<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marshal’s Minute</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Spotlight</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallen Firefighter Memorial</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medal of Honor Ceremony</td>
<td>6-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Geary 60 Years of Service</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Marshal Perez Open House</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson Awareness Week</td>
<td>18-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YFSI Charleston Class</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee with the Chief Aurora</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurora Regional Fire Museum</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSFM Graduated</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47th Annual EMS Week</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Fire Sprinkler Week</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFSI Minute</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSFM DEI</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Electrical Safety Month</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Safe Boating Week</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grilling Safety</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyro/Fireworks Training</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petro Customer Business Forum</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shout Outs/kudos</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids’ Corner</td>
<td>36-37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We honored our four fallen brothers from 2021: Chicago Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Pickering, Chicago Firefighter MaShawn Plummer, Sterling Fire Department Lieutenant Garrett Ramos and Wabash Fire Protection District Firefighter Mehdi Mourad during our annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Medal Honor Ceremony on May 10th.

We will be forever grateful for their courage and ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties. They put the lives of others ahead of their own, which is our highest calling. I also want to personally thank every firefighter who was recognized for their bravery in the line of duty during the Medal of Honor Ceremony. Illinois is home to a fire service that is second to none.

This year we also awarded Lieutenant Brian Kulaga of the Cicero Fire Department with the Medal of Honor. This is the highest award given by the State of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of outstanding bravery or heroism, by which the firefighter has demonstrated in great degree the characteristics of selflessness and personal courage above and beyond the call of duty, under adverse conditions, with the possibility of extreme personal risk.

Summer has arrived and many of us will be heading out to fire up the grill, visit our favorite camping spots or just taking a dip in the pool at our homes. Safety, especially fire safety should be a top priority. June ranks just behind July as the peak months for grilling fires. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), reports around 64% of U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ, grill or smoker. Gas grills contribute to a higher number of fires than charcoal grills. The NFPA reports 61% of households own a gas grill. On average, 10,200 home fires are started by a grill each year. Annually, 19,700 patients visit the emergency room with injuries caused from grilling. Thermal burns are the most common injury with over 9,500 reported.

According to the American Red Cross, 69% of young children who are found drowned or submerged in swimming pools were not expected to be in or at the pool. On average, 379 fatal child drownings occurred per year between 2015 and 2017. Children younger than five years old accounted for 75 percent of these drownings, 56 percent of which were attributed to a lapse in adult supervision.

There’s no single safety device or protective measure that will completely childproof your pool or spa to prevent every possible accident. To keep little ones safe, it’s important to always supervise children when they are in or around a pool and know where they are at all times. Adults should join youths in the pool or remain an arm’s length away in case they need help.
Scott Olinski
Fire Certification Specialist

Where are you originally from? Born and raised in Chicago, got married and settled down in the southwest suburbs

Tell us about your family? Kids, Significant other.....My better half is Barb and we have six kids with three grandchildren so far.

Favorite food(s)? Steak and Hamburgers (I’m a meat guy)

Hobbies? Golf, even though I’m not that good

What’s your favorite movie or book? Documentaries definitely

When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers? Probably country or the 70’s

What did you want to be when you were a kid? Astronaut (but I’m too big), Architect or Firefighter

What’s your favorite part of the job? Going out meeting, talking, and helping other Training Officers

What’s something unique about you? I always say I’m just Fat, Dumb, and Happy

Where is your favorite place to vacation? My kids will always pick Disney, but my wife and I are still feeling it out.

Where is your bucket list destination? Australia
The 29th Annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony was held on May 10th, at the Firefighter Memorial in Springfield. Governor Pritzker, Lieutenant Governor Stratton, Secretary of State Jessie White and Comptroller Susana Mendoza provided remarks during the ceremony. A wreath was laid in front of the memorial to honor those who have died in the Line of Duty.

“This memorial is dedicated to the firefighters of Illinois, who have given their lives in the line of duty, and to those firefighters who heroically lead with courage, pride, and honor. Michael, MaShawn, Medhi, and Garrett will live on in our memories, in the lives of those they’ve saved, and in the hearts of those they’ve touched. May their memories be a blessing.”

