



From the Director's Desk

The spring training season is in full swing and IFSI is providing new, improved, and varied training and education opportunities at our Champaign campus and around the state. Additionally, IFSI research and library services are growing and leading the nation in fire service life safety research, fire service library science and information sharing.

This year we have expanded our ability to deliver IFSI training and education across the state through new partnerships with the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Academy (NIPSTA) in Glenview, Ill. and the Orland Fire Protection District Training Center in Orland Park, Ill. We are grateful to both these excellent training organizations/facilities for the partnership and opportunity to bring IFSI courses/classes closer to the thousands of first responders in and around the Cook County area. In order to enhance our ability to deliver officer training classes across Illinois we have stood-up Keith "Doc" Patterson (midstate and downstate) and Chief James "Jimmi" Moore (northern Ill.) as Officer Program Reps working for Chief Lew Lake (Director of Officer Programs). See the map on page 19 to see what representative to reach out to for officer training.

Our technical rescue and hazmat programs continue to grow and improve with major prop improvements in collapse and equipment upgrades and curriculum updates across all the programs. Additionally, Sean Burke (Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs), Heather Moore (SOTP Program Director), Chris Downey (HazMat Program Manager), and Ray Palczynski (Regional Rep) are leading our effort and working closely with SMEs from five of the seven major railroads in Illinois to develop our "Railroad incident response for first responders program" – developing the training curriculum and prop improvements needed to make IFSI a national leader in railroad incident response.

The LDDM Program executed its first full pilot course in March and it was an amazing success. Requests for this program are beginning to come in from across Illinois and from across the U.S. from as far away as Colorado. The LDDM team led by Program Director Chief Jimmi Moore is doing course upgrades and instructor development/training and will deliver the second full pilot in October 2016.

You will be seeing more of our agricultural program throughout Illinois in the coming months. Along with grain bin rescue training, the program will once again be demonstrating at the Illinois State Fair in August. And we have a combination confined space/grain bin rescue demonstration scheduled at the June Illinois Association

of Fire Protection District (IAFPD) Annual Conference in Springfield.

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

The institute's partnership with the Chicago Fire Department continues to thrive. A number of classes are being held under our TRT/SOTP program, including classes in vehicle/machinery, rope, structural collapse and confined space rescue. CFD also fills out four IFSI RIT classes per year.

The IFSI Research Program is more active than ever. Through a collaboration with Underwriter's Laboratories (UL), our team conducted research to measure the impact of external attack and various hose streams have on the environment inside the structure before internal attack is initiated. You can follow the activities of this project on the IFSI Research's Facebook page and Twitter feed at #IFSIResearch.

The research program has also just released the Interim Report and Summary on last summer's "Cardiovascular & Carcinogenic Risks in Modern Firefighting". Both the summary and report can be downloaded from the research page on the IFSI web site. A new project is looking at the effects of repeat radiant heat exposure on SCBA face pieces.

I want to encourage all of you to check out this year's Fire College: 2-5 June. It is the most affordable and best-value of live-fire, hands-on training in the Midwest and we continue to vary the offerings to ensure it has something new every year. Information is available throughout this newsletter and on the IFSI web site.

Finally, I want to thank all our IFSI instructors and staff that do the essential work every day. Without their efforts, IFSI would be just another fire training organization – rather than what it is: the finest fire service training institution in the U.S.

Thank you and be smart out there.



Royal P. Mortenson
Director

Director
Royal P. Mortenson

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Jim Keiken

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John McCastland

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

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

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

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

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

www.fsi.illinois.edu

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Want your own copy of the IFSI newsletter?

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.

“Change” is the word. At IFSI the world is constantly changing. New programs, new people, new ideas. This spring we had formalized a number of staff changes and assignments.

Jason Loeb will be the Program Manager of the “Fire Instructor” programs.

Keith “Doc” Patterson will be the Program Manager for “Central and Down State Fire Officer” program.

Jimmy Moore will be the Program Manager for “Upstate Officer” program.

Tom Shubert will be the Instructor in Charge of the Engine Operations Program, Fire College and Special Events.

Tom Scheu will be the Instructor in Charge of the Explorer Hands-On Training College.

Toby Jackson will be the Instructor in Charge of Advanced Breathing Apparatus (Smoke Divers) program.

Ben Kervin will be the Instructor in Charge of On-site Light and Fights program.

Jonathan Frye will be the Instructor in Charge of the Truck Operations program.

Mike McCastland will continue to be the Instructor in Charge of the FAST program.

Henry Gruba will be the Program Manager for “e-Learning” programs.

JP Childers, Tom Shubert and Tom Scheu are the Battalion Chiefs for the Fire Academy overseeing daily program delivery.

New programs at IFSI include Traffic Incident Management (TIM) operations. This program is rolling out now with the train-the-trainer schedule for early May. The new Search Techniques for the Fireground course is scheduled for its first delivery this fall. IFSI now has a HazMat Operations program in Chinese which was delivered at the National Hazardous Chemicals Emergency Rescue Huizhou Base. Early this winter we are planning for the HazMat Technician course in Chinese here at IFSI. We are completing the IFSI NFPA Fire Fighter 1 blended program, as well as beginning the development of the Advanced Firefighter program.

“The Institute” news around & about

You see constant changes at IFSI. We are currently looking for a replacement Regional Representative for the South Region. Tim Bragg decided to step down as regional rep, but will continue as an IFSI instructor. Thank you to Tim for your dedication and commitment to the IFSI Mission.

We continue to develop new props at IFSI. After Gavin Horn’s Summer Research project we will have a new gas-fired single-family home just north of the tower. This will be similar in design as the masonry single family structure. The Collapse program has added a collapse bridge prop on the south grounds just east of the concrete collapse pile. HazMat is converting two areas, as well as the new intermodal tank, into leak props this spring.

Almost all of the Assistance to Firefighters grant equipment has arrived: hose, ground ladders Scott and MSA SCBAs, as well as the new turnout gear that is expected any day. The New WASP system is scheduled for delivery soon and will be used in a variety of classes later this fall. The new class-II fill station is here and will be installed in the tower once the control panel arrives.

What’s next at IFSI? That’s up to you. All of the items I discussed were suggested by students, firefighters, and staff. All items are expected to improve IFSI’s ability to train and educate firefighters. Is there something you think IFSI should be doing? If so, please let myself 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.



*Jim Keiken
Deputy
Director*

Table Talk

My deadline to submit my Table Talk is two days away and I'm drawing a blank. I'm sitting here in my home office on a Saturday, got the TV on to FS1 locked into Nascar, waiting for the race to start. This is the part of the program that the "talking head" interviews the drivers, and repeatedly you hear about the crew, the mechanics that build the engines, the shop fabricators, etc. – all the folks behind the effort, who without them, there is no race team.

We (IFSI) are the same. There are so many folks who are required to enable us to deliver our classes – from three-hour Cornerstone classes at your firehouse, to the 50-hour on-campus classes. If you walk across our Champaign campus and counted the folks in the shop, the supply building, the administration building, the class support men and women, curriculum and testing, purchasing, finance, grant research, IT, and library, you would notice there are a lot of folks behind the scenes to let IFSI do what we do. This group of dedicated folks are not clock watchers, who show up with the Sun-Times tucked under their right arm, sucking on some "fu-fu" coffee. No, they are here to support the field staff in their service to the state.



Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director

During the average week, IFSI delivers 28 classes with most of them off campus. Instructor payroll timesheets run around 164 submittals, with an excess of 70 travel reimbursements to be processed. It is not a scientific guess, because it's my best bet: I figure from the time you submit a request for training, it takes better than 12 of this dedicated group to put that IFSI Field Instructor on deck, wherever requested, and at least six more after the job is done to close out.

As you read this report of what IFSI is doing, just remember it all happens because of these folks, who you don't know, but they believe in the cause. I have been employed at IFSI 33 years – my first 18 as Field Staff and the remainder as Career Service. And in all that time we have had a few support all-stars. But this group of IFSI support, in all capacities, is the best group that has been place during my time here. They are the unseen; mostly unknown to you. I'm a boss and have some great people taking care of the programs under me, and it goes without saying the support folks need to receive some recognition. So for this issue I want to say THANKS for all you folks do to make IFSI the great institution it is.

Well time to strike it out, the green flag has dropped eight laps of 200 complete with Kyle Bush leading.

MAC

It's easy to see just how much the support team contributes at Fire College - June 2-5. Come see for yourself.



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

92nd Annual
FIRE
COLLEGE

www.fsi.illinois.edu

Fire Safety Through Research

For the past year, Brian Brauer and Gavin Horn have been participating as stakeholders in the FSTAR (Firefighter Safety Through Advanced Research) project. Here is a summary of the program, and how it can benefit your agency.

Scientific research is uncovering new and critical information for the fire service. The Firefighter Safety Through Advanced Research (FSTAR) program is translating this research into useable knowledge that can be used to improve fire department operations, firefighter health and wellness programs, and community preparedness efforts.

FSTAR is focusing on several areas, including improving access to research through its searchable, web-based collection of fire service research. Visit FSTARResearch.org to search for research and to learn more about FSTAR's efforts to promote research within the fire service. To date, FSTAR has identified more than 400 research studies for inclusion on the website.

In addition to research access, FSTAR is translating scientific research into short, easy to use fact sheets focused on providing the fire service with the key takeaways and knowledge. The [FSTAR Featured Studies](#) include topics such as fire dynamics, health, wellness, smoke alarms and evacuation. FSTAR has produced 23 Featured Studies, including studies such as the [Study of Residential Attic Fire Mitigation Tactics and Exterior Fire Spread Hazards on Fire Fighter Safety](#), [Sudden Cardiac Death Among Firefighters ≤45 Years of Age in the United States](#); and [Health Concerns of the U.S. Fire Service: Perspectives From the Firehouse](#).

In addition, FSTAR is also creating infographics to highlight critical research takeaways. Two infographics based on the research outcomes found in [Extreme Sacrifice: Sudden Cardiac Death in the](#)

[US Fire Service](#) have been developed: [Know the Numbers: Extreme Sacrifice](#) and [Know Your Odds: Extreme Sacrifice](#).

IFSI staff have played a critical role in supporting FSTAR. Director of Research Gavin P. Horn, Ph.D., Research Scientist Denise L. Smith, Ph.D., and I have worked on multiple levels to shape and build FSTAR into a resource for both the fire service and research communities.

FSTAR is also taking on a new focus on firefighter health and wellness. Along with continuing to translate research, FSTAR is working with fire service researchers, physicians and experts to build *A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals*. The guide will raise awareness within the healthcare community of the unique health risks confronting firefighters.

FSTAR is funded by an Assistance to Firefighters Grant/Fire Prevention and Safety Grant award and is managed by the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#). Gavin Horn and I can answer questions about IFSI's participation, or you can contact fstar@iafc.org with any questions.



Brian R. Brauer,
PhD
Associate
Director



Watch the IFSI web site for a video on how to inspect your face mask for thermal damage. Note the shadow on the white surface of thermal cracks not seen by the naked eye.

IFSI Delivers First Full Leadership Development and Decision Making Program



*James Moore
Leadership
Development
and Decision
Making
Program
Director*

In October of 2012, Director Royal P. Mortenson was challenged by numerous Illinois fire service leaders to develop a program that would institutionalize leadership development and decision making in the fire service. Director Mortenson assembled a group of IFSI Instructors who would come to be known as the Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) working group. This working group was tasked with developing a program that would support leadership development and decision-making training/education at every rank and from “cradle to grave” for the firefighter, officer and chief officer. Now, after three years of curriculum development, program design, small pilot deliveries, and several program/evaluation conferences, the first full Leadership Development and Decision Making Program was successfully delivered in March.

The program has seven Lines of Education (LOE) that are consistent at each level of instruction – firefighter, company officer, and chief officer. The LOEs are tailored for each rank/level. Using a Socratic delivery style, IFSI Leadership Development and Decision Making instructors immerse the students in the topic through challenging small group discussions and simulated exercises that force the student to think and interact in a way not attainable in the traditional classroom setting. The LDDM program is broken into three distinct groups, Firefighter, Fire Officer and Chief Officer,

which allows for open dialogue and greater interaction typically not seen in a standard class. The LOEs are:

- Leadership
- History and Tradition
- Communication
- Morals and Ethics
- Professional Development
- Decision Making
- Command Culture and Climate

The foundational elements of the LDDM program are small group discussions and decision-making simulation exercises that are designed to force the student to make decisions with minimal information. Dealing with uncertainty, friction, and time-pressured scenarios, in a training and education environment is the only way to get students to exercise and develop their “decision-making muscles”.

The LDDM program culminates on Day 5 with all students coming together for several live-burn practical exercises. Each live-burn scenario challenges the decision making of each level.

Based upon the student and instructor feedback, the LDDM Pilot Program was a success. Listed below are some of the students’ thoughts on the LDDM Program.

Firefighter level recurring comments:

- “Best part was the table top and small group discussions. It made us think of what is important for us as an individual, and as a department.”

Leadership Development and Decision Making Program – Pilot Course Schedule

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Leadership Presentation, 1 hr.	Morals & Ethics Presentation, 1 hr.	Command Culture & Climate Presentation, 1 hr.	Professional Development Presentation, 1 hr.	Live Burn Practical Applications 8 hrs.
Small Group 2 hrs.	Small Group 2 hrs.	Small Group 3 hrs.	Small Group 3 hrs.	
Hx. & Trad. Presentation, 1 hr.	Decision Making Presentation, 1 hr.	Simulated Exercises, 4 hrs.	Simulated Exercises, 4 hrs.	
Small Group 2 hrs.	Small Group 2 hrs.			
Communication Presentation, 1 hr.	Simulated Exercises 3 hrs.			
Small Group 2 hrs.				

- “Great class that grabs your attention and keeps it. The interaction gets everyone involved and keeps people attentive. Challenged me to reflect on who I am and what I believe.”

- “Great class that has brought up things I’ve never really considered.”

- “Fun decision making opportunities. This would challenge my department’s thinking in a good way.”

- “I enjoyed it. It made me go back to my hotel and think about some of the problems that the leadership in my department had. But, also made me think that many of the younger guys had leadership potential.”

Fire Officer level recurring comments:

- “Course structure requires students to reach beyond their level of comfort.”

- “This course is revolutionary! It is the missing rung in the ladder for leadership in the fire service.”

- “The Instructors are excellent, especially during small group discussions. They ask valued and tough questions and really challenge the students.”

- “Wow, I never thought of things from an ethical standpoint.”

- “Being put on the Hot Seat was difficult but it really helped.”

- “SimEx was eye opening!”

Chief Officer level recurring comments:

- “Small group discussion allowed all students to participate in lively and informative discussions.”

- “Outstanding and inspiring.”

- “Small group discussions allowed me to get more personal with the instructors and engaged with the students.”

