

IFSI NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010



From the Director's Desk

On 31 August 2010, Dave Clark retired as IFSI's Deputy Director. In his 35 years of service with the Institute he has touched the lives of tens of thousands of firefighters across Illinois and the nation. State Representative Don Moffitt led an effort to recognize Dave's years of dedicated service with a State Legislative resolution we have reprinted on page seven. After a statewide search with a number of highly qualified candidates, we have selected and the Board of Trustees has appointed, Roger Lunt as the next Deputy Director. Please join me in congratulating and thanking Dave for his many years of extraordinary service, and welcoming Roger.

Cornerstone is now fully funded and operational, hopefully for years to come. With the concerted efforts of State Fire Marshal Larry Matkaitis, the fire service leadership of Illinois through the Illinois Fire Services Association, and the Illinois Legislative Fire Caucus effort by Representatives Don Moffitt and Lisa Dugan, Governor Quinn signed HB 5412 making Cornerstone a statutory IFSI mission. Our Regional Representatives are currently working with interested departments and districts to schedule classes through June 2011. I think that the tough fight to restore Cornerstone funding reinforces the reality that the courses, while no-fee, are not "free," since we all must continue to contribute our share to make the program viable.

The construction of the new Learning Resource and Research Center is nearing completion. The first training event will be Winter Fire School on 29 -30 January 2011. For the first time, we will have the capacity to conduct all of Winter Fire School on campus at IFSI, to include hosting an Illinois Fire Protection Districts Trustee Training Session, which we will record for later retransmission on the web. In the coming year

we will be looking for partners to expand our distance learning program from the new facility and to participate in our firefighter life safety research. Please contact us if you are interested.

Richard Jaehne
Director

IFSI is your Illinois connection to the National Fire Academy (NFA). Recently, I sat down with NFA Superintendent Denis Onieal to better understand how the NFA is working to support Illinois firefighters. He reinforced his support for providing a large number of NFA courses for delivery in-state by qualified NFA instructors and by IFSI staff. Over the past decade, we have worked together to qualify some two dozen ISFI courses, which qualify for OSFM state certification, as NFA "dual-certificate" courses. He is also always seeking to ensure that NFA resident courses are completely enrolled. We process resident course applications through IFSI and would encourage all who are interested to seek to attend a NFA resident course. It can be a career enhancing experience, and most costs are borne by NFA. See the NFA web site for available resident courses at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa> and contact IFSI for in-state delivery of NFA and dual certificate courses.



Director
Richard L. Jaehne

Deputy Director
Roger Lunt

Associate Director
John McCastland

Assistant Director
Brian R. Brauer

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

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

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

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

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

www.fsi.illinois.edu

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Want your own copy of the IFSI newsletter?

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

OR

A copy is available on our web site.

News Notes

On-Site Training Props

It is through hands-on, realistic training that we strive to support field level skill development of our firefighters. For many, it is easy to recall a specific, real world training experience that prepared you for a specific response scene demand. The goal of mirroring real world challenges on the training ground requires considerable attention to prop development. Here is an update on a few of IFSI's larger on-site props.

Railroad Derailment Prop: On August 19 a non-pressurized rail tank car was placed on-site alongside the other rail cars. Thanks to Chris Downey, who is the HazMat Program Manager, for help in acquiring this prop. We are just beginning to design a Railroad Derailment Prop.

Trench Prop: The above ground trench prop is very near completion. While still in development, the prop was used for the May Trench Operations class. The prop offers linear, Ts, Ls, and U trench designs of various widths and at 8 - 16' depths.

Streetscape: Our 25 sea-land container prop, designed to simulate a city block, has already proven to be a valuable training prop. This prop provides over 9,000 square feet of hallways, stairways, storage rooms, and residential and commercial properties within a three level structure. This is not a live-fire prop, however, it does offer challenging training opportunities for all fire fighting classes. This prop will probably always be a work in progress, limited only by instructor imagination, safety and fiscal restraints.

Online Blended Learning

Fire Apparatus Engineer is now a blended learning class. Instructor I will soon be available in the blended learning format. Blended learning is done by completing "classroom" sessions on the computer, and then coming to IFSI or a designated site for the practical application sessions. These should enable more people to access classes, and save much of the travel expense.

Cornerstone Program

While delivered at no fee to you, Cornerstone classes are a partnership between the host and attending departments as well as IFSI. Your contribution comes from your time and willingness to share the training opportunity with your neighbors. Contact your IFSI Regional Representative to schedule a class.

Les Lockwood is the new IFSI Central Region Representative. Les began his 37 years in the fire service with the Girard Illinois Volunteer Fire Department. He joined the Decatur Fire Department in 1983 and currently holds the Battalion Chief rank with this department. Les joined the IFSI Field Staff in 1980. He has a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in Fire Science Management and an associate's degree in Fire Science from Lincoln Land Community College.

*Roger Lunt
Deputy Director*

College Credit

Effective July 1, 2010, IFSI students have the option to receive college transcript credit through Parkland College for many of the IFSI classes. The credit can be used towards a degree from Parkland College, any Illinois community college, and some four-year schools. Contact IFSI Assistant Director Brian Brauer with questions.

Quick Notes

- ✓ We will soon add our nine Special Operation Training Program classes as Pro Board Accreditation.
- ✓ Joe Drennan, Vehicle Machinery Rescue Program Director, is considering a two-weekend, 40-hour, Vehicle Machinery Operations class.
- ✓ Les Albert, IFSI Downstate Officer Program Manager, continues to coordinate the offering of Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II classes in southern Illinois. Contact Les (217-714-6500) regarding the availability of these classes.
- ✓ Williamson County FPD recently completed the Fire Investigation Modules I, II, and III. Post training comments have been very positive for this downstate training.

I am honored to write this edition of News & Notes. It has always been a privilege to contribute to the IFSI Newsletter; however, this one is special since it is my first contribution as the IFSI Deputy Director. My message to Deputy Director Dave Clark is, "I promise not to forget that the main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing."

Table Talk

Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director

It is the tail end of August as this is being written, and IFSI is on the threshold of seeing one of our rocks move on. I'm not talking about someone clipping a paver brick from the front of the new building, but rather I'm speaking of a non-replaceable member of the IFSI Staff – Dave Clark, our Deputy

Director.

Dave came to rest with that title (and a corner office), but his heart was in the heat and smoke. Dave was on staff when I started as a Field Staff Instructor in 1983. He was the hands on, down and dirty part of the limited staff that existed at that time. He spent his active fire service career in the middle of Illinois, and mine was on the South Side. I thought he talked funny; he felt the same about me.

