



2016 OSFM

September Monthly Newsletter

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Spotlight on the Division of Fire Prevention



Kevin Switzer– Division Manager

After 27 years with the Springfield Fire Department and nearly 8 years with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Kevin will be retiring on September 30, 2016. He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, children, and remodeling a fixer-upper on Lake Springfield.

The Division of Fire Prevention is tasked with a number of responsibilities: the statewide inspection of schools, day care centers, day care homes, residential board homes, community integrated living arrangements, hotels/motels, places of public assembly, aboveground storage tank installation sites, and state owned/operated buildings including correctional centers. In 2015, Inspectors conducted a total of 12,324 inspections. These inspections protect the public by uncovering fire safety hazards before tragedy strikes. The division is also responsible for enforcement of the Furniture Fire Safety Act, the Fire Equipment Distributor and Employee Regulation Act, and the Fire Sprinkler Contractors Act.

Kevin is very proud of the fact that public school inspections have increased in Illinois since he became the Fire Prevention Manager. “Public schools were being inspected at a rate of 30% and now we are looking at an 80% inspection rate for our schools.”

The Division is also responsible for inspections at all Illinois State Fairs. “Our division has had so much progress in making sure all of the building’s on the fairgrounds are safe, and I cannot tell you how many fires we have prevented, but I feel like our tighter restrictions have definitely made everyone safer,” says Switzer.

State Fire Marshal Matt Perez says, “Kevin has been an integral part of OSFM for the last 8 years, he will be missed by so many, I wish him the best in his future endeavors, and hope that he truly enjoys his well-deserved retirement.”

For more information about the Fire Prevention Division, please see our website: <http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/About-SFM/Divisions/Fire-Prevention>

OSFM Announces Tier 1 and Tier 2 Training to become a Qualified Public School Inspector

In accordance with state law, local inspectors are authorized to conduct annual fire safety inspections in Illinois public school buildings as long as they have taken the OSFM public school inspection class and have the required inspection certifications from OSFM, NFPA, or ICC. These Inspectors are classified as Tier 1 public school inspectors.

The OSFM is introducing a new Tier 2 public school inspection training program that utilizes additional online training and a monitoring process in place of the required inspection-related certifications. The goal of the public school inspection program is to develop a mutually beneficial relationship between the local fire service and their public schools. The program has become a collaboration between the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Fire Service. By developing a Tier 2 qualification program, fire departments that do not currently have the required Tier 1 certified inspectors will still be able to inspect their local public schools.

The new program will permit local fire service personnel to become qualified public school inspectors as long as they are assigned as a fire inspector or a fire officer on their fire department or fire protection district. The minimum inspection-related certifications for Tier 1 are not required. Tier 2 candidates will take a “blended” learning program that combines online learning, face to face training, and monitoring by a Tier 1 inspector.

To find out more information on becoming a Tier 1 or Tier 2 public school inspector go to: <http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/Fire-Service/Public-School-Inspection-Program>



Division of Personnel Standards and Education
Rope Technician
July, 2016



The Division of Personnel Standards and Education (PS&E) is working diligently with the State Certification Advisory Committees (SCAC) to revise all certification levels to the current NFPA Standards. During this process, the Rope Technician certification is one of the levels that has been presented to the FAC and approved by OSFM, (subject to adoption of necessary administrative rule changes). The proposed certification requirements for Rope Technician are: 1) completion of a minimum 40 hour course; 2) passage of the state written and practical exams; and 3) certification of Rope Operations.

For individuals who are currently certified as Rescue Specialist-Vertical II and who want to be certified at the new Rope Technician level, an 8-hour “bridge” course and passage of the state written and practical examinations are required. Students who successfully complete this pilot and meet instructor requirements will also be qualified instructors upon certification. On May 14, 2016, the SCAC conducted an initial Rope Technician pilot bridge course. Twenty-one individuals successfully completed the course. The bridge course will be valid until June 30, 2019.