-Governor JB Pritzker-
Medal of Honor Ceremony - Gold Badge Families

Firefighter Medhi Mourad
Wabash Fire Protection District

Firefighter MaShawn Plummer
Chicago Fire Department
Medal of Honor Ceremony – Gold Badge Families

Lieutenant Garrett Ramos
Sterling Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Pickering
Chicago Fire Department
“Today at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial, we honored four of our bravest brothers who gave their lives in service to the people of Illinois. We will be forever grateful for their courage and ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties. They put the lives of others ahead of their own, which is our highest calling. I also want to personally thank every firefighter who was recognized today for their bravery in the line of duty during the Medal of Honor Ceremony. Illinois is home to a fire service that is second to none.”

-Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez-
Lieutenant Brian Kulaga of the Cicero Fire Department was awarded the Medal of Honor.

This is the highest award given by the State of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of outstanding bravery or heroism, by which the firefighter has demonstrated in great degree the characteristics of selflessness and personal courage above and beyond the call of duty, under adverse conditions, with the possibility of extreme personal risk.
Medal of Honor Ceremony - Medal of Valor

Engineer Jason Milakovich  
Evergreen Park Fire Department

Lieutenant Chad Busick  
Danville Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic Colin Fuhrmann  
Collinsville Fire Department

Firefighter Jeff Kimpel  
Sterling Fire Department

Lieutenant Adrian Avelar  
Sterling Fire Department

Firefighter Lucas Pfister  
Sterling Fire Department
Medal of Honor Ceremony – Medal of Valor

Firefighter/EMT Richard Drabik
Chicago Fire Department

Richard was unable to attend the ceremony so Chicago Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt and another member from CFD accepted the award.

Seven firefighters were honored with the Medal of Valor award. The award is given by the State of Illinois to a firefighter for an act of heroism or bravery that clearly demonstrated courage and dedication in the face of danger while in the performance of duty.
## Medal of Honor Ceremony - Award Recipients

**Fifteen firefighters received the Firefighter Excellence Award for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence and professionalism in service to their fellow Illinoisans.** Recipients include:

**Calumet City Fire Department**
- Firefighter Scott Hinko

**Centralia Fire Department**
- Firefighter Drake Tate

**Centralia Fire Protection District**
- Engineer Ross Smith

**Champaign Fire Department**
- Engineer Brian Smith

**Danville Fire Department**
- Firefighter Easton Hoskins

**Galesburg Fire Department**
- Captain James Pendergast
- Firefighter Kyle Harms

**Lockport Township Fire Protection District**
- Firefighter/Paramedic Dustin Vandermeir
- Firefighter/Paramedic Christopher Isabelli

**South Holland Fire Department**
- Firefighter/Paramedic Steven Devaney
- Firefighter/Paramedic Alex Heavey
- Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Wenk
- Firefighter/Paramedic Luke DeYoung

**Sterling Fire Department**
- Lieutenant Garrett Ramos
- Firefighter Nick Hammer

**Twelve units received the Firefighter Excellence "Unit Citation" Awards for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence, teamwork, and professionalism in service to Illinois residents.** Recipients include:

**Bensenville Fire Protection District, Incident #21-3340**
- Battalion Chief Angel Reyes
- Lieutenant Nevin Hahn
- Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Sochacki
- Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Walter
- Firefighter/Paramedic Zach Schneeberger
- Firefighter/Paramedic Mateo Valadez

**Calumet City Fire Department, Incident #21-4139**
- Captain Tim McGanonn
- Captain Ron Tenzera
- Engineer Steve Drew
- Engineer Mike Ball
- Engineer Aaron Borowski
- Firefighter Rick Graser
- Firefighter Chris Pierce
- Firefighter Steve Uthe
- Firefighter Alex James
- Firefighter Cesar Garcia
- Firefighter Ryan Banks

**Centralia Fire Department, Incident #21-1790**
- Lieutenant Robert Smith, Jr.
- Firefighter Jeff Kleiboeker (Huey Ferris Boulder Fire Protection District)
## Medal of Honor Ceremony - Award Recipients