One of the special things about Dave that cemented a friendship that has spanned 27 years, was a common bond over the experiences that both of us encountered at 1224 S. Komensky Avenue, in the mid- and late-'60s and

early '70s. This street address was home to Engine Company # 77 – the pride of the West Side. Not a length of dry hose on the rig, or in the house!

A turning point in my IFSI employment came in my second or third year of being on the field staff. I had been asked to teach a class, that at the time was about as exciting as kissing your sister, but what the heck – I was the new guy. The next time the class came around, I was passed over on the invite list to teach, so I asked the powers that be. They said, "No, you're one of Clark's guys." Given the choice of being one of Clark's guys or a pencil whipping, you bet your sweet ***, I'm going with Clark!

The time has come for D. C. to move on, to spend time with his bride and his family. You have to also know that Dave was the glue that held IFSI together and kept the focus on learning the job. He was the bedrock for every fire fighting program that exists at IFSI.

Dave, I thank you for the laughs, the leadership, putting up with my B.S., and most of all, your friendship. May God allow many more miles ahead as you travel the retirement highway.

Mac McCastland and Eddie Enright made a presentation at the 86th Annual Fire College. The essence of that presentation is on page 22.

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

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

Even More from IFSI

Construction on the IFSI Learning Resource and Research Center continues. We are transitioning from the major construction phase to the phase where we will be adding furniture to the building, and installing all of the technology that will create new and unparalleled opportunities to reach firefighters throughout the state through a variety of methods. Mark your calendars for the first use of the building for Winter Fire School.

IFSI's relationship with Parkland College continues to develop. Starting on 1 July 2010, IFSI classes are automatically receiving credit from Parkland College. This credit will be either for academic (degree) credit, or vocational credit. Please visit <http://www2.parkland.edu/businesstraining/IFSI> for additional information.

We are continuing to expand our Pro Board certifications as well. IFSI is offering Pro Board certification primarily to serve Illinois Department of Defense agencies, but certification can also be earned by municipal firefighters. This is not a replacement of state certification, but is a certification that is nationally recognized, similar to the National Registry for EMS Certifications.

There will be changes to the IFSI testing process this winter to both strengthen the credibility and reliability of our testing process, and to be sure that all IFSI courses can qualify for the additional credit from Parkland College and the Pro Board.

Check the IFSI website later this fall for pages dedicated to both Pro Board and Parkland College. Email me directly (brbrauer@fsi.illinois.edu) with any questions.

Brian R. Brauer
Assistant
Director

How to Print a Certificate

The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) initiated a new process regarding certificates effective July 1, 2009. We are now issuing a certificate for any training taken through IFSI, regardless of the number of hours of the training. This certificate will not be mailed through the U.S. Postal System, however, it is available on the Student Resource Center (see page 16 on how to access the Student Resource Center).

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

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

Process to access a certificate:

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

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

Looking Back & Looking Ahead

David F. Clark
Deputy Director
(retired)

Writing this is a little tougher than usual, since with my retirement August 31, this is my last issue. My association with IFSI, actually under its old name of Firemanship Training, began when I took my first Essentials class when I was about 12 years old. A few years later I attended an LP burn and also Fire College in the summers. (Fire departments and trainers were not as concerned about underage participants in those days. In fact, I have a picture out of the Peoria newspaper of me on a hose line at a barn fire when I was 10 years old, and that sure wasn't the first fire I ever fought.)

It was my good fortune to have experience fighting fires with rural, suburban, and busy large city fire departments. Good firefighters in each taught me a great deal, which I later tried to pass on to others. Thanks to the efforts of Jack "JR" Rutledge, I taught my first class here in 1975 as a Field Instructor, one of about 15 or less at the time. Now we have over 500. In 1977 I was hired as one of four full-time instructors. In the early days we instructors traveled all over the state, and this enabled me to learn from many different departments. I was also able to relate to most any teaching situation and group of firefighters encountered. We burned every building we could get our hands on, and I still say if I could only do one thing to train firefighters it would be to take them into house burn fires and show them what they can do.

Our Firemanship Training office was in an old house in Urbana, and all we had at the current IFSI site was the Tower, which was open above the second floor. We held classes in the single apparatus bay, and had one engine which was minimally equipped. If we needed other rigs; we borrowed them from local fire departments. We hauled props, including an A-frame LP burner, around in our station wagons, along with my "library" of fire manuals. When we started doing SCBA training we had no compressor, so we initially hauled air in bottles from the Urbana FD for Academy and Smoke Divers. Today we have three compressors, dozens of large storage bottles, and hundreds of masks and SCBA cylinders.

Over the last 35 years much has changed, including our name – Illinois Fire Service Institute, the addition of masonry burn buildings,

the "streetscape," "Rescue City," and numerous sophisticated rescue and other props, a fully equipped fleet of six engines, three aerials, and an ambulance, plus over 35 trailers. Our student numbers have reached almost 60,000 per year, and instead of a few instructors teaching everything, we have hundreds of instructors, many specializing in various Program areas. We now have students from every county in the state, and from over 85% of the fire departments, including annually training every Chicago firefighter.

In recent years I have been privileged to serve as IFSI's Deputy Director. I have always been greatly impressed by the vast experience, enthusiasm and dedication of our instructors and staff. I've said repeatedly that, "I can throw a Halligan bar onto the apparatus bay floor, and our instructors will make a class out of it." As one of our former instructors used to say when given a subject to teach, "How long do you want me to go with it, 5 minutes, 5 hours, or 5 days?" The firefighters of Illinois are blessed to have access to such people and the unique resource that is IFSI. No other state in the country has a comparable hands-on fire academy that emphasizes the basics of fire fighting and fire service response in the realistic way that we do. I personally learned so much from working with instructors such as Jim Berggren, Dean Mercer, and others too numerous to name. Thanks to you all.

Over the past 20+ years our research efforts have expanded, and our new Learning Resource & Research Center will enable us to explore and discover solutions to many fire-related problems, and to reach firefighters and other interested organizations across the state and around the world in new and innovative ways. We are working increasingly with engineers, architects, physicians, researchers and others to help make the world safer for firefighters and citizens.

Without a doubt, the most significant thing I ever did here was play a role in getting Colonel Jaehne to come to IFSI. His leadership has enabled IFSI to grow and assume a leadership position in the state, nation and around the world. We play a major role with other fire service organizations in fire service and homeland security strategic planning in Illinois and the U.S. Semper Fi, Sir.

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

I believe IFSI is on the verge of another period of exponential growth, with expansion and new work in numerous areas. It will be an exciting time! But, as things have changed over the years, much has remained the same – the percentage of fire fighting classes in relation to everything we do, the dedication of instructors and staff, emphasis on basic principles of fire fighting, etc. etc. For example, my original fire chief who took me under his wing as a kid used to tell about the chief who brought him up. The FD sent him to Fire College in the 1930's. When he got home they asked him, "What did you learn at that fancy school?" He said, "I learned one thing. You've got to ventilate and get in." Seventy-five or more years later we're still teaching the same basic thing. We also moved people away from booster lines and to smooth bore nozzles.

