



# Marshal Matters: December 2019 Edition

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## Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



Cold temperatures mean Illinoisans will be turning up their thermostats to stay warm this winter. The Office of the State Fire Marshal encourages residents to have their furnaces checked and to make sure carbon monoxide (CO) and smoke detectors are working.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating equipment is a leading cause of fires in U.S. Homes. Local fire departments responded to an average of 52,050 fires involving heating equipment each year in 2012-2016, accounting for 15% of all reported home fires during that time. Annually, these fires lead to the loss of 490 civilians' lives, 1,400 civilian injuries and account for around \$1 billion in direct property damage. Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January

and February.

Fossil fuels like natural gas are used to heat a vast majority of Illinois homes, and malfunctioning heating equipment leads to accidental carbon monoxide deaths. These can include your home's furnace, improperly vented gas appliances, kerosene or propane space heaters, charcoal grills and sterno-type fuels.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas which means it's important that you install and maintain CO alarms in your home. Carbon monoxide fatalities rise during the winter months and these alarms, when working, will give you a warning and let you know to leave your home when levels are too high. Never use a gas generator, grill, oven or range to heat the inside of your home.

In 2018, according to National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), Illinois Fire Departments responded to 8,965 incidents related to carbon monoxide.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are very similar to the flu and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. Other signs of possible CO presence include condensation on walls and windows, house pets becoming sluggish and chronic odors from malfunctioning appliances. If you suspect you may be experiencing these symptoms, smell natural gas leaking in your home, or if your CO alarm activates, if you can evacuate the building, do so immediately. You may or may not open windows as you leave, but get out. If someone is unable to leave the building, or unconscious, open doors and windows to the outside in the area the person is located and stay as near to the open window/door as possible until first responders arrive. Close any doors that open to other areas of the building to isolate the room the person is in. Turn on any exhaust fans that may be present. Once you evacuate, then call 9-1-1 from outside your home or at a neighbor's house.

Space heaters lead to countless fires due to improper use during the winter months. It's important to plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and not extension cords. Keep space heaters at

## Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez cont...

least three feet from curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding. Purchase units with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over or you forget to shut it off.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when it comes to winter heating safety:

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional; change furnace filters frequently.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturers' instructions.
- Keep interior and exterior air vents clear of blockages or obstructions.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like a furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before being placed into a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Create a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Test smoke and CO alarms at least once a month and be familiar with the sounds they make.
- Never use an oven or range to heat your home.
- Remember to turn off portable or space heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Install carbon monoxide and smoke detectors on each floor of your home and within 15 feet of each sleeping area.
- CO detectors have a limited life span, check the manufacturer's instructions for information on replacement.



*Santa filled in for Fire Marshal Perez for a day*

## Employee Spotlight



### Gwendolyn Saddler

**Where are you originally from?** Chicago, Illinois, Roseland Area

**Favorite food(s)?** Chicken, and more Chicken

**Hobbies?** Watching TV shows, taking trips with my girlfriends, going to basketball games and concerts.

**What's your favorite movie or book?** The Color Purple

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?**

R & B Soul

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** A Police Officer

**What's your favorite part of the job?** The relationship I've built with my Co-workers in the office

**What's something unique about you?** Crocheting and great at puzzles

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** ATL-Atlanta, GA.

**Where is your bucket list destination?** Visit Paris one day!

## FTRL/ARLP Press Event-North Park Fire Protection District



*OSFM held a media event at North Park Fire Department in Machesney Park on December 9<sup>th</sup> to highlight the Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program (FTRL) and Ambulance Revolving Loan Program (ARLP). North Park and Harvard Fire Departments both displayed their new fire trucks at the event which they purchased through the program. Chiefs from North Park, Harvard, Oregon, Win-Bur-Sew, Rochelle and Fire Marshal Perez were on hand to speak to the media about the importance of this program for departments across the state. Representative John Cabello was on hand to show his support for the FTRL/ARLP programs.*

*Fire departments and districts can apply for low or no interest loans of up to \$350,000 for fire trucks, with a term not to exceed 20 years and \$200,000 for ambulances, with a term not exceed 10 years. More information can be found here:*

*<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Iam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx>*



## FTRL/ARLP Press Event-Sullivan Fire Protection District



*OSFM held a media event at the Sullivan Fire Protection District on December 4<sup>th</sup> to highlight the Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program (FTRL) and Ambulance Revolving Loan Program (ARLP). Sullivan had their new pumper truck on display purchased through the program that just arrived a few days before. The media was also able to view a ladder truck and ambulance that Sullivan had purchased through previous loans from FTRL and ARLP. Chiefs and representatives from Sullivan, Dora Township, Maroa and Latham, along with Fire Marshal Perez were on hand to speak to the media about the importance of this program for departments across the state.*

*Fire departments and districts can apply for low or no interest loans of up to \$350,000 for fire trucks, with a term not to exceed 20 years and \$200,000 for ambulances, with a term not exceed 10 years. More information can be found here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Iam/FireDepartment/Grants-and-Loans/Pages/default.aspx>*



