

IFIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE



Last Chance! There is limited room available to attend our annual conference in East Peoria. Be a part of the largest attendance we have had in over 25 years – over 150 people have signed up. Some quick reminders for the conference:

- These hours will count towards Fire Inspector 1 certification.
 - For those in the EMS field, condensed hours have been approved.
 - For teachers, condensed hour been approved for you also.
- See you there.

Not Doing Your Job

A lawsuit is taking place in Schenectady County, NY, due to a fire inspector not doing his job properly. This case involves a fire alarm inspector who failed to do his job and ensure proper compliance with a fire alarm system that protected an apartment building. The day after he "passed" the fire alarm system through an inspection, there was a fire that claimed four (4) people's lives. This could have been avoided if he did his due diligence and failed the fire alarm system as it was not up to code. Instead, this individual decided to cut corners and negligently pass the fire alarm system. If convicted, this individual could face up to (15) years in prison. An attachment gives the full story.

The IFIA will be participating at the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and Fire Prevention Association's showcase. This will be held March 13, at Medinah banquets, starting at 2 pm, and it is **FREE**. Two education sessions will be presented and there will be a large room full of vendors that will showcase their latest products.

The Illinois Fire Service Association State Fair committee is meeting on March 12th to discuss the Fair. We encourage you to mark your calendar for August 19, to assist us for one day at the fire service exhibit at the State Fair. Spend just a few hours assisting in the tent, and then spend the rest of the time enjoying the fair with friends or family.

Our Fire Inspector I class scheduled in April is full – thank you. Our Inspector II class though, still has openings. If you are in need of that certification, now is the time to sign up. This class is taught by people who are experts in their field. Also the Fire and Life Safety Educator class has openings. Details, dates and registration are on the IFIA website www.illinoisfireinspectors.org.

Our February mini seminar on the Existing Building Code, presented by Rich Piccolo, was a big hit. Once again we were at Top Golf for the seminar and everyone enjoyed the fun following the class. A big thank you to Fran Lundin and Craig Studer for their effort to bring education and recreation together.

There is some active legislation regarding legalizing fireworks. The IFIA is opposed to the concept of 1.3 rated fireworks being sold to the consumer in Illinois. As things progress, we will keep you informed. Stay tuned, as we may have to ask for your assistance in opposing this.

Given the rise in school shootings, there has been much discussion on what can or should be done. The Colorado Division of Fire Prevention & Control has provided guidance to school districts and local fire authorities. This guidance was developed in concert with their sister law enforcement agencies. This is good common sense advice that you may want to pass on to your educational facilities. In essence, schools are advised that:

- If there is no known threat, students and staff should immediately evacuate as normal upon the activation of a fire alarm.
- If there is a threat (i.e. lockdown or lockout), students and staff should either remain in lockdown and delay evacuation until it can be determined whether a fire exists.
- Staff are advised to remain alert and should be empowered to adjust their responses based upon the conditions they encounter. For example, if under lockdown they smell smoke or are otherwise threatened by fire, they should react to the greater perceived threat. Also, if a bad actor is in one wing of a school, administrators may be able to advise staff in other wings to evacuate. On the other hand, if evacuating they notice in the corridor a student who has been expelled or anything else that concerns them, they should consider delaying evacuation. Many schools now teach staff to look into corridors before sending their kids out. In the past, standard practice was to send the kids first.
- Individual staff empowerment is key. Teachers are well-educated and most can be counted on to act in a sensible manner if given the leeway to do so. We are in an age where cookie cutter responses to emergencies are no longer going to work.

If you are aware of someone deserving to be recognized for the prevention efforts, submit those names now. The awards and nomination forms can be found at our website.

The most recent Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls are listed below:

Lenovo Recalls ThinkPad Laptops Due to Fire Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Lenovo-Recalls-ThinkPad-Laptops-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

Husqvarna Recalls Residential Zero Turn Riding Mowers Due to Fire Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Husqvarna-Recalls-Residential-Zero-Turn-Riding-Mowers-Due-to-Fire-Hazard#>

Fujitsu Recalls Battery Packs for Fujitsu Notebook Computers and Workstations Due to Fire and Burn Hazards: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Fujitsu-Recalls-Battery-Packs-for-Fujitsu-Notebook-Computers-and-Workstations-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards>

Tea Collection Recalls Children's Rompers Due to Choking Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Tea-Collection-Recalls-Childrens-Rompers-Due-to-Choking-Hazard>

ISO Beauty Recalls Hair Dryers Due to Burn Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/ISOBeauty-Recalls-Hair-Dryers-Due-to-Burn-Hazard>

Rural King Recalls Electric Blankets and Throws Due to Fire and Burn Hazards: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Rural-King-Recalls-Electric-Blankets-and-Throws-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards>

Specialized Bicycle Components Recalls Bicycles Due to Crash Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Specialized-Bicycle-Components-Recalls-Bicycles-Due-to-Crash-Hazard>

Whirlpool Recalls KitchenAid Electric Kettles Due to Burn Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Whirlpool-Recalls-KitchenAid-Electric-Kettles-Due-to-Burn-Hazard>

NEMO Equipment Recalls Stargaze Recliner Chairs Due to Fall Hazard; Sold Exclusively at REI: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/NEMO-Equipment-Recalls-Stargaze-Recliner-Chairs-Due-to-Fall-Hazard-Sold-Exclusively-at-REI>

Monster Moto Recalls Mini Bikes Due to Fire Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Monster-Moto-Recalls-Mini-Bikes-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

Cost Plus World Market Recalls Bleeding Drip Taper Candles Due to Fire Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Cost-Plus-World-Market-Recalls-Bleeding-Drip-TaperCandles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

Outdoor Gas Fire Pits Recalled Due to Burn Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Home Depot; Made by Yayi: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Outdoor-Gas-Fire-Pits-Recalled-Due-to-BurnHazard-Sold-Exclusively-at-Home-Depot-Made-by-Yayi>

Allen Sports Recalls Folding Bicycles Due to Fall Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Allen-Sports-Recalls-Folding-Bicycles-Due-to-Fall-Hazard>

PL Sleep Children's Sleepwear Recalled by Lemur Group Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/PL-Sleep-Childrens-SleepwearRecalled-by-Lemur-Group-Due-to-Violation-of-Federal-Flammability-Standard>

Double Insight Recalls Multicookers Due to Fire Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Walmart: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Double-Insight-Recalls-Multicookers-Due-to-Fire-HazardSold-Exclusively-at-Walmart>

Graco Recalls Highchairs Due to Fall Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Walmart: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Graco-Recalls-Highchairs-Due-to-Fall-Hazard-SoldExclusively-at-Walmart>

Goodman Company Recalls Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps Due to Burn and Fire Hazards: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Goodman-Company-Recalls-PackagedTerminal-Air-Conditioners-and-Heat-Pumps-Due-to-Burn-and-Fire-Hazards>

Goodman Manufacturing Recalls Modular Blowers Due to Fire Hazard: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Goodman-Manufacturing-Recalls-Modular-Blowers-Due-toFire-Hazard>

Until next month...

Check the website for the following upcoming events:

March 21-23 IFIA Combined Conference in East Peoria

April/May PFLSE - Downers Grove

April 27 IFIA mini seminar and meeting

June Inspector II- Palatine