

# 2024



## ❖ Annual Report ❖



Partnering with the Fire Service to Protect Illinois

# Message From The State Fire Marshal



## **To Governor JB Pritzker, the Honorable Members of the General Assembly, and the Citizens of the State of Illinois:**

I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual report for the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

The OSFM has a dedicated hard-working staff that have elevated the level of state government to new highs. This has been accomplished by following through on our commitment to excellence, perseverance, and a dedication to public safety. This commitment is reflected in the work that continues to serve the citizens of Illinois along with its many stakeholders in areas such as petroleum and chemical safety, elevator safety, arson and youth firesetting interventions, personal standards and education, boiler and pressure vessel safety, along with fire prevention.

The OSFM's staff brings an unprecedented level of professionalism in public safety. We have accomplished this by ensuring that we maintain a full, competent and highly trained staff who collaborates with and serves our local, state, and federal partners. This collaboration helps to defray the cost of training, equipment, facilities, and added personnel as we execute the most efficient practices of fiscal management and responsibility.

New to the OSFM this year is the procurement of green electric vehicles at no cost to the agency minimizing our cost and carbon footprint within the State of Illinois. We have also established and acquired a new drone program to improve our arson investigations by helping with the collection of more detailed and crucial evidence for our special agents in the field. Working with the Department of Revenue we have opened the Firefighter Volunteer Tax Credit portal three months earlier capturing as many deserving applicants as possible.

The new Fire Station Construction and Rehabilitation Grant assists many fire departments that lack the funds to either build or repair fire houses in areas of low or no economic opportunity. This in addition to our small equipment grant which serves to keep our career and volunteer firefighters at the ready for most emergencies or natural disasters by ensuring they have the equipment they need to help the citizens in the communities.

The OSFM is one of the premiere agencies in Illinois with the help of our DEIA agency officer. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is always in search of the most qualified and diverse staff from all regions of the state. This outreach is also applied to any business or contract procurement opportunity if possible.

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude and pride to the team of the OSFM. Their dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment have been the driving force behind our accomplishments this year as they work tirelessly to further the mission of the agency. The entire OSFM staff would like to also thank and extend our deepest appreciation to Governor JB Pritzker and the General Assembly for their continued support of public safety, that helps keep the citizens of Illinois safe.

**James A. Rivera**  
State Fire Marshal



# Table Of Contents

**Agency Overview .....4**

History.....4

Agency Mission.....4

Core Values.....4

Organizational Structure.....5

Financial Information.....6

OSFM Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.....9

Agency Safety & Security Officer.....10

Grants and Loans.....11

Personnel Standards and Education.....12

30th Annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial,  
Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony.....14

Legislative Affairs.....16

**Agency Operations.....18**

Division of Arson Investigation.....18

Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety.....20

Division of Elevator Safety.....21

Division of Fire Prevention.....22

Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety.....25

Technical Services.....27

**Fire Statistics.....30**



# Agency Overview

## History

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal was created through an Act of the General Assembly on June 15, 1909. The Act required the Governor to appoint a State Fire Marshal who would be responsible for overseeing the agency. The initial charge to the agency was to inspect buildings to ensure they were safe from dangerous conditions, as well as to conduct cause and origin investigations of fires and, if evidence existed, to require the arrest of individuals for the crime of arson. In order to fund the operations of the agency, the General Assembly established a tax to be paid by insurance companies on the gross premium receipts collected on fire insurance policies. This tax still exists today and remains the primary funding source for the agency.

Over the course of the next century, the mission of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal was expanded to require the agency to ensure the safety of Illinois citizens from other potential dangers, including regulating boilers and pressure vessels, elevators, fire prevention related industries, pyrotechnics, and underground and aboveground storage tanks, as well as by providing education, training and certifications to firefighters who choose to participate in such programs. Additionally, the agency makes grants and loans available to the fire service for training and equipment needs.

Today the agency is responsible for meeting or enforcing mandates contained in more than 40 state and federal statutes as well as the numerous rules associated with those statutes.

To learn more about the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal visit our website at <https://sfm.illinois.gov/>. You can see a short video about our office at <https://sfm.illinois.gov/about/osfm-video.html>.

## Agency Mission

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal is dedicated to working with our partners and providing assistance to the fire service in the protection of life, property and the environment through communication, inspection, investigation, certification and licensing.

