



From the Director's Desk

As 2015 comes to a close, I take the time to reflect on what IFSI has accomplished and will accomplish in the coming year. During 2015 we expanded our delivery of all types of courses – technical rescue, firefighting and officer training – both on our campus and around the state. We dealt with adversity and success with equal vigor and resolve.

Despite the state's budget issues, IFSI has continued to deliver training and education to Illinois firefighters that are second to none. We worked hard and improved all aspects of our mission including but not limited to:

- Refining curriculum
- Developing new courses and programs
- Expanding our on-line and blended learning opportunities
- Expanding our life safety research projects and partnerships
- Solidifying our internal processes in HR, business practices, resource management, and grant management
- Library/information operations and international programs.

As a result of two plus years of hard work by the LDDM working group, the Leadership Development and Decision Making program has become a reality. Chief Jim Moore has been named the LDDM Program Director and we will deliver the first full pilot of that program in March of 2016. See his report on page 6, where he shares what we experienced when delivering

an abbreviated version at October's North American Fire Training Director Conference. The vision of IFSI's leadership program is being embraced at a remarkable level across the U.S. and Canada. I hope to share even more information about our next class scheduled for March 14-18, 2016. I encourage you to consider this class – regardless of what rank you hold at your department. Our goal is to offer innovative, consistent "cradle-to-grave" training in leadership and decision-making skills.

I want to thank all of you for your hard and dedicated work. Our mission is an important one, and we can all be proud of our success in fulfilling it. Together, we will continue working to assure that IFSI provides the best training, education, information, and research in the nation.

Royal P. Mortenson
Director



Royal P. Mortenson
Director

Quote from Fireground Command School in Champaign: "Outstanding to be able to be coached/mentored by these instructors - it was an honor. The lessons learned here will have an immediate impact on my department's operations by making me a better officer."

Director
Royal P. Mortenson

Deputy Director
Jim Keiken

Associate Director
John McCastland

Associate Director
Brian R. Brauer

Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs
Sean Burke

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 web site under ABOUT IFSI/Documents.

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It has been a very exciting time at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Since the last edition of the newsletter so many exciting things have occurred. We completed the fall academy. We contracted hundreds of courses both on campus and across the state, as well as around the world.

We held the 92nd annual Fire College with more than 500 participants from across Illinois. At this year's Fire College we had a significantly revamped program. Classes such as Leadership Development and Decision Making, Firefighting on the Rails, and Tactical EMS were all new offerings. We completed a "blended" Fire Instructor 1 program, which had 36 participants that started the class in the beginning of May and completed the hands-on sessions either Thursday and Friday or Saturday and Sunday. All participants successfully completed the program.

We lost the Explorer Hands-On Training School grant from the State Fire Marshal's Office, but the Explorer event was held regardless using a cost-recovery model. In the end, we had more than 200 Explorers, Cadets and chaperones. It had a new and updated program and planning is already in the works for 2016 to make it better yet.

We had the first use of the new Tank Car Derailment prop during Fire College. With the assistance of railroads across the state, IFSI is developing a completely new program for Emergencies on the Rail. Ray Palczynski is leading the team for IFSI. We also are planning a new rail offering at Winter Fire School.

Light and Fights have also had some improvements with changes to the format and staff additions. We are working to make each Light and Fight unique and will be focusing on various OSFM objectives. We hope this will assist individuals working to complete the OSFM minimum training recommendations for structural firefighting as well as certifications.

Prop improvements have been a focus for the firefighting program this year with improvements to the "green cans" (new stairs and windows on the second floor) and "Streetscape" (expanded burn capability, forcible entry options, to name a couple). The "Mine Cans" have been expanded to include back-porch features and auto fires.

Lake Monigold has been filled in and the area is being repurposed both by the Structural Collapse program improvements and additional firefighting props. The Agriculture Rescue area in the southeast corner is also being improved with a few new ideas being develop early next year. We are also developing some new Rope Rescue props just south of the Confined Space prop to train responders on tower rescue techniques. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

Some new classes are also under development. Firefighting is near completion

"The Institute" news around & about

of a completely new "Search and Rescue" program which will include an intense multi-day course, as well as new Cornerstone versions. E-learning has developed a Blended Fire Instructor II course which was rolled out to staff this fall and will be available later for all.

A blended Hazmat Operations class is in development. This course will follow the format of the Blended Ropes Operations program delivery, with classroom activities completed online and hands-on activities completed over two or three days at IFSI. Both programs will be offered at various off-site locations in the future.

Traffic Incident Management Awareness (both classroom and online) was offered this summer with the TIM Operations program nearly complete. Firefighter Basic and Advanced Technician Blended are slated for completion with rollout early in 2016. FSVO was updated and Driver Operator updates are in the works.

IFSI was re-accredited by the Pro-Board this year and has begun the accreditation process with the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Later next year we will begin offering both accreditations on various IFSI courses.

Dr. Gavin Horn and his team also had a busy year. It began in June with a series of research burns in cooperation with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and Skidmore University. These burns placed firefighters in various fireground roles and examined the exposure to chemicals released from modern combustible materials based upon their role. Another ongoing project is studying the effect of repeated exposure of heat on the integrity of an SCBA face piece.

What's next at IFSI? That's up to you. All of the items I discussed were suggested by students, firefighters and staff. All were items that helped to improve IFSI's ability to train and educate firefighters. Is there something you think IFSI should be doing? If so, please let me or a member of the staff know. Are there other prop improvements, classes or areas you feel have gaps? Let us know. The best ideas are yours!

So you can see why it's an exciting time at IFSI with lots of changes occurring and new programs and opportunities for firefighters throughout the state. IFSI is focusing on helping firefighters do their work through training, education, information, and research.



*Jim Keiken
Deputy
Director*

Table Talk

If you are halfway tuned into what's up at IFSI then you have heard the "buzz" about ramping up our Industrial Training programs. IFSI offering of industrial training is not new. When I came onboard 32 years ago, there were industrial fire brigades that would appear at IFSI for hands-on firefighter training. In early 2001 plans were being laid out to start to cultivate and grow industrial training and the events of 11 September spun us in

a different direction. There was, however, some industrial training that continued and now the effort to grow is back on the table.

You may not understand why this would be an important mission for us. IFSI was created by law (110 ILCS 365) Illinois Fire Service Institute Act, which states that the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall operate a State Fire Academy, to be called the Illinois Fire Service Institute, for the purpose of instructing fire protection personnel throughout the State of Illinois. This broad brush takes in public and private fire departments, and fire suppression members.

For years we have had IFSI field staff members working with industry. In the past we have done work for International Truck and Engine and have ongoing contacts with the Northern Illinois Gas Company known on the street as Nicor. This training is conducted at the Nicor Troy Grove Fire

School and includes a week-long session for Nicor employees and another session open to fire departments. Both of these provide classroom instruction, and then a good day lighting up the various props available at Troy Grove.

