



Illinois Fire Chiefs Association

Dedicated to Excellence in the Fire Service

P.O. Box 7

Skokie, Illinois 60076

www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

An invitation to the 2015 VCOC Conference

On behalf of IFCA President Sean Malloy, IFCA Executive Board, and our Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee members, I extend an invitation to volunteer and combination fire chiefs and officers from around Illinois to join the VCOC in our renewed annual Conference. On October 24 and 25, 2015, the IFCA-VCOC will host the only conference in the Midwest tailored for the education of volunteer and combination fire officers.

There are many great conferences out there; however, very few focus on the specific topics important to the officer who is leading the very dynamic structure of a volunteer and combination departments. Our VCOC Conference Committee has carefully designed educational tracks with topics that are important and interesting to the officer of a volunteer and combination department.

We are excited to be joined by Ken Farmer, Section Chief at the National Fire Academy. Chief Farmer has been involved in professional development of firefighters for many years. Chief Farmer's down-to-earth, rural flavor will cause you to think about your leadership style and things you need to think about to lead a successful organization.

For the past two years, we have brought a very relevant topic to the conference: the NIST and UL studies on modern fire behavior. We first introduced the studies, and then last year presented some fire dynamics. This year, Peter Van Dorpe will join us to continue the discussion on fire behavior. Chief Van Dorpe will present "The New Firefight – Top 20 Tactical Considerations from UL" and "How to identify, survive and master modern fire dynamics".

As a normal feature in our conference, we will present the "Small Town – Big Incident" series where a chief of a small volunteer or combination department will present the challenges of a small fire department handling the "once in a career" incident. The series is presented so that we can learn from these incidents so when that "once in a career" incident occurs in your community, you have some lessons learned on how to approach it.

Deputy Chief Sprague Traffic Incident Management presentation was very popular at the conference last year so we invited him back to spend time on the finer details of setting up TIM.

This year we will bring a new feature to the conference, a Saturday night cookout, which is included in your registration. We will enjoy some good food and networking with our peers outside on the patio of the hotel/conference center. We will enjoy our dinner and then move into our open forum session. During the open forum we will have a short presentation on the MABAS Incident Support Teams (MIST) concept that is being rolled out by Illinois MABAS. After the presentation we will spend time talking about whatever you want to talk about - hot topics in the fire service, and brainstorm solutions.

We have worked out the details to make sure this is accessible to the volunteer officer- the time of the year, schedule of the day, location and very affordable lodging, registration and meals. Don't be the one wishing you attended when all your peers are talking about the great conference they just attended. Sign up today – register at

www.illinoisfirechiefs.org

Sincerely,

Al Yancey, Jr.

Al Yancey Jr., Chairman
Volunteer and Combination Officer Committee

**Illinois Fire Chiefs
Volunteer Combination & Chief Officer Committee Seminar
October 24-25, 2015**

Holiday Inn Hotel and the Thelma Keller Convention Center, Effingham IL

Saturday, October 24, 2015

7:30-8:45am

Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45-9:00am

Welcome

Chief Bryan Doyle, Fairview/Caseyville FPD, IFCA Pres.
Chief Al Yancey, Minooka FPD, VCOC Chairperson

9:00am-Noon

Keynote Address

“Mayberry Management - How Andy would handle it, leadership”

Ken Farmer, Branch Chief, National Fire Academy

10:15-10:30am *Break*

10:30am-Noon

Ken Farmer continues

12:00-1:00pm *Lunch (included in registration)*

1:00-2:30pm

“Barnyard Management - Lessons from the farm about people”

Ken Farmer, Branch Chief, National Fire Academy

2:30-2:45pm *Break*

2:45-4:00pm

“Small Department-Big Incident -- Multi County EF-4/Ogle County Response Lessons Learned”

Deputy Chief Greg Kunce, Stillman FPD. Chief Kunce is also a Lieutenant and serves as Operations Commander of the Ogle County Sheriff's Department.

4:15-4:30pm

Questions & Answers

6:00-8:00pm

“Saturday Night Cook Out”

Join us for a good old Cook Out (included with registration)

8:00pm

“Open Round Table Discussion”

*First Day Presenters and Invited Organizations
Network and share ideas with your peers*

Sunday, October 25, 2015

7:30-8:50am *Breakfast (included with registration)*

8:50-9:00am

Opening Remarks

Chief Dave Weiss, Westmont FD, Vice Chair VCOC

9:00-10:15am

“The New Firefight - Top 20 Tactical Considerations from UL”

Chief Peter Van Dorpe, Algonquin-LITH FPD (Chicago FD, Retired, Chief of Training)

10:15-10:30am *Break*

10:30-11:30am

“How to Identify, Survive & Master Modern Fire Dynamics”

Chief Peter Van Dorpe, Algonquin-LITH FPD

11:30am-12:00pm

Organization Briefings

Invited Organizations (IFCA, OSFM, FSI, VCOC) 5-10 minute presentation on what's happening with their organization and what's going on in the State of Illinois.