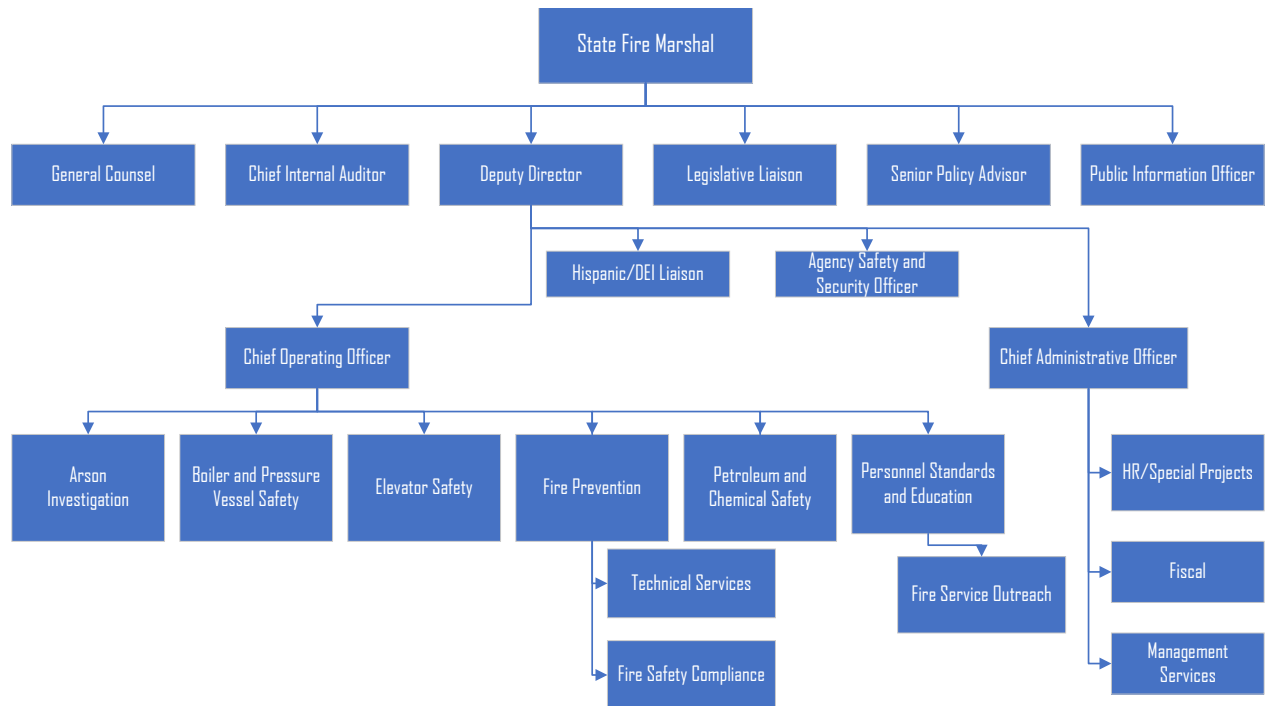
## Core Values

Integrity • Commitment to Excellence • Service • Respect • Teamwork





# Organizational Structure



## Financial Information

\$ Actual	FY24 Expenditures	FY25 Appropriation
<b>Fire Prevention Fund (047)</b>		
Personal Services	\$13,420,599	\$15,877,800
Retirement	\$7,036,612	\$8,157,400
Social Security	\$840,515	\$1,084,400
Group Insurance	\$3,038,169	\$4,413,300
<b>Subtotal - Personal Services and Related</b>	<b>\$24,335,895</b>	<b>\$29,532,900</b>
Contractual Services	\$1,190,537	\$1,160,000
Travel	\$261,521	\$250,000
Commodities	\$184,823	\$241,000
Printing	\$32,509	\$32,000
Equipment	\$383,713	\$2,055,500
Electronic Data Processing	\$3,081,526	\$5,502,600
Electronic Data Processing - Reapprop	\$0	\$1,029,174
Telecommunications	\$245,012	\$452,000
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$430,393	\$701,000
Refunds	\$1,255	\$5,000
<b>Subtotal - Other Operations</b>	<b>\$5,811,289</b>	<b>\$11,428,274</b>
DEI Activities and Outreach	\$0	\$50,000
Electronic Firefighter Certification Testing	\$408,142	\$590,000
Firefighter Online Training Management System	\$380,000	\$380,000
Youth Firesetter Interventionist Coordinator/Program	\$48,324	\$0
<b>Subtotal - Lump Sums</b>	<b>\$836,466</b>	<b>\$1,020,000</b>
Chicago Firefighter Training Grant	\$3,780,800	\$4,271,200
Community Risk Reduction	\$13,282	\$70,000
Cornerstone	\$242,359	\$500,000
DEI Curriculum Development for Fire Service Training	\$2,812	\$5,000
Explorer-Cadet School	\$80,000	\$100,000
Firefighter Training Programs - Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$190,598	\$250,000
Firefighter Training Reimbursement	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000



