



IFSI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

From the Director's Desk

The fall 2016 training season promises to be one of our best! We have a full schedule of firefighting, hazmat, technical rescue, and NIMS/ICS courses. The fall Basic Academy is full and promises to a great experience for the new firefighters. Our training venues continue to expand to meet the needs of the Illinois fire service. We continue to deliver a full load at our Champaign campus while expanding to include deliveries at NIPSTA, Orland Park Training Facility, Local 150 (Frankfort) and soon we will deliver courses/classes at the new Elgin Community College Fire Training Facility. Additionally, the Cornerstone Program continues to grow and deliver classes to firefighters in every county. The 92nd Annual Fire College and the Explorers weekend went extremely well with new and improved offerings and we are looking forward to another great Winter Fire School in January 2017. Finally, I am happy to report that IFSI has, for the second year in a row, received an AFG Program grant of nearly \$500,000. We will continue to purchase essential firefighting gear/equipment (to include PPE for instructors) that will support our training programs. We will also purchase a mobile driving training simulator so we can provide driver training to departments across Illinois.

Our technical rescue and hazmat programs continue to grow and improve with major prop improvements and expanded training for industrial brigade/technical rescue. The development of the IFSI railroad incident training program is on schedule and will be ready for pilot deliveries early in 2017. This training program, built with input and support of the major railroads in Illinois, will benefit public first responders, as well as industrial response teams.

The LDDM Program executed its first full pilot course in March 2016 and it was an amazing success. The second pilot is full and will be delivered in October. The LDDM team led by Program Director Chief Jimmi Moore is continuing to grow the LDDM instructor capability and refine the curriculum. During 2017 the LDDM program will conduct a minimum of three deliveries, one of which will be a consecutive weekend delivery targeting volunteers.

Our Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician (RIT) Program continues to be in high demand by fire departments from Chicago FD to Metropolis FD. This program is also receiving nation attention with many requests coming from firefighters from outside Illinois. Additionally, Firehouse magazine has asked IFSI to develop and conduct an abbreviated RIT class at their Firehouse Expo in Nashville, Tenn. October 18-22, 2016.

The IFSI-Chicago Fire Department (CFD) partnership is better than ever. The IFSI-CFD relationship is a model for all states with a major UASI. Our IFSI Chicago area team works closely with CFD and the surrounding Cook/collar counties to ensure their training needs are being met efficiently and with a quality product they/we can be proud of.

The IFSI Research Program is more active than ever with a number of ongoing life safety research projects and national partners. Please continue to follow the IFSI research team's important and amazing work through our website or you can follow the research activities on the IFSI Research's Facebook page and Twitter feed at @IFSIRESEARCH.

Our international programs continue to grow with China to include: library and information exchanges, research collaborations, and training. This November/December a team of IFSI instructors will deliver HazMat Operations in China for the third time in the last 12 months. Additionally, Hong Kong Fire Department continues to send students to IFSI for the full hazmat training series as well as Instructor I/II/III.

I want to thank all our IFSI instructors and staff. Their efforts are what make IFSI unique and the best!

Thank you and be smart out there.



Royal P. Mortenson
Director

Director
Royal P. Mortenson

Deputy Director
Jim Keiken

Associate Director
John McCastland

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Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs
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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@illinois.edu. Please include appropriate graphics or digital photos.

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The most up-to-date schedule of classes can be found online at:

www.fsi.illinois.edu

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

OR

A copy is available on our website under ABOUT IFSI/Documents.

Welcome to the fall burn season and the start of FY17. It has been a very busy year at IFSI, and that trend is not changing. Over the past year, we have kicked off a number of new classes: Traffic Incident Management Operations, Basic Fire Officer and Advanced Technician Fire Officer, Search Techniques for the Fireground, Incident Safety Officer, and Fire Instructor III. The new programs keep rolling out.

Since last year we added two new live-fire structures at IFSI. The six-bedroom ranch is on-line for live-fire NFPA 1403 training. Chief Burke and his team are updating and developing a new and improved Acquired Structure Burn team program that will utilize the ranch as part of an on-site Acquired Burn Structure training program. Dr. Horn contributed a new singular family ranch to the mix this summer as part of his continuing research on "Cardiovascular & Chemical Exposures in Modern Firefighting" with a "can" prop which we are changing to a gas live-fire prop bringing the total to eight live-fire structures at IFSI.

FY 17 also discontinued 3/4 boots at the Institute. All staff are now in full bunker gear for fire training. This change was made possible by IFSI receiving an AFG grant in 2015 to fund the purchase of 70 sets of Globe Fire gear, and in line with Gavin's research, we added nearly 100 hoods for staff to exchange after every class for a clean hood to reduce exposure to by-products of combustion. In the same grant, we also replaced hundreds of feet of fire hose and replaced 20 ground ladders. We added 15 Scott X3 SCBA's, and 10 MSA G1's to the cache of equipment. FY 2016 AFG allowed us to add 70 additional sets of bunker gear as well as a dual station fire apparatus driving simulator. This simulator will be utilized in late FY 17 in a series of new apparatus driving programs. When complete, IFSI will offer three tracks of simulator training: one for the new driver, one for the experienced driver and a remedial program for drivers that need training in specific areas. These simulators

"The Institute" news around & about

will be mobile and travel the state to allow the programs to be delivered anywhere in the state. TecGen also donated more than 40 sets of rescue gear to IFSI for SOTP, Ag rescue and Vehicle Machinery rescue staff.

Some program leadership changes have also occurred. Chief Ron Rains is the new Southern Regional Representative, Chief Mike Forrest is the interim Vehicle and Machinery Rescue Program Manager and Leon Duncan has taken over as the interim NIMS Program Manager. We are looking forward to the exciting changes in all three areas as they get up to speed and begin to shape each area/programs future.

FY 2016's Fire Prevention & Safety Grant was awarded to Dr. Horn's research team to study the post-exposure decontamination and cleaning effectiveness, and it impacts on PPE. All of the programs are part of IFSI commitment to firefighter life safety and health research directly impacting the health and wellness of firefighters across the world.

What does all this change and activity mean? It means IFSI continues to evolve and grow as a national leader in "Helping Firefighters through Training, Education, Research, and Information". IFSI continues to reinvent and expand our commitment to firefighters and their needs for new programs and a better understanding of the environment we are exposed to in structural firefighting – with the goal of being the best live-fire training organization in the country. This commitment to firefighters is to assure that when the alarm sounds they are able to do their job in not only the safest manner possible, but to also support them returning after every call. It also gives them the information and knowledge to make smart choices throughout their career to allow them to retire healthy after their service to community ends.



*Jim Keiken
Deputy
Director*

Table Talk



*Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director*

Well folks here we go again “man vs. machine” – AKA time to write an article for the newsletter. Over the past several years I had several “balls in the air” that I was juggling, but that is no longer the situation. I now compare myself to my ‘56 Chevy – it’s getting older, starting to push a little oil, needs some body parts replaced, but still good around town, just not ready for cross country. So I had a conversation with the Director and we agreed that my main focus will be in the CMR (Chicago Metro Region) continuing my relationship-building with the Chicago Fire Department and the area Regional Training Centers (RTCs), as well as area Regional Host Sites (RHSs). In the CMR, we have two RTCs (NIPSTA and Frankfort). Both are identified as Regional Training Centers by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. The Regional Host Sites that are identified by IFSI to deliver IFSI offerings are Orland Park FPD Training Center, Local 150 Apprentice Training facility, and we are just starting a dialogue with Elgin Community College at their new facility.

Within the Chicago Fire Department, IFSI has been a direct part of company-level training for fire suppression and rescue training, as well as Special Operations Team training – working closely with both the Director of Training and the Chief of Special Operations for the last 16 years.

The Frankfort RTC was one of the original 10 sites identified by ITTF, and over the past 10 years IFSI has offered numerous classes at Frankfort. They have an indoor facility that allows delivery of classes indoors when the “HAWK” is alive and well in the CMR.

NIPSTA RTC and IFSI have worked together also for the past 10 years and recent changes in administration at NIPSTA have done much to enhance that relationship, as we get back on track to enhance training opportunities to help ensure that first responders receive consistent objective-driven training.

Orland RHS was identified recently as a place that is capable of delivering all the SOTP, officer and many fire offerings. A full plate of classes are scheduled for Orland. Another positive development at Orland is the added partnership with Cook County Homeland Security which sees the Orland facility as a means to better serve the first responders from the south portions of the county.

Local 150 RHS has been working with IFSI for the past several years. Their indoor apprentice training facility in Wilmington offers the opportunity to deliver our Trench classes all year around. The big advantage here is that the first responders get to work with the equipment operators who they will be required to interact with at an actual incident.

Elgin CC RHS is just coming out of the box as a future IFSI site to deliver our classes. We have folks who are currently doing site visits and developing a game plan for utilization.