## Keep the Wreath Red Campaign



*“Keep the Wreath Red” campaign originated in Naperville, Illinois in 1954. This program was established to raise awareness about fire safety during the holidays. People introduce decorations into their homes which increases the risk for fire. According to the NFPA, December is the peak month for home candle fires.*

*OSFM placed lighted wreaths outside of the Springfield headquarters. A red bulb was replaced with a white bulb for every fire related death in the state from December 1<sup>st</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The white bulb represents someone who could be your relative, friend or neighbor.*

*Statewide, from December 1<sup>st</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup> there were 14 fire-related deaths.*

## Pilot BOF Graduation at IFSI

*IFSI's Basic Operations Firefighter (Blended) Pilot Class graduated 44 candidates on December 15<sup>th</sup> in Champaign. OSFM provided funding to cover students' tuition and lodging during the pilot program.*

*The Basic Operations Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I (Blended) is designed to give firefighters the practical and cognitive training needed to operate safely and effectively on the fireground in a flexible blended schedule leveraging online training and weekend hands-on practical. The goal of the program is certification for firefighter, especially geared toward volunteer firefighters that make up over 70% of all Illinois firefighters. OSFM's funding will help Illinois students attend at no cost to them or their departments during main roll out of the program in January.*

*More information about this program and how to enrollment can be found here:*

[https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/description.cfm?course\\_id=1064](https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/description.cfm?course_id=1064)



*Left to Right: IFSI Director Royal Mortenson, IFSI Deputy Director James Keiken, Fire Marshal Perez, OSFM Deputy Director Alix Armstead and IFSI Fire Fighting Program Director Thomas Shubert*

## First Responders Tree at Governor's Mansion



*Illinois' First Lady MK Pritzker and Governor JB Pritzker honored Illinois fallen first responders this holiday season. A tree in the Governor's Mansion had individual ornaments with a photo of the badge, name of first responder and date of their passing hanging on the tree.*

*The fire service had two line of duty deaths in 2019. Ornaments for Firefighter Kody Vanfossan of Christopher and Captain Jake Ringering of Godfrey are pictured on the right side of this page.*

## Chicago Holiday Party



*Bob "Clark Griswold" Capuani*



*Left to Right: Brittani Crenshaw, Edwina Wohlgemuth, Joyce Armstead & Gwen Saddler*



*OSFM's Chicago staff celebrated the holidays with a party at the Thompson Center on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Greek food was enjoyed by everyone and a white elephant gift exchange brought many laughs. The ladies in the office were very festive with their outfits. Clark Griswold was spotted at the party as well!*

## Springfield Holiday Party



*OSFM's Springfield headquarters celebrated the holidays on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff enjoyed Italian food and amazing desserts prepared by Cheryle!*

*The white elephant gift exchange was the hit of the day and had people in tears laughing. There were many festive outfits worn around the office.*

*OSFM wants to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!*



## Coffee with the Fire Chief



*Coffee with the Fire Chief is a new video segment where OSFM is highlighting small and volunteer departments across Illinois. In this segment, Fire Marshal Perez visits “The House of Blues” where Chief Mike Piper from the Sullivan Fire Protection Districts talks about the blue trucks and other unique challenges they face in the Sullivan and Moultrie County area.*

*Coffee with the Chief videos can be found on OSFM’s website:*  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/News/Pages/Coffee-withthe-Chief.aspx>



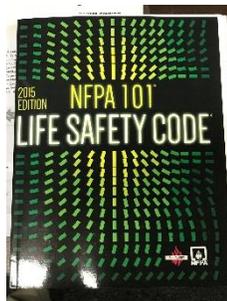
## Life Safety Code Training in S. Illinois and Springfield



*OSFM has adopted the NFPA 2015 Edition of the Life Safety Code which takes effect on January 1st. OSFM conducted Life Safety Code training classes in Carterville and Springfield on December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Attendees learned about the changes from the 2000 edition to the 2015 edition. This serves as the state's minimum fire safety standard.*

*If you are a local AHJ and missed these classes, OSFM is planning a few more classes that will take place in early 2020. Watch OSFM's website and social media for future classes.*

*More information about the update to 2015 Edition of the Life Safety Code can be found here:*  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/Life-Safety-Code.aspx>



## Community Risk Reduction Week in January

**What is Community Risk Reduction (CRR)?** CRR is a data-driven process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact.

**The goal of CRR** is to reduce the occurrence and impact of emergency events for both community members and emergency responders.

**What is CRR Week?** CRR Week is a grass-roots effort to promote using CRR concepts in any community across the nation.

**When is CRR Week?** CRR Week 2020 will take place Monday, January 20, 2020, through Sunday, January 26, 2020. It will kick off on Martin Luther King Day, which is a national day of service.

**Who can take part in CRR Week?** Anyone can take part! Any fire department or community, big or small, rural or metro, paid or volunteer. CRR applies to any community and is something any community can undertake.