For those students that have passed the Illinois Fire Service Institute’s Rope Technician course an equivalency has been approved. These students will be required to pass the PS&E Rope Technician state written examination before December 31, 2017. If the OSFM written examination is not passed by the expiration date, the student will be required to redo and pass the Rope Technician state practical examination prior to certification. The state written examination references the below material:

NFPA Standard 1006. *Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications*. 2013 Edition, Chapters 4 – 6.

Mosby, *High Angle Rescue Techniques*. 3rd Edition.

Jones & Bartlett, *High Angle Rope Rescue Techniques*. 4th Edition, Levels I & II.

For questions, please contact PS&E Division Manager Mitzi Woodson at 217-785-1003, or Mitzi.woodson@illinois.gov .

Upcoming Classes to add to your calendar!



Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Class
September 21 - 22, 2016

Belleville Fire Department
Belleville, IL 62220

More class details here:

<http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/Portals/0/docs/JFSI/JFSIPBellevilleTraining.pdf>

Public School Inspection Classes (Tier 1 Only)
Tuesday, September 20 at 1:00 pm - Springfield, IL

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Springfield IL 62703

More class details here: <http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/Fire-Service/Public-School-Inspection-Program>

Leadership Development and Decision Making Course
October 3rd through October-7th
Illinois Fire Service Institute, Champaign, IL

The Illinois Fire Service Institute announces their Leadership Development and Decision Making 5-day course. Click here for more information:
<http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/portals/0/FacebookDocs/LeadershipDevelopmentCourseFlierOct2016.pdf>

OSFM Position Opening



The OSFM is looking for qualified men and women who want to assist the agency in protecting lives and property.

VACANCY

Job Title: Boiler Safety Specialist

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety

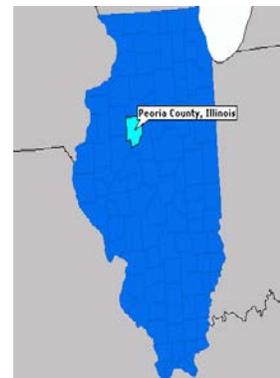
The Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety is responsible for regulating the safe and proper repair, maintenance, alteration, inspection, use, and operation of boilers and pressure vessels in the state.

Job Requirements: Requires the knowledge, skill, and mental development equivalent to the completion of four years of high school. Requires five years of practical experience in the construction, maintenance, repair or operation of high pressure boilers as a mechanical engineer, operating engineer, or boilermaker. Within six months of employment, this position requires a Certificate of Competency as a boiler inspector by qualifying for, and successfully completing the examination given by the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

The Selected candidate will be required to live in the Peoria County within 90 days of hire.

For more information about hours of work, salary, and how to apply for this or any other job opening, please click on the link below.

<http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/Fire-Marshall/Employment-Opportunities>



OSFM Employees Making a Difference!!

Bob Kowalski–Petroleum & Chemical Safety Inspector

“...we greatly appreciate the actions and attitude of Mr. Kowalski today! I believe that good relationships between our company and state regulator, such as this one here, is beneficial for both parties in ensuring proper regulations are in place and being held up to protect our environment. Mr. Kowalski was very understanding of the issues, and went above and beyond to make sure we were compliant.”

Terry Ooms– Arson Investigator

“I just wanted to reach out to let you know that Arson Investigator Ooms did a fantastic job in the recent explosion where he wrote and executed the search warrant, and collected evidence. He worked tirelessly to make it all happen and had to work with FBI, ARF, SOS Bomb Techs, along with local agencies on a confusing scene. He comes across as a very low profile individual and not interested in any recognition, but I would like you to know we sincerely appreciated his work.”

Thomas Lee–Elevator Inspector

“I just wanted to say thank you for handling my elevator phone issues so quickly today!! Tom Lee made it so easy to understand. I’ve only been in my position since July 1st and it’s a lot to learn in a short period of time. Tom has put me on the right track and took the time to help me understand exactly what I was dealing with and who I will have to deal with in the future to stay up to code. Again, thanks!!”