On the industrial side, IFSI presently works with NiCor gas to provide instructional services at the NiCor annual fire school held at their facility in Troy Grove. There are two separate offerings each year – one for NiCor employees and one for area firefighters. These are great opportunities for hands-on, get-dirty training on live-fire evolutions. Another industrial customer is Exxon Mobile, with whom we hold several programs to help the facility’s Fire Brigade and Rescue Team both develop and maintain critical operational skills.

Well it’s time to strike it out. The one finger that I use on this machine is saying “enough”. So until next time remember “you can’t stay ‘safe’, but you can stay ‘smart’”.



IFSI delivers training at the Orland Park FPD Training Center in Orland Park, Ill. Look on the IFSI web site for training opportunities near you. www.fsi.illinois.edu

Certification and Accredited Certification

One of the common questions I answer for persons taking end-of-course exams through IFSI is what the difference is between testing (written and psychomotor) delivered through IFSI and an exam that is administered by another agency. All exams provide value to the firefighter in that they offer proof that an individual possessed certain knowledge, skills, and/or abilities at a specific point in time. The difference lies in how different test items (exam questions and skill sheets) are developed, the security practices followed during exam administration, how exams are analyzed after administration, and how the agency ensures that all of a specific level of NFPA certification is addressed. The methods used by IFSI and other agencies both address these different areas, but there are differences in how these criteria are addressed.

Certification examinations have a level of rigor in the development process to ensure that the testing is valid and reliable. Valid means that the test measures what it is stated to measure (a Confined Space Operations exam measures knowledge for that subject), and reliable indicates that they measure consistently over time, throughout multiple administrations. In other words, a reliable exam will be measuring the same content in an exam delivered now as it will in six months, and will test equitably throughout the state or other jurisdiction.

Accredited certification examinations build upon the above concept of certification by adding an independent assessment of the testing administration, testing development, and overall testing program administration against a set of objective, external criteria by an agency outside of IFSI. Many of IFSI's end-of-course exams are accredited by The Pro Board Fire Service Professional Qualifications System, and IFSI is seeking additional accreditation through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Both IFSAC and the Pro Board ensure that IFSI's testing practices are valid and reliable for every accredited examination.

The Pro Board (www.theproboard.org) criteria which are used by IFSI to deliver accredited testing include ensuring that an entire standard can be tested with written questions, skills evaluations, or

other acceptable methods. Another criteria ensures that the person completing an evaluation on a student doesn't have a conflict of interest in testing the student, for example a person that taught a skill shouldn't be the evaluator for that skill, and persons should not evaluate members of their own department. This helps to ensure objectivity, and ensures that the student is evaluated on a standard set of criteria without an evaluation bias from the instructor/evaluator.

A parallel to the matter of certification and accredited certification is the EMS testing completed by an EMT student. The student can be tested against state standards and receive a state license, or they can be tested against national standards and become nationally certified. While not a perfect comparison, it's one that many emergency responders are familiar with.

So what's the difference? Single-agency exam means that an individual has met the testing requirements of that one agency. An IFSI exam means that an individual has met the testing requirements of IFSI and one or two more third-party agencies, including The Pro Board, IFSAC, EMS Continuing Education through IDPH, NIMS training requirements, and DHS/Interagency training requirement have evaluated the IFSI testing process and accredited these processes for certifying through their respective agency.

Interested in learning more, or wanting to offer an IFSI exam for your agency? Please contact me to start a discussion.



*Brian R. Brauer,
Ed.D.
Associate
Director*

IFSI is seeking additional accreditation through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).



Check out the video on IFSI's YouTube Channel on how to inspect your facepiece with a smart phone.



IFSI Delivers First Full Leadership Development and Decision Making Program



*James Moore
Leadership
Development
and Decision
Making
Program
Director*

Leadership development does not start the day one is promoted; it starts the minute that one raises their right hand to express their oath to serve others before themselves. The Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) Program is intended to provide a “cradle to grave” leadership development continuum for firefighters, fire officers, and chief officers. If you are and/or desire to be a leader, the LDDM Program is for you.

After three years of program development and limited course piloting, the first full pilot of LDDM was conducted to rave reviews in March of 2016. Since that time LDDM instructors have committed countless hours to the enhancement of all components within the LDDM Program. Some of these enhancements include:

- Step 1 learning, which provides the students with information about each Line of Education prior to the start of class.
- Presentation adjustments based upon instructor and student feedback.
- Increased intensity to Simulated Exercises (SimEx).
- Increased number of decision-making points in the Day 5 Fireground Practical Applications (Prac App).



Fire Officer – Making decisions and giving direction.

Besides the curriculum development, LDDM Instructors are also committed to their own professional development through the LDDM Instructor Development Program. The intensity of the LDDM Program is based upon the ability of the instructors to present each Line of Education through small group discussions that must be facilitated in a way to challenge student's assumptions, decisions and actions in a positive and highly-interactive learning environment.

As the LDDM Program evolves we will develop a weekend delivery series as well as individual delivery of the Lines of Education at remote locations such as fire stations and training centers.

Tentative dates for the 2017 LDDM Program are:

Weekend offerings: February 24-26 and March 10-11.

Weekday series: April 3-7 and October 2-6.

The year 2017 provides an exciting evolutionary step for the Leadership Development and Decision Making Program and we hope that you can join us in your pursuit of excellent leadership.

For more information, visit the Leadership Development and Decision Making Program section of the IFSI website.



Chief Officers utilizing skills learned in the LDDM Program to track companies on the fireground.

Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs

The Fall Academy 2016 will be starting in a few short weeks. A new Academy format provides a greater outreach to individual departments due to our appointment of three people running the Academy that we have labeled Battalion Chiefs. Tom Schubert, Tom Scheu, and J.P. Childers are the three who share the responsibility and oversight of the day-to-day training activities, thus giving the students and their respective superiors a more complete and personal experience. The Fall Academy has a full registration with more than 30 students.

Engine and Truck Operations have been paired together, and we have begun offering these two classes together as one. Tom Schubert heads the Engine class and John Frye runs the Truck group. Students learn their respective skills for the individual class they have enrolled, and then we blend the two classes together and give the students a true “coordinated fire attack” experience. At the IFSI campus, these classes offer three action-packed days in which we do live-fire training in all of our seven burn buildings.

Smoke Divers also had a complete overhaul of its curriculum by Program Manager Toby Jackson. Smoke Divers, like Engine and Truck, will run a couple of times this year. We normally offer each in the spring and fall. All of these classes will likewise be offered at the Orland Park training facility. Please check our website for further details.

The Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician class (most recognize this as RIT class) will once again have a strong showing this year. Gary Cooney and his “seasoned” group of instructors had more than 250 students participate in classes last year, and we are scheduled to offer eight classes this year to include a couple for the Chicago Fire Department.

Fireground Company Officer and Command Officer posted a strong interest again this year. Lew Lake and company held three separate offerings at the IFSI campus. This class offers young aspiring company officers, and Chief Officers the opportunity to improve and hone their respective command skills under strenuous fire conditions. If you are an “acting” or newly-promoted officer, be it company officer or in a command status, this is the class for you.

Our firefighting props continue to expand improve. We added more Truck exercises to the Taxpayer, Single Family, and Green Cans. Our facilities crew cut a railroad can in half and placed a section at the rear of the mine

cans (those props just south of the single family building). This serves the purpose of resembling an addition or rear porch area well involved in fire. The other half was placed on the east end of the mine can, and is now a garage where we can simulate garage fires with communication to the interior. We have also placed a third can next to the east end of the mine can for the purpose of burning normal household materials like furniture and mattresses. This prop is used strictly for fire behavior purposes to show students how regular materials really burn.

The planning of Winter Fire School 2017 is well underway at this time. Tom Schubert will be the Instructor-In-Charge this year. We plan to continue offering more hands-on classes and live-fire activities. The Active Shooter Class (originally at this year’s Fire College) will be offered with Dave Piper and his team from Orland Park. Canadian Pacific with Ed Dankbar will be offering a railroad class, details to follow, but Ed hopes to use our new “Flammable Liquid by Rails” prop for his class. A Search and Rescue class will be in the offering as well as our Forcible Entry class that we have offered in years past. Winter Fire School continues to grow and offers exciting new learning activities; please continue to check the IFSI website for details.

Firefighting Programs has seen a huge increase in our Acquired Structure burn offerings for 2016. We were able to include an Acquired Structure burn at Fire College in Thomasboro. Nearly 120 students took part in the activities there. At this writing, we will have close to 10 acquired structure fires. At each of these structures, we reach 30 to 50 students. By far, this is some of the most valuable fire experience we can offer to firefighters – young and old – experienced and inexperienced. Stay in contact with your Regional Representative for the next offering near you.

Firefighting Programs offered a couple of “Team Building Exercises” this last year. The intent of these exercises is to give people who have no firefighting experience an opportunity to see what it is like to be a firefighter, and relate our philosophies and tactics to their workplace. We have seen a great correlation here with how we communicate and structure our chain-of-command on the fireground, and how the corporate world can use that process to improve their productivity. Illinois Wheel Chair Basketball Team, Axis Capitol, and State Farm Insurance have participated in these exercises.