- “Made me think about what I have been doing and gave me tools to get better.”

- “Ethics was really beneficial to me as a Chief Officer.”

- “This course exceeds my expectations.”

- “Understanding the decision-making process has already helped me in today’s exercises.”

- “Great mix of lecture, discussion and Simulated Exercises.”

- “I have a lot more information to pass along to my department.”

- “I have learned better fireground organization and accountability.”

The next LDDM Program is scheduled for October 3-7, 2016. Enroll soon so you don’t miss this one-of-a-kind experience. For questions or more information, contact LDDM Program Director James Moore.



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.

October 3-7, 2016 Champaign, Illinois

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs



Sean Burke
Assistant
Director for
Firefighting
Programs

This last winter I had the pleasure of speaking at the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District in Yates City. The occasion was Elba-Salem's annual Appreciation Banquet. At this event, I watched as many as three generations of volunteer firefighters were recognized for their achievements. I was totally impressed with the dedication of time and service these people – young and old – had dedicated to their community. Once again, Chief McKinty and Ken Vallas, thank you for welcoming me to your event, and congratulations on developing so many generations of firefighters.

IFSI Spring Academy is completed. With this class we implemented a different structure for how the class was administratively run. The students were broken up into three groups that were each lead by a Battalion Chief. Tom Shubert, Tom Scheu, and J.P. Childers had the honor of fulfilling these roles. Each Chief gave a personal, one-on-one experience to the members of their Battalion as they watched over and guided their development, and addressed the administrative needs required by the OSFM.

This spring, IFSI once again hosted an Engine and Truck Class that ran concurrently. Tom Shubert headed the Engine Class and Jonathan Frye ran the Truck Class. Each group spent the morning working on their individual skill sets, and the afternoon "Coordinated Fire Attacks" were run with both Engine and Truck working together. The last day culminated in a number of rolling responses to every burn building IFSI has to offer. Student feedback has been very positive with this venue. The Truck group also had an extra bonus with this class – they were able to go to Thomasboro and work at an "Acquired Structure". Please watch IFSI's

website as we hope to do more work with Chief Cundiff at the apartment buildings in Thomasboro.

Fire College registration will be well underway as this article is published,

with Tad Schroeder once again serving as the coordinator. We are offering more than a dozen classes again this year that include the return of our friends from Canadian Pacific Railroad with their "Flammable Liquids by Rail" Class. "Active Shooter" is a new offering this year. University of Illinois Campus Police along with Dave Piper of Orland Park and his crew of Paramedics, are partnering for this class. IFSI will be offering a large variety of firefighting classes at this four-day event. Please check the website and sign up soon, as classes continue to fill.

Tony Vespa, IFSI's Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Program Manager, will be offering a new class designed to show Incident Commanders how to safely run an extrication incident. A VMT class was held for the City of Chicago in Chicago Heights this spring. Thirty-eight CFD members participated in this class and gained great experience and knowledge due to the vehicles available at Wilkens Yard in Chicago Heights. Chris Bednarek of Chicago Heights, John Gies and Bill Duffy of the CFD, and Dave Piper of Orland Park, all contributed to the success of this class. Another class, identical to this one, is scheduled for the CFD in the fall.

Light and Fights are a popular event this year. Tom Scheu and Ben Kervin host more than 60 students who come to IFSI to learn new skills or to improve old ones. Please watch the website here as well, for the next offering coming soon.

Rapid Intervention Team Rescue Technician classes are again very popular. Gary Coney, the Program Manager, and his group will be holding a number of classes through the year. These classes are built upon actual incidents where LODD deaths occurred. Students will learn the skills needed to save their fellow firefighter in "live-fire" scenarios hosted at IFSI. Some of these classes are grant-funded. You can find out more from the IFSI website.

Program Director, Lew Lake, and his officer group will be hosting Fire Ground Company Officer and Fire Ground Command Officer classes this year in May and November. These classes are

continued next page



very popular and are intended to improve the skills for Company Officers and Chief Officers. The unique experience offered here for all officers is the chance to learn skills in a classroom setting, and then go onto IFSI's fireground and employ the skills learned.

Firefighting Programs played an instrumental role in the Leadership Development and Decision Making Program held in March, especially on the last day for the Practical Application exercise. Firefighters, Company Officers, and Chiefs were all challenged to make sound decisions under the duress of "live-fire" exercises on the IFSI campus. One more exercise will be offered this year in October. Once again, refer to the IFSI website for more information.

Tom Richter, our Wildland Program Manager, reports there are plenty of opportunities to tune up your knowledge on Small Engine (brush/grass rigs) Tactics and Initial Attack Strategies at an IFSI Wildland Class. Check out the IFSI website for particulars or give Tom Richter, the Wildland Program Manager a shout for specifics!

Dave Newcomb tells us the Ag Rescue Program is back on the road, as we have seen a lot of requests. As a summary for 2016, 18 departments, in 11 locations hosted the Grain Bin Awareness class, 22 departments, in nine locations hosted the Ag Rescue Techniques Class, and two departments hosted the Grain Bin Tech class with 102 students present. April was busy and May will be busy and we will fill classes as best we can. Tune into the IFSI website for all the details.

Finally, this year we are beginning to see a couple of "acquired structures" come available. Depending on the permit process and scheduling, IFSI along with the hosting departments, may be able to hold "live-fire" training at these locations. The regions where these are located are in the East Central Region with Tim Meister, and Central Region with Jim Vaughn. Please keep a watchful eye on IFSI's website for time and dates, should these become available.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to firefighting for the State of Illinois.

We have just completed an update of the Fire Apparatus Engineer curriculum. This update brings the course back to 40 hours while maintaining Pro Board accreditation and National Fire Academy endorsement.

This reduction of course hours was accomplished by removing aerial operations, extraneous content, streamlining the presentations, and receiving approval



FAE/FSVO

from the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal for our end-of-course exam. These changes were made without decreasing the amount of time that the student will actually spend at the pump panel with an instructor.

This change was designed to benefit the student by decreasing the amount of time necessary to attend this important course and to benefit departments by decreasing the cost of travel and lodging for their personnel to attend.



*Tal Prendergast
FAE/FSVO
Program
Manager*

***Basic Pumper Operations
is offered at Fire College
(12 hours) Saturday 8am
- 5pm and Sunday 8am -
noon.***



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Northwest Region



Ray Palczynski
Northwest
Region



Greetings from the Northwest Cornerstone Region. I've had the opportunity to be out on the road a little more the past several months. I have attended county and/or MABAS meetings in Stevenson and Rock Island Counties. You may have seen evidence of my visit if you were not home when I stopped by. I left a bag of informational materials on your door knob. If you haven't seen one yet, you likely will soon.

Many of you have asked when the 2016 version for the Emergency Response Guides will be out. As soon as they are delivered to the Illinois Fire Service Institute we will be getting them out to the departments who have agreed to be our distributing points. If you don't know who or where that is, drop me a note or give me a call. If you are not close to a distribution fire station let me know and I'll get you what you need.

Cornerstone classes are being requested and set up at a better than average rate now that the budget affecting this part of the Institute has been squared away. One key change to our delivery system in the Cornerstone program is that we will no longer schedule any Cornerstone classes during the month of June. That means you have from July through the end of May during each Cornerstone fiscal year to request classes. With this change, I am already accepting classes to be scheduled for after July 1st which begins fiscal year 2017. The only hang up with this approach will be if the funding is jeopardized again. In the meantime we'll think positive and plan ahead into the next fiscal year.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who requested classes that had to be postponed and rescheduled between October 1, 2015 and January 5, 2016 due to the recent state budget issues. I appreciate your flexibility and understanding. Please stay in touch and keep the requests for training coming!