Also for the past couple of years we have been involved with ExxonMobile-Joliet. At Exxon we have provided Apparatus Operations classes to members of the Exxon fire brigade in which each member was instructed in daily maintenance, rig checks, some basic street-level hydraulics and then hands-on operation of each piece of apparatus – and do they have some rigs that have some large flows! Our HazMat folks also created a "customized" program to meet the needs of the ExxonMobile-Joliet plant. Additionally Brigade members completed Rope and Con-Space training through the IFSI/ SOTP. Just recently we completed another apparatus class at ExxonMobile-Joliet that included several members of the refinery mutual aid system – the Northern Illinois & Indiana Industrial Mutual Aid (NIAIMA).

So when you are out and about, if you know of an industry that you feel we may be able to serve, stop and talk to their safety folks and if it looks like we may be able to help, contact Brian Brauer and he will pick up the ball.

Time to strike it out, so take care and stay "SMART".



Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director



In 2016, IFSI begins a new partnership for training. A regional training site will be the center of many classes in Orland Park.

Changes to the IFSI Champaign Campus

We have filled in the skimming pond and sculpted the surrounding area, gaining nearly two acres of infill training ground. A portion of this area will be slated for expansion of the Structural Collapse Training Center, and we have already commissioned the southern portion of the area for railroad emergency training. We also reclaimed the swale between the TRT prop and Taxpayer by tiling the ditch and creating a graded rock area above the new drain.

Another major project was to improve the flow of water in the area south of the masonry burn buildings, and to connect the burn cans south of the ranch into the system. With a grant from the University of Illinois Student Sustainability Commission and design assistance from the Learning in Community (LINC) program at the University, both the design and construction of this improvement was at no cost to IFSI. The new system meets current EPA requirements for water runoff from the burn buildings, and will reduce standing water and flooding in other areas.

We've also removed fencing around the extrication pen and expanded that area, removed the fence from around the old bulk fuel storage area and graded that section of the facility, and the large pile of dirt that was piloted as a

renewable trench prop has been largely removed.

In addition to the physical changes that we've been making, we have added two full-time staff members in the facilities shop to support our activities on the Champaign campus. Jeff Lattz, a long-time IFSI instructor is now our full-time manager for Respiratory Protection and Fire Apparatus. Matt Cler has joined IFSI as an Assistant Facilities Manager, with responsibilities for maintaining our buildings and grounds. Both Matt and Jeff have complementary responsibilities, and will work together with the hourly facilities staff to ensure that our classes have the facilities and support that they require.



*Brian R. Brauer
Associate
Director*



Leadership Development and Decision Making Program presents at NAFTD Annual Conference

In September, Director Royal Mortenson and Associate Director Brian Brauer traveled to Telluride, Colorado, to attend the Annual Conference of the North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD). The NAFTD serves as a vehicle for the direct representation of state and provincial fire training agencies and organizations throughout Canada and the U.S. Association members function as the primary points of contact for fire training and education in their respective states, provinces, and territories. Collectively

enhancement and enrichment of program offerings.

Over the past several years, Director Mortenson has informed the NAFTD of the Illinois Fire Service Institute's Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) initiative and has kept the membership apprised of the institute's progress in growing this concept. Association President Allan Rice, of the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission, has attended several of the LDDM development conferences conducted at IFSI. Based on that involvement and feedback, President Rice invited Director Mortenson and IFSI to present the LDDM concept in detail to the association members at the Annual Conference.

On Wednesday, September 30, 2015, Director Mortenson and four IFSI Instructors (James Moore, Lew Lake, Brian Scott, and Patrick Mullen) offered a taste of the LDDM program to the NAFTD. This consisted of a history of the initiative, an overview of program development, an outline of the Lines of Education (LOEs) and curriculum, and a presentation of two LOEs: Decision Making



Pictured left to right: Patrick Mullen, Brian Scott, Royal Mortenson, James Moore and Lew Lake.

they provide education and training to more than 940,000 firefighters and first responders annually. The annual conference serves as a forum to discuss issues and opportunities concerning the

and Morals and Ethics. For the LOE demonstration, instructors divided the attendees into two groups. They subsequently provided an abbreviated lecture on each LOE and facilitated several small group discussions using a Socratic teaching style with each group.

LDDM offered at IFSI in March. Illinois firefighters, regardless of their rank, have the opportunity to participate in this ground-breaking program. Firefighters are encouraged to participate to bring a balance to the class roster.

Visit the IFSI web site (www.fsi.illinois.edu) for more information on the program.

March 14-18, 2016 Champaign, Illinois

Director Mortenson and Associate Director Brauer received an abundance of favorable feedback from the training directors that participated in the training. While all of the feedback was positive, some of the comments really stood out:

- “This is exactly what the fire service needs.”
- “This training is a difference maker and should be taught throughout the country.”
- “How do I get my officers to the pilot program at IFSI in November?”
- “This is a one-of-a-kind program that will revolutionize fire officer leadership development.”
- “Simply an amazing concept and effort to immerse fire officers in real life situations where the consequences of their decisions lead to teachable outcomes.”
- “The use of challenging scenarios to create real life learning is what leadership development has needed for years. Great job IFSI.”

The IFSI staff thanks all the participants along with the NAFTD leadership for the opportunity to present this concept to the North American Fire Training Directors.



**Winter
Fire School**

Saturday, January 23, 2016
Illinois Fire Service Institute / Champaign, Illinois

**Special Saturday Night Feature
“Tailboard Talk”**

Listen in on a lively discussion among established fire service leaders. This moderated session provides insight on how past experiences can influence future decision on the fireground. The audience can take away how they might make the same decision under similar situations.

Panelists: Ed Enright, Chicago FD (retired) Bobbie Hoff, Chicago FD (retired) and Carol Stream FD; Mac McCastland, Oak Lawn FD (retired); Greg Earle, Centralia FPD; Steve Gambrell, Harristown FPD. Moderated by Jim Grady, Frankfort FPD.

Admission fee included with Winter Fire School registration. There is a \$20 fee accepted at the door for non-Winter Fire School students.

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Northwest Region



Ray Palczynski
Cornerstone
Northwest
Region

The Northwest Cornerstone region is made up of 24 counties. They are Jo Davies, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Whiteside, Lee, Bureau, Putnam, Stark, LaSalle, Henderson, Warren, Knox, Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, Adams, Brown, Pike, Scott, and Schuyler.

During fiscal year 2015, which ran from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, 77 classes covering 579 hours of training were delivered in the Northwest Cornerstone region. 1,798 students attended these classes. This is a 250 student increase from FY2014. These classes are only those funded through the Cornerstone Program. These numbers do not reflect classes from the



Special Operations Training Programs, management classes, or any of the many classes offered outside the Cornerstone Program.

In addition to the annual schools in Quincy and Galesburg, which are always well attended, the Erie Fire Department hosted an Instructor 1 class in March that had a tremendous attendance. With 54 students attending this class IFSI doubled up the instructional staff to meet the student numbers. Many of these will go on to be training representatives for their departments. Congratulations and well done to all who participated in this class!

Northeast Region



Randy Schlichter
Cornerstone
Northeast
Region

Once again, the Cherry Valley FPD will host two more, **NO-COST** live-fire "Light & Fights."

March 19 and May 14

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

Course Description: This class delivers fundamental training in increments convenient to meet the needs of individual department members. Hands-on live-fire training is set up in several different scenarios for all firefighters and their experience levels. 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, and introduce very basic RIT and Saving Our Own concepts.