*Sean Burke
Assistant
Director for
Firefighting
Programs*

continued next page

Firefighter Programs has a couple of new appointees. Tom Scheu has been appointed to be an assistant for the firefighting programs. Tom will be taking over this role formerly held by Tad Schroeder, as Tad will focus his attention solely to overseeing the day-to-day running of the IFSI facilities. Tom's duties will expand to assist with activities off campus as well as on site at IFSI. Chief Mike Forrest of the Savoy Fire Department will be heading our VMO/VMT programs on an interim basis until a permanent choice is made. Mike has more than 30 years with Savoy, and has been a great asset to the IFSI program. Chief Mike will have his hands full this year as we will be doubling the class offerings for VMO/VMT

by hosting classes in Orland Park and for the Chicago Fire Department.

Finally, we need to mention the great work Mark Clapp has accomplished by putting together an Industrial Fire Brigade Course – Advanced Exterior/Interior for our industrial firefighting customers. Mark has done a tremendous job of making sure this class gives essential firefighting training to the industry participants who need to meet OSHA 1910.156 and NFPA 600/ NFPA1081 requirements.

Through knowledge we teach ourselves to be safe and learn to survive.

In Memoriam

by Sean Burke



Once again it is my sad duty to begin a newsletter article by talking about a great retired Battalion Chief who died recently of cancer. On the Chicago Fire Department, John McNamara was the Captain of Tower Ladder 37, served as a Lieutenant on Engine 61 and Engine 54 for many years, and as I mentioned, retired as Chief of the 23rd Battalion. My good friend and retired Lieutenant from T 30, Dave McElroy, said it best "all you had to do was spend one day at the fire house with John and you realized they didn't come any better than him". John was an IFSI instructor and a mentor to many young firefighters. John was a master of his trade when it came to engine company operations. Dave and I met with John last fall as I wanted to start implementing a "deck-gun" evolution into our firefighting classes. (Many throughout the state label this a "Blitz Attack"). John, along with his partner on Engine 61 Lieutenant Pat Durkin, had a tremendous reputation for the successful development of the "Deck Gun" as a tool to stop fire from spreading. Thus as we created this evolution, I wanted the man who had perfected its use guide us on what to teach. If you take an Engine Operations Class or a Fireground Company Officer Class, the "deck gun" evolution in the class was heavily influenced by John McNamara.

Shortly after I was promoted to Battalion Chief, I ran into John at a firefighter gathering. John had a quiet, direct, simple demeanor as he gave you guidance. John said to me "Do you know the hardest part of being a Chief?" I know I responded something about there being tremendous responsibility. "Yeah there is that, but do you know what's hardest?" John immediately replied. "You have to save the men from themselves." Through John's thick glasses he would look you right in the eyes. "There are going to be times the guys are going to do stuff, at fires, at the firehouse, and away from the fire house. They don't see what's coming, they are so caught up in their actions, they don't recognize the true outcome of what they are doing." "Think about that" and he quietly moved on to some other topic of conversation. That bit of information stuck with me the rest of my career. John was right on target. My experience showed me John knew exactly what he was talking about. Firefighters do get themselves "caught up" in decisions they make. Most instances are not malicious, but guys get tunnel vision and want to push forward; many times not seeing what else is occurring around them, and what dangers await them in the end. Any time I am involved in an officer promotion class, I pass on John's advice. This is another sign of a true mentor. His theories and words of wisdom will stay with us a long time.

Thank you John McNamara for your service, and may the good Lord bless his family.

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Northwest Region

Greetings from the Northwest Cornerstone Region. I've had the opportunity to be out on the road a little more the past several months – attending regional meetings in Stevenson, Henry and Rock Island Counties so far this year. As I travel the region you may have seen evidence of my visit if you were not home when I stopped by. I try to leave a bag of informational materials on your door knob. If you are a member of a department in a region that hasn't taken advantage of Illinois Fire Service

Institute training recently I will be visiting your area soon.

As we move into the early fall demand for classes will increase. If you are interested in hosting an Illinois Fire Service Institute Cornerstone class please contact me as soon as possible to secure your class. While the Cornerstone funds have been reinstated, they were so with minor cutbacks. I will deliver classes as long as the funds allow. Once the funds have been exhausted no more classes can be scheduled.



Ray Palczynski
Northwest
Region

Classes coming up in the Northwest Region:

Fire Service Vehicle Operator – Oregon – October 1

Anhydrous Emergencies - Colchester FPD - October 3

Basic Auto Extrication - Farmington - October 22

Fire Service Vehicle Operator – Blackhawk FD, Milan – October 23

Fire Service Vehicle Operator – Emmett-Chalmers FPD – October 29

RIT Team Basics - Rochelle FD - October 29-30

Tactics & Strategy 1 – Fulton – October 29-30 and November 5-6 -

NOT a no-cost Cornerstone class

Routine Emergencies – Freeport – November 9



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Cornerstone Regions

Northeast Region



Randy
Schlichter
Northeast
Region



Greetings from the land up north.

Once again, the Cherry Valley FPD will host three upcoming, **NO COST** "Light & Fights":

October 28 | March 25 | May 13

Light & Fights: Hands-on live-fire training is set up in several different scenarios for all firefighters and their experience level. During the training rotations students will train on basic SCBA, hose handling and movement, ladder raises, carries, climbing, tool handling, and proper tool selection for the assigned

task. Additionally, the coordinated drills will offer students an opportunity to work as a member of a fire suppression team. Minimum participation restrictions shall apply. NOTE: Protective clothing required. Participants must furnish approved helmet, turn out gear, eye protection, gloves, SCBA and boots for this class.

The classes will be held at the Cherry Valley Regional Training Center, 4901 Blackhawk Road, Rockford, Ill. To register call Sue at 815-332-5382.



No-cost classes coming up in the Northeast Region:

HazMat Awareness and Operations – Antioch – October 1

Building Construction – Gurnee – October 12, 13

LP Fire Training – Wadsworth – October 13

Master Stream Ops - South Beloit - October 15

Grain Bin Rescue Technician - Kirland - October 15

LP Fire Training – Winthrop Harbor – October 19

LP Fire Training – Highland Park – October 18, 19 20

HazMat IMS - Lake Forest Fire Department - October 24-25

Light & Fight – Cherry Valley RTC, Rockford – November 5

ICS 300: Sycamore - November 15-16

Leadership Principles for the Fire Officer – Rockton – November 19

ICS 400: Sycamore - November 30 - December 1

Fire Service Vehicle Operator (and test) - Antioch - December 3

Traffic Incident Management - Cherry Valley RTC - December 3

Technical Rescue Awareness (and test) - Antioch - December 10

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Keep your calendars open! The Cornerstone funds for this year are here. Numerous Cornerstone training opportunities are already coming your way throughout the East Central Region. As fall gets into full swing, it's time to start thinking of what training you wish to do this fall and winter. It's never too early to

East Central Region

set up classes for the upcoming months. If any department needs help in applying for a class, please give me a call and I can help. Don't hesitate to contact me to arrange a class for your department.



*Tim Meister
East Central
Region*



Upcoming classes in the East Central Region:
Basic Pumps – Effingham – October 15
Essentials III – Homer – October 18
LP Fire Training – Beecher City – October 20
Essentials III – Charleston – October 25, 26, 27
HazMat Awareness and Operations – Champaign – Oct. 31
Ventilation – Seymour – November 14
Essentials IV – Homer – November 15
Courage to be Safe – Marshall – November 21

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

South Region

A look at the South Region from departing Regional Rep Tim Bragg



Tim Bragg
South Region



Metropolis, Illinois and “Superman”

The hometown of Superman. There has been a Superman statue in Metropolis since 1986. The present bronze Superman statue has been in place since 1993 and is 15 feet tall. There is a Superman Celebration held every June in Metropolis. The Superman image promotes patriotism with the slogan “Truth, Justice, and the American Way”. The population of Metropolis is 6,500 and is located in Massac County along the Ohio River in the very southeast corner of Illinois. Fort Massac State Park and George Rogers Clark Discovery Trail are right next door to Metropolis and are also located along the Ohio River. Fort Massac State Park was the very first Illinois State Park. The Metropolis Fire Department logo is pictured below right.



Cave-In-Rock, Illinois and the “Ferry”

Cave-In-Rock has a Modern Operating Steel Ferry that crosses the Ohio River back and forth one way every 10 minutes between Illinois and Kentucky. The Ferry is free of charge and can hold approximately ten cars on each trip back and forth. The ferry has been in continuous operation for 20 years. If you don't take the ferry from Cave-In-Rock to Kentucky, it will take 1-1/2 hours driving time to get to Kentucky. The population of Cave-In-Rock is 350 and is located in Hardin County along the Ohio River on the east side of Illinois. The Cave-In-Rock Fire Department is located at the top of the hill going down to the Ferry launch.



