

# Fire Investigators Strike Force

[www.fisf.org](http://www.fisf.org)

Minutes of November 11, 2015

Next Meeting: December 9, 2015

Program: Elections and speaker.

Location: Manzo's Banquets 1571 S. Elmhurst Rd. Des Plaines, IL 60018 (Just North of Oakton on Rt. 83, East Side.)

Time: 1100

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0900.

- A motion was made and 2nd to accept the Treasurers Report; the motion passed.
- A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the October Minutes; the motion passed
- A moment of silence was held for all of our members' intentions.
- Almost 90 members were in attendance!
- At next month's meeting we will elect the members of the board for the Strike Force.
- The Executive Board would like to thank the members of the Strike Force for their generous donation of toys for those less fortunate.
- **HOLIDAY MEETING:** We need numbers by **December 4**. We cannot continue to have walk-ins, as the food is prepared ahead of time based on the numbers we receive.
- As you know, our cost for seminars has increased. We currently pay \$30 per person for food and that cost is about to increase to \$31. We checked on a number of alternatives to bring down the price but were informed that the price we are paying is standard. At our last seminar there were 15 no-shows that the FISF had to cover for food at a loss of \$450. (Our loss would have been larger had we not elected to stop handing out "giveaway's".) We understand in our line of work that there may be legitimate reasons for people not attending after registering. However, the members need to understand that as a board we have a fiduciary responsibility and not continue to lose money. Therefor the following changes will be made regarding seminars:

Departments will be invoiced for the number of individuals registered unless they cancel prior to the registration deadline.

Anyone registering after the deadline will be charged the non-member fee of \$65.

There will be **NO Walk-Ins allowed.** (The food is prepared off-site and we can't tell the catering company we had X number of people walk-in and we need more food.)

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but with our change of venue and catering company we have no other choice.

Our speaker was Matt Gall, Supervisor/ Special Investigation Unit of Country Financial.

Matt covered NFPA 921 Chapters 19-22, Analyzing the Incident for Cause and Responsibility. Matts' presentation covered a wide variety of topics but one that is a good reminder for all of us is: "Suspicious" is NOT a fire cause!

There only four cause findings allowed:

Accidental

Natural

Incendiary

Undetermined

Do not be afraid to use "Undetermined", you can always go back and update your determination if more evidence becomes available.

Our thanks to Matt for taking the time to come and speak to our organization.

This training was 2.25 hours in length.

On behalf of all the Board and Training Committee members: **Have a Happy Thanksgiving!**

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Gilleran  
FISF Secretary