Minimum participation restrictions shall apply. NOTE: Participants must furnish approved helmet, turn out gear, eye protection, gloves, SCBA and boots for this class.



For a complete listing of **No Cost** Northeast Region classes, contact me at schlicht@illinois.edu. or 847-343-4039.

Be Safe!



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

East Central Region

IFSI has restructured a few county territories and their regional representatives. The East Central Region now covers Effingham, Shelby, Christian, and Montgomery. I have attempted to meet many of you via station visits, training forums, county meetings, and association meetings. I would love to introduce myself to you and your department. I will continue to reach out to the departments I have not yet had the opportunity to speak with and I look forward to meeting your training needs through our program at IFSI.

Once funding has been restored, information on 67 Cornerstone classes can be found on the IFSI website. The Cornerstone program offers these classes targeting basic training at the firefighter, vehicle operator, company officer, and the chief level.



*Tim Meister
Cornerstone
East Central
Region*

The Cornerstone Regions have been changed. The map below reflects the current boundaries of each Regional Representative's areas of concentration.

Northwest
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Cornerstone Regions

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

South Region



Tim Bragg
Cornerstone
South Region



The South Cornerstone Region is 21 southern Illinois counties strong. Hardly a secret, but most fire departments located in southern Illinois are small rural departments. Now for the rest of the story: 100% of South Region fire departments are proud of where they live, their fire department and the area they respond to.

A number of South Region fire departments have recently requested classes that have not scheduled Cornerstone classes in some time. Ava, Cave In Rock, Campbell Hill, Carmi, Harrisburg, and Horse Shoe Lake fire departments are among those fire departments. The bottom line is – more fire departments are requesting, scheduling and hosting Cornerstone classes for their respective fire department in the South Region.

In May of 2015, Herrick Fire Department hosted an Acquired Structure (House) Burn with 50 firefighters participating. The

burn featured multiple entries resulting in good training opportunities. It was a good day for training, but the weather threw us a curve ball toward the end of the burn. Severe thunderstorms moved through the area, causing the house burn to be cut short. The South Region would like to thank Herrick Fire Department and Fire Chief Norman Wilson for the hard work put in to make this a great training event.

On July 22 IFSI Director of Research Dr. Gavin Horn spoke at the South Central Fire Chief's meeting on UL and NIST research projects and results. Dr. Horn's presentation was an eye opener for all.

To end, I would like say "Thank you" to all fire departments for requesting training classes for your firefighters from the South Region Cornerstone Program. As a result, we have a robust training schedule in the South.



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Greetings from the Central Region. It has been a busy summer with many classes held and many students reached. The summer kicked off with the Tazewell County School where 182 students had the opportunity to attend at least one of the 15 classes that were held. Next year the school will be held on April 30 and May 1, 2016. Be sure to get it on your calendars, you won't want to miss it.

The Ashland Volunteer Fire Department hosted a Rural Engine and Tender Operation class that was a huge hit with many fire departments attending. This class offers a great opportunity for departments to hone their skills in securing adequate water to areas where there are no hydrants.

Winter is a great opportunity to brush up with classes like Tactics & Strategy, Building Construction and Fire Behavior. Also, there has been a high demand for classes like Technical Rescue Awareness and Fire Service Vehicle Operator where the state-recognized test is administered at the end of class. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need assistance in setting up a training program.

Central Region



Tazewell County Fire School Auto Extrication



Jim Vaughn
Central
Regional
Representative



Ashland Rural Engine & Tender
Operations Class

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports



*Rich Stack
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative*

Chicago Metro Region

There were over 100 classes delivered last year in the Chicago metro area and more than 2400 students attended these classes. My goal for 2016 is to deliver more classes than the previous year and to reach more students.

Orland Fire Department's Training Tower is now a recognized regional training site and IFSI has several classes scheduled to be delivered there in 2016.

Check out the IFSI training calendar on the web site.

Don't miss out on some great training that will be held locally.

I am here to help provide little to no-cost training to your department.



Southwest Region



*John Nichols
Southwest
Regional
Representative*

There have been some changes made over the summer that affect our area. The Southwest Region now covers three new areas; Marion, Fayette, and Jefferson counties. I would like to give them a great big welcome and warn them they will be receiving a visit from me in the near future.

The highlight of last summer was an acquired house burn in Germantown on May 17, 2015. The class had 41 students from five departments attend the burn. A very big thank you to Chief Jeff Kampwerth and his firefighters who did a fantastic job of getting the house ready to burn. The pictures are from that burn in Germantown.

If I can help you in any way please do not hesitate to call. All my contact information is available from the IFSI website.



From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Here's a big "shout out" to Heather Moore, the new SOTP Director. Heather began as an instructor in the Collapse Program, taught all courses in the SOTP program, and was the Trench Program Manager before receiving this most recent promotion. Congratulations Heather – we're excited to have someone as passionate and motivated as you to lead the SOTP Rescue Programs!

In the past couple of years, we witnessed a number of significant natural disasters in our area: flooding in southern Illinois, tornados in Coal City, DeKalb County and Washington, and numerous "near misses." These are all stark reminders as to why this training is critically important for all first responders, not only team members but firefighters as well. Here at IFSI we have experienced instructors with hundreds of

Structural Collapse

years of combined experience specific to these types of scenarios, and realistic training props to ensure one of the very best hands-on educational programs in the nation.

So clear your schedules and get this training before the tones go off. Next year we will be scheduling two Operations classes. One will be held in Frankfort at the Regional Training Center in early spring, and two Technician classes at IFSI. The calendar is out so if you're interested in attending, register as soon as possible – the classes will fill up fast.

Enjoy the cooler temperatures, pack away your flip-flops and tune up your sleds – see you in class!



*Mike McCastland
Structural
Collapse
Program
Manager*



**Upcoming class:
Structural Collapse
Rescue Operations -
Frankfort -
March 14-18, 2016**

**Upcoming classes:
Rope Rescue Operations - Level 1
Blended Learning class begins with
online portion on February 22, 2016**

**Rope Rescue Operations
Rock Island Arsenal
April 18-22, 2016**

**Rope Rescue Operations
Orland Park Regional Training Center
May 23-27, 2016**

Rope Rescue Program



"Rope Rescue Technician Field Rope Operation Guide" can be ordered from IFSI for \$75. The proceeds from the book go into IFSI's Fire Fighting Fund. It can be ordered from the

IFSI web site under Course Information and then Course Materials.



*Mike Woodard
Rope Rescue
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Hazardous Materials



*Chris Downey
HazMat
Program
Manager*

Remember the massive explosions in Tianjin, China, followed by the release of cyanide gas that has had a profound affect on the city of 15 million people? As I looked at the information coming out about the incident, I can't help but ponder the importance for our municipal fire departments to pre-plan and build relationships with industries in their jurisdiction. This relationship should be built well before an incident occurs.

In the United States, we are lucky to be provided Tier 2 reports that disclose the types, quantity, and location of

hazardous materials used or stored within any facility in our district. We should use these reports as a springboard to pre-plan our target hazards. Additionally, getting out and meeting company representatives, touring their facilities, sharing information, learning their response capabilities, and conducting drills and exercises with them should be a part of this process.

As for China, four IFSI staff members were in Shenzhen earlier this year, where they delivered a 40-hour HazMat Operations course to an industrial facility.