Bob Capuani–Elevator Safety Division Manager

Bob has been reappointed to the American Society of Engineers A17 Regulatory Advisory Council–effective July 2016 to July 2021. The society promulgates new codes for US and Canada.

September is designated in Illinois as Campus Fire Safety Month

Dorm Fires—The number of reported fires in dorms on campus has increased by 24% between 2003 and 2014. Fire Departments respond to an average of 11 dorm fires each day in the U.S. and 86% of those involve cooking equipment. (NFPA, www.nfpa.org)



Quick Safety Tips for On-Campus and Off-Campus Living:

- ✓ Install UL-listed smoke alarms in every room of a dorm or apartment.
- ✓ Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries as needed.
- ✓ Look for housing that is equipped with automatic fire sprinkler system.
- ✓ Know two ways out of every building and have an escape plan in place.
- ✓ Buy and learn how to use a fire extinguisher before a fire breaks out.
- ✓ Never leave candles unattended and keep the candles away from items that may catch fire. Try battery operated flameless candles instead.
- ✓ Use UL-listed carbon monoxide detectors and UL-listed extension cords.
- ✓ Never leave the kitchen while cooking.
- ✓ Properly dispose of smoking materials in ashtrays. Check cushions and chairs for smoldering cigarettes after parties.
- ✓ Check with your local fire department for any restrictions on using barbeque grills, fire pits, or chimeneas.

Alcohol Impairment can also contribute to fires and increase the severity of injury.

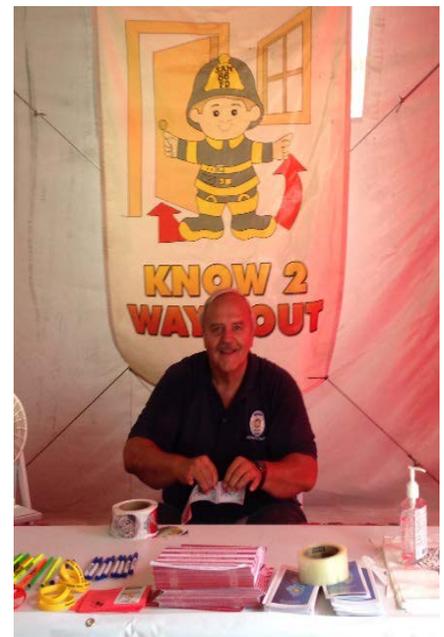
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2016 Illinois State Fair & Du Quoin State Fair Photo Gallery



From top to bottom, left to right: Arson Investigator Greg Vespa and K-9 Rocky, K-9 Rocky with a little admirer, CFO Ronny Wickenhauser and Fire Prevention Office Specialist Debbie Wickenhauser, Arson Investigator Terry Ooms with Administrative Assistant Andrea Leonard, Arson Director Chris Valentine stationed in the Juvenile Fire Setters booth.



From left to right, top to bottom: State Fire Marshal Matt Perez & Legislative Liaison George Korda, Retired Decatur Firefighter Steve Bingamon with former Deputy Director Les Albert, IFSI Extraction Demo with Bill Wade & Toby Jackson, Terry Cox with the IL Professional Firefighters.



From Left to right, top to bottom: IFSI Keith “Doc” Patterson’s safety presentation, Springfield office helpers: Pam Sargent, Kensie Proctor, and Andrea Leonard, and Arson Dog Demonstrations.

OSFM would like to thank the many volunteers, fire departments, and office personnel who make these State Fair's a success. Hope to see you all next year!



From left to right, top to bottom: Fire Marshal Perez with wife Traci compete in the water ball tournament, FM Perez congratulates winners of competition, Fire Service Outreach Coordinator Greg Hay talks with fairgoers about Smoke Alarms, and the newest OSFM employee FM Perez's dog "Norman" greets visitors.