Upcoming classes in the South Region:

Fire Service Ladders – Metropolis – October 4

LACK – Olive Branch – October 17

Light & Fight – Carbondale – October 22

Basic Company Officer – Campbell Hill – November 3

Fire Service Vehicle Operator – Tamms – November 5

Commercial Building Operations – West City – November 29

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

The IFSI Central Region had a busy summer, offering Cornerstone classes throughout the region. The Tazewell County Fire School was one of the highlights. The school offered numerous classes reaching out to 234 students over the weekend. Plan on attending next year's school on May 6 and 7, 2017.

We have a few Acquired Structure burns in the works in DeWitt and McLean Counties. Keep your eyes on the website for details. While we are on the subject of house burns, IFSI can assist local departments in completing the paperwork, setting up and hosting Acquired Structure Burns. Simply just reach out to your Regional Representative if your department is interested in hosting an Acquired Structure Burn.

Also, with fall here and winter approaching, it's a great time to schedule some winter training opportunities through the Cornerstone Program.

Central Region



Harristown firefighting foam training



*Jim Vaughn
Central
Region*



Ron Rains of West Frankfort and the Carterville Fire Department has been chosen to take over for Tim Bragg. He will be visiting departments throughout the region and facilitating the scheduling of Cornerstone classes.



Fire Chief Steve Gambrill and IFSI Instructor Frank Friend take a break from the heat to talk shop over ice cream during class.

Upcoming classes in the Central Region:
Essentials 1 – Weldon – October 1
NWCG G-130 Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters – Manito – October 28-30

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports



Rich Stack
Chicago Metro
Region



Chicago Metro Region

Hello from the Chicago Metro Area. Summer is over and the kids are back in school, so let's start training again.

Two firefighting classes and one Officer class were delivered at Orland Park's Training Facility this year: Basic Truck Operations in June, Basic Company Officer in August and Smoke Divers in September. Look for all three of these classes to be offered again next year at Orland along with Basic Engine Operations. There is a new Search Techniques for the Fireground class being offered at IFSI's Champaign campus in October that we hope to be able to offer at Orland next year.

Request for the following classes have just started coming in: Thermal Imaging Camera, Forcible Entry, Search, and Fire Behavior and Smoke. Watch the IFSI web

site for these classes in the coming months. Or if you don't see a class scheduled that your department would like to host, request a Cornerstone class for your department or jointly with your mutual aid companies.

Train like your life depends on it because it does!



Two NFA classes coming to the Chicago Metro Region:
NFA Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction –
Warrenville – November 3

NFA Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success – Warrenville – November 28

Southwest Region



John Nichols
Southwest
Region



So it is soon fall and time to start thinking of what classes we can schedule for the fall and winter times.

We have a couple of good classes this fall; one is a large vehicle extrication class in Washington Park on October 1.

I am also working on a possible house burn in Salem after the first of the year. It is still in the early stages of planning. More on it later.

Pictured is the last house burn we had in the Southwest region. It was in Germantown and was attended by 50 firefighters from several local departments.

Thanks to all of the departments that hosted Cornerstone classes in 2016 and let's do more in 2017.

Let's all train harder and be safer in 2017.



A full schedule in the coming months in the Southwest Region:

Technical Rescue Awareness – Ava – October 1

Large Vehicle Extrication – East St. Louis – October 1

Basic Strategy and Tactics – Belleville – October 10

G-130 Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters – Mount Olive – October 14-16

LP Fire Training – Alhambra – November 2

Oil Well Firefighting – Salem – November 12

Fireground Mgmt for Small Career and Volunteer Departments – November 14

SOTP Program Reports

Never forget...

As we reflect on the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11, I feel compelled to honor our students, the IFSI instructors and staff, with a look back on how we became the Illinois Fire Service Institute, the Illinois State Fire Academy. Understanding and owning our relationship with our past, empowers us all to continue our personal and professional pursuit of excellence.

IFSI began as a partnership between the Illinois Fire Service, the University of Illinois, and elected officials to host an annual meeting for fire service leaders to share knowledge and practical lessons learned. The annual meetings continued throughout the Great Depression and World War II. After World War II the need for preparedness was met by the University of Illinois by creating the Firemanship Training Section as part of the Engineering Extension Program. In 1962, the first specialized technical rescue courses were delivered to local fire departments and the Hazardous Materials training programs began in 1971. In 1976, the University of Illinois Board of Trustees directed that the Firemanship Training program be re-organized as the Fire Service Institute. The University of Illinois statutes provided IFSI with the appropriate status as an independent academic institute.

So how did we become, the Illinois Fire Service Institute? In 1980, the Illinois Fire Service led the passage of the Illinois Fire Service Institute Act and the designation of IFSI as the Illinois State Fire Academy.

For more information, check out our course offerings at:

<https://fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/>

Or contact one of the SOTP's program managers:

Ryan Reynolds – Confined Space - rreynlds@illinois.edu

Mike "Woody" Woodard – Rope Rescue – mwoodard@illinois.edu

Mike McCastland – Structural Collapse Rescue – mccastla@illinois.edu

Jon Hauge – Trench Rescue – jhaug@illinois.edu

Chris Downey – Hazardous Materials – cjdowney@illinois.edu

Chris Venezia for SOTP completed registration information – cvenezia@illinois.edu

On September 10, 2001, (yes, the day before we lost 343 firefighters and thousands of our fellow Americans) IFSI began construction of a single-family collapse house prop on the former flammable liquid burn pit in what is now known as "Rescue City", located on our main campus at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The technical rescue training designs were later adopted by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force and similar props were constructed at Regional Training Centers throughout Illinois.

So what does this history lesson tell us? Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials training was an evolutionary development within the fire service, born out of the needs of the 1970s fire service responses. In spite of the terrorist attempts to divide us, we have responded as a fire service to honor our fallen by revolutionizing and further development of the IFSI training props and educational curriculum within the Special Operations Training Program.

As we remember our 343 firefighters from 9/11 and mark 40 years of IFSI becoming an independent institute, the Special Operations Training Program will continue to "help every Illinois firefighter do their work through training, education, information, and research."

"Let no man's ghost return to say his training let him down" ~ Unknown



Heather Moore
SOTP Program
Director

**SPECIAL
OPERATIONS
TRAINING
PROGRAM**

SOTP Program Reports



Mike Woodard
Rope Rescue
Program
Manager

Rope Rescue Program

At this year's Explorer-Cadet Fire School, IFSI included a rope rigging class for the young men and women of the fire service. The class covered rope selection, knots, hardware, personal protective equipment, and rigging. In addition to rappelling, the students were given the opportunity to practice self-rescue when rappelling to understand how to overcome an entanglement. The students practiced building and operating, raising and lowering systems

which create forces. The math and science behind the forces needed to move a rescue load were explained as the students operated the systems to raise and lower each other. To challenge the students, they operated the high lines and reeving high line systems constructed by the instructors. If these young men and women are any indication of what the future of the fire service is going to look like, our communities will have a great bunch of fire service professionals.

And as always keep your rigging safe.



The activity was so popular with the Explorer-Cadets that this part of the Hands-on Fire School will likely return in 2017. Dates for the next Explorer-Cadet Fire School are July 13-16, 2017.

Hazardous Materials



Chris Downey
HazMat
Program
Manager

As many of you already know, the IFSI Hazmat program has been busy this year updating and streamlining our curriculum offerings. The new course **Hazmat Awareness and Operations** combines the NFPA and OSFM objectives for Hazmat Awareness and Hazmat Operations into one, 40-hour course. For students looking to receive Basic Operations Firefighter certification, this means only one class instead of two separate classes. Hazmat Awareness, however, is not going away and

***New HazMat classes
coming this Fall***

is still available as a stand-alone class and a great option for those who don't intend to go any higher.

In addition, starting in November, an 80-hour **Hazmat Technician** course will be replacing the previously separated Hazmat Tech A and Hazmat Tech B. Completing the course over two consecutive weeks allows us to focus more continuous time with our students on the very technical concepts. In addition, it ensures that we meet all of the NFPA and OSFM objectives in one course, which the student can test for in one sitting. The Hazmat Tech A course will cease to exist after a final class in September. The Tech B course will continue to be offered through June of 2019, for those students who have already completed Tech A.

SOTP Program Reports

The Trench Rescue Program has had a busy year thus far. We have successfully delivered ITTF funded Operations and Technician level courses at Local 150 in Wilmington and an Operations level course at Orland Park. A contract class for the Chicago Fire Department was delivered at O'Hare International Airport the first week of August. We have one more Technician level course in October at Local 150. If you or your department is in need of Trench Rescue training, please sign up for an upcoming class.



Trench Rescue



*Jon Hauge
Trench Rescue
Program
Manager*



Confined Space Rescue

In May, we successfully delivered the pilot of our new "Industrial Confined Space Rescue – Level I & II" training course. SABIC Innovative Plastics, Inc. in Ottawa hosted the 56-hour, 7-day course for members of their emergency response team. The course, while providing Pro Board certification, allowed students to train at their facility – in their spaces – with their equipment. I would like to thank Chief Parrott and SABIC for hosting the pilot class.

