



# OSFM February 2019 Newsletter



*Personnel Standards & Education employees recently attended the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructor's Conference in East Peoria, Illinois. Pictured left to right: Katherine Nunes, Mary Torricelli, Pete Stehman, Amanda Yingling, David Dallas, Kelly Cavanaugh, Greg Schuldt, Fire Marshal Matt Perez, Lee Buxton, Janet Patterson, Division Manager Mitzi Woodson, Chief Kent Tomblin, Deputy Director Alix Armstead and Supervisor Bill Clossen.*

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## From the State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



February 15, 2019 is a date that will forever be etched on the minds of members of the Aurora community, including mine. A lone disgruntled employee took 5 innocent lives from workers at the Henry-Pratt company. My heart goes out to the families that lost loving brothers, sons, and dads in this senseless act of violence. The bright spot that remains is the resiliency of our community and the ongoing outpouring of support, both emotionally and financially, that has resulted from this tragedy.

Having been born and raised in Aurora, by an Aurora police officer, and having spent 28 years on the Aurora Fire Department, my heart dropped when I heard the call come in for an active shooter, and then a following report of 5 officers down. As I responded to that scene, I knew the wounded officers would be friends and people that had my back at many calls throughout my career. I can only imagine the chaos that took place in the first minutes of the incident and the bravery they showed in pursuing the gunman further into the building while taking on gunfire.

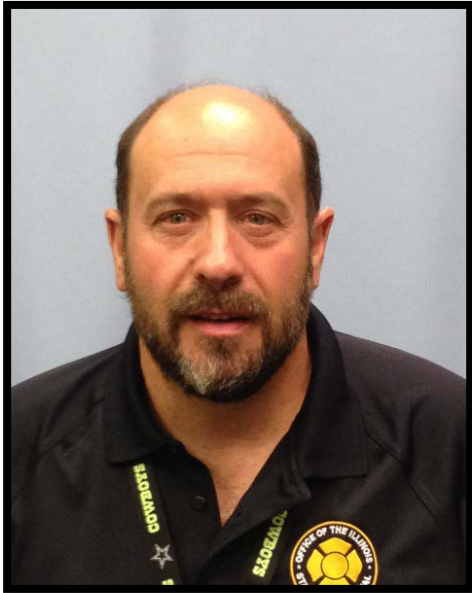
I have never been so proud of my brothers and sisters at Aurora's Police and Fire Departments. The training they have done to prepare for a day like this paid off in a big way. Seeing the waves of integrated police and fire department Rescue Task Force Teams working together to get first aid to the survivors, while police were still pursuing the gunman in the building, was incredible. The leadership of APD and AFD were flawless in controlling a hectic scene. The dispatchers that handled that call were unbelievably calm and strong in the face of a very emotionally charged situation. This incident brought out the best of the best. It also brought out the best in the other police and fire departments that responded to the scene or to cover areas of the city during the incident.

My ongoing prayers go out to the families of the victims and to the APD officers as their injuries heal. The efforts to recover from this incident have taken on the theme of "Aurora Strong", but after witnessing the backup provided by local, county and state agencies, including the Illinois State Police, I would expand that to "Illinois Strong".

Matt Perez, Illinois State Fire Marshal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Perez".

## Employee Spotlight Bob Sutton, Fire Prevention Inspector



For almost 6 years, Bob Sutton has been assigned to the Northern Region of Illinois as a Fire Prevention Inspector. His duty is to inspect and ensure no building endangers persons or property due to faulty construction, age or lack of repair. Bob says his greatest success and reward in this field and position is to be able to conduct an inspection that may have numerous and very costly, complex and serious code deficiencies, and to be able to educate and work with a customer to bring the building into compliance. Fire Prevention Manager Dale Simpson says, “Bob has proven to be a valuable asset to the Fire Prevention Bureau, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the citizens of Illinois. His dedication to expanding his knowledge base, and understanding the responsibilities and applications of his job duties result in enhanced safety for all citizens in his assigned area.”

Born in Chicago, Bob has lived in Michigan, Indiana, Canada and Texas. He received his education from Tarrant County College in Ft. Worth Texas, South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois and Texas A & M University. He studied fire investigation, fire protection, criminal justice, building construction and industrial hygiene and attended courses at the National Fire Academy.

Bob started his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter and eventually became a full-time firefighter and EMT. After being promoted through the ranks, he became a fire prevention inspector and fire marshal. At that time, Bob also completed the Police academy. He then joined the Life Safety Division at the Indiana Department of Health, conducting inspections on hospitals, nursing homes and board and care occupancy. He also commuted back and forth at this time to the villages of Oak Park and Bensenville to work in code inspection and enforcement. Bob also was an instructor for the Northern 1 District Fire Inspector I and II training for Northern Indiana. Bob currently volunteers with a neighboring state in his free time as a Fire Investigator for local county organizations, to give back to the community.

Bob has been married for over 20 years and has three kids and two grandsons. His hobbies include visiting with family and friends; riding his motorcycle, A.T.V. and snowmobile; hunting; camping; and restoring old cars.

State Fire Marshal Matt Perez says, “Bob has been a wonderful addition to the Fire Prevention Division team and we are lucky to have his expertise in Illinois. His dedication to our state and the protection of all the citizens of Illinois is commendable.”

