



OSFM 2016

November Newsletter

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Monthly Newsletter

“Partnering with the Fire Service to Protect Illinois”

From the Director, State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



Governor Rauner officially proclaimed Oct 9 – 15 as Fire Prevention Week and highlighted the fact that all Illinois residents need to check that they not only have working smoke alarms but also check the dates stamped on the detectors and replace them if they are over 10 years old.

Everyone needs to be aware that smoke alarms have a limited service life and have a specific tone, different from the alarm or low battery signal, which indicates end of service life. Illinois is blessed to have cooperation from all areas of the fire service including, career, volunteer, paid on call and combination fire departments. This relationship provided the ability to present a uniform Fire Prevention Week message, which was successfully relayed by all our partners in the Illinois fire service associations.

As we bid farewell to another Fire Prevention Month it is imperative we remain conscious that fire prevention is a year round effort and that we need to continue to educate Illinois residents on how best to safeguard their homes. There are several great resources online, such as the National Fire Protection Association (<http://www.nfpa.org>) and the United States Fire Administration (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov>). They have great educational resources to choose from including safety tip sheets, community tool kits, education programs, safety source newsletters and much more.

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Meet the New Fire Prevention Division Manager Dale Simpson



On October 3rd, Dale Simpson became the Fire Prevention Division Manager at the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Dale is not new to the OSFM, as he has been a Fire Prevention Inspector since 2013. Dale says his “primary goal now is to maintain and increase the level of productivity and professionalism of the Fire Prevention Division.”

Dale dedicated 26 years to the Springfield Fire Department. He retired in 2009. Dale held many positions within the department including Firefighter, Police Officer, Arson Investigator, Fire Prevention Inspector, Juvenile Officer, Division Chief, and serving as the Springfield Fire Marshal. Dale believes his biggest accomplishment while serving at the Springfield Fire Department was re-establishing the Fire Explorer Post 300 program. “It has always been important to focus on the youth, to use an opportunity such as the Explorer Post program in aiding students. This program helped many students prepare for a possible future in the fire industry, by teaching important fire service techniques, as well as other important life skills such as: public speaking, team building, interviews, and time-management.”

Dale comes to the OSFM with a long list of accomplishments, certifications, and experience in Fire Prevention. In addition to working for the Springfield Fire Department, he was also an EMT and an instructor at Lincoln Land Community College for a number of years.

State Fire Marshal Perez says, “Dale is a natural fit after serving as the Fire Marshal for the City of Springfield and then learning the ins and outs of our agency as an inspector. We look forward to Dale putting his personal touch on the Fire Prevention Division.”

Fire Prevention Division Manager Dale Simpson, Dale.Simpson@illinois.gov .

Cooking and Thanksgiving Fire Safety

The National Fire Protection Association warns that Thanksgiving Day has the highest number of home fires involving cooking equipment, with 3 times the average number. The contributing factors that cause these cooking fires are all preventable.

Remember: Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking. Keep children away from the stove and any other cooking equipment. Hot food, liquids, and steam can cause serious burns. Anything that could catch fire should be kept away from the stove and burners. If grease catches fire, do not use water to extinguish. Instead turn off the heat and cover the flame to smother it. Lastly, be sure that your smoke alarms are working and remember to have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen area.

Deep Frying a Turkey: Precautions and Cooking Safety

Let's face it, you've probably had a juicy deep fried turkey or would like to try one. Please follow these simple steps to ensure a safe and incident free dinner.



Planning: The USDA and Butterball™ recommend frying a turkey no bigger than 12–16 pounds, which most fryers will accommodate. Before you unwrap the turkey, place the turkey in an empty fryer to make sure it will fit.

Preparation: Make sure your turkey is completely thawed before frying. Never stuff a turkey that you are intending to fry. If you choose to marinate or inject a flavor into your turkey, allow it to stand in the refrigerator for 24 to 48 hours before cooking.

