



## Quarterly Newsletter Spring/Summer 2009

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# WHY RISK TRAGEDY?

Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Legal

Think about it. You're in a crowded club or banquet hall, surrounded by all kinds of flammable materials, watching sparks sail everywhere as a flashy display of fireworks is set off. It may be great entertainment, but is it also a recipe for disaster?

While fireworks are a traditional part of summer celebrations, they are also becoming more commonplace in nightclubs, wedding, birthday and other celebratory events. They are being used as concert pyrotechnics and table centerpiece decorations. Many people have been seriously injured or killed each year by careless or untrained use of fireworks by band managers, caterers or florists supplying the fireworks. During a nightclub concert in 2003 in Rhode Island, a pyrotechnics display set up by a band manager took the lives of 100 people. In January, 2009 in Thailand, 60 people were killed in a nightclub during a New Year's Eve celebration. It doesn't take much searching to find that the tragic stories are endless when it comes to the mishandling of indoor and outdoor fireworks.

Do you allow banquet halls in your jurisdiction to use centerpieces with sparkler-type devices in them, or allow musical acts, etc. to use indoor fireworks, including propane flame effects, on the premises? If you do, make certain the person igniting the fireworks or propane, also

called pyrotechnics, has a Pyrotechnic Operator license issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). In addition, before anyone

can use pyrotechnics within your jurisdiction, they must have a display permit issued by the local governmental authority.

So, again, why risk tragedy? Ask yourself these questions before allowing the use of pyrotechnics within your jurisdiction.

- Does the person igniting the fireworks or propane have a Pyrotechnics Operator license issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal?
- How do you know whether the person has prior authorization of the Illinois State Fire Marshal?
- Does the Pyrotechnics Operator have a display permit which has been issued by the local governmental authority?
- If the person is going to use indoor pyrotechnics within your premises, does the Pyrotechnics Operator have a Proximate Audience license? If propane is used, does the operator have a valid Flame Effect license?

Keep in mind that Subsection 6-32(a) of the Liquor Control Act, 235 ILCS 5/6-32(a), states that "[a] retailers on premise consumption

# FIRES RELATED TO FIREWORKS 2008

As the 2009 fireworks season begins, the Office of the State Fire Marshal wants to thank the Illinois fire service for its reporting of fireworks related incidents to NFIRS. This information is vital when determining the need for fireworks laws, regulations and ordinances in Illinois. According to the 2008 reported information, there were 125 fireworks related injuries compared to the 108 reported in 2007. While the number of incidents went up, the dollar cost reported went down from \$1,130,811 to \$581,151, as did the number of fire service injuries. This information can be found on the OSFM website under the Pyrotechnics/Fireworks link.

DESCRIPTION OF FIRE	FREQ.	FF INJURIES	TOTAL \$ LOSS	TOTAL LOSS %
Fire, other	2	0	0	0.00%
Structure, other 3(conversion only)	34	0	359,000	61.77%
Building	16	0	204,000	35.10%
Trash/Rubbish (contained)	2	0	0	0.00%
Mobile property (vehicle) other	1	0	10,000	1.72%
Passenger vehicle	4	0	5,050	0.87%
Natural vegetation	14	0	0	0.00%
Forest, woods or wildland	3	0	0	0.00%
Brush, or brush/grass mixture	11	0	4	0.00%
Grass	11	0	0	0%
Outside rubbish	2	0	100	0.02%
Outside rubbish, trash or waste	1	0	0	0.00%
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle	12	0	367	0.06%
Special outside fire	6	0	2510	0.43%
Outside equipment	1	0	20	0.00%
Outside gas/vapor combustion explosion	1	0	0	0.00%
Cultivated grain or crop	1	0	0	0.00%
Outside mailbox fire	2	0	100	0.02%
Cultivated trees or nursery stock fire	1	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$581,151</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: NFIRS Data Submitted to OSFM by Illinois Fire Departments

## Did You Know?

**Did you know** fireworks are prohibited at gas stations?

**Section 170.180** of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's administrative rules governing the Storage, Transportation, Sale and Use of Petroleum and Other Regulated Substances, 41 Ill. Adm. Code 170.180, provides as follows:

The sale, use, explosion or handling of fireworks, including but not limited to sparklers, smoke balls, snakes, auto burglar alarms containing pyrotechnic components, toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns and toy pistol paper caps, and other novelty items which require ignition to produce an audible, or visual effect or display, is prohibited on any service stations premises.