### Firefighter Excellence "Unit Citation" Awards

#### Continued:

**Calumet City Fire Department, Incident #21-2470**
- Captain Mike Flanagan
- Captain Tom Dukups
- Lieutenant Ryan Hornback
- Engineer Chris Sullivan
- Engineer Eric Wieser
- Firefighter Bryan Lowery
- Firefighter Joe Okichich
- Firefighter Nick Panzcuk
- Firefighter Mike Peterlin
- Firefighter Piepenbrink
- Firefighter Chuck Schultz
- Firefighter Dan Vasilak

**Champaign Fire Department, Incident #21-0003629**
- Lieutenant Mike Bayless
- Engineer William Bleich
- Firefighter James Rear
- Lieutenant Jason Rector
- Engineer Russ Houston
- Firefighter Paul Doyle
- Lieutenant Mathew Plutz
- Engineer Stephen McConkey
- Lieutenant Chad Pruitt
- Firefighter Alex Kocher
- Firefighter Evan Brewbaker
- Lieutenant Bradley Diel
- Engineer Jeremy Allen
- Firefighter Justin Kaiser
- Lieutenant Chip Haake
- Engineer Cole Hunt
- Firefighter Elliott Kraft
- Firefighter Zachary Tish

**Chicago Fire Department, Incident #21-006-1733-00**
- Firefighter/EMT David Pae
- Captain/EMT Robert Fleckenstein
- Firefighter/Paramedic Mario Cerna
- Firefighter/Paramedic Wilfredo Rodriguez

**Collinsville Fire Department, Incident #21-00057**
- Lieutenant Chris Castens
- Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Wilderman
- Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Gulledge
- Firefighter/Paramedic John Canull
- Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Verner
- Lieutenant Frank Arnold
- Firefighter Eric Freeman
- Firefighter David Badgett

**Evergreen Park Fire Department, Incident #21-2308**
- Captain Frederick Vollinger
- Acting Lieutenant Andrew Turner
- Engineer Raymond Fineron
- Firefighter Austin Cangelosi
- Firefighter Justin Rehnquist
- Firefighter Michael Murphy
- Firefighter Thomas Simich
- Firefighter Robert Williams
- Firefighter Colin Zofkie
- Firefighter Anthony Schickel
- Firefighter Larry Whitehorn

**Galesburg Fire Department, Incident #0000734**
- Firefighter Anthony McKillip
- Firefighter Kyle McGee
- Firefighter Andrew Johnson

**Danville Fire Department, Incident #21-0002378**
- Captain Sean O’Kane
- Firefighter Kaleb Thompson
Medal of Honor Ceremony – Award Recipients

Firefighter Excellence "Unit Citation" Awards Continued:

South Holland Fire Department, Incident #21-4300104
- Firefighter Edward Ritzema
- Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Kearney
- Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Bruegmann
- Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Lampkin
- Firefighter/Paramedic Jon Sloop (Glenwood Fire Department)
- Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Pelc (Glenwood Fire Department)

Homer-Sidney Fire Protection District, Incident #21-0000181
- Lieutenant Jeremy Richards
- Firefighter Mike Brann
- Lieutenant. Corey Lilly

The State Fire Marshal Life Safety Award is given in recognition of the extraordinary efforts performed by individuals in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety.

Anthony Rodkey
Countryside Fire Protection District

OSFM P&CS Statewide Administrator
Scott Johnson
OSFM Personnel- Operations
The OSFM paused on Memorial Day to remember and honor our brave heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedom. Thanks to their selfless act, we continue to enjoy the freedom in the country that we love.
The OSFM recognized former Wyoming-Speer Firefighter Charlie Geary Jr. for his 60 years of service to the department. Charlie was on the department from 1960 to 2020. His last few years, he ran the base radio. According to the members of the department, Charlie loved being at the station. Congratulation Charlie and thanks for your service to your community!
After 7 years of service to the State of Illinois and
Over 37 Years in Public Safety

Illinois State Fire Marshal
Matt Perez
Illinois State Fire Dog
Norman Perez
are retiring from the

Join us for an Open House on
June 29th, 2022, from 1 PM to 4 PM.