In addition to this new class, IFSI offers a variety of different confined space rescue classes for our industrial clientele. OSHA regulates confined space entry and subsequent rescue needs. Our OSHA-based classes meet these requirements. We offer initial and refresher training targeting everyone from the brand-new to even the most-seasoned rescuer. The classes can be scheduled in a variety of formats tailored to meet the needs of the customer.



*Ryan Reynolds
Confined Space
Program
Manager*

Structural Collapse



*Mike McCastland
Structural
Collapse
Program
Manager*

During recent local training, a few things became apparent and I felt it was important to share them with you.

Why is it important for firefighters to attend training? It seems like a strange question with an obvious answer: We do it so that we can learn skills to save lives, including our own. There are few things more important in our jobs than this. I don't know anyone who would argue that fact. With that said, can we attend a week-long class and be fully prepared and experts from that point forward? Not necessarily. We attend classes to learn skills and once those skills are learned, they must be practiced. Remember the old adage we learned as kids: practice makes perfect. You may work with a batting coach, but to really improve your chances for a homerun, you need to practice the skills the coach taught you.

TRT is not much different. As instructors, we are tasked with teaching you the skills to safely and effectively perform rescues when they occur on the



job. However, it is up to you to continue to practice and improve those skills with your local departments/teams. No one can expect to be an expert on skills learned in class several years ago if those skills aren't revisited on a regular basis. Your training should be ongoing; it shouldn't stop once you leave the classroom. If you're having trouble getting the ongoing training that you feel you or your team needs, please feel free to contact IFSI about refresher opportunities.

As instructors, we prepare materials and hands-on training to help ensure our students are successful in class, and ultimately on the job. Sometimes our instruction needs to happen even before our students walk into the classroom. For example, before attending Tech Class, I recommend that you review the material from Ops. Take some time to go over what you learned and you will be much better prepared to build on that knowledge. Take a few minutes over a cup of coffee to review your FOG and I promise you, it will be time well spent.

Regarding the FOG, different editions may show different ways of building the same shore. That doesn't mean that one is right and one is wrong. In fact, both ways are correct. The important thing to remember is that in order for the shore to be constructed properly, the shoring team needs to agree on which edition to use.

Finally, classes fill up quickly. As you're reading this article, fall 2016 classes are full. If you're interested in attending class in the spring, I can't stress enough: register as soon as possible. Don't wait until the ice melts – it will be too late.

Stay safe.

Firefighting Program Reports



*Gary Coney
Responder
Intervention
Team Rescue
Technician
Program
Manager*

Responder Intervention Team Rescue

The Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician (RIT) class offered at IFSI is in high demand, with no spots left for the fall class. But, if classes are at maximum enrollment, please continue to sign-up because there is a waiting list in case of cancellations. Just when you thought this class could not get any better, I am happy to inform you that this class is still grant-funded to all Illinois firefighters.

As this time we are working on next year's calendar which should have five classes, plus a weekend offering.

We are looking for your feedback: if you, your department, or a neighboring department has had a RIT response or any other situation where the techniques learned in this RIT class were used, please let us know.

**Check out the RIT video on IFSI's
You Tube Channel.**



Program Reports

Fire Officer Program

We just finished up on a great summer filled with BBQs and pool parties, but as always it comes to an end. This end however starts the beginning of a new school year for kids and an opportunity to grow as responsible students. How about us? Let's join this endeavor and add to our professional development and growth as leaders. The IFSI Fire Officer program offers many classes this fall

in the traditional and blended format. New additions to our course list are Instructor III, Incident Safety Officer, and Health and Safety Officer. Check out our website, calendar, or send me an email and let me know how we can assist you in your pursuit of Professional Development.

Have a great Fall.



Lew Lake
Fire Officer
Program
Director

Upcoming Officer Classes:

Instructor II Blended - Begins October 3

Basic Strategic and Tactics - Belleville - October 10

Fire Department Incident Safety Officer - Lake Forest - October 31 - November 4

Fire Prevention Principles - Wheaton - October 14-16

Basic Company Officer - Campbell Hill - November 3

Vehicle/Machinery

Fall Vehicle Machinery Operations and Vehicle Machinery Technician classes have begun at IFSI along with many other classes across all disciplines. Some Vehicle and Machinery class offerings are off campus and one class is a weekend class to accommodate those who are not able to attend the traditional Monday thru Friday class schedule. There are several vehicle related Cornerstone classes that are also available. Please contact your regional representative for more information.

During the coming months, IFSI will be reviewing the Vehicle Machinery program curriculum. Several changes are on the horizon with the increasing use of hybrid and electric cars and new car technologies. An update to NFPA 1006 is due later this fall and we will be looking at those changes and incorporating the updates into the programs we offer. Staff will also be looking at the Vehicle Machinery program costs, so that we can provide the best value to our students. It's

looking like it will be a busy winter.

Myself, along with other IFSI staff members, will be on the road this Fall to thank some of our corporate partners who have been vital to the success of IFSI.

I look forward to working with IFSI staff to bring our students the best training possible and promote the mission of IFSI.



Mike Forest
Vehicle
Machinery
Program
Manager

Upcoming Extrication Classes:

***Vehicle and Machinery Operations - Champaign
October 8-9 and 29-30***

***Vehicle and Machinery Operations - Champaign
October 24-28***

***Vehicle and Machinery Technician - Springfield
November 14-18***

Program Reports



Mark Clapp
Propane, Oil
and Gas
Program
Manager

Propane, Oil and Gas

Even though LP events are rare, Gurnee got the chance to experience one reinforcing the need to be ready in Illinois. See the list below for a class near you or set one up for your department. As we move from warmer to colder months remind everyone in your communities to keep their propane bottles outside when they move their grills inside for the winter. Also if people use small tanks for heat over the winter, then remind them to keep a full tank inside, especially if it was filled at a location outside in the cold.

Upcoming LP Firefighting classes:
Wadsworth - October 13
Highland Park - October 18, 19, 20
Winthrop Harbor - October 19
Beecher City - October 20
Alhambra - November 2

Propane expands with atmospheric temperatures, so if you filled outside in the cold and take it into a warmer location and do not use it, the product can grow in the container and want to vent itself from the container, then you can have raw product looking for ignition sources this creates a hazard. A 20-pound cylinder has been known to lift a house off of its foundation and destroy it. So be careful as we enter fall and winter and go to Illinois Propane Gas Association www.ilpga.org for more safety tips to pass onto your family and communities.

And don't miss out on the Oil Well Firefighting Training Class at Salem on November 12



Tom Richter
Wildland
Program
Manager

Wildland

Wildland fires happen in all 50 of the United States. As simple as this sounds many in the fire service fail to accept their responsibility to prepare for this common occurrence. The Illinois Fire Service Institute has taken the lead in Illinois to ensure that training is available throughout the state. Utilizing a grant offered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the institute's Wildland Program has set upon a mission to establish cadres of trained wildland firefighters in each of the 102 counties in Illinois.

When speaking of wildland fires one does not often think of Illinois. Is there truly a need? IFSI participated in a 2013 study titled "Chicago Wilderness: Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan" to establish the necessity of wildland training. The study focused on the Chicago area (Cook county), the collar counties (DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will, McHenry), and the "ring around the collar" counties (Boone, DeKalb,

Grundy, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle). These 12 counties in the northeast portion of Illinois are the most urbanized in the state. A review of fires reported over a six-year period showed that these 12 counties had experienced **more than 15,000 vegetation fires** in the wildland/urban interface. **More than 225 times a year each county was relying on structurally-trained firefighters to respond to non-structural fires.** When one includes the other 90, mostly rural, counties of Illinois the rate of wildland responses exceeds **30,000 annually**. Ask yourself these simple questions: Do you train for hazardous materials? Do you train for vehicle extrication? Do you train for structural firefighting? Now review your calls for last year. For the majority you will find that actual fires involving vegetation occur at a greater rate than most, if not all of these.

The IFSI Wildland Fire Training program, initiated in 2005, provides affordable training across Illinois. The

continued on the next page

courses are delivered at the sponsoring department, utilizing classroom and live-fire training. Local delivery allows the department to train for the terrain, fuels, and equipment that will actually be available when an event occurs. The diversity of courses available allows the sponsoring department to customize the training to suit their immediate and long term needs.

Live-fire training allows the instructors to demonstrate the impacts of fuels, weather and topography on fire spread.

Instructors for the wildland courses are hand selected to provide a wide spectrum of experience and backgrounds. From volunteer to full-time departments, chiefs to firefighters, instructors are chosen for the knowledge and their ability to relate with the students. **In a state as diverse as Illinois it is crucial to understand both the similarities and differences between students from departments as large as Chicago Fire or as small as one fire engine and ten volunteer firefighters.** There may be only two types of people in the world, "Those that fight fires and those that don't", but trust me there is a huge span of differences within the group that does. To establish further credibility instructors who lack wildland backgrounds are encouraged to build upon their structural background. Instructors have responded to wildland fires in California, Georgia, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming – not as spectators but as Firefighters, Engine Crews, and Engine Bosses, Task Force Leaders and EMTs. Sleeping on the ground is different than watching others sleep on the ground, digging line is different than watching others digging line. In 2008 instructors from the IFSI program were contracted to respond to California to assist in the instruction of 2000 National Guard members to fight forest fires.