Northeast Region



Randy
Schlichter
Northeast
Region



Once again, the Cherry Valley FPD will host four, **NO COST** live-fire "Light & Fights". The three remaining are: May 21, September 24 and November 5.

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

Other classes of interest coming soon are:

North Park FPD: **FSVO & state test** May 21 0800/1700 | Chief Joel Hallstrom 815-636-3051

North Park FPD: **TRA & state test** May 28 0800/1700 | Chief Joel Hallstrom 815-636-3051

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



This Light & Fight 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 level. During the training rotations, students will train on basic SCBA, hose handling and movement, ladder raises, carries, climbing, tool handling, and proper tool selection for the assigned task. Additionally, the coordinated drills will offer students an opportunity to work as a member of a fire suppression team, and introduce very basic RIT and Saving Our Own concepts.

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Keep your calendars open! Numerous Cornerstone training opportunities are coming your way throughout the East Central Region. The month of March was busy and the trend continues. Starting April 1, we had 25 classes on the schedule, and I am excited to share that even more training opportunities are in the process of being finalized.

The Thomasboro Fire Department has a unique live-burn training opportunity in Thomasboro, Ill. Thomasboro FD has been given permission to use the Orchard Cherry Apartment complex for acquired structure burns. IFSI is collaborating with the Thomasboro FD to conduct multiple training classes at this site. Stay tuned to the IFSI website and the East Central Region training schedule for upcoming classes and dates. I want to thank Chief Cundiff from Thomasboro for opening up this tremendous training opportunity to area firefighters.

Other Cornerstone classes offered throughout the East Central Region include the following: Coles Co. – Multiple Essentials 1 classes at multiple locations, Essentials 2, Ag Rescue Techniques,

East Central Region

Courage to be safe, FSVO, and TRA.

Effingham Co. – Rural Engine and Tender Ops, FSVO, TRA.

Champaign Co. – Fire Behavior and Smoke, Essentials 1 2 3 4, Large Vehicle Extrication, Basic Auto Extrication, Fire Service Ladders, Ventilation.

Iroquois Co. – Rural Engine and Tender, Grain Bin Awareness, Anhydrous Ammonia Emergencies. Vermilion Co. – Essentials 1 2 3 4, Fire Origin and Cause, and Montgomery Co. – Courage to be Safe.

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



Tim Meister
East Central
Region

See page
28 for
photos of
Essentials
2 class at
Ashmore

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Cornerstone Regions

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

South Region



Tim Bragg
South Region



Hello all. As always, the Southern Cornerstone Region's mission is to fulfill IFSI's commitment to bring all possible training to fire departments in the South Region under the umbrella of all the programs and classes that IFSI offers.

The Fire Officer classes are going strong in southern Illinois with several new classes being scheduled. These are great classes designed to help soon-to-be-officers or officers already in grade to become better fire officers.

At the time of this writing (February 17), the South Region had 31 Cornerstone classes scheduled. There are several more South Region Cornerstone classes in the works.

Benton FD; Fire Service Vehicle Operator; May 24 & 25

Allendale Rural FPD; LP (Propane) Firefighting; June 20

West City FD; Overhaul & Salvage; July 12

West Frankfort FD; Basic Aerial Apparatus Operations; Aug 6

Horseshoe Lake FD, Olive Branch; Firefighter Rehab and Stress Management; Aug 15

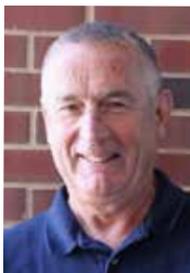
Ava VFD; Firefighter Self Rescue & Survival; Aug 18

Williamson County FPD; Leadership Principles for the Fire Officer; Sept 10

Ava VFD; Technical Rescue Awareness; Oct 1

Horseshoe Lake FD, Olive Branch; Leadership, Accountability, Culture & Knowledge (L.A.C.K.); Oct 17

Southwest Region



John Nichols
Southwest Region



Hello from the Southwest Region, I hope all of you are enjoying the spring season – as we are approaching the end of the budget season. I am pleased to announce that we were able to host 75 classes throughout the Southwest region. Thanks to all who hosted classes this year.

Pictured here and on the next page are two photos from the oil firefighting class held each year at the Salem Regional training site.

The class is very well attended with students from throughout southern Illinois. A very big thanks to Chief Roger Mann and his men for hosting this class.

I am still getting acquainted with the three new counties I am covering. I have made several contacts with these departments and have missed a few of them. If you are in Marion, Jefferson or Fayette and would like to host a Cornerstone class or just have

questions, please give me a call.

To find classes in the Southwest Region, go to the IFSI web site and click on **COURSE INFORMATION** and then **COUNTY MAP SELECTOR**.



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

The IFSI Central Region has been booming with classes. Local departments have been hosting a wide array of training opportunities within the region.

Recently, the Lacon-Sparland FPD hosted an acquired structure burn that provided an outstanding training opportunity for departments in the area. I'd like to thank them for the outstanding work that they did assisting in setting up this class.

There are many more classes coming up in the Central Region. Please check the website or contact me directly if you are looking for classes in your area.

Central Region



*Jim Vaughn
Central
Region*



Watch the IFSI web site for additional oil well firefighting opportunities.

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports



Rich Stack
Chicago Metro
Region



Chicago Metro Region

Hello from the Chicago Metro Area. Spring is here and it's time to get down to training.

The good news is the Cornerstone funding has been restored. The bad news is that we lost a couple of months of training opportunities. We have a few months to get as much training as possible before we run out of time. The Cornerstone fiscal year ends in June so do not hesitate to set up some classes now. Even though June is right around the corner, we can be setting up classes for next year's Cornerstone offering and start delivering them as soon as July.

This year IFSI will be hosting the following classes at Orland's training tower. Orland's training tower is now recognized as an IFSI training site.

Basic Engine Operations: June 21 - 23
Basic Truck Operations: June 28 - 30
Basic Company Officer: August 24 - 25
Smoke Divers: September 13 - 15

Don't miss out on some great training near you.



The regional training site in Orland Park.

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports



Heather Moore
SOTP Program
Director

It is great to be back working with such a talented, knowledgeable, tenacious, and passionate group of people. IFSI's premier technical rescue and hazardous materials training has been formulated through the efforts of the program managers and instructor cadres of the Special Operations Training Programs (SOTP).

What does that mean to you – the Illinois firefighter seeking professional and personal development and how to best fulfill your role as a member of a hazardous materials team or a technical rescue team? It means the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) acknowledges the value in offering you, the Illinois firefighter and/or the MABAS team member, the opportunity to attend IFSI's SOTP classes through

the support of the HSGP and the UASI Grant. Thanks to this grant, tuition for these classes has been waived. The schedule of classes is set for the 2016 calendar year, so please check out IFSI's website for all of SOTP's class listings that include: Confined Space Rescue, Rope Rescue, Structural Collapse Rescue, Trench Rescue, Hazardous Materials Technician and IMS, and Responder Intervention Team (RIT) Rescue Technician. The prerequisite requirements are listed online along with the course syllabus.

I look forward to working with you on the training ground and SOTP looks forward to the opportunities **"To Train, To Act, To Respond, To Educate, To Empower, To Execute."**

For more information check out our course offerings at:

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

Or contact one of the SOTP's program managers:

Ryan Reynolds – Confined Space - rreynolds@illinois.edu

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

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

Jon Hauge – Trench Rescue – jhaug@illinois.edu

Chris Downey – Hazardous Materials – cjdowney@illinois.edu

Gary Coney – Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician – sqd2agc@illinois.edu

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

**SPECIAL
OPERATIONS
TRAINING
PROGRAM**

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

The Confined Space Rescue Program here at the Institute is continuing to expand and evolve. We continue to offer Operations and Technician-level training to fire department personnel from all across the state, including the City of Chicago and at the new Regional Training Center (RTC) in Orland Park. In addition to all of these municipal rescue classes, an increased demand for our industrial classes, in part, has driven us to create additional course offerings.

Many industrial fire brigades and rescue teams provide confined space rescue services for the facilities they serve. We provide OSHA-based initial confined space rescue training as well as customized refresher training. However, there are some industrial customers that strive for their employees to obtain Pro Board certification, meeting the NFPA 1006 standard. This need prompted the creation of a new, 56-hour, Industrial Confined Space Rescue Operations – Level I & II course.



This new course is tailored specifically towards industrial facilities and their unique challenges, while creating an affordable avenue for Pro Board certification in confined space rescue. A major benefit to this Pro Board certification is the additional level of interoperability it can provide. Many outside rescue agencies that respond to these facilities will easily be able to integrate with the onsite teams.

Essentially, both industrial and municipal rescue teams would be trained using similar methods, techniques, and tactics in confined space rescue. This “being on the same page” mentality can really save valuable time in a confined space rescue situation. Keep an eye on our website for further class information and details.

Confined Space Rescue



*Ryan Reynolds
Confined Space
Program
Manager*



Hazardous Materials

Following suit with the other IFSI Special Operations Training Programs, the Hazmat Program will soon be releasing our Hazmat Technician Field Operations Guide (FOG). Development of the Hazmat FOG is nearing completion and is currently in the final editing and proofreading stage. We are anticipating a June rollout and we are very excited about FOG’s ability to help you manage any hazmat incident. Some of the sections

to be included are: Donning/Doffing, Science, Sampling, Monitoring, Decon, Control Zones, and Rescue – as well as many others. While the goal of any Field Operations Guide is not intended to be an A-Z listing of how to run an incident, it should give you many useful cues to assist you in making informed decisions. Look for your opportunity to purchase the Hazmat FOG in June!



*Chris Downey
HazMat
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports



Mike Woodard
Rope Rescue
Program
Manager

Rope Rescue Program

As summer approaches and we get out to shake off the cabin fever, we start looking at training opportunities. For those looking at receiving Rope Level I training (Rope Operations) we offer two ways to receive this training. One is with our week-long class and the other is with our blended format.

The blended class offers not only an online classroom, but hands-on training as well. The blended class is spread out over eight weeks with a practice session on Saturday at week six and the final practicals and testing on a Saturday-Sunday at week eight. Both will give you a Pro Board and OSFM certification. Throughout the blended class the instructor assigned to that week is available to answer your questions and assist you with your assignments and quizzes. The Rope Level I training is a prerequisite for all of the SOTP (Special Operations Training Programs). And with

only two blended and two week-long classes available this year that are grant funded, they will fill quickly.

This year we also offer two grant-funded Level II (Rope Technician) classes. These classes are 95% hands on and will take your rope skills to the next level and increase your ability to determine forces that are applied to the advanced systems, anchors, and techniques.

As always we strive to keep up with new technology, equipment, and techniques. If you have a specific piece of equipment (hardware or software) we will include it in the hands-on portion of your training. Records should be maintained on rope equipment and dates checked on a regular basis. I have heard from a lot of you on when to retire rope, harnesses, helmets, etc. Just a reminder that rope rescue equipment has a shelf and usage life just like other fire rescue gear.

Keep your rigging safe.



UPCOMING ROPE RESCUE CLASSES

Jun. 13-17/20-24
Jul. 11-15/18-22
Aug. 1
Sep. 10 / 24-25

Rock Island Rope Tech
Orland Park Rope Tech
On-line Rope Ops
IFSI

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Well it's been 16 years since I had to worry about being a "probie", I'm both nervous and excited about what lies ahead. Since I took on the role as Program Manager for Trench in January, some of those feelings have come rushing back. Luckily, now, as then, I have had well-qualified and highly-motivated peers to guide me and I thank them. I'm also fortunate to have a well-qualified and highly-motivated group of instructors who will go above and beyond to deliver a top notch product.

That being said, winter is over (hopefully) and it's time to get back

Trench Rescue

to work. IFSI is offering two operation level and two technician level courses this year. The first of each will be held at Local 150 in Wilmington and are currently both full with waiting lists. The second operation level course will be held in Orland, June 14-17. The second technician level course will be at Local 150 in Wilmington, October 17-21, and also has a few seats available.



*Jon Hauge
Trench Rescue
Program
Manager*

The 2016 spring teaching season is opening up with the completion of several new training props within IFSI's structural collapse area. These new arrivals were built to mimic several recent "real world" structural collapse incidents throughout the Nation such as the parking garage collapse in Florida and the bridge collapse that hit the morning rush hour traffic in Minnesota. The new additions will allow Illinois firefighters to become better prepared for future incidents, providing for a much safer and effective response. The new training props such as "Bridge Collapse" and "Parking Garage Collapse" are exclusively at IFSI.

At the end of last year and prior to winter taking hold we removed the old "roof prop" where many of you took your first steps on learning the importance of the "Double Funnel" principle and built a new two-story, wood frame structure. This new building will add to experience of shore construction and in addition add to the realism during the recon phase of the incident.

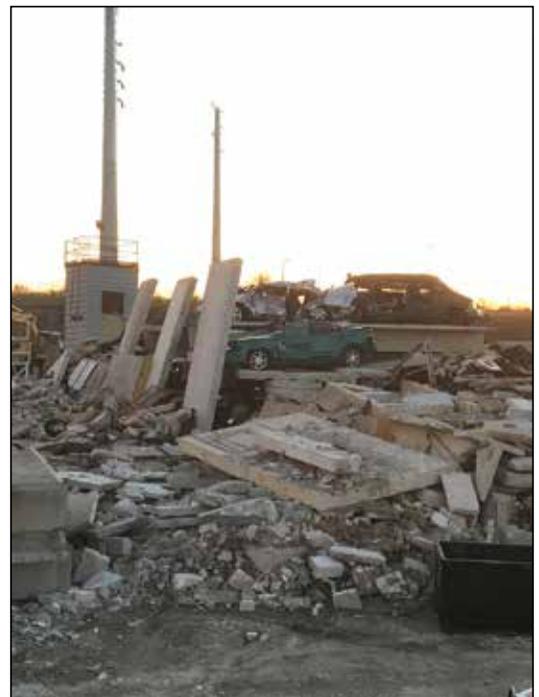


Structural Collapse

From the world of curriculum, we have earned Pro Board accreditation for both Structural Collapse Level I and II. We have also been OSFM approved for Structural Collapse Technician since last fall and continue to work to ensure the best possible testing experience for the student.



*Mike McCastland
Structural
Collapse
Program
Manager*



From the Campus: Firefighting Programs



Tony Vespa
Vehicle/
Machinery
Program
Manager

Vehicle/Machinery

Vehicle extrication demands a unique collaboration between rescue and emergency medical personnel. The objectives are to increase situational awareness and improve your strategic and tactical plans for extrication by

incorporating key medical information in the decision-making process. To save a victim (not just chop up a vehicle), you need command, coordination, communication and care.

