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Minutes of March 11, 2015

Next Meeting: April 8, 2015

Program: Motor vehicle 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 0900 hrs.

- Welcome to all members, new and old.
- A moment of silence was held for 11 members of the US military that died in a helicopter crash during a training exercise.
- A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the February Minutes. The motion passed.
- A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed. A full copy of the report is available on our website.
- Training hours will be recorded exactly as they are done. At the end of each meeting, and on the Minutes, we will announce how much time will be credited towards training.
- Over 110 members were in attendance.
- Nominations for the Harry P. Schaefer Award need to be turned in to a board member by 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.
- **Fires: Rolling Meadows** had a fatal fire the cause of which appears to be smoking materials, O2 tanks contributed to the fires intensity. **Norwood Park** had a Honeywell non-programmable thermostat catch fire. The crew could smell something burning while searching the house and found the thermostat on fire. **Norwood Park** also had a separate fatal fire, which is still under investigation.

Our speakers were Agents John Gamboa and Anthony Zito of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF).

The agents gave an excellent presentation on incendiary fires. They emphasized that if you have any question in your mind as to whether or not you need a warrant to do your investigation because you think it might be a crime then you probably need one and you should contact your local State's Attorney for advice. To aid in our investigations the agents reminded us that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has heat release charts available on their website and the heat release rates (HRR) of many common products can be found there.

BATF will also provide auditors, free of charge, to go over the books of a business or individual that has had a fire to make sure everything is in order. The Bureau also pays

for a lightning map from Strikenet if you have a fire involving a place of worship. Your department can contact Strikenet at 1-800-283-4557 for a map but there is a charge.

Our sincerest thanks to Agent Gamboa and Agent Zito for taking the time to come and educate our members and to the BATF for allowing the agents the time to come speak to our organization; such cooperation further shows that all of us have the same goal.

Meeting/training adjourned at 11:00 (2 hours).

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

