



# Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors

Fall 2011

## Message from the Board

Greetings Iowa Fire Service Instructors:

The long hot summer, with way too much water, has come to an end. With much of the flood water receding around the state, I hope this gives our first responders some time to recoup and think about life getting back to normal. I would personally like to thank all of those personnel who came to the western side of the state to assist with fighting back the flood waters. It was apparent that many had been trained in utilization of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). It is amazing how well things work when we are trained and have a plan to follow.

With those thoughts in mind, I would like to remind all of you of the upcoming Instructors Conference to be held on November 11 and 12 in Ames, Iowa and encourage your attendance. The conference always provides the instructors of Iowa an opportunity to exchange ideas and receive some great training. Make sure that you check the schedule on the Fire Service Training Bureau web site and send in your registration today. Hope to see you all there!

Thanks for all of your hard work.

Lynn Manhart, President IaSFSI

## Raffle Tickets!

The IaSFSI is currently selling tickets for a Raffle Drawing to be held at the Instructor Conference on November 12, 2011. Grand Prize is a Laptop, Projector, & Pull-Up Screen. Other prizes include Visa Gift Cards with values ranging from \$50 to \$250.

[Click Here](#) for more details!!!

Money raised from the raffle drawing will be used to fund future training events.

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## Our Mission Statement

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

## 2011 Fire Service Instructors Conference November 11-12, 2011 in Ames, IA

The annual Iowa Fire Service Instructors Conference is conducted for those who prepare and present training programs for fire, rescue, and EMS personnel, as well as those involved in public fire safety education. Whether you are just starting out, or have been involved in training for many years, this conference is meant for you.

Topics Include:

- Keynote Address – No Money, No Problem by Philip Oakes, National Assoc. of State Fire Marshals
- Legal Liability Refresher
- Lightweight Bldg Construction: Concerns for your Department (Train-the-Trainer)
- Developing Table Exercises for Your Fire Department
- Surfing the Web...Fun and Informative

**[Click Here for the Complete Brochure and More Information](#)**

**REMINDER: The IaSFSI will also be having our Annual Meeting starting at 4:45pm on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting there will be an election for two IaSFSI Board Directors positions. Please plan to attend!!**

## NFPA Standards Every Training Officer Should Know

### *NFPA 1407: Standard for Training Rapid Intervention Crews*

Does your department conduct annual rapid intervention training? If so, how do you decide what skills and evolutions you teach and perform? How many instructors should you have? What needs to be documented? The answers to all these questions can be found in the new standard, NFPA 1407. NFPA 1407 was introduced in 2010 and sets the guidelines for how we train our personnel in rapid intervention. It requires departments to have a written policy for rapid intervention training that meets the requirements of the standard and should include objectives, basic skills, equipment, and training evolutions. In addition, the standard outlines the instructor requirements and students prerequisites.

Operational topics that are covered include:

- Declaring a firefighter emergency
- Search techniques
- Access and Extrication
- Air supply
- Ropes
- Protecting downed firefighter(s) in place
- Moving downed firefighter(s) to safety; and
- Firefighter self-rescue techniques

NFPA 1407 does a great job of mapping out a rock solid RIC program. Meeting its requirements should be the goal of every department in the state. Individual copies may be purchased at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). NFPA 1407 is a standard that every Training Officer should know.

## Pride and Ownership in Your Department

“Pride and Ownership, A Firefighter’s Love of the Job” – That’s the title of a seminar I recently attended in Lanark, Illinois, presented by Chief Rick Lasky (Lewisville, TX). A class built on a fire fighter’s love for the job that had me laughing and crying throughout the day. While this class was built around the fire service and the job in itself, I am able to draw a distinct correlation to our roles as instructors.

Chief Lasky talked about passion, for the service, the job, and most importantly, those we serve with and those we serve. As fire instructors, we have enormous passion, or at least we should. His words made me think, “Do I still have the passion to teach, and do I still have passion for the topics I instruct?”

