



Illinois Fire Inspectors Association

Serving Illinois Fire Departments Since 1967

A Message from the Board of Directors

The Executive Officers and the Board of Directors hope this message finds you well. This year has been the most changeling year for the IFIA in a very long time. The year started off with the loss of two former leaders of the Association, Jim Feit, Barrington FD, who served as president in 1989, and founding member and Executive Director Lonnie Jackson, Mt Prospect FD. We also experienced the loss of a longtime friend and supporter, Sal Fusco from Reliable.

In early March the Executive Board had to make the difficult decision of cancelling the annual Fire & Life Safety Conference in East Peoria. The cancellation of the conference has had a financial impact on the association. A couple weeks ago your Chief should have received a letter asking what should be done with the conference registration you made. If you have not already done so, please respond to the office either asking for a refund, or stating that the money should be applied to the 2021 conference. If we DO NOT hear from you, by May 15th, we will begin the process to refund your money. One benefit of applying it to the 2021 conference is that you get 100% credit for what you registered for, regardless of what the 2021 cost will be.

We have worked very hard to find alternative funding and resources to keep our Association going. An easy source is the annual membership dues. If your department has not paid the 2020 membership, please do so asap. It is only \$95. Also, should you know a department that would benefit from our services please encourage them to become a member. One of the services we offer is monthly training for the membership. It is these memberships that help keep the office running to provide OSFM certification and on-going education for you.

With the continued quarantine in place, we will not be having a traditional May training at Medinah Banquets. Instead we will be offering a zoom video conference training. It will be on May 22nd, at 10 am, for 60 minutes. This training is a first for us, so if there are glitches please be patient.

Because this is a pilot event, it will be offered free of charge. For now, only the first 35 people will be accepted. However, that does not prohibit as many people as possible to sit around a computer to view the presentation.

The topic is Emergency Action Plans, and it will be presented by Jon Evenson of the Triple E Safety Group. Please register for this training at our website www.illinoisfireinspectors.org. Remember only the first 35 registered will be accepted. Once we have the people registered, we will send the appropriate Zoom link.

The following presentation will cover the following topics:

- **Introduction**
 - Background on Emergency Action Plans (EAPs)
 - Review of Unified Command (UC)
 - Coordination of Initial Response Efforts
- **Emergency Action Planning (Sites)**
 - Development of EAPs by Sites/Buildings
 - Coordination of Initial Response Efforts
 - Communications with First Responders
 - Transfer of Command
 - Coordination of UC
 - All Clear and Resumption of Operations
- **Challenges and Focal Points between Sites and First Responders**
 - Communication and Notifications
 - Direction and Briefings
 - Transfer of Command
 - Management of Response Efforts
 - Coordination of Affected Occupants
 - Information Flow
 - Public Relations and Social Media
- **Case Studies in Emergency Action Planning**
 - Address Downtown Dubai Fire (December 31, 2016)
 - Other Emergency Action Planning Situations
 - Lessons Learned
- **Conclusions**
 - Presentation Wrap-Up and Questions

The format of a June training is a bit undecided now, however we know the topic will be on Special Suppression Systems. As things with ‘social distancing’ change, or not, that will let us know if it will be at Medinah, or if it will be another webinar. More on that will be forthcoming, so please watch the weekly blasts.

Our Fire Prevention Awards luncheon is scheduled for September 25th. Given everything going on, we decided to hold the event at the Plainfield FPD. This should keep cost down for those wishing to attend. While that is months away, NOW is the time to submit people to be recognized. There is no question that some of your people have gone above and beyond in fire prevention and/or fire and life safety activities. This is your chance to showcase your people for the efforts. A list of awards, and the nomination form, can be found on our website.