OSFM Headquarters Auditorium
1035 Stephenson Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62703

We look forward to celebrating with you!
Arson Awareness Week

The theme for Arson Awareness Week 2022 (May 1-7), Arson in Homeless Communities: Engagement – Education – Outreach.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), municipal fire departments in the United States responded to an estimated an annual average of 52,260 intentionally set structure fires in the five-year period from 2014 to 2018. These fires caused an estimated 400 civilian deaths, 950 civilian injuries, and $815 million in direct property damage each year. Three in five intentional structure fires occurred in residential properties and most of these fires involved homes. The incidence of these fires typically peaks in March and April and again in July. In 2021, OSFM Arson Special Agents responded to 1,053 investigations and canine teams assisted in 202 investigations. In 2021, the OSFM’s Arson Division closed 41 arson related cases with an arrest. The OSFM Arson Division consist of seven Accelerant Detection Canines and 17 Special Agents who aid and assist fire and police department across the state.

A statewide Arson Hotline, (800) 252-2947, has been established so that citizens may anonymously provide information about a suspicious fire that has occurred or may occur.

Arson fires are preventable through education and awareness such as the Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program. To request help from this program you can call 1-844-689-7882 or visit the OSFM website at www.sfm.illinois.gov.
“I look at investigating fires as putting together a puzzle. You need all the pieces in order to see the big picture. As an Arson investigator, that is what I am trying to do. It can be very difficult at times because a lot of the pieces are burned up in the fire. When that happens, I look at other ways to see those pieces. It is very rewarding when I am finally able to see the big picture and be able to determine what caused the fire. I do this job because I enjoy the challenges that it brings. I love serving my community and I hope that my work makes a difference in people’s lives.”

Special Agent Duckworth

“I really enjoy the science behind arson investigation. I also enjoy helping people in their time in need.”

SA John McGee
Arson Awareness Week

Canine Agent GG
Canine Agent Phantom
Canine Agent Sasha
Canine Agent Kit
Canine Agent Gunny
Canine Agent Ross
Canine Agent PJ

OSFM Accelerant Detection Canines
Arson Awareness Week

Prevent Youth Firesetting

Children are often curious about fire. While curiosity is normal, there are things you can do to prevent your child from experimenting with fire.

Teach your child:
- Fire is dangerous.
- Even small fires can spread very quickly.
- Fire is a tool, not a toy, and must only be used by adults.

You can make your home safer by:
- Inspecting it for fire hazards.
- Keeping lighters and matches away from children.
- Supervising children.
- Having working smoke alarms on every level and inside and outside all sleeping areas.
- Planning and practicing your home fire escape plan.

If you feel that your child is at a higher risk of experimenting with fire, contact your local fire department. Many fire departments have programs to teach your child about fire safety.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.
Youth Firesetter Intervention Class

The Charleston Fire Department is pleased to announce they will be hosting a Youth Firesetter Intervention Program class for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Here is the training information:

Date & Time:  Wednesday, September 14, and Thursday, September 15, 2022
   Wednesday:  8:30 am to 4:00 pm
   Thursday:   8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Place:  Charleston Police & Fire Training Facility
        1251 W. Madison
        Charleston, IL 61920

If you would like to register for this training, please click here:
https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Events/Pages/Youth-Firesetter-Interventionist-Class-Charleston.aspx

This class is limited to 20 due to the current COVID-19 distancing safety measures.

There is a fee of $100 per student for this class. Please make the check payable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and mail it to the Office, prior to the training date.

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal
   Arson Division — YFSIP
   1035 Stevenson Drive
   Springfield, IL 62703

For further information, please feel free to call me at (217) 415-7206, or email me Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Charleston!

Simony Weyforth
Youth Fire Setter Program Coordinator
Coffee with the Chief Aurora

On this Episode of Coffee with the Chief, Fire Marshal Perez heads to his home department, Aurora where he sits down with now retired Aurora Fire Chief Gary Krienitz to learn about what the future of the department looks like.

This episode was shot just days before Chief Krientiz retired from the department.

To view this episode, visit: https://youtu.be/26RbqMoRztk

If you would like to have your department featured on Coffee with the Chief, you can contact OSFM PIO JC Fultz by email at jc.fultz@illinois.gov
The Aurora Regional Fire Museum served as the host for our Coffee with the Chief segment. While we were there, we spoke with Executive Director Brian Failing about the history of the Aurora Fire Department and museum, along with the many different exhibits. Make sure to visit their website https://www.auroraregionalfiremuseum.org/ and Facebook page for upcoming events and exhibits this summer!