**Did you know** you may prohibit the sale and use of sparklers on public property?

**Section 3.4** of the Fireworks Use Act, **425 ILCS 35/3.4**, allows a municipality to adopt an ordinance that prohibits the sale and use of sparklers on public property.

**Did you know** you can find copies of all Illinois laws and administrative rules on the internet?

The Illinois General Assembly maintains copies of all Illinois laws and administrative rules on its website [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).



# Public Education News Update

## Remembering When™



The Office of the State Marshal will be hosting the next Illinois Remembering When™ Conference on May 14, 2009 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois. All Illinois Remembering When™ communities are invited to attend this free one-day conference. Hotel arrangements can be made at the Springfield Hilton located in downtown Springfield. Each community is allowed one room at no charge.



For details on how to register for the conference, lodging or any other questions, please contact Donna Lay at 217-558-0640 or [donna.lay@illinois.gov](mailto:donna.lay@illinois.gov). We hope all communities will plan to attend and look forward to seeing you there.



## Hispanic/Latino Affairs

Nereida Avendano, Hispanic/Latino Affairs, resigned from the Office of the State Fire Marshal on December 15, 2008. Nereida was the Hispanic Liaison for the office, responsible for teaching firefighters basic Spanish and Hispanic culture. She also managed the Division of Public Education, which included NFIRS, Remembering When and Risk Watch programs. Nereida relocated to southern Illinois to pursue other job opportunities.

We wish Nereida the very best in her new position and give thanks for her service to the State of Illinois and to the State Fire Marshal's office.

## 2009 Illinois Risk Watch Conference

The 2009 Illinois Risk Watch Conference will be held June 17th and 18th, 2009 at the Prairie Capitol Convention Center in downtown Springfield. This conference is completely free of charge to all Risk Watch participants. The conference will include keynote speakers, break-out sessions and shared ideas from Risk Watch communities from all around the State.



In 2008, over 60 participants attended the conference where they learned new ideas and techniques in order to better their Risk Watch programs within their own communities.

Risk Watch is an unintentional injury prevention program targeting children pre-k through 8th grade. For more information on how existing Risk Watch communities can attend the conference, or to become a new Risk Watch community, please contact Jessica Blackford at 217-558-0324 or [Jessica.blackford@illinois.gov](mailto:Jessica.blackford@illinois.gov).

## WHY RISK TRAGEDY?

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licensee may not permit the use of any pyrotechnic device within its licensed premises without the prior authorization of the Illinois State Fire Marshal...Violation of this subsection (a) by any licensee or any employee or agent of a licensee is a Class 4 felony."

All of these questions and more can be answered by looking at the Illinois State Fire Marshal's website at [www.state.il.us/osfm](http://www.state.il.us/osfm)

or checking with the local governmental authority. Also, if the fire chief of the local jurisdiction has not inspected the business for the display, if the operator does not have a display permit issued by the local government authority to perform a display within the premises, or if the operator does not have the proper OSFM Pyrotechnic Operator license, the person does not have prior authorization from OSFM to use pyrotechnics within the business premises.





# Tribute to Fallen Firefighter on 113th

Lt. Patrick O'Donnell of the Chicago Fire Department was honored with a memorial service at the Calvary Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois on the 113th anniversary of this death on November 22, 2008.

On November 22, 1895, Lt. O'Donnell was called to a fire at a dry goods store in Chicago. As the fire raged, a safe fell through a weakened floor trapping him and several other firefighters. Lt. O'Donnell was found alive but lived only briefly. He was one of many fire-fighters who gave their life that night to save the life and property of those he never knew.

Lt. O'Donnell, born 1858 and died 1895 at the age of 36, was buried in an unmarked grave. He had eight children and was expecting a ninth child. The descendants of Patrick's family notified Chicago Fire Commissioner Brooks of their intentions to place a headstone bearing his name on an unmarked grave, and he made a personal effort to honor Lt. O'Donnell, his family and the Fire Service with a memorial service.

Among O'Donnell's descendants are Randy Veugeler, a retired firefighter that was married to Lt. O'Donnell's great great granddaughter and Tom Collins, the retired President of the Sprinkler Fitters Union who was his great great grandson.





# h Anniversary of Line of Duty Death





# News and Updates



## Chief Jack Fitzgerald Retires

Jack Fitzgerald retired after 52+ years of service to Manhattan Fire Protection District and was honored at a special reception on Sept. 14, 2008 that brought more than 100 people from various departments and communities.