The IFSI Wildland Fire Training program was founded on the concept of providing solution to the hazards of wildland firefighting in Illinois. To achieve

Program Reports

this goal it is necessary to build working alliances with many groups. Illinois firefighters respond to National Forests, Park Districts, Forest Preserves, Conservation Districts, and a myriad of local and regional organizations. Each organization is established with differing objectives and regulations. At each course offering invitations are extended to interested non-fire organizations. Establishing an understanding before an event improves understanding and interoperability. The basics of a Unified Command System can be put in place and a working relationship established to improve safety and response for all involved. Firefighters and foresters can work together on planning and implementing prescribed burns to the benefit of the community.

As the program enters its eleventh year IFSI Wildland Training has reached 80% of Illinois 102 counties. From Chicago Fire Department to volunteer departments with one second-hand fire engine and ten volunteers, IFSI is spreading the word that wildland fires are a statewide concern and IFSI is offering a statewide solution. Offering 13 courses and affordable local delivery we hope to reach the final counties and provide every county, every community, every firefighter, and every citizen with safe and efficient wildland fire protection.

NOTE: The tuition fee is waived if your department serves a population under 10,000.

Are you in one of the few Illinois counties who have not had Wildland firefighting training?

***Upcoming Wildland Training for Structural Firefighters
20-hour WEEKEND classes:***

Mount Olive (Macoupin County) - October 14-16

Machesney Park (Winnebago County) - October 21-23

Manito (Mason County) - October 28-30

Scales Mound (Jo Daviess County) - November 4-6

Naplate (LaSalle County) - March 24-26, 2017

Cortland (DeKalb County) - March 31-April 2, 2017

Program Reports



*Leon Duncan
National
Incident
Management
System (NIMS)
Interim Program
Director*

NIMS Training

Joe Gasparich, previous Program Director, retired from IFSI on July 23 to pursue a new career as a Biology/Science teacher in his home town of Nokomis, Illinois. Joe was with the NIMS/ICS program from its inception. While Joe was the in-charge person, we conducted 167 Command and General Staff classes, teaching over 4500 students. We taught numerous Unified Command, Position Specific, ICS-300, ICS-400 and other classes. We wish him only the best in the future. He will be missed.

I was asked to serve as the Interim Program Director until a permanent replacement is named. I have begun by traveling to the southeastern part of Illinois with Regional Rep Tim Bragg (who is also retiring). We met with the emergency responders that need NIMS, helped them understand what we can do for them. At this writing, I've made two trips and met with the representatives of Carmi, White County, Olney, McLeansboro, Harrisburg, Saline County, Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County. I plan

Is your community NIMS-compliant and eligible for Federal grants? It is worth checking with your mayor and other community leaders. They will thank you for it.

Check the IFSI website to learn what classes are nearest you.

on making additional trips around the state to help agencies better understand the continuing need for NIMS.

Many communities are still unclear why they need to be NIMS compliant according to the Federal Government. It isn't just the fire and police departments that need to be NIMS trained, it's the entire jurisdiction that must become and remain compliant to receive Federal funding, usually through grants. Without NIMS compliance, they are not eligible to receive grant funding. I've heard of incidents where a jurisdiction indicated they were NIMS-compliant and received grant funds. **When the jurisdiction was audited, they weren't compliant and were required to return the funding with interest** – not a good career move.

It is my intention to continue to seek hosts that will allow us to conduct the many different NIMS classes we are qualified to instruct. Command and General Staff Functions for the Local Incident Management Team (CGSFLIMT) is our "flagship" class, but there are many others. Potential hosts can use our website, www.fsi.illinois.edu, click on the NIMS tab, then click on the class or classes they are interested in hosting. That will take them to the description of the class, length of the class and any classes already scheduled. The synopsis of the class can be found by clicking the words "synopsis" in the page.

If anyone has any questions, contact me at leondunc@illinois.edu or my phone numbers listed on the IFSI website.

Program Reports

Greetings from the Instructor Program. We have been diligently working throughout the year to completely overhaul a much anticipated instructor series for IFSI. The programs are up to date, interactive, and comply with Pro Board standards for Fire Instructor 1 and 2 currently. We are in the process of completing the validation of Fire Instructor 3 as this message is being sent.

Why become an instructor? The fire service is all about passing the knowledge of this trade to the next generation. We owe it to the members, present and future, to deliver the content in a manner that excites them to learn. Adult learners are a demanding breed and we want to help your department by educating your personnel on how to be an instructor. Think about your most influential instructor, and how they helped steer your education. You can be that inspiration for someone else.

Instructor 1 teaches the fundamentals of instructing from prepared lesson plans that you find in text books, or written by higher level instructors. Instructor 1 helps give you the confidence and skills to teach. Instructor 2 teaches how to write and adapt lesson plans legally following JPR

Instructor 1, 2, 3

formats. Instructor 3 lays the groundwork for teaching an entire course with multiple training lessons involved.

Don't have the ability to take consecutive day classes? Look up our blended learning format and complete the majority of the work at home, at YOUR time. Students meet with the instructor only a couple times during the month to complete the hands-on portion of the class. The feedback from personnel unable to attend traditional Monday-Friday classes has been very positive for our blended format. Erie, IL put together a class and IFSI served Instructor 1 to 51 members in a Saturday-Sunday format on consecutive weekends.

Always continue learning.

Upcoming Instructor classes:

Instructor 2 - Wheaton October 3-7

Instructor 2 Blended begins October 3

Instructor 3 - Champaign - October 10-12 and 27



Jason Loeb
Instructor
Program
Manager

My name is Ben Kervin, and I began working as the Instructor-in-Charge of the On-Campus Light and Fights this spring. I have stepped into a program that has seen several updates and improvements over the last couple of years. The addition of several new burn props, including the green cans, mine cans and streetscape, has increased the variety of drills and offered different layouts for live-fire evolutions. Several new drills with specific objectives have been developed and refined for both the new and existing burn props. We are continuing to emphasize the importance of students working in an assigned role as part of a fire company during each drill. Also, this fall we are introducing a Basic-level Light and Fight where specific OSFM Basic Operations Firefighter objectives are addressed, so that each student's home fire department can know what hands-on objectives are being achieved during the course of the training day.

This training is a great opportunity for both the volunteer and career firefighter and especially valuable for those firefighters who don't get to see a lot of live-fire action – particularly volunteers. If you are a newer firefighter don't shy away. Our experienced staff immediately recognizes what skills you need to concentrate on and will work with you to bring your skill level up at each session. More experienced firefighters have a great opportunity to refine skills and learn new techniques from our experienced instructors.

Many students have traveled great distances to attend. The after-class evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to seeing both new and familiar students at the events over the course of this fall and next year.



Ben Kervin
Instructor-in-
Charge
Champaign
Light & Fights

Champaign Light & Fights:

Oct. 22
Nov. 12
Dec. 3

Program Reports

Curriculum and Testing



Kurt Glosser
Curriculum and
Testing
Department
Director



Learn more
about Pro
Board at
[www.
theproboard.org](http://www.theproboard.org)

State Certification

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has been reviewing and approving end-of-course exams for IFSI and other training agencies across Illinois for equivalency since 1975. For IFSI, this approval has provided firefighters with the convenience of challenging 25 different state-level examinations at the conclusion of their training and education experience with IFSI. This was the result of cooperative efforts between many dedicated and hardworking people at OSFM and IFSI.

However, due to the inherent problems in consistency that can arise from statewide administering of exams, OSFM will soon (31 December 2016) be shifting to a single test distribution method that will eliminate the need for separate OSFM approval of IFSI tests or those of any other state approved deliverer of training. After 31 December 2016, some IFSI classes/courses will involve two exams – OSFM certification and Pro Board (and soon IFSAC). However, the State Fire Marshal and the Director of IFSI have agreed it is both essential and a common goal to work together to figure out a way to meet both OSFM and IFSI requirements with a single test in the near future. Additionally, in order to greater facilitate delivery of exams statewide, OSFM plans to allow non-OSFM employees to proctor their exams. They have already trained 11 of IFSI's Regional Test Proctors so that IFSI can offer our students with regional opportunities on a regular basis to pursue state level certification.

National Certification

The State Fire Academy is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) and has gone through an extensive

process of third party peer reviews, examining the way we evaluate our students. They review how we create and validate exam questions and skill sheets, ensuring that evaluation methods are implemented in an educationally-sound manner by educated and experienced practitioners. Their audit, and subsequent accreditation, assures the Fire Service and the public that the highest standards of evaluation are in place. IFSI is proud to offer national certification for 21 levels with our end-of-course examinations. (One exam = National Certification)

More information about IFSI's nationally approved levels can be found on our website at the "Value of IFSI Courses" section under the "Course Info" tab.

