

Fire Investigators Strike Force

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Minutes of January 13, 2016

Next Meeting: February 10, 2016

Program: [Explosions \(NFPA 921\)](#)

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

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0900.

- A moment of silence was held for Chicago firefighter Dan Capuano and Oak Park firefighter paramedic Ken Harris who died in the line of duty and for retired Arlington Heights Fire Department Lt. John Jarosz jr. who died unexpectedly.
- A motion was made and 2nd to accept the December Minutes. The motion passed.
- A motion was made and 2nd to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed. A copy of the report is available on this web site.
- Please remember to pay your dues!
- Changes occasionally may need to be made to the training schedule due to speaker and facility availability.
- Applications for the Harry P. Schafer Award are due by Tuesday April 5, 2016. You may submit an application to any Board member or member of the Training Committee. Applications are available on the web site.
- Please register your e-mail address at our website; it is the quickest way for you to get up-dates.
- Over 70 members were in attendance! What a great number for a January meeting.
- Our seminars for this year will continue to be held at the NIU Center in Hoffman Estates.

- We debuted our new sound system at the meeting; it seemed to be a success.
- As mentioned by President Kushner I have decided that this will be my last year as Secretary for the Strike Force. We have been together as your Board for about 18 years and it is time for some new blood, new views, and new ideas. If anyone is interested in the position please feel free to talk to me at a future meeting or attend some board meetings to get an idea of what goes on behind the scenes. The Board meets the first Tuesday of almost every month at 0900 at the North Maine Fire Protection District 9301 Potter Rd, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

Our speaker was Lt. Ron Cielek of the Countryside Fire Protection District (CFPD). Ron gave a presentation on the logistics involved in a large multi-agency investigation. The event that brought everyone together was an explosion at a house in an area of Long Grove covered by the CFPD. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation but the result was one house completely destroyed and possibly up to 60 other homes claiming damages of almost 20 to 30 million dollars. Every agency imaginable and some you might not have thought of sent representatives to the scene to make sure their interests were covered. At the beginning there were concerns that you might not normally have to consider such as fencing around the site, 24 hour security (the police are only going to stay so long), a demolition company, to name a few. There were possibly hundreds of witnesses to interview and pictures to be taken. As time went on there were daily Incident Action Plans for everyone to be briefed on, sign-in/sign-out sheets, responding to FOIA's (which was handled through a drop-box system set up by the attorney for the homeowners insurance company which made it much easier for everyone. Even the Interstate Commerce Commission was involved, as they are responsible for all underground transmission pipes such as those used for natural gas. One of the main points that Ron got across was to not be afraid to ask for help. Ron received a lot of good suggestions from Mitch Kushner of the OSFM and John Gamboa of the BATF.

Ron gave a very in-depth and informative presentation and we thank him for taking the time to speak to the members of our organization.

Training hours for todays lecture is 2 hours.

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