12:00-1:00pm *Lunch (included with registration)*

1:00-3:00pm

“Traffic Incident Management - Part 2”

Brad Sprague, DC Minooka FPD & Sergeant, Illinois State Police District 5.

3:00-3:30pm

“Q & A”

Questions & answers, survey, final wrap up

VCOC Seminar Concludes

. . . .Our Presenter's



Ken Farmer has extensive experience in comprehensive planning, training and education, management and leadership, as well as hands on experience in evaluation and review of programs. His long career includes extensive consultation and training experience in wide variety of management and training

subjects and disciplines related to fire EMS and Emergency Management. Chief Farmer has a wide range of experience in governmental relations, management and leadership, safety, public speaking, and project management. Ken also has experience in consulting, non-profit groups and marketing and sales. He has experience at state and national levels on boards, commissions, work teams, organizations and committees as well a federal service.

Chief Farmer currently serves at the United States Fire Administration, National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD as Section Chief, Education and Training Partnerships. Prior to July 2014 he served as Section Chief, Leadership and Fire Risk Reduction.



Peter Van Dorpe is the Chief of the Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District. He recently retired as Chief of the Chicago Fire Department's Training Division after a 33 year career with the CFD. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University. He has made presentations on modern fire ground challenges at FDIC, Firehouse

Expo, Fire Rescue International and the National Fire Academy. In 2012 he delivered the General Session Keynote at FDIC and addressed the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, on the "*Effectiveness of Furniture Flammability Standards and Flame Retardant Chemicals*".

In addition to his work as a Field Instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute, he has been a lead instructor for the Chicago Fire Department's Fire Officer School, and has taught building construction for the fire service through the City Colleges of Chicago. He is a member of the Advisory Board for Underwriters Laboratories' *Firefighter Safety Research Institute*.

He has recently participated as a Subject Matter Expert for UL's research on "*Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber In Fire Conditions*", the National Institute of Standards and Technology's, "*Evaluating Firefighting Tactics Under Wind Driven Conditions*", the IAFF/NIST "*Firefighter Safety and Deployment Study*" in high rise buildings, and the NIOSH investigation in to the Line of Duty Deaths of two Boston firefighters that occurred on March 26th, 2014.



Brad Sprague is a twenty year veteran of the Illinois State Police currently at the rank of Sergeant. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University and a Master's Degree in Public

Administration from Governor's State University. As a member of the Southwest Regional Incident Management Workgroup, he assisted with the development of a Traffic Incident Management Program that he has taught throughout the State of Illinois to police, fire and emergency responder agencies. Sergeant Sprague co-developed the Traffic Incident Management program that is utilized at the Illinois State Police Academy and is assigned as a member of the Illinois Traffic Incident Management Training Group that has developed a statewide training program that is currently being delivered to all facets of emergency responders. He participated in the National Roadway Incident Safety Summit marking the ten year Anniversary of the Publication of *Protecting Emergency Responders on the Highway*.

Brad Sprague is a twenty-nine year veteran of the Minooka Fire Protection District currently holding the rank of Deputy Chief of Operations. He holds certifications as a Fire Officer II, Instructor III and Training Program Manager. As a lead-instructor at the Chief Shabbona Fire Academy he developed the curriculum for the Traffic Incident Management Program. Brad Sprague brings a diverse experience as both a practitioner and Instructor within the application of Traffic Incident Management.

VCOC Mission

To represent the leadership of the volunteer and combination fire departments in the State of Illinois; to assist officers in the development of professional leadership skills, representation on important issues affecting the volunteer services of the State, and enhance local capabilities of our volunteer organizations.

VCOC Happenings

“SAFER GRANT NEWS”

Did you know there's an ACTIVE statewide SAFER grant to assist your department with recruitment and retention?

The IFCA received a \$1.3 million dollar SAFER grant to address volunteer firefighter retention and recruitment throughout Illinois. This includes statewide recruitment advertisements, Retention & Recruitment Workshops, and funding to pay for your local recruitment campaigns.