We will soon be unveiling a new Fire Fighting Program Instructor's Orientation Manual to help you know in detail how to use our on-site buildings and props, what we are trying to teach, and the thinking behind it. This and the videos and photos that accompany it should prove helpful in getting everyone on the same page.

I am very comfortable and confident that Roger Lunt, whom I've known since his first day as a student in Academy and through his years as a field instructor and Regional Rep, will, as the new Deputy Director, carry on and help take IFSI to even bigger and better things, while keeping sight of our basic mission.

Thank you all for your support and friendship over the years, and I wish you the best in the future. Make the most of it. Remember, a fire department is no better than it's training.

STATE OF ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1164
OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE DONALD L. MOFFITT

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate David F. Clark on the occasion of his upcoming retirement as Deputy Director of the Illinois Fire Service Institute; and

WHEREAS, David Clark has served as Deputy Director of the Illinois Fire Service Institute since 1998 and has served as the leader of more than 500 institute faculty and instructional staff; during his tenure, the Institute has provided over 12,000 courses to more than 500,000 fire and other emergency responders and community leaders in every Illinois county, classes that total more than 5 million student instructional hours; and

WHEREAS, David Clark has served as a member of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force since its inception in 2000; and

WHEREAS, David Clark has served as a member of the faculty of the Illinois Fire Service Institute since February of 1976; since 1976, he has personally provided hands-on fireman training and developed a considerable body of training programs for tens of thousands of firefighters from throughout Illinois and the nation; and

WHEREAS, David Clark has been a pioneer in creating a sound and practical scientific research program regarding firefighter life safety issues at the Illinois Fire Service Institute; and

WHEREAS, David Clark served as a member of the Illinois Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, which assists Illinois firefighters and their families and fire departments to recover from the tragic loss of a firefighter in the line of duty; and

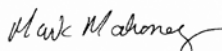
WHEREAS, From 1965 to 1985, except for a period of active duty service in the United States Army, David Clark served as a volunteer firefighter and eventually Fire Chief for the Brimfield Community Fire Protection District; from 1970 to 1974, he served as a firefighter with the Normal Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, From 1968 to 1970, David Clark served as a member of the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, known as the "Old Guard", at Arlington National Cemetery; he ultimately achieved the rank of Sergeant (E-5) and team leader; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate David F. Clark on the occasion of his retirement and lifetime of service to the firefighters and citizens of the State of Illinois and wish him many happy and healthy retirement years; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to David Clark as a symbol of our esteem and respect.

Adopted by the House of Representatives on April 27, 2010.


MARK MAHONEY
CLERK OF THE HOUSE




MICHAEL J. MADIGAN
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Retiring Deputy Director, David F. Clark, was presented with this state legislative resolution by Illinois Representative Donald Moffitt, at Clark's retirement luncheon.

In addition to the state honor, Congressman Timothy Johnson formally recognized Clark on May 5, 2010 from the U.S. House floor. "His dedication, expertise and passion have impacted so many firefighters throughout his time at IFSI and his impact on the field of fire fighting will be sorely missed," according to Rep. Johnson's comments published in the Congressional Record.

From the Field: Cornerstone Reports

Greg Fisher
Cornerstone
East Central
Region

East Central Region

A third of the way through fiscal year 2011 and word is getting out that the Cornerstone Program is now a permanent part of the IFSI budget. This will be a tremendous help in scheduling numerous regional schools providing a variety of classes augmented by “hands on” classes from the Cornerstone menu.

MABAS Division 41/McLean County Firefighter’s Association held their 34th annual school. Besides the classes presented by MABAS Division 41 personnel, IFSI field staff pitched in with LPG fire fighting funded by the Illinois Propane Education Research Council, and Ethanol and Foam – with a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant. Advanced Auto Extrication, Light and Fight, Fires On The Farm, Agricultural Rescue, and Down and Dirty Hydraulics classes, funded by the Cornerstone Program, are examples of the partnership with the McLean County Firefighter’s Association.

IFSI and the MABAS 54 Training Committee planned their Cornerstone class choices far in advance. This year’s event will be held on November 6-7, 2010, at the Kluthe Center in Effingham. R.I.T., Technical Rescue Awareness, Advanced Auto Extrication, Residential Building Operations, Grain Bin Rescue, and Basic Strategy and

Tactics are just some of the sessions being offered from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday, and 8 a.m. – noon, Sunday.

Many pending class requests have been presented or are scheduled in the near future. Basic Pumps & Rural Engine and Tender Operations at Beecher City; Grain Bin Rescue at Tolono, Savoy, Paxton, Melvin, Ludlow, and Paris; the entire Essentials Series in Catlin; Thermal Imaging Camera and Fire Ground Communications in Humboldt; and Fire Service Vehicle Operator in Cerro Gordo and Shumway are just a few classes on the books for the East Central Illinois Cornerstone Region.

A number of inquiries on Certified Fire Fighter II have come in as many departments have received Assistance to the Firefighter’s Grant Program Awards. Other departments simply do not have the time or personnel available to teach these modules in-house. Two East Central Region departments have contracted for Certified Fire Fighter II Modules to meet their probationary requirements. IFSI is assisting in the presentation with help from local certified instructors.

Funds are still available for scheduling Cornerstone classes this fiscal year. I look forward to hearing from departments in the East Central Region. Let me know what I can do to help you with your training needs.

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

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Cornerstone Regions

Southern Region

In the fall not only do birds go south but a lot of training is headed in that direction too. We are completing another Fire Officer I program at Williamson County Fire Station #1 in Marion. The final three classes are Management I (September), Fire Prevention Principles (October), and Management II (November). These classes are all taught on weekends. After the first of the year, IFSI will start a Fire Officer II Program with classes being taught in the weekend format at Williamson County. Please refer to the IFSI website for additional information and class schedules.

Carbondale will host a "Light & Fight" on Saturday, October 23, 2010. This training will begin at 8 a.m., and is usually one of the largest in the area with plenty of evolutions.

For those departments needing driver's training, our Fire Service Vehicle Operators classroom training is available through Cornerstone. Several fire departments in the area

are taking advantage of this training so if you have someone who needs the training, send them to one of these departments. Train with your mutual aid departments to save costs, make the training realistic to practice safety. The early hours of an incident are not the time to begin this process.

Metropolis will be hosting a *NFA: Command and General Staff for Incident Management Teams* class in January. The class is a five-day class and meets the requirements of ICS 300 and ICS 400. There is no cost to attend, but you need to pre-register. You will learn about Incident Action Plans and the process of putting one together.