Confined Space Rescue



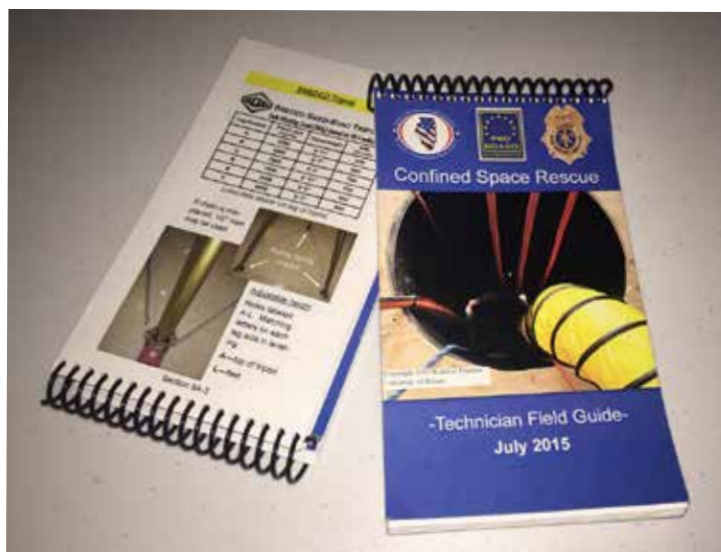
*Ryan Reynolds
Confined Space
Program
Manager*

The Confined Space Rescue Field Operations Guide (CFOG) is now complete and available for purchase. The intent of this CFOG is to aid the properly-trained rescuer in the execution of a safe, efficient, and effective confined space rescue.

The CFOG will put valuable confined space rescue-related information in a durable, easy-to-use format, at the fingertips of the properly-trained rescuer. Entry permits and procedures,

size-up, monitoring, ventilation and isolation are covered. It contains some specific hazards, patient packaging techniques and hazardous materials that are uniquely related to confined space incidents. The use of specialized rigging and equipment, including ground ladder and aerial apparatus use, are also outlined.

The CFOG manuals are available for purchase on our website at a cost \$75.



From the Campus: NIMS Program Report

The ICS program continues to offer Command and General Staff for Local Incident Management Teams, position specific classes and IS 300/400 classes. There are grant monies available for the 2015 Federal Fiscal Year grant program. The classes are designed to enhance the skills of emergency response personnel who are part of a local incident management team or for response personnel who will be working at a large or complicated incident.

One of the most popular classes that IFSI has offered is the Planning Section Chief Class. This class gives students a comprehensive review of the role of the Planning Section Chief in the incident action planning cycle. The planning process is reviewed in the class and the meetings in which the Planning Section Chief are involved are discussed. One of the strengths of the class is the participation in the exercises that allow students to see what the Planning Section Chief actually does in the planning cycle. The class includes a planning meeting and operations

NIMS Training

briefing that the Planning Section Chief participates in while working “in the field.” There is also additional information presented in the class that the student can take back to their departments to use in real events. Students who have taken the class and then participated in an actual event have commented that the realism in the class exercises helped them to handle the real incident that they were involved in.

Classes can be requested by contacting Joe Gasparich at jgaspari@illinois.edu. Please be sure to contact IFSI before submitting a request for training so that potential class dates can be coordinated, as the schedule for NIMS/ICS classes fills up quickly. The earliest dates that can be requested are after the first of the year. To see what classes are scheduled you can now use the NIMS tab on the new IFSI website to find out.



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

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

There was a tremendous amount of activity these past months with our Fire Officer program. The Chicago Fire Department just completed yet another round of promotional classes for Lieutenants, Captains and Battalion Chiefs. These classes include Fire Officer 1 and Incident Safety Officer training. Also this past summer we participated in the Company Fire Officer and Advanced Fire Officer pilot classes in partnership with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and many community colleges. The pilot classes went very well and we have gained much insight into what further steps need to be taken to make this program a success during our 2016 transition. Mark your calendars and be sure to enroll in the many Fire Officer 1 and 2

Fire Officer Program

classes being held on campus and also in the western suburbs. There are many course offerings and some seats are still available. As always, “Stay Smart”.



*Lew Lake
Fire Officer
Program
Director*

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Trench Rescue



Brock Herion
Trench Rescue
Program
Manager

In the spring 2015 Newsletter, I discussed building a “safe” system for the rescuers to work in. Continuing on the safety theme, I would like to further discuss systems.

In our classes, operations students will build three- and five-panel sets and technician students build a three-panel set on a deep wall. How many “sets” do you need at trench incident?

Before we can make any determination of panels, struts, etc., we need to ask three important questions.

How deep was the trench?

How deep is the trench?

Is there 2’ or more dirt that needs to be dug out from the bottom of the trench?

Once we have the answers to these questions, we can start to think about gridding out our system.

First, let’s start with the most important element: building a safe box for the victim. To build a box around a victim, you need a two-panel set. The depth will determine the number of struts used on each panel.

After the box is built and the struts are at the correct operating pressure, pinned, and nailed you can safely place a rescuer in the box to begin working on the patient. Other

crews can continue to work on completing the system. The system is *at least* a three-panel set.



Students have panels in place to complete box. Backfilling behind panels before struts are shot to full pressure.

But, is three panels enough? This is a very important question because each strut manufacture is a little different. So what do we recommend?

We recommend that the system be built at least as long as it is deep. So for an 8’ deep trench, do we need a two-panel set? Trick question, a two-panel set would equal the depth, but remember we need to build a system. An 8’ deep would always be a three-panel set.

Here are some guides based on depth:

8’ – 12’ – 4 panel set

12’ to 16’ – 5 panel set

16’ to 20’ – 6 panel set

These numbers are based on building “safe” systems for the rescuers. These systems are for you. We build boxes for the victims, systems for the rescuers.

By the way, a panel set consists of two fin form panels with 2x12 uprights and enough struts to get to the trench floor. Maybe now is the time to check to see if your team or division has enough “stuff” for that next trench rescue.



Students work to complete system (4 panels) while rescuers work to remove the victim.

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

One of the bright spots of our summer was Dave Newcomb and the Agriculture Crew showcasing their Grain Bin awareness prop in the Governor's tent at the Illinois State Fair. Dave and his team of instructors hit a home run in Springfield in 2015 by increasing the awareness of the dangers of grain bins. Each day that I visited the grain bin display, I was amazed at the number of people who had a close relative or neighbor involved in a grain bin incident.

The guys did such a great job that they have been invited back next year. Tony Vespa and Toby Jackson put on a well-attended auto extrication demonstration in which they cut up a couple of cars and gave a step-by-step commentary on the extrication process. The attendance at this event was so large that the street was completely full of spectators as the two showed their expertise.

The 2015 Fall Academy is behind us. Tad Schroeder and his hand-picked team of instructors were once again preparing the future of the fire service by placing these 22 candidates in live-fire exercises every day. While visiting the Institute to observe one of his prospective firefighters, Chief Well of Edwardsville Fire Department (an Academy graduate from 1982) gave the young group an honest description of what it is expected of a young firefighter today. The Chief's presence as a person who had graduated from here was a great model for all to see.