<b>\$ Actual</b>	<b>FY24 Expenditures</b>	<b>FY25 Appropriation</b>
Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction Grant	\$0	\$5,000,000
Hazmat Emergency Response Reimbursement	\$0	\$10,000
Illinois Firefighter Peer Support	\$75,000	\$75,000
Minimum Basic Firefighter Training	\$700,000	\$1,000,000
Mutual Aid Box Alarm System	\$200,000	\$200,000
New Fire District Grant	\$0	\$500
Research Activities of the Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$250,000	\$250,000
Senior Officer Training	\$20,346	\$55,000
Small Equipment Grant	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
<b><i>Subtotal - Grants</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,005,197</i></b>	<b><i>\$17,236,700</i></b>
Fire Museum Building Rehabilitation	\$54,378	\$2,500,000
Fire Museum Building Rehabilitation - Repprop	\$0	\$2,402,029
<b><i>Subtotal - Capital</i></b>	<b><i>\$97,971</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,602,029</i></b>
<b>Total - Fire Prevention Fund (047)</b>	<b>\$42,086,818</b>	<b>\$61,819,903</b>

<b>\$ Actual</b>	<b>FY24 Expenditures</b>	<b>FY25 Appropriation</b>
<b>Underground Storage Tank Fund (072)</b>		
Personal Services	\$2,279,053	\$2,605,800
Retirement	\$1,203,915	\$1,338,100
Social Security	\$166,337	\$199,400
Group Insurance	\$505,845	\$845,100
<b><i>Subtotal - Personal Services and Related</i></b>	<b><i>\$4,155,150</i></b>	<b><i>\$4,988,400</i></b>
Contractual Services	\$164,925	\$231,800
Travel	\$4,331	\$8,300
Commodities	\$0	\$9,000
Printing	\$2,518	\$3,500
Equipment	\$2,647	\$10,000
Electronic Data Processing	\$0	\$10,500
Telecommunications	\$24,245	\$19,000

\$ Actual	FY24 Expenditures	FY25 Appropriation
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$103,853	\$70,000
Refunds	\$0	\$4,000
<b>Subtotal - Other Operations</b>	<b>\$302,518</b>	<b>\$366,100</b>
Chicago Underground Storage Tank Program	\$550,000	\$550,000
<b>Subtotal - Grants</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>
<b>Total - Underground Storage Tank Fund (072)</b>	<b>\$5,007,668</b>	<b>\$5,904,500</b>

\$ Actual	FY23 Expenditures	FY24 Appropriation
<b>Fire Fighter Memorial Fund (510)</b>		
Maintenance and Rehab of Fire Museum Building and for Museum Artifacts	\$2,490	\$75,000
Medal of Honor Ceremony, Scholarships and Firefighter Memorial Maintenance	\$168,352	\$300,000
<b>Total - Fire Fighter Memorial Fund (510)</b>	<b>\$170,842</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>

\$ Actual	FY24 Expenditures	FY25 Appropriation
<b>Fire Prevention Division Fund (580)</b>		
U.S. EPA Underground Storage Tank Program Grant	\$545,741	\$1,000,000
<b>Total - Fire Prevention Division Fund (580)</b>	<b>\$545,741</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$47,811,069</b>	<b>\$69,099,403</b>
<b>General Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Other State Funds</b>	<b>\$47,265,328</b>	<b>\$68,099,403</b>
<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$545,741</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>



# OSFM Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



OSFM has taken significant action to advance diversity, equity and inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) within its organizational culture. We have affirmed our commitment to DEIA through memorialized policy and by creating essential infrastructure. Our DEIA goals are firmly incorporated into our Agency's strategic plan. These goals are both internally and externally focused. Our progress and outcomes are measured utilizing relevant universal and industry-specific metrics coupled with direct feedback from Agency staff as well as our regulatory stakeholders.

During the past year, OSFM has continued progressing toward various DEIA objectives. The Agency DEIA Peer-to-Peer Working Group met three times last year. The working group members shared their life experiences and current news trends impacting our communities. This active group is a safe space where everyone is free to be their authentic selves. Furthermore, this space educates and raises awareness among our staff on DEIA topics. This group also worked on our Agency's diversity recruitment plan. In addition, the Agency launched its second internal DEIA survey.

OSFM provided a grant to ISFI to develop an online DEIA training for firefighters, which went live in 2024, free of charge and available to all. This initiative has equipped our firefighters with the necessary knowledge and skills to serve our diverse communities effectively. Our Agency hosted our first Equity intern, Juelz Puckett, who researched ways to connect to black communities and core divisions.

OSFM participated in over ten outreach events tailored to the Black, Hispanic, Asian, LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented communities to bring awareness about our Agency. OSFM proudly marched at the Chicago Pride Parade, the Fiesta del Sol, the US Hispanic Leadership Institute career fairs, Manuel High School in Peoria, and Homewood-Flossmoor High School. These are just some events where our goal was to inform the community of OSFM's mission and, most importantly, build trust and a long-term relationship. At the same time, all divisions presented their divisions to various schools at different age levels on ways to enter their sector, pathways, and mentorship opportunities.