He spoke of pride, that in having pride in our station and selves, we create ownership in the fire service itself. I thought of the pride I have in instructing new recruits the history of the fire service, the fulfillment I feel when those I’ve passed my knowledge along to succeed.

Marketing our departments made me think how I can promote the idea to train to my fellow fire fighters; meeting the minimum standards isn’t good enough, we should strive to go beyond that. How can I convince them of specialized classes that develop skills that may save their life or the life of someone else?

Finally, he spoke of family. We all have our family, be it just our parents, a brother or sister, our spouse and even our children, we have our family. But we also have our fire service family, those we take care of when we’re away from our first family and are at the fire house. We have to take care for them as well. As an instructor, that’s a responsibility I enthusiastically accepted. I want to make a difference in their lives and I want to take care of them the best I can. Teaching skills that make a difference, be it out of the IFSTA manual or a specialized course, I’m passing part of me onto a “family” member. I’m leaving my legacy with those who will pick up the torch and carry on after I retire.

We as Fire Service Instructors have a very unique passion. We take great amount of pride in what we do. We try to get the word out to our members on the importance of training and improving their knowledge. Most importantly, we as Instructors play an important role in our “family”. We’re “raising the kids”, imparting onto them a bit of ourselves with every moment we teach.

Chief Lasky’s words continue to echo in my mind. He made me contemplate the type of person I am, the type of fire fighter I am, and the type of instructor I am. His short time with me made a positive impact. Remember always that your time with a student should do the same.

Shaun Ryan, Battalion Chief, West Burlington Fire Department; IaSFSI Treasure

## Tips & Tricks of Members

### Words to live by- words you never want to say.

The one thing you should never do is to apologize and say things like: "sorry we had to drag you in here today", "I know you don't want to be here", "this won't take long", or "hope this is not too painful." Always have pride and believe that what you're doing is important. Don't tolerate any BS from the members, especially during an important training segment. Try to be an expert in what you're training, but be open to comments and questions. Finally, if you truly believe in what you're doing, others will.

BC John Grillone, Battalion 12, Philadelphia Fire Department

In this section we would like IaSFSI members to submit tips and tricks they have found while teaching. Please submit your ideas to [iasfsicontact@gmail.com](mailto:iasfsicontact@gmail.com)

## Instructor Training 101 – Engaging Adult Learners


**Make it meaningful.** Adults search out, and tune into, learning experiences which have meaning for their lives. They want to learn about topics which are pertinent and which will make their lives better. You, as the instructor, must answer two questions at the beginning of every presentation, either directly or indirectly through discussions and the objectives.

First, you must answer the question, "How does this apply to me?" In other words, the learner must understand how the topic applies to them with their needs, their experiences, and their life situation.

Second, you must answer the question, "How will I benefit from this presentation?", or, "What's In It For Me?" The learner must see some benefit from the presentation if you are to **actively engage them in the learning process**. That should be your goal.

Create an environment where the learners are actively engaged rather than simply passively participating.

*Excerpt from 11 Keys to Engaging Adult Learners  
article written by Chief Ed Kirtley, M.A.*



*Be looking for more steps  
from Ed Kirtley's article  
in future editions of the  
IaSFSI Newsletter!*

## 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](mailto:iasfsicontact@gmail.com)

## Contact the Board

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Visit our Website at [www.iasfsi.org](http://www.iasfsi.org)

Or

Contact us by email at [iasfsicontact@gmail.com](mailto:iasfsicontact@gmail.com)

Or

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# RAFFLE

## Grand Prize

Laptop, Projector, Pull-Up Screen

**\$1**  
Per Ticket

**\$1**  
Per Ticket



**\$250**



**\$50**



**\$100**



**\$100**

Drawing to be held at the Instructors Conference  
on November 12

*Tickets may be purchased from any ISFSI Board Member*  
[www.iasfsi.org](http://www.iasfsi.org)

**NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!**