The Firefighter Programs are steadily completing the curriculum updates mandated by the Director. Tom Schubert has the *Engine Company Operations* course completed and running. John Frye has the *Truck Company Operations* well on its way to being completed under the watchful eye of Phil Demik, the Truck Company Program Manager. Toby Jackson is updating and consolidating the Smoke Divers class with Jeff Lantz assisting him. Instructor of the Month for September, Jamar Sullivan, is working on *Basic Company Officer*, as well as *Strategy and Tactics*. Cliff Gartner, retired C.F.D. Lieutenant from Squad Five, is revamping *Looking at Smoke Tactically*. Jim Perkovich, Rich Stack, and Danny Bracken are creating a new class titled *Search Techniques for the Fireground*.

IFSI's partnership with Orland Park, under the watchful eye of Mac McCastland and the training expertise of Lieutenant Dave Piper of Orland Park, has seen Vehicle Machinery Operations and Vehicle Machinery Technician run with great success. Tony

Vespa's extrication crew, which included Regional Rep. John Nichols, supported and assisted Lieutenant Piper by offering use of IFSI's extrication trailer, as well as IFSI's instructor input with both ventures. We look forward to increasing our presence this next calendar year at Orland Park's Training Facility by delivering such classes as Engine Ops, Truck Ops, and Smoke Divers.

All of us are aware of the spectacular amount of forest fires that occurred this last year. Tom Richter, our Wildland Program manager, reports the following members of IFSI were put to work in various areas around the country. Jason Sartin and Tony Longbucco served as Engine Captains (person in charge) on type VI wildland engines. Jason served in Oregon for 34 days, Tony served in Idaho for 34 days (all training came from IFSI). Curt Timmer was the Crew Boss for a Type II initial attack hand crew (20 members were from Illinois) in Montana for 16 days. Leon Duncan served as a Documentation Leader for California Fire Type I Incident Management Team in California for 21 days. Joyce Davis served as a Status Check-in Recorder for an Alaska Type II Incident Management Team in Washington State for 16 days. Tim Bragg served as a Training Specialist for a national Type II Incident Management Team in Oregon for 16 days. Bill Altman served as a Liaison Officer for the Northern Rocky Mountains Type II incident management team in Alaska for 21 days and again in Idaho for 21 days with the same team as a Division Supervisor. Tom Richter served as a Task Force Leader for the Southwest Type I in Washington State for 16 days. All the above staff are IFSI Wildland Program trained and certified or IFSI NIMS/ICS program trained and certified. Congratulations ladies and gentlemen on a job well done.

Finally, Mac McCastland and his lovely wife Sharon, along with me and my wife Meg, ventured to Colorado Springs to witness the IAFF Fallen Firefighters Memorial service for 2015. Our intent was to witness and support the family of John Leonard who died last January of cancer. I had the great honor of being asked to present John's IAFF Flag to the love of his life Elsbeth Miller. Elsbeth is a retired Field Chief from the C.F.D. While at the memorial ceremony, IFSI presence was immediately seen. I saw a number of different participants like Matt Hill, J.P.



*Sean Burke
Assistant
Director for
Firefighting
Programs*

continued next page

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

Sean Burke
continued from
page 17

Childers, Tad Prendergast, and a number of other firefighters from the Central Illinois area. J.P. Childers assisted with: placing three members' names on the memorial wall – John Leonard, Nicholas "Nick" Whitfield, Jr., and Russell "Rusty" Chism. Thirteen hundred Honor Guard members from across the U.S. and Canada were in attendance. Three hundred and sixty-seven members of the Pipes and Drums moved our souls as they played a tribute to the fallen. More than 50 members of the Associated Firefighters of Illinois Honor Guard (your state honor guard) made the trip to Colorado Springs to pay tribute to their comrades and support their families. Local 5 of Colorado Springs laid out a red carpet of hospitality to everyone

attending that was truly tremendous. We were made to feel right at home and treated as special guests wherever we went. Ladies and gentlemen, if you or anyone in your family has any history or link with the firefighting profession, a trip to Colorado Springs and a visit to the Firefighter Memorial must be on your "Bucket List" of things to do. You will not be disappointed.

Please keep our Fallen Members and their families in your prayers.



FAE/FSVO



Tal Prendergast
FAE/FSVO
Program
Manager

Traffic Incident Management Awareness Online

IFSI is proud to announce a new course, Traffic Incident Management Awareness Online.

This course is designed to teach firefighters the basics to safely operate at traffic incidents. This one-hour online course consists of four 15-minute modules and a short assessment that can be completed at the student's pace. Upon successful completion, students will receive a certificate in addition to one-hour of EMS continuing education.

Responding to and working at incidents that occur on the roadway is extremely dangerous. There is an average of three

injury accidents on our nation's roadways every minute, which requires the response of approximately 27 responders. This exposes a large number of responders to traffic every year, and, on average, five firefighters are killed at traffic incidents nationwide.

The goal of this course is to increase the safety of all responders and the public at traffic incidents by using the Traffic Incident Management program. This course teaches responders the goals of the Traffic Incident Management program, common roadway terminology, safe vehicle positioning practices, and techniques to help responders operate safely on the scene.

This course is being offered online at no cost.

For more information or to register for this class visit the IFSI web site.

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

Hello, 2015 has been another busy year for Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician, formally known as RIT Under Fire. There will be a total of nine classes at IFSI – three contract classes for the City of Chicago and the six remaining are for firefighters throughout Illinois. If classes are at maximum



enrollment, please continue to sign-up because there is a waiting list in case of cancellations. IFSI has completed the 2016 calendar and since RIT is in high demand, it will be offered multiple times with three classes in the spring and three in the fall. In addition, IFSI will offer a weekend class that will run on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday and then two weeks later Saturday and Sunday to avoid the Easter holiday and to finish up the 50-hour class. Please remember that this class is still grant-funded to all Illinois firefighters for another year.

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.



*Gary Coney
Rapid
Intervention
Team Rescue
Technician
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports

Hurst Rescue Tools has generously supplied IFSI with new cordless cutters, spreaders, and rams. They are working with these cordless units to see how they stand up in an extrication. If you have time, come by and play with the tools and let us know your thoughts.

In September we had the first Extrication Challenge at IFSI. Each team of six rescuers participated in two scenarios. Each scenario was set up with real vehicles crushed together among other props, such as fire hydrants, concrete barriers and any other objects that could be involved in a real accident. The goal was to mitigate the hazards, stabilize the vehicle(s), stabilize the patient, and safely extricate the patient from the vehicle – all in 20 minutes. The judges made every effort to evaluate fairly and remain impartial.

Vehicle/Machinery



Toby Jackson demonstrates auto extrication at the Illinois State Fair.



*Tony Vespa
Vehicle/
Machinery
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports



*Dave Newcomb
Ag Rescue
Program
Manager*

Agricultural Rescue

Hello brothers and sisters: In my spring article I talked about meetings that we attended at the Fire Marshalls office. The subject was Grain Rescue



Dave Newcomb did demonstrations of grain bin rescue at the Illinois State Fair in August.

tubes and the training needed to use them. As a result we did demonstrations and participated in a round table discussion at the Fire Protection District Conference in Peoria. It is important to note that OSHA has a consultation division and is willing to help Departments identify possible deficiencies.

We partnered with the Department of Labor and did demonstrations in the Governors tent at the Illinois State Fair along with weekend demonstrations at the Du Quoin State Fair. Both were very positively received. Thanks to all the staff who helped with the demonstrations. It was alarming to me how many people shared stories of friends, family and neighbors who had had farm-related accidents. A positive example was a young lady who visited the tent on the first Sunday and then returned the following Saturday with her three closest friends and stated we all live on the farm and you need to see this.

Another program that we participated in was the Farm Safety for Kids program. In May we reached more than 900 fifth graders in one day in three locations in Illinois. Later we sent an instructor to northern Indiana for the same program.



*Mark Clapp
Propane/Oil
Well Program
Manager*

LP Gas / Oil Well

Propane – We are into cold weather with Propane supplies at a high and costs down. We are working on another great season of training in the state for propane safety. Hands-on training will be coming to a close based on temperatures outside but that does not mean your training has to stop. Thanks to the National Propane Gas Association and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, you can take an online class through IAFC.

The class takes a few hours, but you can leave and come back if needed. It is designed from the Propane Emergencies manual which was constructed by Michael S. Hildebrand

and Gregory G. Noll for the National Propane Gas Association. This is the same manual, we designed our course from firefighters in Illinois. Problems are limited in the industry but can have a major impact on your community if they occur, so gathering more information will always keep you in a ready response mind set.

Go to Academy@IAFC.org and get signed up for Propane Emergencies.

From the Campus: Program Reports

These past few months have very a busy time for the Fire Investigation Program. Fire College was the site for the first program jointly hosted by the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigation and IFSI. The class for Fatal Fire Investigation was well received by the students and will hopefully be the start of a close working relationship.



Investigation/Prevention

Spring 2016 will also see a Fire Investigation Program in the weekend format. Check your schedule and plan for an interesting class. If your department is interested in hosting a class for your area please contact me.



*John High Sr.
Investigation/
Intervention
Program
Manager*



As with all news of a firefighter fatality, I was saddened, disappointed and frustrated with the news...especially since one of those killed on the Twisp Fire in Washington State was one of our own. Saddened because any news of firefighter loss breaks my heart; disappointed and frustrated because in *most* circumstances in a wildland environment the loss almost certainly could have been avoided.

In the last 50 years all wildland near-miss and fatality fires have proven to show the same circumstances to be present at each occurrence – a lack of situational awareness and adherence to the 10 Standard Firefighting Orders and the 18 Situations that Shout Watchout. With the spring wildland season just around the corner, I beg you to ask yourself if you and your department are prepared and properly trained to confront the most dangerous fuel model in America – light flashy fuels (grass/row crops) and the

Wildland

most unpredictable influential element that drives fires in Illinois – wind. The alignment of these two elements with slope equals a recipe for disaster!

If the answer to this question of preparedness is “no”, then please let us help you to become smarter, safer, and more proficient in your approach to a very common response across Illinois – grass, brush and field fires. There are always opportunities to attend a basic wildland fire class around the state. You can go online and schedule a class with us for the spring of 2016. Please be proactive in protecting yourself and your personnel and let us assist you in making these near miss and fatality situations be a thing of the past. REMEMBER, ATTACK FROM THE BLACK AND ANCHOR AND FLANK!



*Tom Richter
Wildland
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports



Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director

Online Classes

The lineup of online classes continues to grow – not just in offerings, but also in delivery format. The newest class is Traffic Incident Management Awareness. See Tal Pendergrast's description of the class on page 18. The class is required if you are at a scene and use traffic cones to manage traffic.

Our blended courses offer a convenient delivery format, where you take the bulk of the class online and incorporate the practical portion later. This year we repeat what we did last year and offer a blended version of Instructor I – beginning with the online version starting February 1 and practicals happening on February 13 and 27. If you want to combine Instructor I with Fire College, you can begin the online version on May 1 and complete your practicals at Fire College June 2 – 5.

Fire Apparatus Engineer is offered as a blended class (beginning January 11) with practicals scheduled for February 6, March 5 and April 9.

Blended course **Rope Rescue Operations** begins February 22 with practicals scheduled for April 2, 16 and 17.

New for blended classes is the **HazMat Operations Level One** (NFPA 472). The online portion starts March 28.

Five classes run continually and do not have a specific beginning date. You can enroll and take the class any time – another way IFSI is making classes conveniently available to you. Those five classes are:

- Ebola Awareness
- Autism Awareness
- Fires on the Farm
- Ethanol Awareness
- Traffic Incident Management Awareness

Other online classes *do* have a specific beginning time:

- Fire Service Vehicle Operator (beginning February 1)
- Fire Origin and Cause (beginning February 1)
- Technical Rescue Awareness (beginning March 7)

Plan ahead for these online classes that will have their practicals at Fire College – June 2 and 3 or June 4 and 5.

April 11: Rope Rescue Operations (Session B)

May 2: Instructor I – you can choose which days of Fire College to complete your practicals

Firefighter Basic Modules A, B and C are also offered online, so that you can complete the course in the convenience of your home or station.

As always enroll online from IFSI's web site: www.fsi.illinois.edu.



From the Campus: Program Reports

Last summer, IFSI Research had the opportunity to lead one of the most complex studies into firefighter health and safety ever conducted. Along with partners from Underwriters Laboratories' Firefighter Safety Research Institute and the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health's Health Hazard Evaluation Program, the *Cardiovascular and Carcinogenic Risks in Modern Firefighting* data collection was completed June 30. 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. Firehouse, Fire Engineering and Fire Rescue joined us during the studies, documenting the data collection sessions and helping us conduct a series of roundtable discussions with the participants that are available to a national audience. You can find this coverage online at the following locations:



Gavin Horn, PhD
Research
Department
Director

Firehouse:

- <http://www.firehouse.com/video/12087135/video-ifsiresearch-on-firefighter-cardiovascular-carcinogen-risk> (more videos if you scroll down)
- http://www.firehouse.com/media_gallery/12085793/fire-photos-ul-niosh-study-firefighter-health-exposure-at-ill-fire-service-institute

Fire Engineering & Fire Rescue:

- <http://www.fireengineering.com/fe-talk/msa-cardiovascular-and-carcinogenic-hazards-of-modern-firefighting.html>

In addition, the UL video team has put together an outstanding overview video of the project that you can see at: <https://www.facebook.com/ULfirefightersafety/videos/399171603606327/>

We want to thank the firefighters and IFSI Instructors from across the state and around the country that made this project possible. We cannot conduct studies like this without the involvement of dedicated firefighters like you!



From the Campus: Program Reports

Curriculum and Testing



Kurt Glosser
Curriculum and
Testing
Department
Director



More Bang for Your Buck!

Who wouldn't like to take one class and receive recognition from six organizations automatically for your efforts? Our Program Managers have worked diligently with the staff in the Curriculum and Testing Office to give IFSI students that opportunity.

Students choose IFSI classes because they are taught by actual practitioners that have "been there and done that." The lead instructors ask themselves, "What does it take to do the job?" Then they build a training experience that helps prepare the students to face the challenges of their next "call". But IFSI's work in curriculum development doesn't stop there. Curriculum staff then provide their course material to outside third parties to review and evaluate the training

course. These organizations provide additional recognition to the students who successfully complete the course.