To learn more and to watch the interview visit: https://youtu.be/dkuQ4XtgfRk
OSFM Graduates

Travis Armstead II
Clifford University
(Joyce Armstead)

Diana Thomas
UIS
(John Thomas)

Bryce Torricelli
Columbia College
(Mary Torricelli)

Alex Junge
Lake Land College
(Sean Junge)

Brianna Passmore
High School
(Charlatta Passmore)

Not Pictured:
Maggie
Master’s Degree &
Promoted to L.T.
Commander in Navy
(Cathy Stoshak)

Nick Trover
High School
(Charlene Trover)

Kolton Mattingly
Kindergarten
(Ashley Mattingly)

Derrek Thomas
Pre-K
(John Thomas)

Francesca & Angelica Capuani
Pre-K
(Bob Capuani)

Congratulations
OSFM
2022 Graduates
#OSFMTgether
EMS week was May 15-21 with this year’s theme of EMS Week: Rising to the Challenge. EMS resources and personnel have been pushed hard over the past couple of years. The on-going COVID pandemic continues to pose challenges, but members continue to provide care to everyone. EMS personnel continue to rise to the challenge in the face of whatever situation or obstacle is thrown in their path. The OSFM thanks these individuals who continue to answer the call to help those in need.

Each day of the week had a theme:

Sunday: Health, Wellness, and Resilience Day
Monday: Education Day
Tuesday: EMS Safety Day
Wednesday: EMS for Children Day
Thursday: Save-A-Life Day
Friday: EMS Recognition Day

A little history of EMS Week. In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation’s communities. National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine’s frontline.
Home Fire Sprinkler Week was May 15th-21st. In its fifth year, the Week is co-hosted by the Fire Sprinkler Initiative project of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC). The event focuses on the home fire problem and the need for better understanding of the life safety benefits of installed home fire sprinklers. The free, online digital messaging and local outreach activities will help departments of any size and type achieve their community risk reduction goals through local education and outreach. Each day of the week focused on a particle fire sprinkler topic:

**Monday**: Fire is Fast, Sprinklers are Faster
**Tuesday**: Sprinklers are Smart & Green
**Wednesday**: Easy to Live with Sprinklers
**Thursday**: Part of Fire Safe Communities
**Friday**: Protect What You Value Most

According to NFPA, more than three-quarters of all civilian fire deaths occur in home fires. The vast majority of these fatal fires are preventable, and their causes are largely the same as they have been for many years. Fire safety advocates work hard to educate about home fire dangers, but every fire cannot be prevented.
AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

The summer training season is officially here! The energy on the training grounds has been a refreshing reminder of our pre-COVID days and we look forward to executing our traditional delivery models for our annual summer events.

SUMMER SPECIAL EVENTS:

98th Annual Fire College – June 3-5
19th Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School – June 9-12
For the first time since 2019, we will host both annual training events, under the traditional multi-day schedule, on grounds in Champaign this June. We cannot wait to welcome back our students, instructors, staff, and guests as we experience the training and traditions associated with IFSI summer events. Registration remains open for both programs: fsi.illinois.edu

TEAM IFSI RESOURCES:

A reminder that Team IFSI Training Program resources are still available. Team IFSI Training partners your fire department training division with the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Team IFSI is a basic three-year cycle training plan, to include support materials that allow a training officer or company officer to provide a fundamental and comprehensive training program for their department or crew. The support materials are packaged in an easy-to-use lesson plan. They include access to PowerPoint presentations, skill sheets, drill plans, and supporting video materials that are needed to deliver quality and effective training. All Team IFSI resources are available at no-cost to departments. For complete details: fsi.illinois.edu

CORNERSTONE PROGRAM:

Regional Representatives are already planning training programs through the end of the year. These courses are supported through the IFSI Cornerstone Program and available at no cost to Illinois departments or students. Additional course options are frequently added to the listing of available classes funded by the program. To view the complete listing and review the Regional Representatives are already planning training programs through the end of the year. These courses are supported through the IFSI Cornerstone Program and available at no cost to Illinois departments or students. Additional course options have recently been added to the IFSI Cornerstone class listing, to include resiliency training. To view the complete listing, visit fsi.illinois.edu.