"Oil Well Fire Fighting" training is available a few times during the year at Salem Fire RTC and at the Southeastern College training site near Harrisburg. This is a great learning experience when fighting petroleum fires. If you have drilling sites, tank batteries, or separators in your area, this free training would be beneficial to your fire department.

*Les Albert
Southern
Regional
Representative*

Southwest Region

I hope everyone had a good summer. As the hot weather continues, so do the requests for Cornerstone training.

Since the funds for the Cornerstone classes have been released, I have had close to 50 requests for classes. Most of these are already scheduled and ready to go.

If your department has any request for training I suggest you send them in. As you know, funds are limited. If any department needs help in asking for classes they can call

IFSI and then will get you in touch with me.

One of the major events for our region is the Fire School being sponsored by the Madison County Firemen's Association and the 3M Firemen's Association. It was held on September 25, 2010, at the Madison Fire Department training grounds.

The classes offered were Basic Auto, Essentials 1, Fire Ground Management, and First In Engine and Truck Company Operations.

Remember to keep you and your fellow firefighters well-trained and safe on the fire ground.

*John Nichols
Southwest
Regional
Representative*

Northwest Region

Activities in the Northwest Region are off to a great start as the Cornerstone funds for fiscal 2011 became available August 1. As the requests come in I will continue to deliver my regional email training update. Watch for

information on Light & Fights at the QC-RTC on the Rock Island Arsenal, as well as the Great Northwest Fire School Weekend in East Dubuque in mid-November. Saturday, March 19, 2011, will be the date for Quincy's 3rd annual fire college.

Stay safe!

*Ray Palczynski
Northwest
Regional
Representative*

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

From the Field: Cornerstone Reports

Les Lockwood
Central
Regional
Representative

Central Region

First I would like to say thanks to Roger Lunt for the great job that he did in the Central Region. His dedication to the fire service showed through in his passion for training. I wish him well in his new job, and I know he will carry that passion into his new roll.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve the Central Region. I promise to try to provide Cornerstone Training for any for any department that asks for it. We have only a few rules that are easy to comply with. Our quality instructors are dedicated to training and have real world experience.

My goal for the Central Region is to get out and meet many of you. I would like to attend your regional fire association meeting to tell you about the great training opportunities we can provide for you. I am available to meet with you or your department on your meeting

night as well. If you would like me to attend your meeting please send me an email with the date and time.

Even if you are not planning a meeting, send me your email address anyway. Please include your name and address so I can keep track of you by county.

I often think about the people who have influenced my career. One that had the most significant impact was an IFSI instructor. As I sat in that IFSI class, (then called Firemanship Training) it ignited a spark that started me on a career path.

I feel that those of us who have had great and sometimes not so great experiences in the fire service have a responsibility to the next generation of firefighters. Training is the most important way we can share that experience. Knowledge must be shared, and maybe we can launch another career. Let's get started with that training.

Jim Streu
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative

Northeast and Chicago Region

The fall season is upon us and school has started for many of our families. The Fire Service family is no different. The Fire Officer schedule is available online and registrations are being taken. Classes are being held at the Geneva Fire Department and the Batavia Fire Department. Please check times and dates online at www.fsi.illinois.edu.

Cornerstone classes are available and ready for scheduling. Encourage the firefighters in your areas to take advantage of these excellent training opportunities. There are classes available days, nights and weekends. Once again check the web site for additional details.

Starting in January, the Evergreen Park Fire Department will be hosting the Fire Officer I & II classes at night for those unable to attend the day classes. Night classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 – 10 p.m. Register through the IFSI web site.

The Chicago Metro Area and the North Central Region field staff meetings have been scheduled for this fall and winter. This is when our field staff get together to discuss upcoming education opportunities as well as curriculum updates. As field staff this is a good opportunity to discuss the needs in your areas. These meetings replaced the annual meeting. Please keep an eye on your email for future meetings. Current locations are at Cherry Valley FPD in Rockford, NIPSTA in Glenview, Sugar Grove FD, RJ Quinn (CFD) and Crystal Lake FD. Communications for these meetings will be sent out by Illinois Fire Service Institute email notification.

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

To find out what classes are available in your area, visit the IFSI web site at www.fsi.illinois.edu and click on Courses in the upper left hand corner.



From the Campus: Program Reports

S.O.T.P.

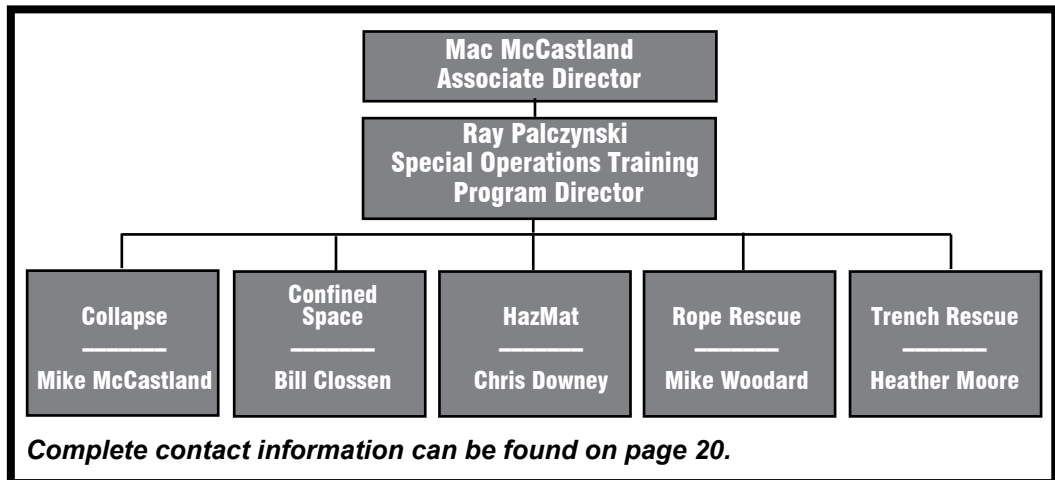
We are over half way through 2010 and the S.O.T.P. is gradually taking shape and growing into one large functional family. Each rescue discipline, Collapse, Confined Space, Hazmat, and Rope & Trench continue to maintain their core group of instructors and program identities. What is changing is the behind-the-scenes operations where equipment purchasing and allocations are now being done by all the groups as a whole. There is strength in numbers! We are also sharing curriculum expertise among the rescue programs enhancing each program's core objectives.