Taking it to another level. This year's Fire College features a new class: Auto Extrication Command - offered for eight hours on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.



Rapid Intervention Team Rescue



Gary Coney
Rapid
Intervention
Team Rescue
Technician
Program
Manager

This year is already a busy one for Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician formally known as RIT. The RIT program has already had two classes before April. I'm happy to report that RIT once again is grant-funded to all Illinois firefighters. We have four more classes this year and as of now there are spots available for the fall classes so please check the IFSI website for those dates. Please remember that even if the

class is at maximum enrollment, continue to sign-up because there is a waiting list in case of cancellations. In 2015 RIT trained more than 250 firefighters from departments all over the state, plus a few from Wisconsin.

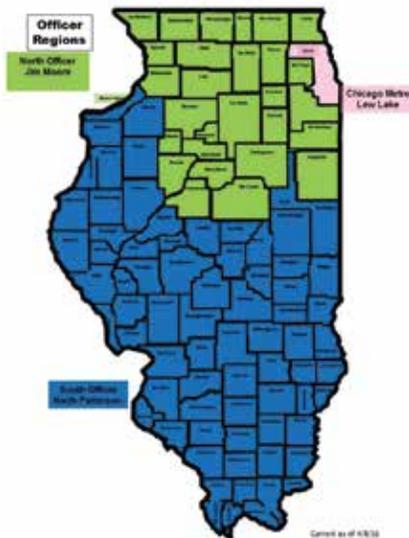
Plan ahead: Next available RIT classes: October 31 and November 7, 2016 - available to Illinois firefighters at no tuition.



From the Campus: Program Reports

This year has brought many exciting additions to our Fire Officer programs. We are near completion for the Basic and Advanced Company Officer that will roll out late spring and early fall. This new curriculum process has taken nearly three years to complete. IFSI will still offer the traditional model classes to ensure any students “in-between” classes will have ample time to complete the certification.

A new offering at IFSI this year is Incident Safety Officer. Dates and locations can be found on our website, as well as the IFSI calendar. If you wish to host a Fire Officer class in your area, please fill out a request for training and leave ample time



Fire Officer Program

for scheduling. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.

On another note, two gentlemen have been added to assist you locally on your officer training. Jim Moore and Keith “Doc” Patterson have been assigned to work in the lower part of the state for the Officer Program (see map).



*Lew Lake
Fire Officer
Program
Director*



Lt. Steve Wilcox from the Wheaton Fire Department is one of the original field staff members hired and was instrumental in the development of Smoke Divers and Fireground Officer School.

Agricultural Rescue

The Ag Rescue program is on the road and catching up to the number of requests we have received. Some interesting facts on the numbers for grain entrapments and deaths in the United States: for 2015 we had more than 44 entrapments and 25 deaths. This is the first time since 2010 that deaths were more than 50% of the total, a sad trend.

On another note, we are working on having another display at the Illinois State Fair in cooperation with OSHA. Watch for more information as we get closer to August.

I recently did my spring safety message on RFD radio and Chief Burke and Dennis Spice accompanied me to tell the IFSI story. I want to remind everyone that spring is here and so is large farm machinery on our roadways. Be aware of your surroundings and remember, above all, everyone goes home. Take care. I look forward to seeing you as we travel the state.



*Dave Newcomb
Ag Rescue
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports



Mark Clapp
Propane, Oil
and Gas
Program
Manager

Propane, Oil and Gas

As we come out of the winter that was warmer than normal, you may have used less propane, but the product and containers are still out there. We still need to be ready to understand and prepare in case of an emergency.

The Arthur, Ill. Fire Department found out how valuable it is to be prepared. A shed fire contributed enough heat that caused a nearby 500 gallon tank to vent and burn. Training that they received from IFSI and sponsored by the Illinois Propane Education and Research Council (IPERC) was used to control and cool the tanks and to protect other structures in the area. The tank was not

part of the original fire but became an exposure that needed to be managed.

Material learned at IFSI helped solve Arthur's problem. These types of problems rarely happen, and we are not exposed often enough to gain valuable learning material. At IFSI we can help by coming to you with a class that replicates problems that have occurred in the field so that all members of your department can be trained and be ready to respond.

If you would like a class in propane look at the IFSI's online calendar for a class near you. Classes are going fast.



Tom Richter
Wildland
Program
Manager

Wildland

T'is the Burn Season

Well, as you have probably noticed, it's spring time; and that means lots of local prescribed/controlled burning in your districts! That also means that conditions are deceiving out there on the prairies and Conservation Reserve Properties. The light, flashy grass fuels are ready for burning, but access by brush/grass rigs is limited due to soft ground. Have you considered the need for alternative measures in controlling

escape burns where traditional small engine attacks are not viable options?

There are plenty of available Basic Wildland training opportunities to assist with learning those options and tactics. Check out the IFSI website for an opportunity near you or give me a shout and let me help you get pointed in the right direction.

Have a smart and safe spring and remember Fire Order # 9...stay calm, think clearly, act decisively!

From the Campus: Program Reports

Investigation/Prevention

Check out the new and special Arson Investigation Continuing Education Program taking place during the annual Fire College - June 2-5. These classes support refresher training for continuing education and re-certification requirements for fire investigators. The classes are sponsored by IAAI in partnership with IFSI.

Residential Electricity for the Fire Investigator (4 hours) Thursday, June 2 - 1pm-5pm | Derek Starr, P.E., leads this class and discusses and demonstrates, through practical exercises, basic principles of residential electricity that every fire investigator should know.

Fire Dynamics, Fire Behavior, Flashover, Fire Pattern Recognition (8 hours) Friday, 8am - 5pm | Steve Chasteen, AIFireE, C.F.I., C.F.E.I., will discuss fire dynamics, behavior, flashover, fire pattern recognition and more, as they relate to the 16 subject areas set forth in NFPA 1033.

Vehicle Fires (8 hours) Saturday, 8am - 5pm | Russell Nummer, Forensic Investigator, discusses and demonstrates the origin and cause investigation of vehicle fires.

Arson 201 (4 hours) Sunday, 8am - noon | This class covers the different aspects of investigating incendiary fires and explosions.



*John High Sr.
Investigation/
Intervention
Program
Manager*



In early July IFSI will start offering Hazardous Materials Operations in a blended format. The course will consist of eight weeks of online course work and ending with a practical weekend. The current plan is to provide the practicals in parts of Illinois that are convenient to most of the registered students to help reduce travel and lodging expenses.

You can find registration information on the IFSI website in the Featured Item Scroll.

On another note, I field about 100 phone calls and emails each week inquiring how an individual can get certified in various courses. IFSI has worked to bring the core courses that firefighters need to perform their duties effectively and safely while meeting their certification needs. Last year we introduced course offerings where students could take classroom requirements prior to Fire College and then complete practicals at Fire College and at the same time obtain certification. We will do so again this year.

At present IFSI offers 10 courses that provide certification. You can find information on the IFSI website under the

Online Classes

Online dropdown menu.

Online Course Offerings

- Technical Rescue Awareness
- HazMat Awareness
- HazMat Operations
- Fire Service Vehicle
- Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Firefighter Basic
- Rope Rescue Operations Level 1
- Instructor I,II and III
- Firefighter Basic, Module A-B-C

I'm very pleased to announce that Henry Gruba has accepted the position of eLearning Program Manager.

As Program Manager Henry's responsibilities will include day to day administration of the online courses.

Henry has been a part of the eLearning instructional staff since its inception in 2000. Henry also held the position of eLearning Assistant several years ago. He brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to our eLearning program.

