



Illinois Fire Inspectors Association

Serving Illinois Fire Departments Since 1967

A Message from the Board of Directors

First, I would like to introduce myself. I am Edward Dunne, the new President of the Illinois Fire Inspector's Association. I have been employed with the Evergreen Park Fire Department for 29 years where I am a lieutenant in charge of the Public Education Department.

Secondly, I am the first President to come from the Public Education side of the fire service. This is a first for our organization and I find this to be unique and exciting. I intend to advance fire prevention through both inspection and fire and life safety education. For me, this has been an endeavor three years in the making. I have learned a lot in my previous years on the Board, and look forward to serving you as President.

Lastly, I would like to thank Joe Welter from the Buffalo Grove Fire Department. If you see Joe, give him a big thank you for all he has accomplished and his commitment to our organization during his tenure as President. He has performed superbly and left some big shoes to fill.

If there is anything that the Board of Directors or I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ed Dunne

We also want to welcome in our new Board of Directors, which the membership voted in last month. In addition to Ed Dunne as President, we have Dan Riordan, Tinley Park, as Vice President, John Janozik, Oak Forest, as Treasurer, and Bill Schmidt, Streamwood, as Secretary.

While we wish our new Board good luck, we also say goodbye to one of our former officers, Rick Marek from Palatine. On December 30th he retired from the Palatine Fire Department. Several Board members were present on his last day to wish him well. In addition to serving on the Board – twice as President, he served on committees prior to being on the Board, and most recently was brought back in to serve as Certification Chair. If you see him driving around in his RV on his way to Florida for a short vacation, congratulate him.

It's coming soon! The annual Combined Conference is March 22 – 24. Our keynote is Tim Sandelbach with Firehouse Magazine. You can secure a room for this event through the following ways: by calling 1-800-547-0711 and referencing code **0321FIR**, or by going to <http://www.paradicecasino.com/groups> and typing in **0321FIR**. A full program of courses and descriptions is available on our website.

Our earliest records show that the IFIA has been around since 1967. So in recognition of that fact, the Board has decided to offer a FREE seminar to IFIA members. If you are not a member of the IFIA, the cost to attend is only \$25. The class will be held Tuesday afternoon prior to the Combined Conference to make it convenient for anyone that would like to attend both. This will be taught by NFPA, and the topic will be Teaching Strategies for Effective Public Education. You need not attend the full conference to attend this half day class. The course description is:

This interactive workshop will provide data-driven guidance to both new and seasoned educators who want to work with a variety of different age groups and backgrounds. Participants will learn about the prevalent fire risks across age groups, and key characteristics to consider when planning instruction. They will also gain an in-depth knowledge of NFPA educational materials and be able to confidently select appropriate materials and strategies for audiences of different ages and demographics. Participants will leave the workshop ready to tailor fire prevention presentations to meet the needs of each audience.

You can sign up for this now at our website. It is one of the choices when registering for the Combined Conference. You can, however, just register for this class.

Requests from our members:

From Elgin, They are looking for any Fire Departments having a Business self inspection program? Contact Ron Session at Sessions_R@cityofelgin.org if you can help him.

From Central Stickney, they are seeking applicants for a part time inspector. See the attachment for details.

A request from a neighboring State:

The State of Michigan, through a work group of fire safety professionals set up by State Fire Marshal Secontine, is conducting a survey of other States regarding the inspection of Public Assemblies. We are working to update our state fire prevention law and need to address an issue with the inspection of public assemblage. Please follow the link to take a short survey.

Thank you. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YXNRBGM>

Was it recalled? If you want up to the date information on what FDA or CPSC items have been recalled, you can sign up for email updates at <https://www.recalls.gov/list.html>

CPSC recalls:

1. Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Recalls Minnie and Mickey Mouse Infant Hoodie Sweatshirts Due to Choking Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Walt-Disney-Parks-and-Resorts-Recalls-Minnie-and-Mickey-Mouse-Infant-Hoodie-Sweatshirts>

2. Toshiba Expands Recall of Laptop Computer Battery Packs Due to Burn and Fire Hazards: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Toshiba-Expands-Recall-of-Laptop-Computer-Battery-Packs>

Are you looking to make a difference in the NFPA codes being used? Participation on any NFPA Technical Committee is an assured way to becoming an expert in the requirements of that document. The fact that many NFPA codes and standards qualify for the reimbursement program

for enforcers makes committee involvement an easier sell to the powers-to-be during the budget process within an organization. The time commitment to most committees is minimal during the period of time that a code/standard is in cycle (under review for the next edition). For example, the time for Warren Olsen, who serves on Chapter 26 of NFPA 72, is six days (2 meetings of three on-site days each) over a total of three years. Many committees meet even less over the same three year period.