SAVE THE DATE:

We will offer the 5th Annual Veterans in the Fire Service event this fall. Registration will open late summer for this unique personal and professional development training activity.
OSFM continues our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts and in May we are honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage. It is observed in the United States during the month of May and recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. In 1990, George H.W. Bush signed a bill passed by Congress to extend Asian American Heritage Week to a month. On May 14, 1991, a public law was passed unanimously by Congress and then signed by Bush, proclaiming May 1991 and May 1992 as Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month.
May is National Electrical Safety Month. This observance serves as a reminder to stay safe around electric appliances, equipment, and power lines.

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

REACHING TO SAFETY: Use Extension Cords Properly

- Roughly 3,500 home fires originate in extension cords each year, killing 50 people and injuring 270 more. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so keep these important tips in mind to protect your home and workplace.

DON'T attempt to plug extension cords into one another.

- Keep all outdoor extension cords clear of snow and standing water.

- Avoid overload extension cords.

- Do NOT use an extension cord or a power strip with heaters or fans, which could cause cords to overheat and result in a fire.

- Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or device being used.

- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.

- Inspect cords for DAMAGE before use. Check for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.

- Do NOT nail or staple electrical cords to walls or baseboards.

- NEVER use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots. Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit, which could lead to electric shock.

- Do NOT run through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a FIRE HAZARD.

- Buy only cords that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory.

- Do NOT substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.

Please share this free resource to save lives.
National Safe Boating Week is held from May 21-27, 2022, reminding all boaters to brush up on boating safety skills and prepare for the boating season. This observance week is the annual kick-off of the Safe Boating Campaign, a global awareness effort that encourages boaters to make the most of their boating adventure by being responsible.

Also keep in mind and practice the Boating Safety Seven so you can have an enjoyable summer on the water free from an accident or tragedy.

More safety tips can be found by visiting: https://safeboatingcampaign.com/

The Boating Safety Seven

1. Wear your life jacket
2. Take a boating safety class
3. Carry all required safety gear
4. Use your engine cut-off device
5. File a float plan
6. Be aware of weather and water conditions
7. Boat sober, and be considerate of others
Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

>>> Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.

>>> The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

>>> Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.

>>> Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.

>>> Never leave your grill unattended.

>>> Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

>>> There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.

>>> If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.

>>> Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

>>> There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.

>>> When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

FACTS

1. July is the peak month for grill fires.
2. Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.

nfp.org/education ©NFPA 2019
Pyrotechnics/Fireworks Training

The OSFM’s Fire Prevention Division hosted a Pyrotechnics/Firework training class for code officials in Normal on May 17th. Bob Wetzel, seen above, teaches the classroom portion of the training. A demonstration was conducted following the training class. The ATF and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources also had personnel on hand to provide some training for the morning session of the class.

The OSFM is offering two additional classes:

- June 7th Hoffman Estates
- June 8th Wilmington

To learn more about the classes or to register visit our website www.sfm.illinois.gov.
Petroleum Customer Business Forum

Pictured Left to Right: Aaron Sigler, Scott Johnson and Chris Lehnert

Members from the OSFM’s Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety attended the Petroleum Customer Business Forum and Tradeshow at the Schaumburg Renaissance Convention Center on May 19th. During the convention, these members talked to people about the division and answered questions that anyone might have. To learn more about our Petroleum and Chemical Safety Division, visit our website: www.sfm.illinois.gov.
OSFM’s Chris Bednarek is pictured with State Fire Marshal Perez after receiving is Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Designation.

Storage Tank Safety Specialist Jim Coffey was recognized for his 25 year of service and on his retirement. Pictured with Jim is State Administrator Scott Johnson.

Boiler Safety Division Administrative Assistant Kathy Dunlap received recognition for her 4 years of service to the OSFM as she retires from the State of Illinois. Pictured with Kathy is Chief of Operations Dale Simpson.
Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety

A smoke alarm makes a loud "beep, beep, beep" sound when there is smoke.

SPA RKY
Aprenda los Sonidos de Protección contra Incendios

Una alarma de humo hace un fuerte sonido “bip, bip, bip” cuando hay humo

Nick
Visite www.sparky.org - www.firepreventionweek.org
Sparky® es una marca registrada de NFPA. © 2023 National Fire Protection Association