Who has approved IFSI's material? The third party reviewers include: OSFM, IDPH, ProBoard, ICCB, NFA, FEMA.

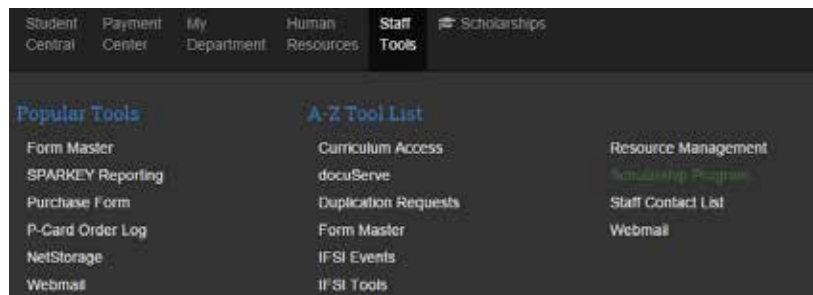
Under the course information tab on IFSI's website there is a link titled "Value of IFSI Courses" where the details of this great benefit can be found.

What makes a great training experience? **The Instructors, the Props, and the Curriculum!** It is a fact that our instructors are some of the best professionals in the business. I would argue that our props and facilities are as realistic and dynamic as one could find in the area and I challenge anyone to find another training opportunity that holds as much **value** as an IFSI course.

Accessing Curriculum through Staff Resource Center

Step 1 - Login to Resource Center

Step 2 - Under Staff Tools, A-Z Tool List, select Curriculum Access.



In the next screen, courses you have in your skillset will be listed.

Step 3 - Click on the course you need.



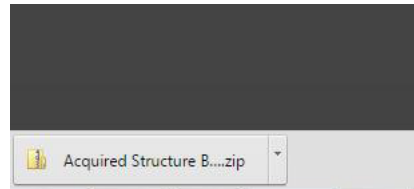
From the Campus: Program Reports

Step 4 - This opens a new window, click the blue Download button. Some larger files will take a while to download.



*Katrina Mann
Testing and
Support
Specialist
Curriculum and
Testing
Department*

Once it downloads the folder is ready.

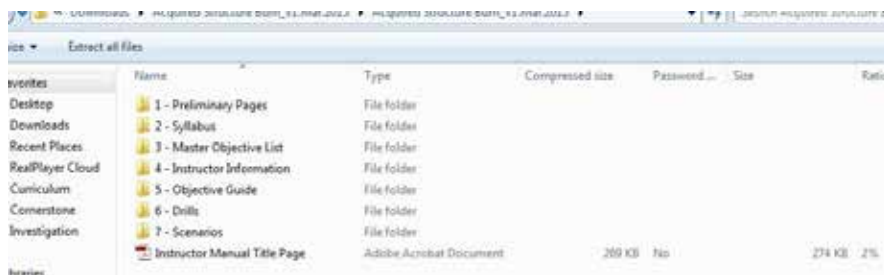


Step 5 - Click on the downloaded folder.

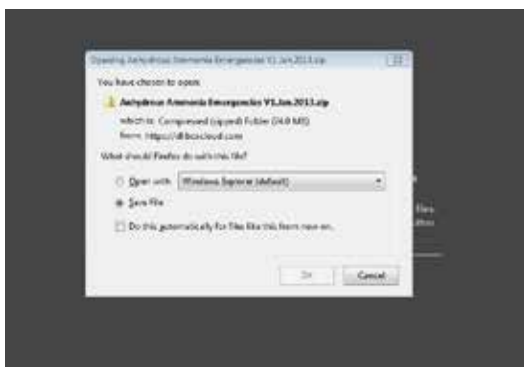
The material goes to your computer downloads folder and is the same as receiving it via CD or zip drive from that point.



The access and functions are the same as receiving the course materials through other media.



Note: Chrome or Firefox are the recommended browsers. Depending on your download settings you may be asked whether you want to open directly or save. This is your choice as with anything else you download. Firefox example shown here - After you hit the Download button you may receive a window where you choose "Open with - Windows Explorer" (Default) or "Save File". Either option is fine, "Open With" will directly open the file folder in your downloads folder. Save File will just place it in your download folder for you to open manually.



You can choose to do either option automatically.

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New Appointments

Heather Moore was named Program Director for the Special Operations Training Program (SOTP). Previously Moore served as head of the Trench Rescue program.

James Moore has been named to lead the Leadership Development and Decision Making program.

IFSI Instructors of the Month

In October 2013, IFSI began recognizing those instructors who exemplify quality instruction, student engagement, professional demeanor and knowledge base. Here are the instructors who were nominated and chosen for this honor and the month they were recognized. To nominate an instructor contact Mary Auth, marketing consultant at maryauth@illinois.edu.

Jamar Sullivan was named September's Instructor of the Month.

- IFSI Instructor since 2005
- Best known for HazMat, Trench Rescue and Confined Space Rescue classes
- Teaches Fireground Officer class
- Started fire service career in 1998
- Lieutenant on Chicago Fire Department since 2013
- Graduated Harold Washington College in Chicago with an Associates Degree in Fire Science





Dennis Spice
Senior Advisor
Corporate
Relations and
Development

Building Corporate Relations and Developing New Partnerships

The Institute wants to thank all the corporate partners for their generous support.

TITANIUM LEVEL (\$20,000 or more for five consecutive years)

AEC and Holmatro
AMKUS, Inc.
Illinois Propane Education and Research Council
EMC and Genesis Rescue Systems
MSA
Air One Equipment, Inc.
Akron Brass Company
Brock Grain Systems
Paratech, Inc.

GOLD LEVEL (\$15,000-\$19,999)

FIRST YEAR

Task Force Tips
The Grainger Foundation
Altom Transport, Inc.
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
Coreslab Structures Indianapolis
ISG/Infrasys
Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
Westmont Fire Department
ASIP Local 150
Dukane Precast Inc.
Carle Arrow Ambulance
Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc.
Municipal Emergency Services, Inc.
EJ Equipment

SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Alexis Fire Equipment Company
Bullard
Illinois Fire Store
Reynolds Towing Service, Inc.

THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Ajax Rescue Tools
Bryant Industries
Globe Manufacturing Company, LLC
Nicor Gas

FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

FE Moran Fire Protection
Global Emergency Products and Pierce
Hurst Jaws of Life®
Honeywell Life Safety
Motorola Solutions Foundation
Scott Safety

SILVER LEVEL (\$10,000-\$14,999)

Comfort Suites Urbana
Res-Q-Jack

BRONZE LEVEL (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Draeger Safety Inc.

COPPER LEVEL (\$50-\$4,999)

ABC Sanitary
Bank Champaign
Brady/Pearson Education
Busey Bank
California Casualty
Chicago Firefighters Union Local 2
Commerce Bank
Country Financial
eFire Asia Co. Ltd
Farm Credit Services
Glesco Electric, Inc.
Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS)
GROWMARK
Humbolt Fire Department
Husqvarna
Illinois Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators
Illinois Farm Bureau
International Fire Service Training Association
Jones & Bartlett Learning
KC Supply Co. Inc.
Martin Graphics & Printing Services
Pekin Insurance
Tatman's Towing
U S Safety Products
WS Darley
Pelican
PennWell Corporation
Performance Training Systems, Inc.
Prairie State Bank & Trust
PRO Ambulance
Republic Services
St. Clair County Farm Bureau
Stanfield's Ltd
Stan's Sportsworld
Sterling Wealth Management
Streamlight
The Andersons
Tri Power Inc. Recovery & Towing
Vermillion County Farm Bureau

You can learn more about becoming a Partner on the IFSI website. Or, contact Dennis Spice at dspice@illinois.edu or 217-898-6507.