**What is the goal of CRR Week?** Our goal for the week is to raise awareness among the fire service. First, share the role of CRR and show how any department, no matter what type or its location, can use CRR concepts to make the community and department safer.

**Why should I take part in CRR Week?** CRR Week is a great opportunity to help raise awareness amongst department members about the value of CRR in making the community safer - which also translates into firefighter safety as well.

**Who is organizing CRR Week?** The idea for CRR Week originated with individuals from various fire departments from across the country. This small group is serving as the catalyst to move it forward for the first time, but the idea is that this effort will be acknowledged across the country.

**How do I take part in CRR Week?** CRR Week is locally driven and a grass-roots effort. No one knows the risks in your community better than you. So, you can design your own campaign to meet your local needs. While we are suggesting each day focus on a different "E's", it is just that - a suggestion. It also depends upon what resources you have available. For example, volunteer departments may choose to use the weekend since that is when their members may be available, and citizens are home for home safety visits.



OSFM will focus on the 5 E's; Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Economic Incentive, and Emergency Response during CRR Week. Watch our social media pages and webpage for more. Funding is being provided through OSFM to help identify Illinois' needs and ways to help reduce risks.

# Winter Home Heating



Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!

 <p><b>Half of all home heating fires</b> occur in December, January and February.</p>	 <p>Heating equipment is involved in <b>1 in every 7</b> home fires and <b>1 in every 5</b> home fire deaths.</p>	 <p>Keep anything that can burn <b>at least 3 feet</b> from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.</p>
 <p>Keep portable generators <b>outside, away from windows, and as far away</b> from your home as possible.</p>	 <p>Install and test carbon monoxide alarms <b>at least once a month</b>.</p>	 <p>Plug only <b>1 heat-producing appliance</b> (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.</p>
 <p>Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents <b>every year</b>.</p>	 <p>Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it <b>outside at least 10 feet</b> from your home and any nearby buildings.</p>	



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter).

## Winter Home Heating

# Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

### BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-foot (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



## Heating Equipment Smarts

**Install** wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

**Install** and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



### FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



[nfpa.org/education](http://nfpa.org/education) ©NFPA 2017

## OSFM Making A Difference

Dear Robert, (Fire Prevention Division)

Our company was acquired by Fox Valley Fire & Safety, and our fire equipment employees must apply for new licenses to reflect the company FEIN# and name change. Vicki Fraase was most helpful in providing guidance and the proper forms. My general manager mentioned that Vicki's professionalism, knowledge, and most of all customer service skills in this situation was a topic of discussion amongst our upper management team. I told him that this was nothing new. I have worked here ten years, and I can never remember a time that Vicki hasn't been a great help and resource to us.

I would just like to bring this to your attention and let you know what a great employee Vicki is!

Regards,

Mary Colletti

HR Supervisor

**CHICAGO METROPOLITAN FIRE PREVENTION**

Fiscal Division

Ronny: Awesome, Thank you so much! You Rock!

Pam

# GO TEAM!



Ladies, (Personnel Standards and Education)

I went to Moline and Silvis yesterday and visited with the training officer from Moline and the fire chief from Silvis. (also did a training records review and a claims records review)

Both parties told me that the office staff (Amanda and Janet) from OSFM have been very friendly and very helpful any time those players needed assistance or had to contact our office.

Thank you ladies, hopefully I can live up to your reputation.

Marty

Debbie, (Fire Prevention Division)

It has always been and will remain my sincere hope that this program remains in place for local departments to advance their critical knowledge of such an important community occupancy. I have the privilege of working with the fine staff at our local ROE along with Inspector Tom Manis that has certainly made the program that much more valuable. In addition, it would be a great injustice to not recognize and thank you personally for your dedication to this program. It is evident from attending your trainings on school inspections to the efforts you place in ensuring we have the necessary tools in place, this program has not only endured but thrived. It is my sincere hope as well that more Departments see the value in participating in this program as we continue to develop and redefine our roles in working with our schools ensuring they remain a safe place from all harms.

David W. Durkota, Chief

Du Quoin Fire Department

## Retirements



*Terry Moore-Elevators Division*

OSFM thanks these three men for their years of service and dedication! Illinois is a safer state thanks to them!



*Terry Weedman-Storage Tank Safety Specialist*



*Ron Fowler – Fire Prevention Division  
Retiring February 1st*



# Kids' Corner



## Sparky's<sup>®</sup> Snow Globe

Can you spot the **12** differences between the two snow globes?



1. Tree is missing star
2. It is snowing less
3. Sparky's visor is missing
4. Sparky's scarf changed color
5. Sparky's ear is missing a spot
6. Boy's sweatshirt has a snowflake
7. Boy's shoe laces are missing
8. Boy has a snowman's mouth
9. Girl is holding candy cane
10. Girl's coat is missing 2 buttons
11. Girl's hat has a pom pom
12. There's a present under the tree!

*Answers*

THE NAME AND IMAGE OF SPARKY ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE NFPA.