As we embark on a new year, OSFM has put forward an extensive DEIA plan for 2025. OSFM's external goals focus on engaging with the most marginalized communities in our state via the grassroots model. OSFM plans to build genuine relationships with community-based groups and trusted community partners located in marginalized communities and their fire programs. The Agency will tailor its resources to fit the needs of targeted communities through bilingual presentations and print media, ease of accessibility, and workshops. OSFM's vision is to be a trustworthy partner, informing communities of color about our great work and our focus on public safety. OSFM plans to work with our fire partners and advance DEIA in their departments and communities through our Diversity Officer.

Our internal efforts will include our recruitment plan, which will be implemented to help diversify the Agency workforce and more accurately reflect our state demographics. This plan is a long-term investment involving all field divisions connecting with fire programs in marginalized locations in our state.

The Governor's Office of Equity will be an essential partner in these efforts. The Governor's team had previously laid out six total goals to enable the Agency to address DEIA needs. In coordination with the Governor's Equity team, the Agency Diversity Officer will collaborate during the year to tackle each goal effectively. The OSFM looks forward to the coming year as we continue to work to achieve our DEIA goals and objectives.

# Agency Safety & Security Officer

In 2024, the Office of the State Fire Marshal re-established the Homeland Security position into Agency Safety & Security Officer (SSO). The SSO serves as the primary OSFM representative at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS-IL), and the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), as well as other agency planning responsibilities.

The SEOC was activated in August 2024 for the Democratic National Convention. Agency representatives responded in-person and virtually, assessing real-time developments to support operational decisions, ensuring that resources and personnel were allocated efficiently and working in conjunction with local law enforcement, public health officials, and emergency services to ensure that Illinois's role in supporting the event was carried out with full safety and security compliance. This collaborative effort contributed significantly to the seamless execution of the DNC while minimizing disruptions and ensuring the safety of participants and the public.

In anticipation of the 2024 Illinois State Fair and Du Quoin State Fair, comprehensive safety plans were developed and implemented, aimed at ensuring the well-being of attendees, vendors, and staff. Key components of the safety plans included conducting detailed risk assessments of both fairgrounds to identify potential hazards and security challenges; developing tailored emergency response plans, including evacuation procedures, locating first aid stations, adhering to fire safety measures; and overseeing safety operations during the fairs to respond to any incidents promptly and ensure that the safety plans were followed meticulously.

Throughout 2024, the SSO participated in various drills and response exercises related to the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA), ensuring that all emergency protocols for radiological incidents were effectively implemented. Key actions included conducting and participating in several multi-agency training exercises aimed at improving coordination and response capabilities in the event of a radiological emergency; reviewing and updating safety protocols to ensure they align with the latest national and state standards, ensuring optimal preparedness in the face of a radiological event; and collaborating with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure a coordinated response plan is in place for potential radiological accidents, enhancing the safety and security of the surrounding communities.

Throughout the year, the Agency attended and actively participated in regular meetings of the Homeland Security Advisory Council. These meetings provided valuable insights into current security threats and allowed for strategic discussions on enhancing Illinois's security infrastructure. Our involvement included contributing to discussions on state-wide security policies, cybersecurity threats, and emerging risks, building relationships with counterparts across various sectors, ensuring that OSFM was well-represented in key decision-making processes related to homeland security, and providing expert input on the development and implementation of state-level security policies, drawing on best practices from the fire marshal's office to ensure effective outcomes.

Looking ahead, the Agency Safety & Security Officer will lead the implementation of a newly formed Safety Working Group that will meet for the first time in 2025.



# Grants and Loans

## Small Fire-Fighting and Ambulance Service Equipment Grant Program

The Small Fire-Fighting and Ambulance Service Equipment Grant Program provides grants up to \$26,000 for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment by a fire department, fire protection district, township fire department or a volunteer, non-profit, stand-alone ambulance service. Applicants who are fire departments are required to have fully participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years immediately prior to the date of the grant application. Applications are assessed by blind review process by a committee who recommend grant awards based on equipment needs and financial need.

## Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction Grant Program

The Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction Grant provides grants of up to \$350,000 for the rehabilitation or construction of a fire station by a unit of local government. Applicants must have an active registration with SAM.gov and be registered with the State's Grantee Portal. Applicants who are fire departments are required to have fully participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years immediately prior to the date of the grant application. Grant applications will be evaluated by a committee using a blind review process who recommend grant awards based on space needs and financial need.

## Fire Truck and Ambulance 0% and Low-Interest Revolving Loan Programs

The Fire Truck Revolving Loan Program provides interest free and low-interest loans for the purchase of fire trucks or brush trucks by a fire department, fire protection district, or township fire department. Loans for fire trucks may not exceed \$350,000 and must be repaid within 20 years. Loans for brush trucks may not exceed \$100,000 and must be repaid within 10 years.

