

Fire Investigators Strike Force

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Minutes of January 14, 2015

Next Meeting: February 11, 2015

Program: [Electricity and Fire](#)

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 all who passed on in 2014
- 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 7, 2015. 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.
- Almost 100 members were in attendance! What a great number for a January meeting.
- Fires: **Lake Villa:** Fire in the office of a firearms dealer that resulted in a fatality. The fire is still under investigation but the stove knobs were in the off position. **Mundelein:** Fatal fire as the result of a domestic dispute. The details are too graphic for print but suffice it to say that a flammable liquid was poured and an explosive device was used to

commit what is believed to be a suicide. **North Chicago:** Also a fatal suicide fire using an ignitable liquid in a bedroom. **Poplar Grove:** A fire involving a woman who fell asleep on a heating pad. **Buffalo Grove:** A fire in a refrigeration unit at an Outback Steakhouse. The on duty companies reported a strange odor to the investigator. Prior to the investigator opening the refrigeration unit he was stopped by an on-scene repairman who advised that once the coolant is exposed to high temperatures it changes into phosgene gas. (Good for all of us to know!)

Our speaker was Keith Hohs of the Lake Zurich Fire Department and Spring Grove Alarm, Inc. One of the many important examples of how an alarm system can assist in an investigation is finding out in what sequence the alarms were triggered; the first alarm was probably the closest to the fire, the same can be applied to sprinkler heads. Burglar alarms in both residential and commercial occupancies can show when alarms were turned on or off, when doors were opened and, in some cases, who opened them. A good alarm history can also help determine if someone had been tampering with the alarm system. Our thanks to Keith for once again taking the time to share his knowledge and experience with us.

Training hours for today's lecture is 2 hours in Fire Alarm Systems, one of the 16 mandatory continuing education requirements under NFPA 1033.

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