

Fire Investigators Strike Force

www.fisf.org

Minutes of December 11, 2013

Next Meeting: January 8, 2014

Program: NFPA 1033: Responsibilities of the Fire Investigator

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

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 1100 hrs.

- Mitch wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year.
- A moment of silence was held for all of our friends, relatives, and colleagues that are no longer with us.
- Nominations for the executive board, from the floor, were called for three times. A motion was made to nominate the current board. There was a 2nd to the nomination. A vote was called for and the board was re-elected unanimously. Once again your executive board is; President Mitch Kushner, Vice-president Stan Grygiel, Secretary John Gilleran and Treasurer Jeff Fleck. The Executive Director is Mike Schmitt.
- Arnie Witzke will continue to be the membership chairman. Thank you Arnie for all of your work.
- Thank you to our training committee members Mary Lacey, Dan Zerfass, Jeff Wynn, Chester Kraus, Jeff Eaton, George Lindemulder, Steve Tomzik and Ken Foszcz for all of the hard work that goes into presenting interesting and up-to-date trainings.
- A special thanks to LeeAnn Artstein, Administrative Clerk for the Northbrook Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau, for helping us maintain our training records.

- On behalf of all the board members I would like to express our gratitude for your continued confidence in our ability to run this great organization.
- Thank you to all of the departments and organizations that support the Strike Force. There are 194 departments as members (remember your police departments are automatically members); we average over 80 members at meetings and over 120 members at seminars.
- 80 members attended today. It was good to see all of you.
- A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the November Minutes. The motion passed.
- A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.
- Our congratulations to everyone who was promoted, or retired, this year.
- Please remember to pay your dues.
- **Please notify Arnie Witzke if you need to change your contact person.**
- A new training schedule will be available soon at the website www.fisf.org.

Our speaker was Harold W. Kummelehne, Fire Certification Specialist, from the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OFSM), Division of Personnel and Education (PS&E). Harold gave an informative and detailed presentation about the recertification process and requirements for fire and arson investigators.

Harold's first order of business was to remind everyone that the OSFM is only responsible for recertification and does not set the criteria that must be met. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), NFPA 921 & 1033, and the Illinois Law Enforcement Board sets the criteria. Recertification only applies to those employed by a branch of government, private and civilian investigators are not covered. Ninety (90) days **prior** to your expiration date the chief of your department (fire or police) will receive notice of the pending expiration. If, you have not

turned in the required documentation by 90 days **after** your expiration date, you must retake the investigator modules. Only your chief, or their proxy who is listed with the OSFM, may sign your recertification paperwork. All training records are subject to audit by the OSFM. They have revoked certifications after finding falsified documentation. (Sometimes they receive tips that investigators were not truthful on their paperwork. **Now think about that for a second, what kind of credibility would you have as an investigator if it is discovered you falsified your paperwork?**)

Some points reminders:

You need 100 points over 4 years

1 point per hour of training for a minimum of 60 points, maximum of 90

2 points per hour as an instructor

1 point per incident, not per incident hour

2 points per incident as a supervisor of at least 1 subordinate

More information is available at: www.sfm.illinois.gov

All correspondence should have ATTN: PS&E on the envelope so that it doesn't sit in mailroom limbo.

Please remember all of our members of the armed forces who will not be home with their own families this holiday season because they are overseas protecting our families and our country.

On behalf of the board, have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Respectfully Submitted,

John T. Gilleran

Secretary F.I.S.F.