



Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors

Summer 2010

Welcome!

The Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors is pleased with the positive responses we received from the Spring 2010 edition! We are continuing to work on future editions so we can offer quarterly updates on upcoming events, highlights from past events, IaSFSI Board and Membership news, training news from State & National levels, etc.

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

Please send your emails to iasfsicontact@gmail.com

Message from the Board

Since becoming a certified fire service instructor during the early 1990's, it has been a rewarding experience mentoring firefighters as they strive towards their knowledge and skills. As instructors we all must focus on our own continuous professional development with everything from basic and advanced fire service topics.

I recently was assisting with a Firefighter I class where I was filling in for the lead instructor. While driving home from this particular class, I spent some time critiquing my performance. Trying not to be too hard on myself, I came to realize that I need a refresher (continuous professional development) on the basics. Whether you are a seasoned instructor or a fairly new one, don't forget to revisit all the basic topics and avoid getting caught up and complacent in your presentation.

Respectfully,
Douglas Kolkman, IaSFSI Board Vice President

SAVE THE DATE!

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

This year's speaker will be **Ed Kirtley**. Ed is currently the IFSTA Projects Manager for Fire Protection Publications/IFSTA at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK.

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Be sure to get your nominations in for the 2010 Instructor of the Year Award!

[Click Here](#) for the application. (Due by September 1st, 2010)

Message from Shane Ray – International Society of Fire Service Instructors

Dear Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors Members:

It was a pleasure to be in Iowa in January for a Fire Team USA delivery in West Des Moines and again in March for the Volunteer Fire Chief's Workshop, even if both times I was there, snow was on the ground. This was the first time I had the pleasure of being in Iowa since visiting your Instructors Conference in 2006. One of these days you nice people will invite me to Iowa in the summer time.

I certainly enjoy Iowa and all that it has provided to the fire service and certainly the International Society of Fire Service Instructors. There is a former Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department (where I am the volunteer fire chief) intern working as a firefighter in Iowa City, Iowa. This person is Branden Sobaski, a homegrown Iowa boy with a fire protection education from Eastern Kentucky University, which is where I graduated from many years ago and certainly an active program for the ISFSI. As I write this note I am in Boston at the American Burn Association Conference in Boston, Massachusetts where I have had the honor of meeting Dr. Barbara Latenser, who is the Professor of Burn Surgery at the University of Iowa. Dr. Latenser said her agency would enjoy providing training programs to the fire service of Iowa. Of course my other tie to Iowa is Randy Novak, who was my professor when I was a student at Eastern Kentucky University. I enjoyed having Randy as a professor, but most importantly still as a mentor and supporter today. As Randy says in reference to me, "I taught him everything he knows, but not everything I know". Finally, I have to give credit to Chief Don Cox, who reviewed one of my EFO papers and is a long time member of the ISFSI. Without Chief Cox, I wouldn't have began presenting at national conferences and wouldn't have been as successful in managing the ISFSI in my early days of involvement.

I have to give a special thanks to Doug Kolkman for giving me the opportunity to share with you. I spoke with Doug at the Volunteer Fire Chief's Workshop and promised my delivery of information from the home office of the ISFSI.

The ISFSI is proud to say that our organizational charter is still maintained in Iowa thanks to Randy Novak and the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau for allowing us to utilize the Bureau for state paperwork. Also, the ISFSI is working on a Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. This grant will provide an instructional CD with a presentation and information in regards to lightweight construction versus legacy construction. The grant is going to share information with members on the many research efforts conducted by Underwriters Laboratory, the Canadian Council on Fire Research, and Tyco Fire Products. The grant is providing a great opportunity for the ISFSI to distribute information on a vital topic and hopefully our members will spread the word and the topic will continue to be built upon.

Finally, I would like to express how proud I am of the fire service in Iowa for not allowing the homebuilders association to limit a local communities' ability to provide fire protection. By this I am specifically speaking of a Bill in Iowa that would have prevented local communities from adopting more stringent fire protection codes than the state, specifically this time means fire sprinklers. If we really care about citizens and firefighter safety we will make sure no special interest limits our ability to best protect our community. Support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Everyone Goes Home Program and serve your citizens and firefighter with all available resources, which includes training.

Respectfully,

Shane Ray, Director of Government Affairs (Volunteer Position)
International Society of Fire Service Instructors
P.O. Box 162
Pleasant View, Tennessee 37146
(615)405-5661

Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) - 2010 Indianapolis, IN



Greetings fire service instructors and fire fighters.

When the idea of an Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors newsletter was developed, I was pleased to offer suggestions and commit time and resources to see the development of something the Society has needed for some time. Many years ago, the IaSFSI website had some of the information we are presenting, but rarely did you see any updates or had interaction. The board of directors is hopeful that you agree.