Thank you for your time, and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions on this topic.

Program Reports

In June 2016, IFSI Research along with partners from Underwriters Laboratories' Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), led the second installment of the *Cardiovascular and Carcinogenic Risks in Today's Firefighting*. This study focused on training fire scenarios, including our typical pallet and straw fueled fires, as well as training fires utilizing engineered wood products like OSB and scenarios with theatrical smoke. Firefighters joined us from across the country, representing departments from Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Thanks to the incredible work from Tad Shroeder's team and the shop, a new can-based ranch structure was constructed that allowed us to compare training in heat (existing Ranch with pallet and straw) and no heat (Can Ranch with theatrical smoke). In this study, we also had the opportunity to compare exposures faced by instructors who participated in three evolutions each day with the students who participated in a single scenario.

As part of this project, we worked with some of the major Fire Service media outlets to help bring awareness

Research

to the cardiac and cancer risks that our firefighters are facing. Again this year, *Firehouse*, *Fire Engineering* and *Fire Rescue* joined us during the studies, documenting the data collection sessions live, capturing stories as to how this study can affect departments across the country and helping us conduct a roundtable discussion with the participants.

In addition, the UL video team has put together an overview video of the project that you can access through the IFSI Research Twitter page: <https://twitter.com/IFSIresearch>

All of these features are available to a national audience and can be found online at the publications' websites.

A huge thank you goes out to the firefighters and instructors who joined us for the study as well as the incredible efforts of all of the staff at IFSI for pulling this together. It has truly been a team effort!

Stay tuned for updates from these studies on our website or on Twitter @IFSIresearch.



Gavin Horn, PhD
Research
Department
Director



The Mine Can prop at the Champaign campus is fully instrumented and in play for the IFSI Training Fires study.

Program Reports



*John High Sr.
Investigation/
Intervention
Program
Manager*

Investigation/Prevention

The Fire Prevention and Investigation program had the opportunity to reach a large group of students during 2015 and 2016. We are looking forward to 2017 and would like to have anyone interested in hosting a program in their area please contact me.



*Students at a Fire
Investigation class at the
Chicago Fire Department
observing test burns.*



*Students at a recent Investigation class observing
and discussing burn damage to vehicle engine
fire.*



*Students looking for ignitions source Chicago Fire
Department class held at NIPSTA.*



Fire scene set for Fire Investigation class at Frankfort.



Fire Prevention side by side Burn Cell demonstration at Quincy Safety Fair

Smoke Divers

Smoke Divers has recently changed to an action-packed three days. Within the three days the students employ survival skills through various exercises and team-oriented drills. With these improvements we have had great success and feedback from the students. We will continue to push forward with increased opportunities for classes and expanding outside the institute. Our first class held outside the institute will be at Orland Park in September.

Additions to the program are Dr. Gavin Horn's research group and various SCBA manufacturers educating the student on the technical aspects of the SCBA. With research and constantly changing regulations the student has a better understanding of why and what event may lead to these changes.

"If you have Air, You have a Tool, You have a Fight"



*Toby Jackson
Smoke Divers
Program
Manager*



Program Reports



Explorer-Cadet School

This year's Explorer Cadet Hands-On Training School was a huge success. Attendance was up both in state and out of state. We had 209 students from Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts. The class offerings are being updated every year to fill the student's needs. We also added Rope Rescue training along with expanded

content in the Cadet Officer class. Dr. Horn from the IFSI research department was our Friday evening speaker. He showcased modern fire dynamics research to the group on Friday night and the presentation was well-received. This was a great event that could not have been done without such a top notch staff of instructors and support personnel.

We are providing a challenging, demanding, and fun training event that leaves the students ready to come back for more.



The Explorer-Cadet Hands-On Training is scheduled for July 13-17, 2017.



Fire Academy

Fall Academy is shaping up to be a huge class and our staff is more than ready for the challenge. The class has 36 students and may be the biggest class IFSI has ever trained in a single basic fire academy. The Academy staff is working extremely hard as we update our curriculum and work towards IFSAC and Pro Board certification. The three Battalion Chief model is serving us very well and allows us to make a more

personal connection with the attending fire departments. The BCs work directly with their battalion's fire chiefs or training officers to provide real-time feedback and updates on the progress of their candidate firefighters. Providing candidate firefighters with a solid foundation of training is extremely difficult and we are absolutely up to the task.

Program Reports

Traffic Incident Management Operations

Each year, approximately 100 responders are killed nationwide at traffic incidents, on average, five of those are firefighters.

The Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program is designed to train responders how to operate safely on roadways and how to minimize the disruption of traffic flow at traffic incidents. Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents and improves the safety of motorists, crash victims, and emergency responders.

IFSI is proud to announce that our TIM Operations class is now available through Cornerstone at no cost to your department. TIM Operations is designed to teach responders best practices when responding to traffic incidents.

Students will learn the need for proper Traffic Incident Management, how

Driver / Operator

to operate in a coordinated manner with other responder agencies to quickly clear traffic incidents from the roadway, how to establish a Traffic Incident Management Area, how to safe position response vehicles, and how to demobilize a Traffic Incident Management Area. Students will also participate in exercises to practice operating within a unified command system and practice the safe positioning of emergency vehicles at a traffic incident.

Contact your Regional Representative to schedule one of these classes at your department.

Upcoming TIM classes:

October 15 Fairmont City FD

December 3 Cherry Valley FPD



*Tal Prendergast
Driver/Operator
Program
Manager*



Explorer Field Training

I am proud to announce that the Explorer Field Training sessions for the 2016/2017 budget year have been funded. We have been in the process of contacting departments throughout the state to host the training sessions. The first training session will be held at the Rock Island Arsenal on October 1, 2016. The training sites this spring will be the following: Peoria, Cherry Valley, Plainfield, and Frankfort. These one-day trainings are key in introducing aspiring young firefighters to a hands-on firefighting skills lab, in which they will be educated on fire hose and appliances,

self-contained breathing apparatus, search and rescue, ladders, live-fire behavior, and hand tools. The objectives for this training will continue to follow the Illinois OSFM Basic Firefighting objectives. Please contact me if you have any questions.

East Central Regional Rep Tim Meister (217-202-4760) or tameiste@illinois.edu

First Scheduled Explorer Field Training

October 1 - Rock Island Arsenal
More dates to be announced later

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Jason Loeb - Program Manager for Fire Instructor (includes Instructor 1, 2, and 3)

Tom Shubert - Instructor-in-Charge - Engine Operations Program, Fire College and Special Events

Tom Scheu - Instructor-in-Charge - Explorer/Cadet Hands-On Fire School

JP Childers, Tom Shubert and Tom Scheu will be Battalion Chiefs for Fire Academy overseeing daily program delivery. **Sean Burke** will serve as the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) for Academy.

Opening day of the 2016 teaching season brought many positive changes to the Truck Company Operations program while still staying focused on the strong foundation and vision of Chief Ray Hoff. We have already delivered three classes with the revised curriculum with extremely positive feedback from the attending students.

The most notable changes were to bring the time of delivery of this intense hands-on course to just three days while not sacrificing any of the pertinent knowledge and skills obtained by the students and to make the delivery of the course more available to firefighters throughout the state by offering Truck Company Operations at selected Regional Training Centers.

The course content was also changed to reflect how we conduct operations on the fireground with the last day running

Truck Company

in conjunction with Engine Company Operations as Coordinated Fireground Attack drills.

The next Truck Company class will be held at the IFSI campus on October 25. Remember this course is now only three days, making it easier on you the student and your families to attend a class that offers life-safety skills and knowledge.

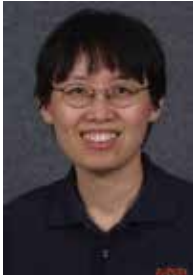
Together we shall accomplish any task.

Check out the Truck Company Operations video on IFSI's YouTube channel.



Jon Frye
Truck Company
Operations
Program

Library Updates & Highlights



Dr. Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

Reference and User Training At the IFSI Library homepage librarians have provided a link to a downloadable full-color poster about the library, its services, resources, and collections. You can download a copy of the poster for placement in your department by clicking on the poster image. Help make your department aware of this important resource by printing and posting the library poster.

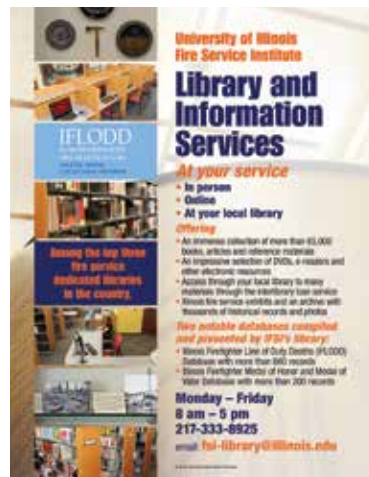
The library is interested in receiving suggestions from Illinois firefighters about fire service-related information resources to add to our collection. For instance, did you know that the IFSI librarians can help you find in-depth information on the use of wind curtains or the prevention of firefighter vehicle-related accidents? So, if you have a suggestion for a book, DVD, or other information resource to be added to the library collection, or if you would like to participate in a 10-minute library usage training session, please contact Diane Richardson.

