



Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors

Spring 2010

Welcome!

The Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors is pleased to present the first IaSFSI Newsletter. The newsletter will be released quarterly, and will offer information about upcoming events, highlights from past events, IaSFSI Board and Membership news, training news from State & National levels, etc.

We would welcome any comments and/or suggestions you might have regarding future articles and features.

Please send your emails to iasfsicontact@gmail.com

Message from the Board

Thanks to the never ending work ethic and leadership of the Society's Vice-President Doug Kolkman, the IaSFSI newsletter has arrived. Doug has had some help along with way; the Fire Service Training Bureau staff, IaSFSI Board Members, IaSFSI Members, Doug's brother, and others have all contributed to make the newsletter a reality. The goal of the newsletter is not only to keep our members and friends updated on upcoming events and training information, but also to provide a forum for you to let us know your expectations of the IaSFSI. What I have learned in over 35 years experience in Iowa's Fire Service is that through cooperation and a combined effort, good things happen. I am asking you all to keep up the good work and let's make Iowa's Fire Service even better and safer.

Respectfully,
Lynn Manhart, IaSFSI Board President

Our Mission Statement

"The Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors provides effective and continuous leadership in training and education for Iowa's Fire Service."

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SAVE THE DATE!!!

2010 FDIC will be
April 19-24, 2010
in Indianapolis, IN

2010 Iowa Fire Service
Instructors Conference will
be November 19-20, 2010
in Ames, IA

2009 Instructor of the Year – John Ballou



Lynn Manhart, IaSFSI President, John Ballou, and Randy Novak, Fire Service Training Bureau

"I couldn't imagine when I went into this all those years ago that it would have lead me to this weekend," said John Ballou after receiving the prestigious honor of Instructor of the Year for the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors at the annual conference in Ames, Iowa on November 20, 2009.

John has been a volunteer fire fighter for the Audubon Fire Department since 1973 and a field instructor with the Fire Service Training Bureau for over thirty years. Working as a FSTB field instructor, John has taught hundreds of classes and been a lead

instructor for the FSTB Interior Fire Attack Simulator (a mobile training prop used for training firefighters statewide). John has earned the respect of his peers and is considered to be a guru in teaching the essential skills needed for becoming a firefighter.

Congratulations to John Ballou for this outstanding achievement!

If you wish to nominate someone for 2010 Instructor of the Year [click here](#) for the application.
(Due by September 1st, 2010)

Watch for an article from
Shane Ray in the
Summer 2010 Edition!

Message from State Fire Marshal – Ray Reynolds

Dear Instructors,

It is with great pleasure that I write this as your State Fire Marshal. In the last several days, I have been a part of several great training opportunities. Randy Novak and the Fire Service Training Bureau hosted Pleasant View, Tennessee Fire Chief Shane Ray for the Volunteer Fire Chief's Workshop. Chief Ray discussed unique approaches to firefighter safety. It was interesting to hear his policy regarding non-emergent responses and the relationship that decision had with motor vehicle crashes. The department responded over 900 times in a non-emergent status and a little over 100 times in an emergency status. The motor vehicle crashes involving his apparatus fell to zero compared to numerous collisions the previous year. Teaching firefighters to respond safely still remains a fire service priority.

As we look to provide the best instruction to our fire service customers, it will be important that we find a way to fund technology. As fires grow more toxic, more quickly developing, and more blackened, it is important we teach firefighters to get in and get fire knock down or get out! I have been on several fire grounds recently where firefighters did not realize how close to disaster they were. I grow concerned with press-board joists and the rapid collapse when subjected to thermal exposure. Our teaching methods should reflect current priority hazards while enforcing the minimum standards. The State Fire Marshal staff remains committed to providing assistance for any of your training needs. So the next time you're planning a live fire training event, don't hesitate to contact your local Agent, Inspector or the Fire Service Training Bureau to get involved. Obviously we have very tight budgets, but we will make every attempt to support you.

It is also important to me that we recognize my predecessor Jim Kenkel. His dedication to training Iowa's firefighters was clearly a passion. I look forward to opportunities where Jim will remain in the Fire Service and impart that knowledge that he has. Until next time, train real, train hard, and train safe!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Reynolds".

Raymond Reynolds
State Fire Marshal

Tips & Tricks of Members

Be Smarter Than the Students! What I mean is to be prepared, plan ahead, and practice for the course delivery. You need to do the extra leg work to know and research the subject matter. This may be as simple as a review of the material, research of different printed materials, the internet, or let's don't forget the Experts in the field! Practice what you are going to do. Don't try to teach what you don't know. That is when you will find out the Students are Smarter than You!

-Jerry Eslick, Training Officer for West Des Moines Fire Department

In this section we would like ISFSI members to submit to tips and tricks they have found while teaching. Please submit your thoughts to iasfsicontact@gmail.com.

*"He who dares to teach must never cease to learn."-
Author Unknown*

Instructor Training 101 – Failure to understand the material

A mistake an instructor should avoid – "Instructor Lacking Personal Preparation"

Something we're all accused of, arriving late to class, not properly dressed, inappropriate drinks during lunch, leaving the class room during breaks, or making inappropriate remarks. Fire service instructors must be above reproach. Instructors must arrive early and stay late. Instructors must be dressed for the event. It means either wearing a PPE or a suit. *A tip for the instructor:* We must dress slightly better than the student. Students wearing a t-shirt, we wear a polo shirt. Students wearing casual clothing, we wear a business suit. Of course, adult beverages should not be part of your practice during lunch time of the training event. Remember the Fire Service Instructor is in command of the class. Always plan an early night for a next day of teaching.

New E-Mail Address or Mailing Address?!?!?!?

Help the IaSFSI keep you up-to-date on the current events and happenings in the Iowa Fire Service by letting us know if you have a new email address or have moved!

Please e-mail your new contact information to iasfsicontact@gmail.com

Contact the Board

Visit our Website at www.iasfsi.org

Or

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