If anyone has specific questions, they can contact Warren directly at Fire Safety Consultants, Inc. His email is wolsen@firesafetyfsci.com, or they can contact NFPA.

Any interested persons can go on nfpa.org/NFPA72 and search for technical committee membership applications. You can do the same for 13, 14, 20, 25, etc.

In case you missed it, the residential sprinkler requirement will remain in the 2018 IRC!

We were also successful in gaining approval of two changes that incentivize and support sprinkler requirements, Proposals RB89-16 and ADM36-16. However, we came up short of the required 2/3 majority to overturn committee recommendations on Proposals RB51-16 (dealing specifically with stacked duplexes), and RB69-16 (dealing with protection of lightweight floor assemblies).

From the OSFM - On August 1st, Michael Vogel was selected to lead the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Division. Mr. Vogel studied commercial engineering and drafting technology from ITT Technical Institute in St. Louis. He graduated with an associate's degree of applied sciences. Mike then worked as a draftsman/design engineer for several boiler shops in Illinois. After completing the Great Lakes Area Boilermakers Apprenticeship Program, he became a teacher of students enrolled in this program. During this time, Mike also worked for the Boilermakers Local 363. Mike accepted a position with the OSFM as a Boiler Safety Specialist in 2004, which he held until being chosen as the Division Manager.

From Rob Neale, Vice President Government Relations, of the ICC:

From 1980 to 2001, the US Army recruiting slogan was "Be all that you can be."

Are you all you can be when it comes to reviewing plans and inspecting fire alarm and residential/commercial sprinkler systems? Are you providing your agency the level of technical competence that is expected of you?

The International Code Council offers certification programs in these specialties so you can show employers and permit applicants alike you know what you are doing. To learn more about the program, read the attached article from *International Fire Protection* magazine and click here to find the exam details: <http://www.iccsafe.org/education-certification/certifications-and-testing/national-exam-info-registration/>.

Scroll down to the category marked "Fire" and learn about these exams and certification programs.

In 2017, will you be all that you can be by verifying your technical skills?

Fire issues related to lithium ion batteries have dominated news reports for more than a year. This summer, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recalled more than a half-million hoverboards that involved 10 companies, and in October the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) banned Samsung Galaxy Note 7 devices from all flights. Flight attendants continue to warn air travelers today to power down their devices during pre-flight safety instructions.

Lithium ion batteries are ideally suited for today's streamlined, lightweight, high-tech consumer products but convenience comes with concern. The compact batteries store a large amount of energy; and if not used properly, can overheat and cause a fire or explosion.

NFPA's new tip sheet explains the problem with these batteries, offers ways to identify issues, shares safety advice, and addresses battery disposal in a visual manner that is perfect for [sharing online, via social media](#) or as a [printable resource](#).

The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) is proud to announce that Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9) has been selected as the 2016 CFSI Legislator of the Year.

Throughout his distinguished career in Congress, Congressman Pascrell has been a leading advocate for the nation's fire and emergency services. The current chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, Congressman Pascrell has been a staunch advocate for a number of federal fire service programs, including the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs, as well as the United States Fire Administration (USFA). Recently, Congressman Pascrell introduced H.R. 5123, the Honoring Emergency Response Officers Benefits Reform Act. The legislation is intended to improve the timeliness and transparency of Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program's death, disability and education claims.

"Throughout his congressional career, Congressman Pascrell has demonstrated an incredible commitment and dedication to our nation's fire and emergency services," said Bill Webb, CFSI's Executive Director. "It has been an honor and pleasure to work closely with the Congressman for many years to advance the cause of America's fire and emergency services on Capitol Hill. CFSI is honored to present him our Legislator of the Year Award"

"It fills me with pride to stand up for the brave firefighters who protect our families and our communities," said Congressman Pascrell. "I am honored to receive the 2016 CFSI Legislator of the Year Award and will continue to fight for the first responders on the front lines who make our communities safer. Going forward, I will continue to prioritize an agenda to better train, equip, and staff firehouses across the country."

Check the website for the following upcoming events:

January 27 - Mini seminar on Alternative Fire Suppression Systems – Vortex and Novec 1230
Feb 24 – mini seminar and membership meeting

March 21 – afternoon pre conf – FREE to IFIA members

March 22 – 24 – Annual Combined conference in East Peoria

Until next month...