The Ambulance Revolving Loan Program provides interest free and low-interest loans for the purchase of ambulances by a fire department, fire protection district, or township fire department or non-profit ambulance service.

Loans may not exceed \$200,000 and must be repaid within 10 years. Applicants who are fire departments are required to have fully participated in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for a minimum of two years immediately prior to the date of the grant application. Eligible applications are assessed by blind review process by a committee who recommend loans based on equipment need and financial need. Applications recommended for funding are forwarded to the Illinois Finance Authority for an evaluation of creditworthiness prior to funding a loan.



# Personnel Standards and Education

The Division of Personnel Standards and Education (DPSE) is responsible for promoting, encouraging, and assisting local governments in improving the levels of education and training standards for local firefighters. DPSE is responsible for the standardization and enhancement in the levels of education and training for firefighters and professionals in Illinois with the highest priorities placed on safety and career advancement. DPSE operates under the mandate of the Illinois Fire Protection Training Act (50 ILCS 740), which provides for the promotion of standards to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. While the certification program is strictly voluntary, the OSFM and DPSE highly encourages local governments to adopt and take part in our firefighter certification programs. Fire Service Outreach is an integral part of DPSE and serves as a point of contact for fire departments and our fire service partners for communication and support. Fire Service Outreach represents the OSFM to increase the agency's visibility and accessibility and provides resources for fire departments to assist them with their incident reporting and fire safety educational efforts.



The Division operates with 11 full-time and 18 intermittent staff members.

The Division continues to update certification programs to comply with current National Fire Protection Association Standards and applicable needs of the fire service.

During 2024, the Division dispersed \$1,450,000 to local fire departments and fire protection districts for claims for reimbursement. The division approved 1,480 claims for a total of 82,840 hours of training to 106 departments. The Division also processed 10,411 certifications and 9,516 examinations to Illinois firefighters.

## **“Be Alarmed!” Smoke Alarm Program**

The OSFM, in cooperation with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, operates the “Be Alarmed!” smoke alarm installation program. This program distributes smoke alarms with 10-year sealed batteries to Illinois fire departments to install in the homes of their at-risk citizens, as well as fire safety education materials. The educational materials and smoke alarms are provided to fire departments at no cost.

### 2024 Statistics:

- 320 active Illinois fire departments from 61 different counties participating in the program
- 10,620 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- \$238,625 worth of life-saving smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- 8,677 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms installed in Illinois homes
- 2,835 Illinois homes protected with new smoke alarms
- 67% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms were non-functional or were expired (3,149 of 4,720 pre-existing alarms)
- 5,252 (2,962 high-risk) Illinois residents educated on smoke alarm maintenance, home fire safety, and home fire escape plans, as well as protected by new smoke alarms



## National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

The Illinois State NFIRS Program's mission is to serve local fire departments by providing training, analysis, account and reporting assistance to meet the goals set forth by the United States Fire Administration (USFA), Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and the local departments. The fire departments can meet the community's safety needs with better-quality data.

Illinois Fire Departments are urged by (425 ILCS 25/6.1) to report all incidents, including medical incidents, to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), which the United States Fire Administration administers. Providing data to the State and USFA allows fire departments to apply for and receive grant funding, improve budget, and resource allocations, recruit and retain fire service personnel, and create assessments to reduce risks in their communities.

2024 Statistics:

- Illinois fire departments responded to 1,547,328 incidents.
- 37,023 of those incidents were fires including:
  - 15,827 structure fires
  - 6,131 vehicle fires
- These fires resulted in nearly \$531 million in property damage.
- 102 persons were killed in Illinois due to fire.
- 74% of all fire deaths occurred in the home.
- 56% of all fatal fires were in buildings with smoke alarms.
- Illinois saw a 9% decrease in fires compared to 2023.
- The number one known cause of fires in Illinois is cooking.
- A fire is reported every 14 minutes in Illinois.
- Every 20 seconds, an Illinois fire department responds to an emergency.
- Mutual aid was given from other fire departments on 108,477 incidents.
- 146,649 incidents were determined to be false calls.
- Illinois fire departments responded to 1,086,827 rescue and medical emergencies.

A statistical average day for the Illinois Fire Service includes 4,228 calls for service to be resolved by the hardworking firefighters in our state.

Of these calls:

- 101 will be fires,
- 401 will be false alarms, and
- 2,969 will be medical or rescue calls (including MVCs).
- One in every 362 fires will be fatal.

## Illinois Fire Museum

The Illinois Fire Museum is inside the state fairgrounds in Springfield at Main and Central Avenue. The building was originally a fire station built in 1938 for the Illinois State Fair Fire Department and later the Springfield Fire Department. The museum is currently unavailable for tours until further notice for capital improvements to the building. Please check our website for updates. <https://sfm.illinois.gov/iam/individual/illinois-state-fire-museum.html>.