October 5 and 6 will be the last stand-alone HazMat validation exercise. The remaining seven teams who had not yet validated and a few who were in the first validation groups will come together to exercise their skills. In 2011 we will move to a five-day multi-jurisdictional validation exercise where we will move from individual strike teams of a particular discipline to task forces where multiple rescue disciplines will work together. Many teams will rotate in and out over the five-day period. There will also be many more participants in addition to the TRT and HazMat teams.

Most of the special operations classes for FY 2011 have already been determined. There will be three operations level and three technician level classes in each of the collapse, confined space, rope and trench disciplines. If you want a seat in any of these classes don't hesitate to register. All these classes fill quickly, with preference given to team members. The hazardous materials programs, due to their different funding structures, will continue to be delivered as in the past.

In order to help facilitate more efficient delivery of the S.O.T.P.'s, we have developed a director, deputy director and manager structure. Please take a look at the flow chart below. You can easily go directly to the person best suited to answer your S.O.T.P related questions. If you have any questions the program managers cannot answer, please don't hesitate to ask Mac or me.

*Ray Palczynski
Special
Operations
Training
Program
Director*



How to request a Cornerstone Class and where to find the Cornerstone Request for Training form.

1. www.fsi.illinois.edu
2. Click on COURSES (upper left on blue bar)
3. Click on BROWSE CATALOG (4th bullet down under Regular Course Options)
4. Click on Cornerstone box
5. Click on Request for Training (under Forms below the logo)
6. Print and fill out the form for each class requested and submit to your Regional Representative.



From the Campus: Program Reports

Heather Moore
Trench Rescue
Program
Manager

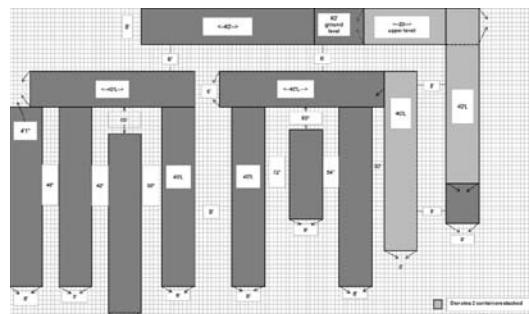
Trench Rescue

Ah, it seems like yesterday, we were sitting around trying to figure out how to overcome the collapsing trenches in order to show students how to properly secure a trench. We evolved from drawing on napkins to moving around matchbox size tractor trailer containers on a table. During an impromptu discussion with Director Jaehne and Dave Clark I requested eight sea land containers to create a trench simulator. As the discussion continued, the vision became clear, "Go big, or go home." We now have 16 sea land containers that create the new IFSI above-ground trench simulator.

With the support of the administration, the 2010 Trench Rescue Program has been one of change and innovation. The simulator supports IFSI's commitment to offer the highest level of training. The trench simulator creates a controlled teaching and training environment that addresses the unpredictability of trench collapses.

The simulator enhances the trench rescue training at IFSI, but the simulator will never replace "live trench" training.

Until now, the student's introduction to trench rescue training occurred in a "live trench." During the second day of the trench operations class, the students are introduced to the equipment needed to safely secure a trench during a rescue. By utilizing the simulator, the instructors and students are able to see all angles of the systems created in order



The layout for the new trench rescue prop on IFSI's Champaign campus.



Down in the trench prop.

to keep rescuers safe. After skill sets are established, the students are required to use those skills to secure a "live trench." Three "live trench" scenarios are completed during the operations trench class.

Neither pictures nor words define the evolution and the opportunities that can be unearthed for IFSI's Trench Rescue Program. I invite you to check out the new addition the next time you are training at IFSI.

Joe Drennan
Vehicle/
Machinery
Rescue
Program

Vehicle/Machinery

The saying in Illinois is that there are two seasons: winter and construction. And with construction comes more activities on the roads.

Recently, two fatal multi-vehicle accidents have taken place close to home. The first one was on I-57 near Mattoon. Several semi-trailers and personal cars were involved leaving two dead and several more severely injured. Another fatal accident took place near Gray Summit, Mo., involving two school buses filled with high school students, an SUV with a single occupant, and a semi-tractor with no trailer.

What are some of the challenges that you may encounter if called to an incident of this type and magnitude? Are you prepared to respond to this type of incident? Has your department participated in Unified Command Training?

Are you prepared?

Location: Are you able to get to the incident in a timely manner? Will stopped traffic impede your entry to the crash site, and if so, are there alternate routes or ways to get to the scene? Are frontage roads available or can you safely travel from the opposite way against the

Vehicle/Machinery continued

flow of traffic? If you have to use the shoulder of the road, is it wide enough for your apparatus to fit and is it solid enough to support the weight of the apparatus? Does your department have an SOP/SOG in place for safely blocking the roadway for fire fighting and EMS personnel? Do you have reflective vests for personnel to wear per 23 CFR Part 634? Have you discussed with your respective law enforcement agencies shutting down all lanes of traffic for protection?

Number of personnel responding: Your department makeup determines this factor – full-time paid, combination, paid-on-call or volunteer. How much training have they had and what is their level of experience? If your personnel response numbers are going to be low, do you belong to a MABAS group or have a technical rescue response team nearby? Automatic response MOAs may assist you in beefing up personnel in the initial response to the incident. Once you have arrived and made your initial size-up you can always cancel the response if needed. Remember, it is a lot easier to return them than it is to realize that you need them.

Tools and Equipment: What do you carry on your apparatus? What type of stabilizing equipment do you have and if it is in the form of wood cribbing how much do you carry? Do you have 4x4s and 6x6s? Remember that busses and trucks weigh a lot more than family vehicles. If you would need a lot of them in a short amount of time do you know where you can get them? Will they be delivered or do you have to pick them up? Regarding your tools, are you capable of running more than one tool at a time? Do you carry a generator to power more than one electrically controlled tool? If you are using pneumatic tools, do you have a sufficient supply of air bottles on hand or do you have a cascade system?

Being able to address these questions now will allow you to perform your duties much easier when and if you have to respond to an incident like the ones above. IFSI's Vehicle/Machinery Ops and Tech classes will prepare you with the answers.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Duane Bales on his retirement. Duane took the Vehicle Machinery program to the next level with his knowledge and expertise. It has been an honor working with him, but more of an honor calling him a friend. *Thank you Duane.*

Agricultural Rescue

As the new coordinator of the Ag Rescue program, I first want to thank Duane Bales for believing in me and leaving IFSI a program to be proud of. We have made some changes by adding props to the program. Arends Brothers donated a John Deere 4400 combine for our use. Lincoln Ag Services donated an anhydrous applicator for IFSI to use. Brock Grain donated a bin for entrapment training. Brock also supplied us with some auger sections for class work. We have purchased a grain vac and a trailer to mount all the grain bin class props.