I had the good fortune to attend Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis, IN this year after a four-year absence. During the years I've missed, Indianapolis has been changing: tearing down the RCA Dome and building the Lucas Stadium. Currently, the convention center is undergoing a facelift. Our fire service, personal lives, workplaces and economy are changing as well and everyone has been affected. For example, Iowa is among the few states that has adopted a minimum training standard. With roughly 30,000 attendees, FDIC continues to deliver unparalleled training, networking opportunities, along with vendor displays.

Returning was somewhat of a religious experience for me, reconnecting with a number of people who had an impact in the fire service and hearing those folks that have or will soon become the leaders. Among them a fire department chaplain, who spoke passionately about why we were "chosen" to be firefighters, reinforced the religious aspect. If I may be so bold, it could be compared to being born again. Among the first of many Iowa attendees I spotted, were IaSFSI members Cliff McFarland and Jerry Eslick.

Keynote and guest speakers Div. Chief Cheryl Horvath, International Association of Fire Fighters General President Harold Schaitberger, Bobby Halton, Lt. Frank Ricci and others described obstacles, personal triumphs, sacrifices and the present condition of our fire service.

Subjects of the classroom sessions I attended were of leadership, developing tomorrow's leaders, keeping instructors happy (no small task), teaching the incoming firefighter, building construction and safety.

We realize that not many have the opportunity to attend such an event; however there is no reason that the Iowa fire service should not expect to have engaging topics, knowledgeable and involved instructors. Those who attend will usually bring back a number of new contacts, a class or a number of ideas.

I would like to challenge each of you reading this article to commit to training excellence. Unlike perfection, excellence can be achieved. Understand that with such a lofty goal, an honest assessment of your motivation, strengths and weaknesses must take place to identify the steps to excellence. Many articles and books are available that will be helpful guides but unfortunately, I am still looking for a far-reaching, comprehensive fire service instructor's guide. If you feel that you've achieved excellence, please become a mentor to those of us working toward the "goal".

In future articles, you'll see more details and find ways to stay the course and overcome obstacles.

Al Esch, IaSFSI Board Director

*The road to success is not
doing one thing 100 percent
better, but doing 100 things
one percent better
– Author unknown*

Instructor Training 101 – Sharing Life Experiences

"There I was, my team confronted with a fully involved room-in-content fire with fire rolling over our heads as we made entry!" Why are you telling the students this? Yes, your experience will confirm to the students that you have applied the tactics and techniques that you learned many years ago as you fought that structure fire. And that you have been there, done that, and got the t-shirt. But each life experience that you share with the students must be specific and related to the topic being presented. If sharing that you are a great firefighter isn't necessary to your topic, save those stories for break time or after class.

Tips & Tricks of Members – Fire Hose Practice

Hands on skills take a lot of time, space, and effort. Next time you are teaching a Fire Fighter I course and you get to Chapter 13 – Fire Hose, try a new method of using a 10 foot section of webbing. Since unloading hose from the apparatus and reloading is not always practical, use this section of webbing to practice hose loads.

Have the students tie each section together with a water knot (simulated holes couplings). Use masking tape to layout a hose bed on the table or in a cardboard box. Have the students practice hose loads, dutchmans, etc. This will be easier to observe and assist the student before breaking out the actual fire hose to practice hose loads.

-Rob Blindt, Fort Madison 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.

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

Our Mission Statement

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

Contact the Board

Visit our Website at www.iasfsi.org

Or

Contact us by email at iasfsicontact@gmail.com

Or

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Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors

Floyd Wm "Bill" Nelson Instructor of the Year Award

Guidelines

- Nominees must be members of the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors, and be or have been a Fire Service Instructor in Iowa.
- The Award shall be based on the nominee's activities over the past years.
- The standard application form, as supplied by the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors must be used.
- Each Active member of the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors may nominate only one person per year.

This award is presented each year at the Iowa Fire Service Instructors Conference. Nominations are due by September 1st.



Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors

Floyd Wm. "Bill" Nelson
"Instructor of the Year Award"

Nomination for: Floyd Wm. "Bill" Nelson "**Instructor of the Year**" award, sponsored by the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors. Please type or print all information.

Date:

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Department and/or Employer:

Explanation of why you think the above person should receive this award. Include any pertinent information which you believe the selection committee should know about this nominee. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

MAIL NOMINATION TO:

ISFSI
Fire Service Training Bureau
3100 Fire Service Rd
Ames, IA 50011-3100

Or Fax to: 800-722-7350

DEADLINE: September 1st

Signature of Person Making Nomination

Typed/Printed Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone Number: