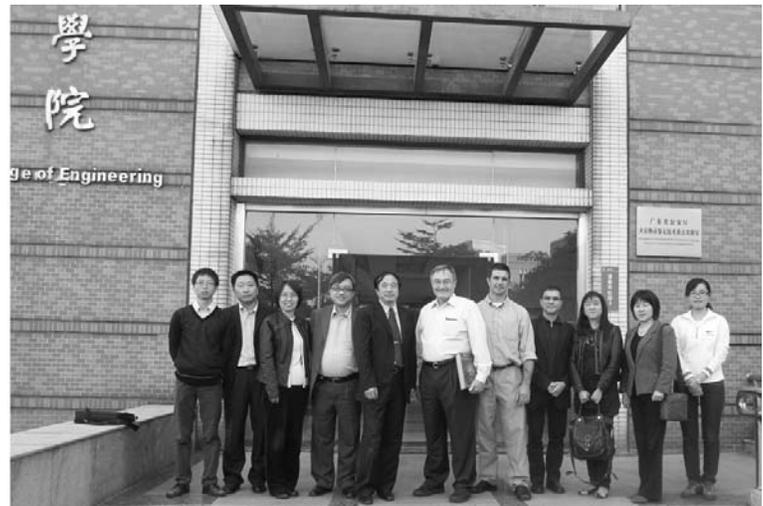


*Dr. Lian Ruan
China Program
Director*

Director Jaehne also made a speech on "Comprehensive Emergency Management System in USA" at Jinan University in December, translated by Ruan and accompanied by Professor LU Wengang.



Director Jaehne made a speech "Providing Critical Life Safety Response Time" at the Fire Conference in Guangzhou.



Professor LIANG Dong provided a guided-tour of his fire investigation laboratory at College of Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University.



Dr. Gavin Horn delivered his presentation "Engineering Solutions to Reduce Firefighter Injuries and Fatalities" at the Fire Conference in Guangzhou.

The 87th Annual Fire College is the best value of hands-on training in the Midwest. See page 27 for details or visit the IFSI web site.

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Building Corporate Relations

The mission of the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute is “to help firefighters do their work through training, education, information and research.”

The financial cash support and “gifts in kind,” like that provided by the companies listed below, makes it possible for IFSI to train more firefighters and to assure that they have access to the most up-to-date facilities, props and materials. This also includes our new building, the Illinois Fire Service Institute Learning Resource and Research Center which houses 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 push the **Donate** button and choose the program you would like to support at IFSI. 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 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 part of the University of Illinois Foundation, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that will provide full support documentation for all donations.

If you would like to learn more about how to support IFSI training, research and education programs through donation to IFSI, please contact Dennis D. Spice, Director of Corporate Relations at 217-898-6507 or by email at: dspice@fsi.illinois.edu.

*Dennis Spice
Director of
Corporate
Relations*

In addition to the companies shown in the photos on the next pages, we would like to thank the companies listed below for their support of our mission.

AEC and Holmatro+
AirOne and MSA Fire
Akron Brass
AMKUS, Inc.+
Brock Grain Systems+
Caterpillar+
Coreslab Structures+
Decatur Memorial Hospital+
EMC and Genesis Rescue Systems+
Global Emergency Products and Pierce+
Illinois Propane Education and Research Council+
Paratech+
RescueVac
University of Illinois Employees Credit Union+
Wal-Mart Stores
W S Darley

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

IFSI honors its 2010 supporters.



Ajax Tool Works. Left to right: Jim Streu, IFSI Chicago Metro representative, Bob Benedict, President/CEO, Ajax Tool Works, Joe Drennan, IFSI Program Manager for Vehicle/Machinery Rescue, Bill Benedict, Sales and Product Manager at Ajax.



Air One-MSA North America. Left to right: Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration, David Frey, Vice President of Air One Equipment, Inc., Sandra Frey, President, Air One, Mr. John Ricciardi, Strategic Sales Manager MSA North America.



W.S. Darley & Co. Left to right: Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration, Mr. Jim Darley, Sales Manager of the Pump Division, W. S. Darley & Co.



Bongo Towing and Recovery Left to right: Joe Drennan, IFSI Program Manager for Vehicle/Machinery Rescue, Brian Anderson, Owner/Operator of Bongo and Jim Streu, IFSI Chicago Metro representative.



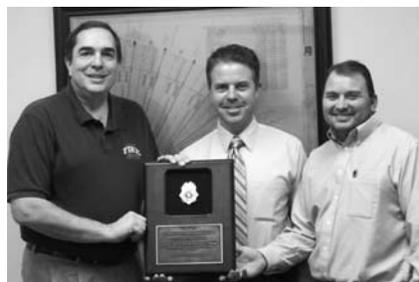
Alexis Fire Equipment. Left to right: Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration for IFSI; Dan Reese, General Manager for Alexis and Joel Schreiber, Alexis' Merchandise Operation Manager.



Illini Contractors Supply, Inc. Left: Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration for IFSI, and Illini Contractors Supply President Dave York (right).



Illinois Propane Education Research Council (IPERC). Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration (left), Rhonda Turner, Executive Vice President of IPERC (right).



Coreslab Structures of Indianapolis. Left to right: Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration, Matt Ballain, VP/General Manager; Tim Meckes, Plant Manager.



Flex-N-Gate. Left to right: IFSI's Harry Clore. Gary Hinton, Human Resources Manager for Flex-N-Gate, and Chris Evangelisti, Corporate Directory Security/Internal Audit for Flex-N-Gate.



AEC Fire & Safety. Left: John Archer, President of AEC Fire & Safety, Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration (right) with the AEC sales team in Springfield, Illinois.



Custom Service Crane of Mahomet Left: Chris Downey, IFSI's HazMat Program Manager and Randy Huffman (right), owner.



Global Emergency Products. Left: Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration and Mike Mikoola, President and CEO of Global Emergency Products and distributor of Pierce equipment.



GROWMARK, Inc. Left to right: Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration for IFSI, Doug Defilippo, Safety Services Manager, and David Newcomb, Ag Program Manager for IFSI.



Streamlight. Left: Geoff Evans, Midwest Territory Sales Manager and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations (right).



Illinois Farm Bureau. Harry Clore with IFSI (left), Peggy Romba (center), representing Illinois Farm Bureau, and Dave Newcomb, IFSI's Ag Program Manager.



Paratech, Inc. Left to right: Harry Clore, IFSI Director of Finance and Administration, Ken Nielsen, Chief Operating Officer, and Hans Normolle, Chief Sales Officer.



Pekin Insurance. Left to right: Scott Martin, President of Pekin Insurance; Dennis Spice, IFSI; Mark Swanson, Agency Manager for Diamond Bros Insurance Agency in Champaign and Todd Clark, Senior Vice President of Pekin Insurance.



CU-Mass Transit District. Mark Berg, IFSI (second from the left) and Dave Moore (far right). Moore is Director of Maintenance for CUMTD and is joined by other members of his maintenance crew.



Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA). Left to right: Harry Clore of IFSI, Jean Payne, President of IFCA, Terry Habrock, IFCA's chairman and David Newcomb, Ag Program Manager for IFSI.



Paratech, Inc. representatives were on hand to help dedicate the new Learning Resource and Research Center on January 28. Shown left to right cutting the ribbon for the Paratech-sponsored Executive Conference Room are James Kolaczowski, Midwest Regional Sales Manager, IFSI Director Richard Jaehne, George Roxton, Chief Engineer and Kenneth Nielsen, Chief Operating Officer.



UI Employees Credit Union participated in the LRRRC dedication on January 28. Pictured left to right for the ribbon cutting for the University of Illinois Employees Credit Union Body Composition Lab are Dr. Gavin Horn, IFSI's Director of Research, E.J. Donaghey, President and CEO of the Credit Union and IFSI Director Richard Jaehne.

Make the Most of the IFSI Website and the Student Resource Center: Website Primer

First-time login is for anyone who has previously registered to take a course at IFSI.

- Your driver's license number is your login and password.
- A password change form will open.
- Complete this fully (password requirements: upper case, lower case, at least one number, and the password must be between 6 – 12 characters).

Registering for access is for anyone who has never previously registered for an IFSI course OR the IFSI website.

- Click on the word Register found in the Student/Staff Login box.
- Click on Register for Access to Resource Center.
- Complete this form fully.
- Upon completion of this information, you will receive an email.
- You will then log in using the first-time log in steps above.

All other logins.

- Enter your driver's license number.
- Select your issuing state.
- Enter your password.
- Click the login button to proceed into the Resource Center.
- At any point if you press Reset you will clear the data entered on the form.

Student password reset.

- Click the "Reset Password" text on the login page to go to the password reset page.
- On this page it will ask you for your driver's license number, the state you are licensed in and your date of birth. Input your driver's license number without any dashes or spaces, the state you are licensed in, and your date of birth in the format shown on the web page.
- Click submit to proceed.
- This will take you to a screen where you can enter a new password. Password requirements: upper case, lower case, at least one number, and the password must be between 6 – 12 characters).
- You will enter the new password on the first line.
- Confirm the new password on the second line.
- At this point if you have entered a valid password the "SUBMIT" button will become clickable.
- Click submit.
- If the submit button does not become available to click, make sure your new password meets all the requirements. (upper case, lower case, at least one number, and the password must be between 6 – 12 characters).
- This will take you to a page that says "Password updated successfully."
- Under that you will see there is a link to return to the IFSI login page. Click that link and use your driver's license as the username and your new updated password to log in.



***Be sure to look for us on Facebook
under Illinois Fire Service Institute***

New Illinois Firefighter Memorial Hall

The entrance to the IFSI Learning Resource and Research Center serves as a Firefighter Memorial Hall documenting firefighter fatalities and supporting tradition-and values-based education, which is essential for firefighter development. The Firefighter Memorial Hall provides a permanent home for the IFSI Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Honor Book, which memorializes more than 850 Illinois firefighters who have died in the line of duty since 1857. Fallen firefighters are listed on the day that they died, and the pages are turned every day to remember those firefighters. Originally compiled by former IFSI Deputy Director David F. Clark, the book inspired the creation of "IFLODD: The Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Digital Image Collection Database" (<http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/IFLODD/>).