Cooking: Deep fry the turkey outside. Select a location that is well ventilated on flat ground, and away from trees and buildings. Do not fill the fryer with oil over 3/4 full. Heat the cooking oil to 350° (make sure you have a cooking thermometer to constantly monitor). Before dunking the turkey, turn off the burner and gradually lower the turkey into the hot oil. To avoid bubbling over, you might have to pull the turkey back out gradually, then gradually lower again until it is submersed. The turkey should be covered when submersed, and the oil level should be at least three inches to five inches from the top of the fryer. Once submersed, turn back on the heat to 350°. Once your turkey is done, turn off the heat and gradually lift the turkey out of the oil and hold it over the fryer so the oil can drain. The oil from the fryer, once cooled, should be covered overnight in a safe place.

OSFM Employees Making a Difference!!

Tom Lee- Elevator Safety Division

"Late last week, I made a phone call to your Elevator Safety division and got the voicemail of Mr. Tom Lee. At the time I made that voicemail, I honestly did not even expect a call to be returned. This morning, however, I was surprised by a call from the extremely friendly Tom. I told him the issues I was having with a residential building's elevator and the adversarial attitude regarding the subject from the management company. Tom assured me that everything would be taken care of as soon as possible and that I would hear back from him after his conversation with the building's management.

About an hour later (extremely prompt) I received a call back from Tom to describe the conversation and outcome in detail. I have to say this is one of the most positive experience I have ever had with a government employee/official. Of course, being in the department that you are (fire safety) is a bit different in that you obviously have a passion for what you do. Nevertheless, my experience has been outstanding. After months of trying to rectify this situation with the management company, Tom took care of it in the span of about an hour. For many of those in Illinois that feel they do not have many people in their corner, this has given me a tremendous amount of hope that there are people out there who are passionate about safety, justice, and their job itself. If I could sum up my experience in one word it would be refreshing."

Arson Investigator Gregory Vespa and K9 Rocky

"...I want to express our sincere appreciation for Arson Investigator Gregory Vespa and his contribution our department. Investigator Vespa and his partner Rocky were willing to dedicate their time and effort to provide our citizens with a K9 demonstration for a second year in a row. This year we had a successful turnout with a lot of kids attending. Investigator Vespa & Rocky were a hit among all and their demonstration added a great education element. His support made this a great event and shows an obvious dedication to his office and to his community."

**2017 Fire Department Instructors Conference
Scholarship Program
*Nominations are Now Open***

Nominate a firefighter for free attendance at Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) International 2017 or vote for your favorite today. Submit early for the best chance to win.

Twenty deserving firefighters and first responders will be awarded with a full-paid scholarship, including travel and accommodations, to attend to FDIC International 2017, the industry's premier safety and training event. Recipients will receive airfare, lodging, food, wearables, and full show admission which includes classroom training, seminars, and exhibits. New this year, Scholarship Recipients will receive access to H.O.T. Evolutions training.

FDIC is the largest and most important North American fire training event and tradeshow in the fire service industry with more than 32,000 attending the 2016 event. Hosted every year in Indianapolis, the FDIC 2017 event will take place April 24-29th.

The scholarship is available to residents of the United States and Canada only, and both career and volunteer fire fighters, EMS and HazMat personnel are eligible. The selected scholarship recipients will be announced monthly and ending on December 31, 2016.

To find out more information or to nominate, please click here:
<http://landing.penngage.com/honeywell-fdic-2017-scholarship/>

Check out the Vision 20/20 Website
www.strategicfire.org

IFE-USA Branch Vision 20/20 was awarded a FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. Their website is a valuable tool for fire departments and include a number of free resources, including reports, presentations, videos and links to a Fire Safety Materials Generator, Advocacy Toolkit and Guide to Home Safety Visits.

OSFM Photo Gallery



Greg Hay, OSFM Fire Service Outreach Coordinator talks with Conference Participants at the IFCA Conference in Peoria on October 12, 2016. This was the 66th Annual Illinois Fire Chiefs Conference, in conjunction with the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors Conference and the Illinois Fire Apparatus Mechanics Association Seminar, which ran from October 11th through the 16th.

Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez gave opening remarks at the Graduation Ceremony for the 89th Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter Academy. Thirty-five students graduated on October 14th, 2016 in Champaign, IL at the Illinois Fire Service Institute.



Fire Prevention Division Manager Kevin Switzer and wife Carol pose for a picture after receiving his retirement certificate from the State Fire Marshal on September 26th. Kevin served in the OSFM for 8 years. Kevin will be enjoying his retirement with his family and friends in Springfield, Illinois.