IFSI Archives. The IFSI Archives are currently working on a long-term project with the Chicago Fire Department

(CFD) to greatly increase the number of photographs and visual resources attached to the Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Digital Image Collection Database, or IFLODD records of CFD firefighters who have died in the line of duty. The Chicago Fire Department firefighters currently account for approximately 65% of all records in the database with 574 fallen firefighters. The IFSI Archives Special Collections Photograph Collection is now available for use. The archives searched for and extracted more than 1900 print photographs from fire service publications on a wide variety of firefighting subjects – ranging from depictions of hazardous materials operations to general firefighting tactics.

The IFSI Archives maintains an IFSI “Community” of content within the Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship (IDEALS), which is the online institutional repository for the University of Illinois. The IFSI section of IDEALS recently passed the 100,000 download mark.

If you have any questions about the Chicago Fire Department IFLODD project, the Special Collections Photograph Collection, IDEALS, or would like to suggest new exhibits for Firefighter Memorial Hall, please contact David Ehrenhart.



Program Reports



Dave Newcomb
Agricultural
Rescue
Program
Manager

I hope the summer has treated you well. The Ag Rescue program is busy as usual with classes and programs with our partners. This is the second year that we have appeared at the Illinois State Fair. This year we were able to partner with the Illinois Department of Labor to do demonstrations about tractor rollovers. Again like last year, we heard stories from people who had lost loved ones or neighbors and friends who had been injured.

Many of those who shared stories helped to remind me of how important our message is to stay alert, pay attention to our surroundings. Thanks again to all

who support the Ag Rescue program. We look forward to seeing and talking to you as we travel the state. Stay safe.



IFSI International Programs

Chinese Librarians Scholarly Exchange Program It was the 12th year in a row for the exchange, with 33 librarians joining the well-planned program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Participants visited numerous across the country. As of July 2016, the program has trained a total of 307 librarians from 97 organizations.



China Endowment Fund Scholarship. The 2016 award recipients are two Chinese librarians -- Yazhu Gu (2016 CLSEP Participant), Associate Professor, Shanghai Maritime University Library, and Ruihua Lv (2006 CLSP Participant), Associate Research Librarian and Assistant to the Head of the Beijing Institute of Technology Library.

Hong Kong Fire Services Department-IFSI Hazmat Technician Training (2009-). It is the 7th year in a row for this training. Six officers attended IFSI Hazmat training in May 2016. Hazmat instructors and Lian Ruan had a good welcome dinner for Hong Kong Fire Services Department officers.

Presentations. Dr. Lian Ruan was invited to give a keynote speech on the Trends of the Chinese-American Library

Relations at the Ohio University's Chinese Librarians Summer Institute. Dr. Ruan also made a series of presentations on U.S. academic library management and development to libraries in China from September to December 2016.

Publications. Dr. Lian Ruan, Ying Ye (Professor, Nanjing University), & Qiang Zhu (Director of Peking University Library) co-edited the book, entitled ***Academic Library Development and Administration in China***, which is being published by IGI Global in the summer of 2016. It will be a milestone publication because it is the first English publication about Chinese academic libraries

Chinese Delegations to IFSI. A delegation of six members from the Shanghai Fire Research Institute led by Director Yonglin Min visited IFSI and the Chicago Fire Academy from June 14 to June 16.



*Dr. Lian Ruan
International
Programs
Director*



Program Reports



*Dennis Spice
Senior Advisor
Corporate
Relations and
Development*

Building Corporate Relations and Developing New Partnerships

The Institute wants to thank all its corporate partners for their support in 2015.

See the list of current partners on the IFSI website at:

www.fsi.illinois.edu/partners

You can help too!

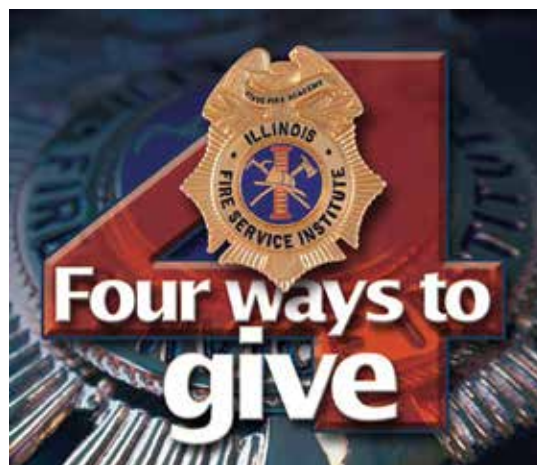
Four funds have been established to support the delivery of firefighter training at IFSI. **The IFSI Fund** is a general-use fund for training, education and instructional services. **The Ag Rescue Training Fund** is an endowed fund that directly supports the agriculture rescue curriculum. **The Firefighter Life Safety Research Fund** is an endowment that supports human and equipment applied research. **The Learning Resource and Research Center Fund** supports the physical aspect of the library, research laboratories, and Firefighters Memorial Hall, as well as the outside Memorial Plaza.

Learn more about each fund and make a donation online at:

www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/giving/give.cfm

IFSI is part of the University of Illinois Foundation, which is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. You will receive full supporting documentation for your donation

If you have additional questions, please contact Dennis Spice, Senior Advisor for Corporate Relations and Development at dspice@illinois.edu.



*Ralph Webster
Courage to be
Safe / National
Fallen
Firefighters
Foundation
Program
Manager*

Just what is the Courage to be Safe class and why should you take it?

The Courage to be Safe (CTBS) course is a one of the primary building blocks of firefighter safety and survival courses developed by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, through the Everyone Goes Home® Program. CTBS is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of firefighters as a normal occurrence, which is the basis behind the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (FLSI). The provocative and moving presentation builds on the untold story of line-of-duty death survivors and reveals how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter death or serious injury. CTBS provides a focus on the need for firefighters and officers to change

fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line-of-duty deaths. The central theme promotes the courage to do the right thing in order to protect yourself and other firefighters and ensure that "Everyone Goes Home" at the end of the day.

Firefighters must have the courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities. Their courage allows them to willingly risk their own lives so that others can be saved. A different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risks and tragic consequences.

Begin today by researching the 16 FLSI and then bring CTBS to your department through IFSI.

Department Access to IFSI Student Records

IFSI has launched a new access area in the Resource Center to increase department leadership's awareness of their member's activities with IFSI. We have created this tab to give you access to your department records that are resident in the IFSI database. This will allow you to check who in your department has signed up for classes. Additionally, you will be able to view the student class letters, certificates, and what classes your members have taken while sponsored by your department. The initial entry is set up under the Fire Chief's name.

To access this information:

- Go to the IFSI website Resource Center
- Login
- Go to the "My Department" tab at top of webpage
- Departments you are the Chief in are listed. Click on the department name.
- In the upper right corner is an area titled Department Admins. The Chief's name will appear there.
- You will be able to see your department member's names that have taken IFSI courses and members that are registered for up-coming courses---to include their notification letter, certificates and course history of IFSI sponsored classes.
- o You will only be able to see the classes you sponsored the member to attend in their course history.
- If you as the Chief wish to add another administrator to this department, you will click the "Add An Admin" button found under your name. Type in the name of the person you wish to add and click the blue search button to the right.
- o The search results return and you click the button titled "other". That will add them to the Department Admins tab.
- o If you are trying to add someone who does not return upon your search, that means that this person is not in our database and you will need to send an email to fsi@illinois.edu titled Department Admin. We will need the name, date of birth and driver's license number of that individual. We will add them to our database and then reply to your email that the person has been added. You will then be able to add them as a department admin.
- o You can also remove someone from this access by choosing the red trash can button to the right of their name.

We hope you find this information of assistance to you and will alleviate you not knowing that someone signed up for classes without your knowledge, possibly affecting your budget.

We ask that you help us keep this information up to date with your department access so that student information remains confidential. If you or one of your designated admins leaves the department or should no longer have access to the account, please delete that person immediately. If you as the Chief leave the department, please let IFSI know immediately.

Please feel free to call Terri Hopper at 217-244-7131 if you have any questions.



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Inside - some important reading in this issue

- ***Discover classes near your home department***
- ***Meet the new South Regional Representative***
- ***See what's new on YouTube***

Mark your calendar for these important dates:

- ***Fire Service Women of Illinois Training Event - November 12-13, 2016***
- ***Winter Fire School - January 28-29, 2017***
- ***93rd Annual Fire College - June 1-4, 2017***
- ***Explorer Cadet Hands-on Fire School - July 13-17, 2017***