In the event you did not hear it, the NFPA has made the decision to cancel the 2020 NFPA Conference & Expo® scheduled for June 15-18 in Orlando. A message from NFPA states: “Although this is an important event for NFPA and its stakeholders, at this time, the world continues to be significantly impacted by COVID-19 and it will not be possible to host and conduct this event in Orlando in June. The wellbeing of our attendees, exhibitors, business partners and staff is of utmost importance to us.”

Meri-K Appy, formerly of NFPA and the Home Safety Council, has invited the State of Illinois to participate in the next phase of a program called Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol. It is a school-based program to teach students and in grades 3 and 4 and their families - especially those in low-income/high-risk areas - about the different sounds a smoke alarm makes and how to be safe from fire. Sound Off is a CRR model program. It combines education with home safety visits to install free smoke alarms provided by the grant. Illinois would join 11 states currently working to implement Sound Off in communities across their states.

Sound Off was developed by professional curriculum experts and expanded through four Fire Prevention and Safety Grants, beginning in FY13. In the upcoming FY19 grant proposal we hope to bring on 6-8 new states under the direction of a State Team led by a state-level fire organization. Each State Team will select 3-5 Local Teams led by the fire department, working in elementary schools serving low-income students. Meri-K and her team will conduct a training in each state for the State and Local Teams to learn best practices on working in schools with high-risk families. Following the training, Local Teams will conduct a pilot project in one classroom and collect pre and post test data on knowledge gain among participating students.

After piloting, each Local Team will work to expand to other classrooms in the community. In Phase 2 of the program in Illinois, pending additional funding from FEMA, the Local Team leaders become mentors to bring new communities on board - again, under the direction of the State Team led by the IFIA.

The IFIA would be the repository for smoke alarms and Sound Off Teaching Kits that you could distribute. The IFIA would also track the number of classrooms and students reached, number of home safety visits, alarms installed, etc.

All of the materials you'd need are available in English and Spanish at myclassroom.com/sound-off. Grantees will receive printed copies of the Teaching Kits and the Sound Off Storybook as well as a supply of smoke alarms to install in at-risk homes.

Three communities have expressed interest to date. If this is something that you might be interested in participating in, let me know at rmorris464@comcast.net. We have room for a couple more communities.

Note this latest (April 2020) tax reform info sheet regarding fire sprinklers.

FYI Series: FIRE SPRINKLER INCENTIVES

Tax Reform Info

2020 Edition revised April 10



Now is the time to invest in your fire sprinkler system or retrofit your building with lifesaving and property conserving protection.

In December of 2017, Congress passed the most sweeping tax reform legislation since 1986. Included in this legislation (P.L. 115-97) was a provision to incentivize the installation of fire sprinklers for small business owners (Section 179). Inadvertently left out, was the provision for high-rise commercial buildings (Section 168). We are happy to report that the correction for high-rise was made in the Coronavirus stimulus package which passed on March 27, 2020. We also thank all of our fire service partners: Congressional Fire Services Institute; International Fire Chiefs Association; International Fire Fighters Association; National Fallen Firefighters Foundation; National Fire Protection Association; Common Voices; National Volunteer Fire Council; Security Industry Association; Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors, and many others. We will work with stakeholders to gain additional clarifications in regards to IRS interpretations as this is put into use. Encourage owners to work with their tax expert for their specific situation.

The fire sprinkler incentives are:

- **Small Business Section 179 Expensing** - Previously qualified small businesses were allowed to fully expense purchases such as computers, equipment and light duty vehicles up to an annual cap of \$500,000. Under the new law Congress has added fire protection as an eligible expenditure under section 179 of the tax code. Congress also increased the cap to \$1 million as the amount that a small business can deduct in a single year. This provision applies only to commercial structures and cannot be used for retrofitting sprinklers into residential structures. However, critical occupancies such as entertainment venues could easily be done under this provision. This change is also a permanent law and unlike section 13201 is not gradually phased out over time.