The Firefighter Memorial Hall also features space for permanent and temporary exhibits related to Illinois fire service history. Current exhibits include an assortment of artifacts, photographs, and text that document "Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Death Events," "Historic Illinois Fires and Emergencies," and the "History of the Illinois Fire Service Institute." Displays will be rotated regularly so that key events that have shaped the Illinois fire service are remembered at appropriate times throughout the year. For example, materials describing Chicago's Hubbard Street Fire, in which nine firefighters died in the line of duty on January 28, 1961, were displayed during the dedication of the Learning Resource and Research Center, which occurred on the 50th anniversary of the tragic fire.

Throughout its rich history, the Illinois fire service has responded to fires, disasters, and fatalities with foresight, advocating for improved life safety through new laws, codes, and standards, and leading the development of innovative firefighter training programs. The Firefighter Memorial Hall provides contemporary firefighters with the opportunity to examine this history, to embrace lessons learned from tragedies, to recognize the value of sharing experiences and knowledge through training, and to take inspiration from their predecessors.



Adam Groves
Archivist/
Metadata
Librarian



87th Annual Fire College June 9-12, 2011 Champaign, Illinois

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 11** Registration begins - no early registrations
- April 29** Confirmation emailed to those providing valid email addresses
- May 5** Last day to register without late fee
- May 20** Second confirmation mailed
- May 27** Last day to cancel without penalty
- June 3** Last day to advance register
- June 3** Final email confirmation sent

New in 2011

- Fire College is one week later than usual.
- Check-in and registration take place in new LRRC on IFSI campus at 11 Gerty Drive, Champaign.
- All classes (except two) take place at IFSI's training grounds at 11 Gerty Drive, Champaign.
- Parking will be in three lots near IFSI's training grounds. See map below.
- Thursday evening's Welcome Ceremony is the only activity happening at the Hilton Garden Inn (former site of registration).
- Welcome Ceremony once again features a grand prize of a new helmet (\$400 value), plus many other raffle prizes.



- ◆ 21 classes to choose from:
 - Fire fighting
 - Officer
 - NFA
 - Prevention and education
 - Rescue
 - Farm and foam
 - CISM
- ◆ Register online for the best chance to get the classes you want

www.fsi.illinois.edu

Click on Fire College under Courses



Explorer-Cadet Fire School June 23-26, 2011 Champaign, Illinois

The Explorer-Cadet “Hands On Training” Fire School will be held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute’s facilities in Champaign, Illinois.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
NO WALK-INS ALLOWED.
Fee to attend: Youth \$350
Adult supervisors \$275**

Registration includes:

- Essential or Core Skills training, live burns, Basic Truck Company Operations, Coordinated Fireground Operations
- On-campus, dormitory style housing, double occupancy, with breakfast, lunch and dinner. Meals in the dormitory begin Thursday evening (Unless prearranged).

Note: Reservations for campus housing and meals must be made before June 13, 2011 and is accomplished with the registration form. Groups may stay off campus at their own expense for housing and meals; however, attendance fee is the same. Lunch will be provided on the IFSI site Friday, Saturday and Sunday regardless.

- Access to Aquatic Center (evening) for swimming, basketball, volleyball and a four story climbing wall.
- Bring shirts, patches and pins for trading.

**No refunds after May 20, 2011, plus
fee increases to \$400**

Group equipment trailers or vehicles may be left on the grounds at the Fire Service Institute.

**ABSOLUTELY NO REGISTRATIONS WILL
BE ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 13, 2011**

As a participant in the Explorer-Cadet “Hands On Training” Fire School, you will have the opportunity to work in live-fire evolutions involving:

- Fire service hose work
- Ladder work of all kinds
- Breathing apparatus
- Fire streams and water supply
- Ventilation and forcible entry
- Firefighter search and rescue
- Ropes and knots
- Rapid Intervention Team
- Structural fire fighting under controlled fire conditions in IFSI’s facilities

Rotations through controlled live burn and smoke evolutions constitute four days of intense training in a tough environment.

**Enrollment is limited to 400 students and
adult supervisors participating in drills.**

ALL first time participants in the school will be assigned to Core Competency or Essentials class for the first 12 hours.

Drill & class requirements

Each student and participating adult must supply their own fitted Turn Out gear, ear plugs and safety glasses or goggles AND self contained breathing apparatus with mask. Cylinders must be within hydrostatic test date.

Additional clothing for multiple drills in a very dirty environment and knee-pads for staying low on a hard, rough floor are a MUST. Shorts will not be permitted for any of the on-site drills.

**Accepted age for Explorers, Cadets and
Junior Firefighters is 15 - 21.**

Complete details, additional requirements, and registration form can be found at

www.fsi.illinois.edu

Click on Explorer-Cadet Fire School under Courses



Illinois Fire Service Institute
11 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Fire College
June 9-12
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Explorer/Cadet
Hands-On Fire School
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