Please contact Henry directly with any questions you may have with online course delivery.



*Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director*

From the Campus: Program Reports

Research



Gavin Horn, PhD
Research
Department
Director

In early 2016, IFSI Research, along with partners from Underwriters Laboratories' Firefighter Safety Research Institute and the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health's Health Hazard Evaluation Program, released an Interim Report on the Cardiovascular and Carcinogenic Risks in Modern Firefighting project. This report is free to download from our website at:

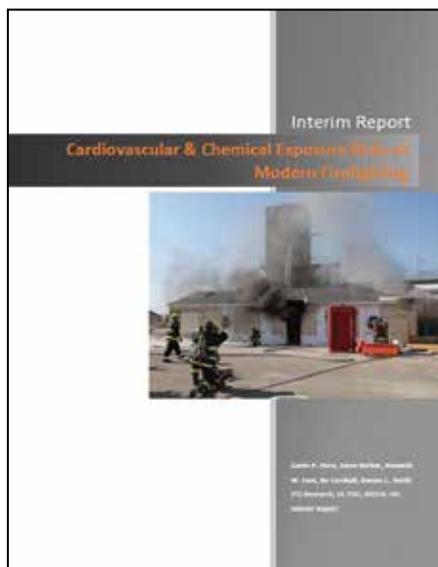
<https://fsi.illinois.edu/documents/research/CardioChemRisksModernFFInterimReport2016.pdf>.

A three-page summary document that hits the highlights of this report is also available at: <https://fsi.illinois.edu/documents/research/SummaryCardioChemRisksModernFFInterimReport2016.pdf>. Once again, we want to thank the firefighters and IFSI instructors from across the state and around the country that made this project a possibility. We cannot conduct studies like this without the involvement of dedicated firefighters like you!

In the summer of 2016, we will begin data collection on a follow-up study that focuses on fuel packages that

are commonly encountered in training scenarios. This information will allow us to compare with typical fireground conditions and improve standards and policies for live-fire training. Please keep an eye on Twitter and Facebook to stay up-to-date with the project.

Finally, in February and March 2016, IFSI Research was honored to collaborate with UL FSRI on their UL Fire Attack project, where 30 full-scale live-fire scenarios were conducted in the large fire lab in Northbrook. Our portion of this project focuses on measuring moisture in the air throughout the burns (during fire and suppression) as well as characterizing skin burn risk for potential trapped occupants, particularly after water is applied for suppression. Along with partners on campus, we developed several new techniques for this project and the data should provide us with some new insight on these critical issues in the fire service. To track progress on this project, keep an eye on the UL FSRI Facebook page and Twitter feed along with #ULFireAttack.



From the Campus: Program Reports

Building Corporate Relations and Developing New Partnerships

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

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

www.fsi.illinois.edu/partners

You can help too!

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

the outside Memorial Plaza.

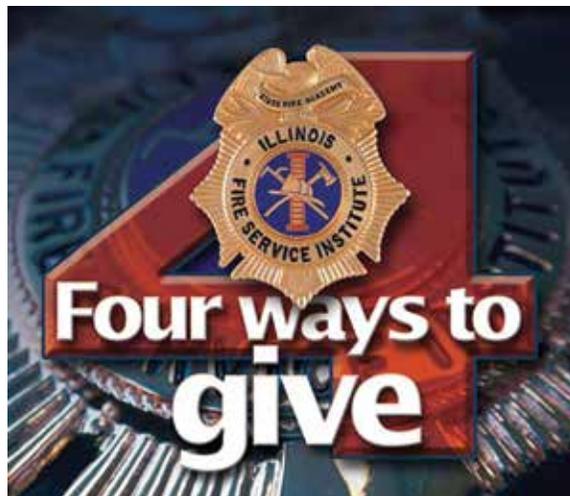
Learn more about each fund and make a donation online at:

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

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



*Dennis Spice
Senior Advisor
Corporate
Relations and
Development*



From the Campus: NIMS Program Report

NIMS Training

The NIMS/ICS program continues to offer programs throughout the state of Illinois. The All Hazards Incident Management Team Course will be modified this year to include a jurisdictional

functional exercise as part of the class. This will allow the jurisdiction to earn credit for an annual exercise through IEMA, as well as being able to offer the class.

Upcoming NIMS Classes

Command and General Staff Refresher Workshop - May 25 - Milan, Ill.

Command and General Staff Functions for Local Incident Management Teams - June 27 - July 1 - Milan, Ill.

Command and General Staff Functions for Local Incident Management Teams - July 18 - 22 - Wheaton, Ill.



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

From the Campus: Program Reports

Curriculum and Testing



Kurt Glosner
Curriculum and
Testing
Department
Director

Course Syllabus – What’s that?

Ever wondered what you are in for when you sign up for a class? Ever wondered what textbook is going to be used and what chapters you will need to read? These questions and more can be answered with a quick review of the Program of Instruction or what is better known as the **Course Syllabus**. The syllabus includes the course description, which identifies whom should take this course and why. It also identifies the course duration and course prerequisites, or required classes, the student must have successfully passed in order to take the course.

Course requirements are listed next. These are divided into three categories. First, are those requirements to be completed prior to the start date of class, called **Pre-Course Work** or what may be referred to as “Step 1 Learning”. Then, the requirements that are completed during the class or **Course Work** are listed, such as homework assignments and quizzes. Finally, **Post-Course Work** requirements are identified. These are completed after

class but prior to receiving a certificate of completion.

Key IFSI policies which apply to our students are highlighted in the syllabus such as our attendance, safety, academic integrity, our grading policy, and our accommodations policy. In the evaluation strategy section students are given a heads-up about what tests will be conducted in the evaluation phase of the course. The course content section lists all the modules, or main topic areas, and the terminal learning objectives or what the student is expected to know or be able to do at the completion of that module.

If the students are required to interact with a particular textbook it will be listed in the syllabus. Also, all the resources which were used to build the course will be cited in the reference list. Lastly, the course schedule will be included at the end of each syllabus. We hope this brief overview of the information that is contained in a course syllabus was helpful. Most course syllabuses are available online at IFSI’s website. We want all of our students to succeed; so, we encourage you to review this important information prior to class. It will give advance notice of what your training experience will entail.



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

Course Description

The F.A.S.T. course is designed for those firefighters seeking to advance their basic skills training or for those with additional live firefighting experience. The course will emphasize advancing proficiency in hose and ladder work, forcible entry, SCBA, search and rescue, structural fire attack, ventilation, and stream operations. Training on live and acquired structures will be utilized to provide a challenging learning environment.

Syllabus

Syllabus - FAST.pdf

The Syllabus is found right under the course description

From the Campus: Program Reports

“You don’t get paid for the hour. You get paid for the value you bring to the hour.”

-Jim Rohn

The Curriculum and Testing office has found a great deal of value in the hours spent recently by our Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in validating exam questions. In the past months, we brought a total of 20 SMEs to the table to look at three banks: TRA last fall, Inspector II and the Basic Ops Firefighter banks this winter. In total, these professionals put in 457 hours to validate 1781 questions.

They first worked from home reviewing each question to see if the

question content was in our material and referenced to an IFSI Objective and NFPA Job Performance Requirement (JPR). They may also have been tasked with locating the content in the textbook. After doing it first by themselves, they then came together at IFSI to meet with the other SMEs and review each question again, with the goal of coming to consensus.

Each review serves to confirm that our students are being exposed to exam content that is in our lesson plans and tied specifically to the job, e.g. **They are Valid**. This investment by IFSI and the work of these SMEs is not measured by the hours they put in, but in the value they brought to those hours to benefit our students.



