



Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors

Winter 2011

Message from the Board

Special thanks to everyone who attended the 2010 Iowa Fire Service Instructors Conference. We had an excellent turnout with over 155 attendees.

The silent and live auction was a tremendous success, raising over \$2,000 in a short period of time. The Green Bay Packers autographed football, Tony Oliva autographed baseball, and the Minnesota Fishing Trip were great hits with the bidders. We would like to take this time to not only thank our sponsors for their generous donations, but also those who participated at the auction.

Due to the overwhelming success of the auction, we hope to continue the silent and live auction at future events. With the additional funding raised, the IaSFSI will be able to support and conduct additional training opportunities for the fire service instructors of Iowa.

~Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructor Board Members

Save the Dates!

Watch for the IaSFSI Booth at various upcoming Regional Fire Schools!!
For dates and locations of 2011 Iowa Fire Schools, [Click here.](#)

Training Officers Workshop – April 30, 2011, Ames, IA

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

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2011 Membership Renewal

Remember to renew your membership to the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors for 2011.

Click here for [Application!](#)

Our Mission Statement

“The Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors provides effective and continuous leadership in training and education for Iowa’s Fire Service.”

Instructor of the Year – Roger Carr



Lynn Manhart, IaSFSI President,
Roger Carr, and Randy Novak, Fire
Service Training Bureau

Congratulations to Roger Carr for being the recipient of the 2010 Instructor of the Year! Roger has been on the Waterloo Fire Department for 22 years and has more than 30 years of teaching experience, including teaching at the State Fire School in the PITS when the PITS were still in use. Roger was nominated by his peers and a few of the comments include:

“Roger works hard and is a real inspiration to other instructors. I admire the work he has done over many, many years of great service.”

“I hope someday I will and can live up to everything he has accomplished.”

Thank you Roger, for your outstanding contribution to training in the Fire Service!!

If you know of a deserving instructor, nominate them for the *2011 Instructor of the Year* by filling out and submitting a [nomination form](#).

Instructor I Courses

Instructor I course is designed to prepare new instructors, or those wanting to be instructors, on how to organize and teach effectively, using existing lesson plans. In addition, instructor candidates will also learn how to use instructional aides and evaluation instruments, adapt lesson plans, organize the learning environment, and meet record-keeping requirements.

The following *Instructor I Courses* are being offered through the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau in the coming months:

North Liberty - February 5-6, 19-20, 2011

Osceola – February 26-27, March 5-6, 2011

Eastern Iowa Comm College – April 9-10, 16-17, 2011

Harlan – April 26-29, 2011

[Click Here](#)

For Applications and
Further Details

Instructor II Course

Instructor II course is designed to prepare current instructors with the skills necessary to develop lesson plans. Included in this course are: developing lesson objectives, instructional aides, and evaluation instruments; how to schedule training sessions; and methods of supervision and coordination of training activities.

The following *Instructor II Course* is being offered through the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau in the coming months:

Urbandale – March 9-11, 2011

Breaking the Ice

As instructors, we should all have a few good ice breakers in our toolbox. One of the most widely used ice breakers is to have all individual students stand up and introduce themselves. This ice breaker is easy, relatively non-threatening even to shy students, and gives the instructor a snapshot of the class. But, ice breakers can be much more than that when designed with some creativity and preparation.

Ice breakers are not just for opening a class. They can be used to introduce new subject matter within a course. Example: Your class is coming back from break during a ventilation class. The students were split up into four groups at the beginning of class during your opening ice breaker. You direct each group of students to take three minutes and brainstorm what tools they would take to the roof for vertical ventilation. At the end of the three minutes you have them write their ideas on a dry erase board or easel pad and explain why they chose the tools they did. So what did this ice breaker accomplish?

- It re-focused the students after coming off a break;
- The students interacted with one another;
- They shared ideas and had discussion; and
- The students have just given you a perfect segue into your next topic on your lesson plan: vertical ventilation.

Ice breakers can also be used to energize your students. We have all had classes where the energy level among the students was sub-zero. For whatever reason, you are doing your best to present the material and all you can see is the million mile stare coming from your students. This is a perfect time for an ice breaker. Getting your students up and moving will naturally boost their energy level. Your ice breaker can be as simple as having everyone stand and do some simple stretching or as structured as a quick 5-10 minute game of charades with a Fire/EMS theme.

Some tips on what *not* to do with regard to ice breakers:

- Never *insist* that participants share personal information
- Don't allow a 10 minute ice breaker turn into a 45 minute story-time
- Not all ice breakers are appropriate for all situations; don't alienate or exclude any of your students with the wrong ice breaker
- Avoid using ice breakers for very large groups in which they will lose their intensity.
Example: You have 30 students and you want to do individual introductions as an ice breaker. Unfortunately, by the time the last student gives his information, most of the group has zoned out. Solution: Divide the students into smaller teams. As you present the lesson plan, ask for input from one of the teams and have them introduce their team members. Present more material. Ask another team to introduce their members and give their thoughts on the subject. Repeat. During the first 40 minutes of class you should be able to get each team involved in discussion and complete the introductions.

Instructors should always be trying to improve their skills. Utilizing ice breakers as an instructional tool will help keep your students participating, focused, and energized. Developing and implementing ice breakers into a lesson plan also makes you a more versatile instructor. Challenge yourself. Include an ice breaker into your next class.

Captain Rich Rodewald
Drill Master - Council Bluffs Fire Department

Instructor Training 101 – Controlling the Environment

Have you ever been in a classroom that is too hot, too cold, too light, too dark, too noisy or too small? In some situations, the instructor is just stuck in a classroom that's just the wrong venue. The problem of heating, cooling and lighting can be easily adjusted before the class starts. A well prepared instructor will allow themselves extra time before the presentation to locate the classroom lights and temperature switches. Take that extra time to create the best learning environment for your students.

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

Contact us by email at iasfsicontact@gmail.com

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