## Fire Equipment Exchange Program

The Fire Equipment Exchange Program allows fire departments, fire protection districts, and township fire departments to donate or sell equipment to, trade, or buy equipment from each other. The agency maintains a website allowing fire departments, fire protection districts, and township fire departments to post information and photographs about needed equipment and items for trade, donation, or sale. The website may be found at <https://fireequipmentexchange.sfm.illinois.gov/>.

# 30th Annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial, Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony

## Line of Duty Death Gold Badge

The Gold Badge is presented to the families of firefighters who died while in, or as a result of, the performance of their duty. Five families were presented the Line of Duty Death Gold Badge by the State Fire Marshal in their memory. The 2023 Honorees of the Line of Duty Death Gold Badge were:

**Firefighter/EMT Jermaine Pelt**, Chicago Fire Department  
**Firefighter/EMT Andrew “Drew” Price**, Chicago Fire Department  
**Lieutenant Jan Tchoryk**, Chicago Fire Department  
**Lieutenant Kevin Ward**, Chicago Fire Department  
**Fire Chief Larry Peasley**, Maroa Countryside Fire Protection District

## Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor Award 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. The 2024 recipients of the Medal of Honor were:

**Firefighter/EMT Jakub Majka**, Chicago Fire Department  
**Firefighter/EMT James Pienta**, Chicago Fire Department  
**Firefighter/Paramedic William Perry**, Coal City Fire Protection District  
**Assistant Fire Chief David Browning**, Montrose Fire Protection District  
**Captain Drew Pals**, Montrose Fire Protection District  
**Lieutenant Brett Repking**, Teutopolis Fire Protection District  
**Firefighter Dan Kocher**, Teutopolis Fire Protection District  
**Firefighter Ryan Lee**, Teutopolis Fire Protection District

## Medal of Valor

The Medal of Valor 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. The 2024 recipients of the Medal of Valor were:

**Lieutenant Bryan Velez**, Chicago Fire Department  
**Captain Clay Childers**, Metropolis Fire Department  
**Captain Nicholas Hansen**, Peoria Fire Department  
**Firefighter Tobias Roderick**, Peoria Fire Department

## Firefighter Excellence Award

The Firefighter Excellence Award is awarded for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence and professionalism in service to the citizens of the State of Illinois. The 2024 individual awarded the Firefighter Excellence Award was:

**Captain Matt Hornbuckle**, Joliet Fire Department

## Firefighter Excellence Unit Citation Award

The Firefighter Excellence Unit Citation Award is awarded for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence, teamwork, and professionalism in service to the citizens of the State of Illinois. The 2024 departments awarded the Firefighter Excellence "Unit Citation" Award were:

**Belvidere Fire Department**  
**Midlothian Fire Department**  
**Minooka Fire Protection District**

## Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire & Life Safety Award

The Fire & Life Safety Award is presented to recognize the extraordinary efforts in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety by fire departments, firefighters, and staff from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. There are three eligible recipient categories - Fire Departments/Fire Protection Districts/Township Fire Departments (may be a department or an individual), OSFM Operations Staff, and OSFM Administrative Staff - with awards given to one nominee from each category. Nominations for this award are due to OSFM by March 1 of each year. The 2024 recipients were:

**O'Fallon Fire Department**, Fire Department  
**Michael Douglas**, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
**JC Fultz**, Office of the State Fire Marshal

## State Fairs

The Division of Human Resources and Special Projects coordinates our office's presence at both the Illinois and Du Quoin State Fairs. In Springfield, personnel support the various fire service organizations as they provide fire safety information and entertainment to thousands of children. In Du Quoin, our office leads the fire safety campaign with assistance by local fire departments.





# Legislative Affairs

## 2024 Statute Changes

Bills passed related to OSFM's activities:

- P.A. 103-0761 (HB2702): Amended the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act so that fire sprinkler inspectors may perform routine inspections or testing of fire sprinkler systems for a single licensed fire sprinkler contractor at a time.
- P.A. 103-0609 (HB5495): Improved Illinois State Police's ability to manage the Arsonist Registration Database and share information with OSFM.