How can your department take advantage of this program?

Attend one of the Retention & Recruitment Workshops to learn new methods to help with your specific challenges and network with Chiefs from around the state. There is no cost to attend and your mileage, lodging, and per diem will be reimbursed. **The next workshop will be held in West Peoria Nov 7-8.** Registration is open now at IllinoisFireChiefs.org.

Begin your local recruitment campaign today by contacting the Grant Administrator, Megan Arenberg. Items such as brochures, banners, flyers, newspaper ads, and event displays are examples of what other departments are using to promote their recruitment on a local level. **All of these materials are available at no cost to your department through the IFCA SAFER grant.**

Set up a meeting with the Grant Administrator to discuss your recruitment needs and brainstorm marketing ideas. Megan is available to meet with individual departments or to present at Chiefs, county, MABAS, etc. meetings.

To begin your local recruitment campaign or to learn more please contact Megan Arenberg at Megan@VolunteerFirefighter.org.

Thelma Keller Convention Center/ Holiday Inn Express

The seminar program will be held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center, 1202 N. Keller Drive, Effingham IL. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express attached to the Keller Convention Center. Please contact the hotel directly by calling **217-540-7777**. The room rate is \$89.20/night + tax. Please mention the IFCA to receive the room rate.

The Thelma Keller Convention Center is located in Central Illinois. It is a comfortable drive from all areas of the state. Effingham offers easy access via major Interstate, U.S. and Illinois highways. Located at the intersection of Interstates 57 & 70 at Exit 160, U.S. highways 40 & 45 and Illinois highways 32 & 33.

RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT WORKSHOPS

Fire service leaders and community leaders are encouraged to attend this R&R Workshop. There is NO COST to attend the Workshop, travel, two nights lodging, and per diem for attendees will be reimbursed upon completion of the workshop. The R&R Workshop is designed to facilitate open discussion about local Volunteer Firefighter retention and recruitment issues, including:

- Leadership challenges & Management skills
- Learn about Retention & Recruitment incentives and how to fund them
- Identifying and communicating your local volunteer need to the public
- Develop and implement a local marketing plan

Retention and Recruitment Workshop, Marion
To register contact Ashley at 855-VOL-FIRE (855-865-3473) or go to www.illinoisfirechiefs.org
Nov 7 & 8, 2015 – West Peoria IL

Watch the website for 2016 offerings

Senior Officer Development Seminars

Feb 20-21, 2016 Amboy IL

Mar 12-13, 2016 Fairview Heights IL

The Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Illinois Fire Chief's Foundation feel there is a great need for training senior officers who act in, or aspire to, the chief officer rank in their organization. As a senior officer in your department you are faced with many responsibilities not covered specifically in company officer training. We have put together a two-day mini-symposium for senior officers to help you better understand the duties and liabilities. This program is primarily for senior officers who may be new at the chief officer rank or who act to support that administrative function. **However it is also aimed at those individuals, regardless of rank, who aspire to be a Chief Officer someday.** **THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND THIS MINI-SYMPOSIUM.**

Visit the IFCA website: www.illinoisfirechiefs.org to find out additional information about these events.



Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
6th Annual
Volunteer & Combination Officer Symposium
October 24-25, 2015

Thelma Keller Convention Center/ Holiday Inn
1301 Avenue of Mid-America, Effingham Illinois

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the form below and fax to **847/966-0782**, email to **mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org** or make check payable and mail to: IFCA, PO Box 352, Mundelein IL 60060

Name _____

Department _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

My department is: Volunteer Combination Volunteer with paid chief

Population of Area Served _____

Cost: \$60.00 per person (includes conference registration & lunch on both days)

Check Enclosed PO Number _____ Bill Department Credit Card (provide info below)

Charge Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) _____ (4% service charge added)

Exp Date _____ (MM/YYYY)

If cardholder information is different that registration information please complete info below

Cardholder Name _____

Cardholder Address, City, Zip _____

Cardholder Phone Number _____

Mail To: Illinois Fire Chiefs Assn, PO Box 352, Mundelein IL 60060 or

Fax To: 847.966.0782; Email to: mgriseto@illinoisfirechiefs.org

PLEASE CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY: Holiday Inn 217-540-7777

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn (formerly Holiday Garden Inn) at 89.20/nt+tax Please mention that you are attending the IFCA conference to obtain the rate.



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Volunteer Combination Officer Committee
*6th Annual Conference***

**Thelma Keller Convention Center/ Holiday Inn Express
Effingham, Illinois
October 24-25, 2015**