**OSFM News****IN MEMORY**

**Edmond Joseph “Ed” Heffernan** 1941-2019, Ed Heffernan was a former OSFM employee from 1983-2000 and worked in the Fiscal/HR division.

**Mark Grega** 1966-2019, of Strictly FX and current Board member for the OSFM Flame and Proximate Licensing Committee

**Stephen A. Purpora** 1964-2019, licensed OSFM contractor and International UST expert.

**Brian McCormick** 1969-2019, of BMPC, Inc, licensed OSFM UST contractor.



*(Photo Left to Right) Jefferson County Chief Robert Beal, retiree Ernest Collins and OSFM Fire Certification Specialist Peter Stehman.*

OSFM’s Peter Stehman presented this 55-plus years’ service award to Earnest Collins of the Jefferson County Fire Department and previously the New Lenox Fire Department. Ernest is also a retired Master Sergeant from the Illinois State Police.

Check out the OSFM 2018 Annual  
Report at:

[https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/  
SFMDocuments/Documents/OSFMA  
Annual%20Report2018.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/SFMDocuments/Documents/OSFMAAnnual%20Report2018.pdf)



ISO-Class 1



State Fire Marshal Matt Perez congratulates Chief Deicke and the Batavia Fire Department on their recent ISO Class 1 Insurance ranking.



State Fire Marshal Matt Perez congratulated Chief Ryan Lambert and the North Aurora Fire Department on their recent ISO Class 1 Insurance Ranking.



State Fire Marshal Matt Perez congratulated Chief Lauss and the Urbana Fire Department on their recent ISO Class 1 Insurance ranking.

## Making a Difference

An email about the recent Illinois State Fire Service Instructor’s Conference and the OSFM’s participation:

*I just wanted to thank you, the Fire Marshal and all of the OSFM staff for attending this year’s ISFSI conference. It speaks volumes that you and your staff make it a priority to attend our conference, present us with current information and develop good working relationships with all of the Training Officers in the state. I feel the most beneficial portion of the whole weekend was the OSFM presentation delivered by you and Bill. I hope the time allotment for you and Bill grows in the future as the information you present is so valuable. Thank you for everything you do and all the headaches endured for us. Keep up the good work on the re-certification program, it is a good idea that will continue to build our members up. Please feel free to share this "thank you" with your staff. It truly means a lot from a Training Officer's perspective to have a Fire Marshal’s office that obviously cares so much about the firefighters throughout the entire state.*

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## NFPA Safety Guide



# GET READY!

## BLACKOUTS

Severe weather and storms can cause power outages and restoring power can take time. In some instances, such as during extended periods of hot weather, power companies may schedule periods of power outages to help conserve power across the board.

### Before

- Conserve energy to help reduce the threat of a power outage.
- Have flashlights, a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio, and extra batteries on hand.
- Set aside extra water and buy or make extra ice.
- If you have space in your refrigerator or freezer, keep plastic containers filled with water, leaving about an inch of space in each one. The chilled or frozen water will help keep food cool during power outages.
- Be prepared to cook outside.
- If you take any medications that must be refrigerated, check with your doctor or pharmacist to determine how long medications can last.
- Back up computer files regularly.
- Have some form of phone that does not require electricity, either a standard telephone or a cellular phone, rather than a cordless telephone.
- Keep your vehicle's gas tank at least half full.
- If you have any specific needs or disabilities that require electrical equipment, make plans for dealing with a power outage.

### During

- Never use candles for emergency lighting, use flashlights.
- Turn off any electrical equipment you were using when the power went out. Leave one light on so you know when the power returns.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- Use generators safely. Don't run a generator inside a home or garage. Connect the equipment you want to run directly to the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system. Keep instructions with the generator and be familiar with its use.
- Use the telephone only for emergencies.
- Listen to the radio for updates.
- Eliminate unnecessary travel.
- If it is hot outside, take steps to remain cool. If it is cold, take steps to remain warm.



- If you are in your car when a power line falls on it, stay in the vehicle and do not touch anything on the outside of the vehicle. Use your horn or cell phone to signal for help.
- Short-term power outages usually occur during peak energy usage times, usually between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, and typically last one hour.

### After

- Stay away from downed power lines.
- Do not refreeze any dairy products, seafood, or food that has thawed completely and been above 40° for more than two hours, or anything with a questionable texture or smell. If in doubt, throw it out.

For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Association at [www.nfpa.org/disaster](http://www.nfpa.org/disaster).  
Developed by NFPA. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness.



# Kids' Corner

Unscramble the words: hint- they all have to do with fire safety.

gterffeirhi \_\_\_\_\_  
 deradl \_\_\_\_\_  
 kesom tcroeetd \_\_\_\_\_  
 wlrc a \_\_\_\_\_  
 geermcne \_\_\_\_\_  
 rsnei \_\_\_\_\_  
 gemnite clpae \_\_\_\_\_  
 refi ushexngeriti \_\_\_\_\_  
 xiet \_\_\_\_\_



Directions: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate letters.

A	C	E	H	K	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	Y
→	✋	☎	✂	📖	🕒	📄	👄	❄	🎵	✦	➔	☑	Δ

➔	☎	✦	➔	Δ	❄	☑	🎵	✦	📄	❄	📖	☎
→	🕒	→	🎵	📄	→	➔	🕒	☎	→	✦	➔	
❄	👄	✋	☎	→	📄	❄	👄	➔	✂			