## 2024 Rule Changes

The OSFM updated agency-related administrative rules through the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) process in the following sections:

- 41 Ill. Adm. Code 141 Requirements for the Participation and Certification of Fire Protection Personnel  
This rulemaking updated referenced NFPA Standards and editions used for certification; updated and clarified qualifications, procedures and consequences for specific certification requirements, course approval submissions, and instructor requirements; eliminated sections that were no longer valid or in effect; and revised historical titles section to reflect certification level changes due to NFPA Standard revisions.
- 41 Ill. Adm. Code 172, 174, 175, and 176 Underground Storage Tank Rules  
These rulemakings updated the national technical codes incorporated by reference in the rules; revised requirements for petroleum equipment contractor licensing; streamlined sections for delegation of authority to a municipality over 500,000 in alignment with the statute; revised requirements for posted permits and authorizations to operate a UST facility; and provided other clarifying language.
- 41 Ill. Adm. Code 296 Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction Grant Program Rules  
This rulemaking provided requirements for a new fire station rehabilitation and construction grant program, including eligibility and application requirements.
- 41 Ill. Adm. Code 300 Repeal of Furniture Fire Safety Rules  
This rulemaking repealed previous rules in response to federal rulemaking and recent statutory updates.
- 41 Ill. Adm. Code 2120 Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety  
This rulemaking updated the editions of referenced codes within the rules.

## Advisory Boards, Committees, and Commissions

### Illinois Fire Advisory Commission

The Illinois Fire Advisory Commission is a statutorily created body (20 ILCS 2905/3) that provides advice, counsel, and assistance to the State Fire Marshal on matters related to the exercise of powers and duties of the agency. Commission members are appointed by the Governor for a term of three years. Appointed members of the Commission include three professional, full-time, paid firefighters, one volunteer firefighter, one fire protection engineer who is registered in Illinois, one representative of the insurance industry in Illinois, two representatives with knowledge of fire alarm and fire extinguisher systems, and three persons with interest and knowledge in fire prevention methods. In addition to the appointed members, the following individuals serve in an ex officio capacity: Chicago Fire Commissioner, executive officer of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, executive officer of the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts, executive officer of the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, executive officer of the Illinois Professional Firefighters Association, executive officer of the Illinois Firemen's Association, executive officer of the Associated Firefighters of Illinois, executive officer of the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors, the Illinois Society of

Fire Service Instructors, executive officer of the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, executive officer of Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Illinois, and the head of the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Members of the Commission do not receive compensation but are reimbursed for travel expenses.

### **Fire Fighting Medal of Honor Committee**

The Committee is statutorily (20 ILCS 3985/3001) responsible for developing an annual award program to recognize firefighters who were killed, seriously hurt, or displayed exceptional bravery or heroism in the line of duty, working with firefighting organizations in the state to design, develop, and procure a Fire Fighting Medal of Honor and selecting an appropriate date or occasion for presentation. The Committee consists of ten members. There are two statutorily designated members – the State Fire Marshal and Chicago Fire Commissioner – and eight members appointed by the Governor. The members appointed by the Governor include: three fire chiefs from areas other than Chicago, three representatives of statewide firefighter organizations, and two retired Illinois firefighters. Fire chiefs serve a two year term while all other appointments serve a one year term. Members of the Committee do not receive compensation but are reimbursed for travel expenses.

### **Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules**

This statutorily created Board (430 ILCS 75/2) is responsible for formulating definitions, rules and regulations for the safe and proper construction, installation, repair, maintenance, alteration, inspection, use, and operation of boilers and pressure vessels in the state. The Board also establishes fees for examinations, commissions, inspection certificates, inspections, annual statements, shop inspections, and other services. The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor who serve a term of four years. Members of the Board include: representative in state owners of high pressure boilers and pressure vessels in utilities, manufacturing, or processing, representative in state owners and users of low pressure vessels in commercial buildings, multiple housing, or hotels, representative of boiler manufacturers in state, representative of a boiler insurance company licensed to insure boilers and pressure vessels in the state, representative of the boilermakers, representative of the steam operating engineers, and one mechanical engineer, registered in Illinois, on the faculty of and engineering college, or equivalent experience. Members of the board do not receive compensation but are reimbursed for expenses.

### **Elevator Safety Review Board**

This statutorily created Board (225 ILCS 312/25) reviews and adopts rules for the enforcement of the Elevator Safety Act. The Board also has the authority to grant exceptions and variances, hear appeals, hold hearings, establish fee schedules, and authorize licenses. The Board consists of seventeen members who are appointed to four-year terms, with three members appointed by the State Fire Marshal and fourteen members appointed by the Governor. Members of the Board include: three representatives of the fire service community, one representative from a major elevator manufacturing company or its authorized representative, one representative from an elevator servicing company, one representative of the architectural design profession, one representative of the general public, one representative of an advocacy group for people with physical disabilities, one representative of an advocacy group for senior citizens, one representative nominated by a municipality in this state with a population under 25,000, one representative nominated by a municipality in this state with a population of 25,000 or over but under 50,000, one representative nominated by a municipality in this state with a population of 50,000 or over but under 500,000, one representative of an advocacy group for condominium owners, one representative of an institution of higher education that operates an in-house elevator maintenance program, one representative of a building owner or manager, and two representatives of labor, involved in the installation, maintenance, and repair of elevators – one from Cook County and one from a county in the state other than Cook County. Members of the Board do not receive compensation but are reimbursed for expenses.