The background of the poster is a stylized illustration of firefighters in winter gear. One firefighter in the foreground is wearing a black helmet and jacket, looking towards the right. Another firefighter in a yellow helmet and jacket is visible behind him. The scene is set against a blue, textured background with icicles hanging from the top. In the top left corner, there is a gold Illinois Fire Service Institute badge. In the top right corner, there is a blue square logo with a white letter 'I'.

Winter Fire School

Saturday, January 23, 2016

Illinois Fire Service Institute / Champaign, Illinois

Special Saturday Night Feature "Tailboard Talk"

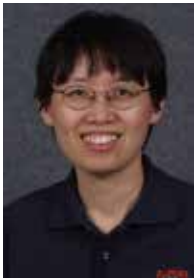
Listen in on a lively discussion among established fire service leaders. This moderated session provides insight on how past experiences can influence future decision on the fireground. The audience can take away how they might make the same decision under similar situations.

Panelists: Ed Enright, Chicago FD (retired) Bobbie Hoff, Chicago FD (retired) and Carol Stream FD; Mac McCastland, Oak Lawn FD (retired); Greg Earle, Centralia FPD; Steve Gambrell, Harristown FPD. Moderated by Jim Grady, Frankfort FPD.

Admission fee included with Winter Fire School registration.

There is a \$20 fee accepted at the door for non-Winter Fire School students.

Library Updates & Highlights



Dr. Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

We were pleased that out of 30 libraries and museums, the IFSI Library was named a finalist for the **2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Services by the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS)**. We have applied for this important award again this year.

We would like to share the following statistics to show you what we have accomplished in FY2015:

Reference and User Training Department led by Diane Richardson: The team answered 4,507 reference requests, including an all-time high of 129 in-depth research requests; provided 67 user training workshops to 705 patrons, including 27 classroom workshops; and loaned 2,119 items. The total number of acquisitions added to the collection this year was 671.

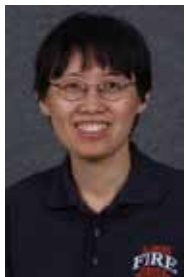
Archivist and Metadata Department led by David Ehrenhart: There are 69,471 titles in the library holding as of June 30, 2015. IFLODD has seen a total of 66,310 database hits since May 2007. The database hosts 873 firefighter records, 694 incident summaries, 449 images, and 14 oral history interviews; an estimated 180 incident summaries

remain to be written, and roughly 1,200 images and 30 oral history interviews remain to be collected. IFLODD has collected information about line of duty deaths from a total of 158 fire departments, and 60 of those departments submitted materials to IFLODD.

Ehrenhart maintains a number of exhibitions, including the Firefighter Memorial Hall and continues to develop the Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor and Medal of Valor Database, which lists the 256 recipients of the Medals of Honor or Valor since 1994, including 223 IFSI students and 16 IFSI instructors. A total of 80,358 IFSI documents have been downloaded from IDEALS since 2006.

For conference presentations, Ruan and Ehrenhart made a presentation at the 2015 inFIRE Annual Conference in May. The SLA Annual Conference accepted our contributed research paper and Ruan made the presentation at the annual conference in Boston on June 14, 2015. As the President of the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), Ruan made a series of presentations at the CALA chapter and national annual program conferences.

IFSI International Programs



Dr. Lian Ruan
International Programs
Director

The 11th Annual 2015 Chinese Librarians Summer Program was successfully completed with 28 librarian participants. Participants attended the ALA Annual Conference and Exhibit in San Francisco and did scholarly exchange activities with libraries at San Jose State University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of San Francisco. They did research and participated in seminars on a variety of topics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and at libraries in Illinois, then headed to discuss library services and digital librarianship at the libraries on the east coast.

The Hong Kong Fire Services Department sent five officers for HazMat Tech A & B training in Champaign. This is the program's sixth consecutive year



2015 Chinese Librarians Summer Program participants with Director Reitumetse Mabokela, International Programs and Studies

and IFSI has trained more than 50 officers since 2009 (See photo next page).

Dr. Ruan helped coordinate a trip with Deputy Commissioner Charles Stewart and Chief Tim Sampey from the Chicago Fire Department to visit the Civil Flight

continued on next page

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Fire officers for hazmat training from the Hong Kong Fire Services Department joined IFSI instructors at Champaign.

Aviation University of China in Guanghan, Sichuan Province, for an international seminar on aviation fire rescue. Their presentations were well-received.



Chicago Fire Department Deputy Commissioner Charles Steward, Lian Ruan, Seth Newlin (Oshkosh), CFD Chief Tim Sampey.

In April, Ruan and IFSI Regional Representative and HazMat instructor Raymond Palczynski visited the Nanning Fire Service Department and the National Hazardous Chemicals Emergency Rescue Huizhou Base regarding hazardous materials emergency response and rescue. In August, James Keiken, Raymond Palczynski and James Conn conducted a five-day hazardous materials operations training at the Huizhou Base. More than 30 firefighters and first responders participated in the program.



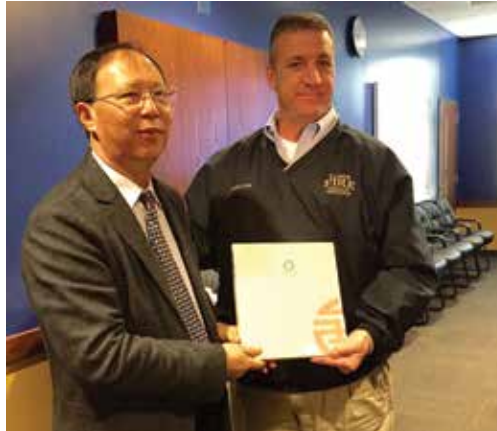
Jim Conn teaching a class at the Nat. Hazardous Chemicals Emergency Rescue Huizhou Base.

Illinois Fire Service Institute Fall/Winter 2015



Hazmat Training Drill at the Huizhou Base

In March, a Jinan University delegation led by Dean Lihui Cai of the School of Public Administration and Emergency Management visited IFSI.



Delegation meeting in March at IFSI: Dir. Mortenson visits with Dean Lihui Cai of Jinan University

In April, A Tongji University delegation visited IFSI and the Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC).



Delegation meeting in April at IFSI: Director Mortenson with Dean Bin Han of Tongji University

In April, a Tongji University delegation visited IFSI and the Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC).

Since July 2006, 20 Mutual of Understanding Agreements (MOUs) were signed with various Chinese organizations. During FY2015, IFSI hosted 13 visiting scholars. Since 2008, a total of 48 scholars have visited IFSI from China.



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**Winter Fire
School
Saturday night
Tailboard Talk**
you can register at the door.