*Janis Hooper
Testing and Support Specialist
Curriculum and Testing Department*

We are excited to announce that IFSI has added an 11th Regional Testing Site – the Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago. Regional Testing allows students to register online for retests, make-up exams and online-course final exams by logging onto the Student Resource Center. Regional testing is typically the last Wednesday and Thursday of each

month (except for December). Email confirmations/appointment reminders are sent from the Testing Office as well as study materials for students taking retests. Students are encouraged to verify that all contact information listed in Sparkey is correct when submitting requests. For additional information, please contact the Testing Office at (217) 333-9505.



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

REGIONAL TESTING
Retests, Make-Up Exams, and Final Exams for Online Courses
To learn what specific dates are available, get location addresses and to sign up, visit the IFSI website: www.ifi.illinois.edu

How to make an exam request on the IFSI Website:

- Log on to the **IFSI Student & Staff Resource Center**
- Go to **"Student Central"** at the far left of the top menu bar
- Select **"Exam Requests"** listed under **A-Z Tools**
- Select **"Make a Request"** at the right side of the screen
- The next screen to appear allows selection of site and date for the exam—**be sure to verify that your email info is correct**
- Confirmation of your exam appointment will be sent via email upon approval from the Testing Office
- Questions? Please call us at: **217-333-9505**

Testing dates are held on the last Wednesday and Thursday of each month (except December).

The graphic includes a map of Illinois with regional testing sites marked: Cherry Valley, McHenry, Quinn Academy, Bristol/Kendall, Frankfort, Galena, Sherman, IFSI, Salem Fire Protection District, Fairview, and Carbondale.

See page 31 of this newsletter for a full-color map to hang in your department.

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New Appointments

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

Keith "Doc" Patterson - Program Manager for Central and Downstate Fire Officer

Jim Moore Program Manager for Northern Fire Officer

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

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

Toby Jackson - Instructor-in-Charge - Advanced Breathing Apparatus (Smoke Divers) Program

Ben Kervin - Instructor-in-Charge - On-site Light & Fight Programs

Jon Frye - Instructor-in-Charge - Truck Company Operations Program

Mike McCastland will continue as Instructor-in-Charge of the FAST Program

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

Henry Gruba has accepted the position of eLearning Program Manager.



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www.fsi.illinois.edu

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Library Updates & Highlights

National Medal Finalist. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) selected the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) Library among the 30 finalists for the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community. Unfortunately, we did not advance further.

This is the second year in a row that our library has been named a finalist.



Reference and User Training Department. In cooperation with IFSI's Leadership Development and Decision Making Program, the IFSI Library has recently created an online *Significant Illinois Fires* subject guide (<http://guides.library.illinois.edu/c.php?g=416856&p=2840495>) providing information on fires that transformed fire service operations. These include history-making events such as the Cook County Administration Building, Burlington Office Building, McCormick Place, World's Columbian Exposition, Illinois Bell Telephone, LaSalle Bank, and St. Anthony's Hospital fires, among others.

In response to large barn fires in the U.S. and Canada recently, the library has also added information on Barn Safety to its *Agricultural Emergencies* subject guide (<http://uiuc.libguides.com/agemergencies>). In addition, the *Agricultural Emergencies* subject guide provides resources on topics such as grain bin/silo safety, large animal rescue, and farm equipment hazards.

Links to all seven IFSI Library subject guides are available at the IFSI Library

main webpage at <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/> or through the IFSI Library's libguide webpage at the University of Illinois Library at <http://uiuc.libguides.com/profile.php?uid=63783>. All of the subject guides provide information on using the IFSI Library's online catalog, access to topic-related online resources and to information resources available at the IFSI library.

You may contact IFSI librarians at fsi-library@illinois.edu or by calling (217) 333-8925 with questions related to these subject guides or any other of your information needs.

IFSI Archives. Below is a brief summary of some recent key accomplishments:

Scanned 78 print photographs of Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor Recipients.

IFLODD: 69,906 IFLODD database hits (since 5/2007). 876 total firefighter records, 697 total incident summaries, 449 total images and 14 total oral history interviews (as of 5/30/2015); 175 incident summaries to be written and 1,200 images and 30 oral history interviews might remain to be collected.

Chicago Rubbish Fire (installed January 22, 2016) was added to Firefighter Memorial Hall exhibits. There are a total of 22 exhibits.

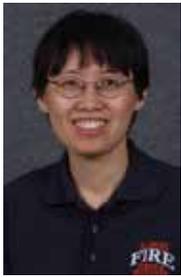
The IFSI Archives is in the process of locating and digitizing all class photos taken at the Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Academy (previously known as the Certified Firefighter II Academy). IFSI held the first Academy in the fall of 1973 and the event continues to this day. We are missing photos for the academies held in: Fall 1973, Spring 1975, Fall 1976, and Spring 1977.

If you have a copy of an IFSI Academy class photo that we are seeking and you would like to allow us to scan it, please contact IFSI Archivist and Metadata Librarian David Ehrenhart at ehrenha1@illinois.edu or 217-244-0783.



Dr. Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

IFSI International Programs



Dr. Lian Ruan
International
Programs
Director

2nd Huizhou IFSI Hazmat Ops Training Program. In December 2015, IFSI held its second Hazardous Materials Ops Training Program at the National Hazardous Chemicals Emergency Rescue Huizhou Base for 34 Chinese firefighters and first responders.



Dr. Ruan gave the keynote speech on new trends of academic libraries at the Chinese Library Annual Conference in Guangzhou in December.

In early December 2015, the IFSI Hazmat Instructor Team and Dr. Ruan were invited to attend the 1st Hazardous Chemical Emergency & Rescue International Workshop. Deputy Director Jim Keiken made a well-received keynote speech, entitled "Management of Fire Intermodal Freight Facilities".



Deputy Director Jim Keiken, Chief Tim Walsh and Dr. Lian Ruan were invited to the Chinese People Armed Police Forces Academy in September. Keiken made a presentation on hazardous materials emergency response and Chief Walsh on structural collapse rescue.



IFSI Visits to China. In early December 2015, Director Royal Mortenson, Deputy Director Jim Keiken, and Dr. Ruan visited the Hong Kong Fire Services Department and met Hong Kong hazmat officers who were trained at IFSI.

Chinese Delegations to IFSI. In December 2015, a delegation of four members led by Yixiang Liu, Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Scientific Research of the Police Academy delegation (Chinese People's Armed Police Forces Academy), visited IFSI and the Chicago Fire Department.

Chinese Visiting Scholars to IFSI. In fall 2015, IFSI received five more visiting scholars. All made donations to the China Endowment Fund, administered by the UI Foundation.





REGIONAL TESTING

Retests, Make-Up Exams, and Final Exams for Online Courses

To learn what specific dates are available, to get location addresses and to sign up, visit the IFSI website:

www.fsi.illinois.edu

How to make an exam request on the IFSI Website:

- Log on to the *IFSI Student & Staff Resource Center*
- Go to "*Student Central*" at the far left of the top menu bar
- Select "*Exam Requests*" listed under *A-Z Tools*
- Select "*Make a Request*" at the right side of the screen
- The next screen to appear allows selection of site and date for the exam—*be sure to verify that your email info is correct*
- Confirmation of your exam appointment will be sent via email upon approval from the Testing Office
- Questions?
Please call us at: **217-333-9505**



Testing dates are held on the last Wednesday and Thursday of each month (except December).

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