Fire College was a success as we had a large turnout for our Farm Emergencies class. In late June, IFSI participated in a combination Ag Rescue and Grain Bin class at the Macon County Fairgrounds. This was

in conjunction with the Macon County Farm Bureau and University of Illinois Ag Extension service. We had a good turnout and the students got to do a lot of hands-on training. IFSI got a lot of media coverage from this class.

With the purchase of a new trailer, I hope to have separate trailers for both Grain Bin and Ag Rescue.

Finally, harvest is underway and a time when accidents happen and safety sometimes gets lost in the rush to get done. There have been lives lost this year due to last year's harvest. Please brothers and sisters, be careful out there. The farm I work on covers 2,200 acres, so I know how easy accidents can happen! Complacency and exhaustion play a role in farm accidents, so watch out for each other. As we travel across the state, I look forward to meeting you and working with you.

*Dave Newcomb
Ag Rescue
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports

Joe Gasparich
National
Incident
Management
System (NIMS)
Program
Director

Homeland Security

One of the key components covered when we teach incident command classes is the identification of essential elements of information. What are essential elements of information and where do these “elements” come from?

In the fire service, much training is given so that the essential elements of information may be understood. Elements such as smoke color, building type, amount of available water for the response, and the type of available equipment for responders are all essential elements of information.

The fire service is not the only discipline that engages in the collection of essential elements of information. In fact, all response organizations are taught to gather and analyze essential elements of information from the earliest days of training.

The challenges faced by those who are tasked with managing large-scale events are twofold – what essential elements of information are useful and what essential elements of information are needed by other responders. This has best been exemplified by response to terrorism events. People who are in charge of managing such events must be keenly aware

of the information that they are given. This information is key to the response to the event and is essential to keep their people safe.

As we strive to integrate many disciplines in a response environment, we must ask ourselves – what do we need to know and how can I get the information? It is essential that someone in the Planning Section collect, analyze, utilize and report essential elements of information to the team so that the information can be used in the development of an incident action plan that benefits all groups.

A key position in the Planning Section is the Situation Unit Leader, who makes it his/her job to seek out essential elements of information and to use this information to assist the Planning Section Chief, the Operations Section Chief, the Safety Officer and the Incident Commander.

One of the mentors to the Illinois Incident Management Team said, “Unless I have the essential elements of information about the incident and the response – how can I know where to start?”

The next time that you handle a large or complex incident, ask yourself, “What do I need to know and who has the information for me?” I think this will help guide your response and make your job easier, and your response and recovery more efficient and effective.

Are You in Touch?

Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director

Electronic communications is only as good as the electronic address. Increasingly, here at IFSI, we are challenged to reach our students because of an incorrect or new email address. It's important that we have the correct contact information - to keep you in touch - whether it is for an online class or to let you know the latest on upcoming classes.

So take a moment to log into the Student Resource Center from the IFSI home page. Select the MY ACCOUNT tab and then the personal information link. Take a look at your information and make necessary corrections. Be sure to click update at the bottom before leaving the page.

We want to stay in touch with you. More details on page 16.

The screenshot displays the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) Student and Staff Resource Center. The page features a navigation menu with tabs for 'Student Central', 'Payment Center', and 'MY Account'. The 'MY Account' tab is active, showing a 'Welcome' message and a list of tools including 'Display Options', 'Skin', 'Avatar', 'Grades / Results', 'Course History', 'Pending Courses', 'Subscriptions', 'Personal Information', 'My Bio', and 'Change Password'. A red arrow points to the 'Printing Your Certificates' section, which contains the following text: 'The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has initiated a new process regarding certificates to be mailed through the US Postal System, however, but will be available on the website. The certificates will include any EMS hours and site code, if applicable. There will be a link to these certificates which will remain on your course history and can be printed by you. The process to access the certificate is: Log into the Student/Staff Resource Center on the IFSI website www.fsi.edu; Choose My Account tab; Click on Course History under Tools; Click on the word Certificate and the document will open and is now available. PLEASE NOTE! It may take up to six weeks for a class to be processed and your certificate to be mailed.' Below this, there is a 'Chat Options' section with checkboxes for 'Status Messages', 'TimeStamp', and 'Emobicons'. A calendar for September 2010 is visible at the bottom left, and a 'Calendar' section is at the bottom right.

Winter Fire School - Headed for Change

Changes are coming for Winter Fire School (WFS). The entire 2011 Winter Fire School program will be held at IFSI's expanded facilities. With the completion of the Learning Resource & Research Center in fall 2010, our meeting and classroom capabilities will greatly increase. The facility presents a full range of educational opportunities and will boast a beautiful library, Firefighter Memorial Hall and museum, conference center and conference room, computer lab and information technology center, research laboratories and an emergency operations and training center.

IFSI staff is working to provide an exciting offering of class selections including fire offi-

cer leadership, lessons learned (FEMA), building construction, fire explorer training, vehicle fires and vehicle extrication awareness, as well as S-133 wildland fire fighting class. Also for 2011, an important new partnership is being developed with the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts (IAFPD). We will be offering training provided by the IAFPD designed specifically for fire protection districts officials and officers.

Watch for complete information about Winter Fire School. Please read the information carefully since holding WFS here at IFSI is a new direction for the program. Save the dates: Saturday, January 29 and Sunday, January 30, 2011.

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

***Watch for complete information about
Winter Fire School this November.***

“HOT” Times for June Explorers

This year the 2010 Explorer Cadet *Hands On Training* Fire School projected a smaller number of participants, presuming the economy would put a damper on attendance. As it happens, with the exception of the National Fire and Emergency Services Explorer Conference of 2007, this year's event hosted more fire service youth program members than any other to date. Two hundred fourteen adults and youth attended for the first time while 164 Explorers, Cadets, Junior Firefighters and their adult chaperones, advisors and mentors returned – some for their fifth time.

The Hands On Training (HOT) lived up to its acronym this year with several days with a 100 degree heat index. Taking a page from Col. Jaehne's play book on training Marines, we moved the Saturday afternoon events to the evening to maximize the training time and take a break from the heat. The 12-hour sessions of Fire Fighting Core Competencies, Coordinated Fire Ground Operations, and Basic Engine Company Operations formed the baseline classes; while evening classes in Basic Pumps, Auto Extrication, and Basic Truck Company Operations rounded out the learning experience.

As we have seen since the national event of 2007, our attendees come from a wide geographic area. Young people

came from Alabama, California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Iowa and Michigan. Illinois youth organizations came from all corners of the state.

The event allows IFSI to showcase many of the live-burn training capabilities for our future firefighters. With the dormitory lodging arrangements, food service, and the various activities, young people were exposed to a major Big Ten university. A positive experience at the University of Illinois will generate interest in a potential school choice for their future, as well as develop a foundation for interest and support in the fire service as these young people go out into the world.

