

Minutes of February 11, 2015

Next Meeting: March 11, 2015

Program: Incendiary Fires

Location: **Salvation Army 8354 W. Foster Av. Norridge, IL 60706 (NE corner of Cumberland and Foster)**

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0855.

- A moment of silence was held for all of our friends, colleagues and loved ones who have passed away.
- A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the January Minutes. The motion passed.
- A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.
- Close to 120 members were in attendance! These are seminar attendance numbers. We hope to continue to see all of you at our meetings.
- Nominations for the Harry P. Schaefer Award need to be turned in to a board member before the April Executive Board meeting, Tuesday April 7, so that we have time to select a worthy recipient. All board members e-mail addresses are on the web site.
- We will present the Schaefer Award at the May seminar.
- Please remember to pay your dues.
- There have been reports of incorrect information being received regarding the number of points needed for recertification. You do not need 100 points for investigating fires. You need 100 points over a span of 4 years. These points include a combination of continuing education as well as fire investigations. Also, you can apply for an extension if you are off the job due to injury. For copies of your records from us contact Jeff Fleck. For more information go the OSFM website.
- On that note, do not wait until the last minute to submit your paperwork for recertification. Make copies of all of the information you send and if you are concerned about your mail arriving then spend the extra money to have someone sign for it upon arrival.
- Reminder: Our future seminars will be in Hoffman Estates.
- Future clothing items will either have our logo or spell out Fire Investigators Strike Force; no more items will be purchased with "FISF".
- **FIRES: Maywood**, fire on the back porch caused by smoking materials. **Blue Island**, fire caused by wood burning stove. **Northbrook**, a disgruntled daughter set her parents house on fire, she has been arrested.

Our speaker was Derek A. Starr, P.E. of Scientific Expert Analysis (S.E.A.). Derek has spoken to our organization previously and as before gave an excellent presentation on electricity and fires. Derek could not stress enough the importance of making sure that all electrical equipment is de-energized prior to starting an investigation, not just turned off, but de-energized. Certain electrical components such as capacitors and batteries store enough electrical energy to cause great harm and must be made safe before an investigation can begin. "No matter what your eyes tell you, verify the

power is off and equipment is de-energized.” Use Lock-out Tag-out to ensure no one turns the power back on until you are ready.

Derek was able to cover the basics about electricity in layman’s terms so that all of us were able to understand his examples. It would not be possible for me to cover all of the information that Derek presented so if you weren’t one of the almost 120 people at the meeting you missed a good class. One of the tips Derek gave us is that when dealing with solar panels; cover them with a tarp to lessen the chance that they will continue to supply power to the system.

Our thanks to Derek and S.E.A. for taking the time to come and speak to our members.

Our training was 2 hours untested on electricity and fires.

Respectfully Submitted,
John T. Gilleran
Secretary F.I.S.F.