- **Cost Recover Section 13201 Temporary 100 Percent Expensing for Certain Business Assets** - Previously sprinkler systems in commercial structures were depreciated over a 39-year time horizon. Under the new law any sprinkler system installed or upgraded after September 27, 2017 in an existing commercial structure until December 31, 2022 will be able to be fully expensed. Therefore, the property owner will be able to immediately write off the full cost of the sprinkler system. After 2022 the ability to deduct the cost is as follows:

2023	80%	New Federal Tax Incentive Information
2024	60%	
2025	40%	
2026	20%	
2027	The depreciation schedule is now permanently set at 15 years	

In order to help our members and interested stakeholders fully understand this new tax law, we have created a few examples. If you have a question about a building type that is not shown or additional questions about those that are listed, please reach out to us by contacting Vickie Pritchett, Executive Officer, at 443-569-9506 or via email at pritchett@nfsa.org.

Fire sprinklers save lives, property, water, money, the environment, and on and on. Keep your patrons safe, keep your business running and limit your liability.



514 Progress Drive, Suite A
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090 • nfsa.org

Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA leads the drive to get life-saving and property protecting fire sprinklers into all buildings; provides support and resources for its members - fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers; and educates authorities having jurisdiction on fire protection issues. Headquartered in Linthicum Heights, MD, NFSA has regional operations offices throughout the country.

The following are the latest recalls from the Consumer Products Safety Commission:

Manhattan Toy Recalls Musical Lili Llama Due to Choking Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/Manhattan-Toy-Recalls-Musical-Lili-Llama-Due-to-Choking-Hazard>

Southern Motion Recalls “Wireless Power” Reclining Furniture Due to Fire Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/Southern-Motion-Recalls-Wireless-Power-Reclining-Furniture-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

VP Harrier and Giant Pinner Bicycle Pedals Recalled Due to Fall and Injury Hazards;

Made by VP Components: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/VP-Harrier-and-Giant-Pinner-Bicycle-Pedals-Recalled-Due-to-Fall-and-Injury-Hazards-Made-by-VP-Components>

Stelpro Design Recalls Sonoma Wall Fan Heaters Due to Fire Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/Stelpro-Design-Recalls-Sonoma-Wall-Fan-Heaters-Due-to-Fire-Hazard>

Joybird Recalls Dressers Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/Joybird-Recalls-Dressers-Due-to-Tip-Over-and-Entrapment-Hazards>

Continuum Recalls Lenox Tea Kettles Due to Burn Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/Continuum-Recalls-Lenox-Tea-Kettles-Due-to-Burn-Hazard>

Pass & Seymour Recalls Commercial-Grade Electrical Receptacles Due to Burn Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/Pass-and-Seymour-Recalls-Commercial-Grade-Electrical-Receptacles-Due-to-Burn-Hazard>

MTD Southwest Recalls Trimmers and Polesaws Due to Laceration Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/MTD-Southwest-Recalls-Trimmers-and-Polesaws-Due-to-Laceration-Hazard>

Wyndmere Naturals Recalls Birch Sweet Essential Oil and Aches & Pains Synergistic Essential Oil Blend Due to Failure to Meet Child Resistant Packaging Requirement; Risk of Poisoning:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/Wyndmere-Naturals-Recalls-Birch-Sweet-Essential-Oil-and-Aches-and-Pains-Synergistic-Essential-Oil-Blend-Due-to-Failure-to-Meet-Child-Resistant-Packaging-Requirement-Risk-of-Poisoning>

Leviton Manufacturing Recalls Electrical Connection Devices Due to Shock Hazard:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/Leviton-Manufacturing-Recalls-Electrical-Connection-Devices-Due-to-Shock-Hazard>

Check the website for the following upcoming events:

July & August – summer break for routine monthly meetings.

Aug 23 – IFIA State Fair day

Aug 28 - Sprinkler basics

Sept 25 – Awards meeting at Plainfield FPD

Oct 23 mini sem and meeting

Nov 20 mini sem and meeting

Feb 17 school safety round table