The event would not be such a success if not for the support of the Illinois Association of Fire Chiefs, the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois, U.S. Safety Products, Stan's Sportsworld, and Scott Health and Safety. Their monetary contributions and donations of in-kind training equipment, safety items and event memorabilia were crucial to keeping the event in a price range that the organizations could afford. A big "Thank You" to each of those organizations.

*Greg Fisher
Explorer-Cadet
Fire School
Coordinator*

The 2011 Explorer-Cadet Hands On Training Fire School is scheduled for June 23-26. IFSI looks forward to your organization's continued participation.

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

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

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

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

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

All other logins.

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

Student password reset.

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

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

Research Update

The Illinois Fire Service Institute hosted the Firefighter Cardiovascular Health & Safety Research Summit 2010 on September 16-17. It is well known that 45% of all firefighter fatalities are attributed to sudden cardiac events each year and significant research has been conducted across the country to address this issue. Several groups have conducted research to understand the risks of cardiovascular disease to firefighters while other research has focused on the cardiovascular strain of firefighting. Our goals for this Summit were to identify policy and protocol implications of current firefighter cardiovascular research findings and to determine methods of effectively implementing the lessons learned from research to provide the highest positive impact on fireground fatality trends.

This workshop brought together research groups focused on firefighter cardiovascular health and safety issues with Directors of State

Training Academies and national leadership in the Fire Service. More than 40 attendees were present; while the largest contingent was present from Illinois, some researchers traveled from as far east as New York, and west as California while training and policy experts attendees came from between Quebec in the north and Alabama in the south. The insight and perspective of all attendees provided great discussion and highlighted numerous opportunities for moving research to practice. As all of this information is summarized, a Summit report will be made available on the IFSI Research website in fall 2010.

The Summit was funded in part by a Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention & Safety Grant.

*Gavin Horn
Research
Program
Manager*

IFSI China Program

The **Chinese Librarians Summer Program** successfully completed its sixth year in July. Twenty-seven participants from different regions of China attended the four-week program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Speakers from the University Library, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the Illinois State Library, Indiana University- Bloomington, and the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois presented on current issues

and future challenges for academic libraries. Participants visited a number of libraries in Champaign and Springfield, and also traveled to New York City, Washington, D.C., Berkeley, and Stanford University. During their time in Champaign, participants learned about American culture at a local home, and toured the IFSI Learning Resource and Research Center and the firefighter training ground. See photo below.

*Lian Ruan
China Program
Director*



Building Corporate Relations

*Dennis Spice
Director of
Corporate
Relations*

What is Corporate Relations at the Illinois Fire Service Institute? We meet with companies in the private sector and explain how the training provided by the Institute can add value to the product and services they provide. They can support IFSI by providing gifts in kind which we use in our training programs, direct monetary support, by letting others in the community know about the types of training conducted at the State Fire Academy, or by contracting directly with the Institute for training personnel in their companies.



Caterpillar is recognized for its wood pallet donation.
(L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI; Jim Baumgartner, Director, Corporate Public Affairs, Caterpillar; Harry Clore, IFSI; Eric Minder, Caterpillar; Kim Blundy, Caterpillar; Calvin Plumer, Caterpillar .



The Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District donated a bus for use in training. (L-R) Mike Humphrey, CUMTD Maintenance; Mark Berg, IFSI; and Dave Moore, CUMTD Director of Maintenance.

You can help too, by letting us know of companies in your area that we can speak with about IFSI and the difference they can make in your training. Please contact Dennis D. Spice, Director of Corporate Relations, at 217-359-0671 or by email at: dspice@fsi.illinois.edu.

Besides what you see here, MSA and Air One Equipment, Inc. donated four air packs this year. We thank all of those who help IFSI fulfill our mission.



Draeger is recognized for providing equipment to IFSI for training. Ralf Drews, President and CEO of Draeger Safety, Inc.; and Dick Jaehne, Director of the Illinois Fire Service Institute.



Mitsubishi is recognized for its donation of 10 automobiles. (L) Jerry Berwanger, Chief Operating Officer, Mitsubishe Motors North America receiving award from Harry Clore, Director of Finance and Administration at IFSI.



Akron Brass donated various nozzles and tools for use in training. (L-R) Mike Porrevecchio, Education Coordinator at Akron; Dave Clark; and Kent Clasen, District Manager at Akron.



Brock Grain Systems donated a grain bin for Ag Rescue Training. The bin shown here is still under development and will be placed on a trailer, making it easier to take the training on the road.



Combine donated by Arends Brothers LLC of Urbana for Ag Rescue Training.



Decatur Memorial Hospital donated a railcar for use in HazMat training.



The Lincoln Ag Center located in Broadwell, Illinois, donated an Anhydrous Ammonia Applicator Bar for use in Ag Rescue Training.



Rhonda Turner, Illinois Propane Gas Association Executive Vice President and Illinois Petroleum Education and Research Council (IPERC) Administrator, receives recognition for support provided by IPERC.

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Library Updates & Highlights

The IFSI Library is home to an extensive collection of **fire and emergency magazines and journals** that are available to Illinois firefighters, fire departments, and other library patrons at no charge. The library can deliver photocopied articles from these periodicals to patrons via password-protected Internet access, fax, or interlibrary loan.

The IFSI Library actively subscribes to more than 30 fire and emergency magazines and journals, as well as more than 20 periodicals related to counterterrorism, training, and management. There are also more than 400 other current and historical periodical titles in the library's collection.

In addition to decades-long runs of enduring fire service standards such as *Fire Engineering*, *Fire Chief*, and *Firehouse*, the library's fire and emergency periodicals include *EMS Magazine*, *Fire & Arson Investigator*, *Fire Apparatus & Emergency Equipment*, *Fire Findings*, *Fire Magazine*, *Fire Rescue*, *Industrial Fire World*, *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health*, *NFPA Journal*, and *WNYF: With New York Firefighters*. Other current periodicals available at the library include *Counterterrorism*, *Evidence Technology Magazine*, *Homeland Security Today*, *Occupational Health and Safety Magazine*, *Sprinkler Age*, and *Training*.

To search for articles available at the IFSI Library, access the library's online catalog at <http://fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/search/>. Search by "Title," "Subjects," or "Author," and select "Article" from the drop-down list in the "Format" field. Click on "Search Catalog" to retrieve a list of articles related to your search topic, and from that list click on the title of an article to retrieve a Record Details window containing additional publication information about the article. Click on the book icon next to a desired article to add it to your Request Bin, and click on the "Checkout" button to request that article.

For assistance or to request articles or other library materials, please contact the library at 217-333-8925 or fsi@library.illinois.edu.