Beginning as a volunteer at the age of 16, Fitzgerald was sworn in as Assistant Chief in 1967, became a paramedic in 1976, named Deputy Chief in 1992 and finally Fire Chief in 1998. Among many accomplishments Fitzgerald was the driving force in establishing the EMS program for Manhattan Fire Protection District.

Chief Fitzgerald was recognized for his accomplishments with several letters of congratulations from state and federal dignitaries including Senator AJ Wilhelmi, Senator and President elect Barack Obama, US Senator Dick Durbin and President George W. Bush. The State Fire Marshal, Dave Foreman, Illinois Fire Chief President Dan Hermes and IAFFPD president Michael Dillon also attended.

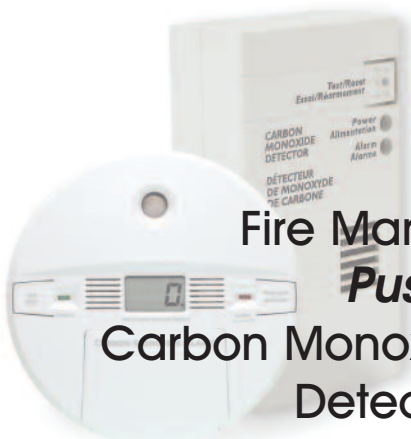


David A. Douin, Superintendent for the Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety, left the employ of the State Fire Marshal

on December 31, 2008. Mr. Douin served the state for 26 ½ years as a boiler inspector, Assistant Superintendent and the last 18 years as Superintendent for the Boiler Division.

Mr. Douin was elected to serve as the Executive Director for the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors in Columbus Ohio. Mr. Douin held the position of Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the National Board for 8 years prior to being elected Executive Director. He also served on many American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code committees and National Board Inspection Code committees.

We wish Dave the very best in his new position and, if past performance is any indication, he will excel at his new position. Thank you for your service to the State of Illinois and to the State Fire Marshal's Agency. Good luck and best wishes to you Dave.



## Fire Marshal Pushes Carbon Monoxide Detectors

The Illinois State Fire Marshal wants residents to install carbon monoxide detectors as the new year begins.

Fire Marshal David B. Foreman says detectors give families a chance to flee homes with carbon monoxide leaks before it's too late. State law has required carbon monoxide detectors in homes since 2007.

Statistics show Illinois fire departments responded to nearly 9,000 carbon monoxide calls in 2007, compared with 4,400 in 2006.

## William L. "Willie" Brown

Former OSFM Arson Investigator William L. "Willie" Brown, Jr. 64, of Jacksonville died on December 30, 2008 after a long illness. After retiring from a 27-year career with the Jacksonville Police Department, Willie began work as an Arson Investigator from the Office of the State Fire Marshal from 2003 to 2007. Our deepest sympathies go out to Willie's family and friends.

## THE PINK RIBBON TOUR

Guardians of the Ribbon rolled into town for a brief but very pink visit on October 16, 2008.

Their Pink Ribbon Tour landed at the Illinois State Fairgrounds Fire Museum for the day in a nationwide effort to raise awareness of breast cancer.

The tour and "Cares Enough to Wear Pink" campaign is led by Glendale, Ariz., firefighter Dave Graybill and his crew of firefighters and guardians.

In September 2007, Graybill decided to build and tow a giant ribbon to "honor all the people who battle cancer and the families who work tirelessly to make their lives better."

While Graybill said his inspiration was not personal, "I'm wired to protect, to save lives, so I wanted to do something to help fight this."

The 3,000-pound copper and steel statue is 10 feet tall, and is towed behind a giant pink fire truck, along with pink-suited guardians.

The truck bears hundreds of names, and gathers more with each city visited.

People are encouraged to don pink in October to give an image of hope and courage to those who battle for life.

Among organizations supporting and sharing information were the Susan G. Komen for the

Cure, Tidewater Affiliate, Vigilant Watch and female firefighter national champions Women of STIHL.

"Everyone can relate to this effort to raise awareness and show support," said Newport News firefighter Lt. Stacy Carroll, a team member of Women of STIHL.

"The reality is breast cancer is a fire we haven't put out yet."



# Dates to Remember



- 16th Annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial & Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony  
**May 13, 2009**
- Remembering When™ Conference  
**May 14, 2009**
- Risk Watch Symposium  
**June 17 & 18, 2009**
- Illinois State Fair  
**August 14-23, 2009**
- DuQuoin State Fair  
**August 28 – September 7, 2009**



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