IFLODD: The Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Digital Image Collection Database continues to provide access to historical incident summaries, scanned departmental records and photographs, and oral history interviews that memorialize the ultimate sacrifice of more than 840 Illinois firefighters since 1857. The IFSI Library has recently enhanced IFLODD with a new *Image & Audio Search* page that lets users search directly for image and audio files contained in the database. In addition, the new *Interactive Charts* feature allows users to generate graphics that present line of duty death statistics and other data gleaned from the firefighter deaths documented in the database. For example, users can create charts that show Heart Attack deaths by Age Range, Traffic Accident Deaths by Decade, Firefighting Deaths by Incident Location Type, or hundreds of other possible charting options. For further information about IFLODD or to contribute information about a fallen firefighter, please contact Adam Groves at agroves@fsi.illinois.edu or 217-265-6107.

Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

Adam Groves
Archivist/
Metadata
Librarian

The IFSI Library is also collecting information about **Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor and Medal of Valor** recipients—not only the names of these firefighters, but also the stories of the incidents and actions for which they were honored. To help ensure accurate and appropriate documentation, recipients can contact Adam Groves at agroves@fsi.illinois.edu or 217-265-6107.

The IFSI Library has recently enhanced IFLODD with a new Image & Audio Search page that lets users search directly for image and audio files contained in the database.

The Maltese Cross

Virtues for Today's Fire Service

The Knights of Saint John are with us. Pull strength from our past as we reflect on this historic emblem and what it means for us today. The Maltese Cross has a rich history of symbolizing a noble breed dedicated to serving their fellow man. An emblem we have seen and probably have worn many times has a story to tell, if we listen hard enough.

The original meaning of the eight points of the Maltese Cross was the "Beatitudes as given by the Lord Jesus Christ, in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew." (Foster) These eight Knightly obligations changed over the centuries in wording, but the symbolism never changed, as it represented a group of men bound by a universal motto "For the Service of Mankind." An official government record for Canada provides this statement about the switch to a non-Christian set of virtues for the Order of St. John:

"The emblem is significant in that the eight points that span off into the four arms were to put the wearers in mind of always bearing in their hearts the cross of Jesus, adorned with the eight virtues that attend it. Prior to the council of the order in England, the meaning of each point was basically religious. But since then, the meanings have been changed.

They are: observation, tact, resource, dexterity, explicitness, discrimination, perseverance and sympathy."

(Official Report of the Hansard Legislative Assembly, 1997, Vol-7, Number 2)

These Knightly virtues were again slightly changed as the fire service personalized them into the eight we are familiar with today. Let us take a look at the meaning of these eight points from the firefighter's perspective. Let us reflect on this emblem from our past and ponder what it signifies to us today.

Observation – To constantly be aware.

The emergency scene is unpredictable, the unknown is a constant and those hidden hazards pose an ever-present danger. We must prepare for the worst en route and conduct a thorough size-up upon arrival. Sizing-up the incident is not only performed pre-arrival and once on scene, but throughout the incident as well; being observant involves monitoring changes in our surroundings. This virtue is more than just being on guard and continuously sizing up the incident. It is about training oneself to be observant, constantly

aware of what is happening in our environment. It is about forming a *habit* of situational awareness both on and off the job.

Tact – To be professional in speech.

We interact with all different types of individuals both inside and outside of the fire-house. Being a professional should impact the way we deal with people and treat others. How do we present things to people? We must be honest to them, but still have the ability to get their "buy in." How do we give orders on the fireground; how does our message come across? The importance of maintaining a high level of professionalism during our interactions with others cannot be underestimated.

Dexterity – To be versatile.

We must be able to adjust to the demands of our environment. Do we possess flexibility to accomplish the task regardless of the conditions placed on us? Can we vent the roof swinging left or right handed, cut the hinges operating the saw left handed, cradled, or high shoulder if necessary? The use of our tools should only be limited by our imagination. Is the team able to react to conditions and change tactics? Are we "jacks of all trades," able to adapt and overcome, and capable of getting the job done?

Explicitness – To clearly communicate.

We must master the art of speaking few words to communicate volumes, having a formulated message is critical in clearly and fully expressing our intentions. On the emergency scene we want our receiver to infer nothing. If things are worth doing, do it right; strive to be the best. This starts within ourselves and takes discipline.

Perseverance – To never quit.

We can't let them down; the person in need, our team, folks are depending on us. Do we have the drive to never quit, the drive to keep going even when we are exhausted, physically and mentally drained? We dedicate ourselves to living the life of a firefighter, through the good and bad times. We keep coming back to work and we keep answering the pager; we persevere through any challenge.

Sympathy – To treat others gently.

We see a lot of trauma, life stripped down to its stark realities and harsh emotions. We must accept this fact and be able to “march on.” One old timer once said the most important piece of equipment on this squad is the blanket. Do our actions show respect? This virtue examines our ability to treat others like family, to gently care for those that are having their worst day. Whether we are dealing with a citizen who has suffered a loss or that frequent flier, are we sympathetic without judgment?

Gallantry – To step up when duty calls.

When we raised our hand to join the department and committed ourselves to this profession the greatest act of bravery was accomplished. However, we must also live it, to keep coming back to face and overcome the challenges of the job. The drive to do this must be fueled by our pride; the community calls us for help. This virtue speaks to demonstrating courage in the face of danger and performing under fire in spite of our fear. That is simply what the business requires.

Loyalty – To be committed.

We value this virtue because we depend on each other. When faced with the high stakes of our job, we rely on those to our right and left. We are committed to our responsibilities and to our department. Regardless of our feelings, when its “go time,” we’ve got each other’s back. We find strength in this commonality and are loyal to the profession, to our team, and to the calling.

In conclusion, these are just the opinions of two firemen; what do these tenets mean to you? How would you and your team define these eight virtues? Once defined, ask yourself is the Maltese Cross branded on your heart or just sewn on your sleeve? Are you made in the

image of those Knights of St. John? Do you breathe the essence of a firefighter and does your heart beat to the ethos of our culture? Do you wear the Maltese Cross with pride?

If you or your department would like to discuss more about the “Ethos of the Fire Service,” give the Chief a call.



Edmund J. Enright



Kurt Glosser



Ask yourself is the Maltese Cross branded on your heart or just sewn on your sleeve?



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New railcar prop arrived at IFSI on Thursday, August 19.

1. The semi pulling the tank on its side, exits I-57 south at Curtis Road. 2. Truck and tank roll down Windsor Road on its way to IFSI. 3. The wheels (arriving on a separate flat bed trailer) are placed on rails. 4. The tank is lifted by crane from the flatbed trailer while slowly being rolled to an upright position. 5. The tank is positioned over the wheels on the rail. 6. The tank car is lowered onto the wheels.