# Division of Arson Investigation

The mission of the Division of Arson Investigation is to provide fire investigation and law enforcement services to the fire service and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Illinois through complete and thorough investigations, evidence collection and professional expert testimony in court proceedings.

The Division is responsible for investigating fires and explosions as well as providing fire and explosion origin and cause investigations when requested by the fire service and law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Nationally, Arson (and suspected Arson) is the primary cause of property damage due to fire in the United States, and the second leading cause of fire deaths. To combat this serious problem, certified Arson Investigators respond to assist fire departments, law enforcement agencies, communities and state and federal agencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Reports of potential Arson fires can be made via a 24-hour, toll free Arson Hotline number at (800) 252-2947. When the requesting agency calls the hotline, they are immediately connected with an Arson Duty Investigator who has authority to dispatch an Arson Investigator anywhere in the state, anytime, day or night.

Arson Investigators are sworn peace officers authorized to conduct fire and explosion origin and cause investigations, interview witnesses and suspects, conduct follow-up investigations, execute search warrants, collect evidence, make arrests and testify in court.

Also available are eight canine teams consisting of a certified Arson Investigator and a certified Accelerant Detection Canine. During 2024, OSFM placed three ATF Accelerant Canines into service. Canines can detect minute traces of ignitable liquids often used in fires and can lead Investigators to a specific location where physical samples can be secured, analyzed and confirmed by special laboratories.

Arson Investigators and canine teams investigate on average over a thousand fires each year. Together with federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies, many arsonists are arrested annually. Their service to the state is invaluable, especially in the rural areas where fire departments do not have certified Fire and/or Arson Investigators.

Arson Investigators attend many hours of continuing education classes and seminars each year. This increases their knowledge and expertise of fire investigation and law enforcement training.

The Division of Arson Investigation uses the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) for case management and investigations. BATS is a secure web-based system that links agencies to the United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC), which is a nationwide repository of arson and explosives incidents.





The Youth Fire Setting Intervention Program is administered by the Arson Division. The agency hired a dedicated Youth Fire Setting Intervention Program Coordinator in July of 2024. The OSFM YFSI Coordinator made approximately 470 general public outreach contacts and 113 public safety outreach contacts across the State to provide awareness of the YFSI Program. The agency had 76 requests for Youth Fire Setting Interventions in 2024. The agency also put on three Youth Fire Setting Interventionist training classes and certified approximately 50 students. We are working on conducting 3-4 training classes throughout the state in 2025. Inquiries regarding Youth Fire Setting should be done through the Youth Fire Setting Intervention Hotline number at (844) 689-7882 or on the IL OSFM Website.

## Division Statistics

Full-Time Equivalent Staff (as of 12/31/24)	23
Investigations Conducted	1210
Canine-Assisted Investigations	342
Cases Closed With An Arrest	59
Cause and Origin - Incendiary	282
Cause and Origin - Accidental	204
Cause and Origin - Undetermined/Under Investigation	577
Cause and Origin - Explosion	6
Cause and Origin - Natural	7
Fatalities	81



# Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety

The Division of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety regulates the construction, installation, repair, use and operation of boilers and pressure vessels and oversees in-service inspections of pressure equipment as mandated by the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act (430 ILCS 75). Currently, there are 99,030 active boilers and pressure vessels in this program which require professional inspections at different intervals. Professional safety inspections are performed on boilers and pressure vessels that are typically used to generate steam to heat in schools, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, office buildings, and places of public assembly, retail locations, apartment buildings, manufacturing facilities, utility plants, refineries, chemical plants, and any other location type in Illinois where pressure equipment is utilized. Inspections identify hazards and provide an opportunity for repair to ensure public safety by preventing accidents caused by explosions and leakage.

The Division is also responsible for administering the Illinois Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repairer Regulation Act (225 ILCS 203/). The current total of Repair License Organizations, under this Act, that perform repairs and alterations to pressure equipment is 146. These Organizations are required to be audited every three years under this program.

The Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules is responsible for formulating definitions, rules and regulations for the safe and proper construction, installation, repair, maintenance, alteration, inspection, use, and operation of boilers and pressure vessels in the state. The Board also establishes fees for examinations, commissions, inspection certificates, inspections, annual statements, shop inspections, and other services.

## Division Statistics

Full-Time Equivalent Staff (as of 12/31/24)	23
Inspections Performed	45,594
Violations Issued	8,062
% of Inspections That Are Past Due-State	1.05%
% of Inspections That Are Past Due-Insurance Companies	1.40%
Audits Conducted	32
Commissions Issued - New and Renewals	194
Repair Permits Issued	139
Repair License Organizations - New and Renewals	49
Fees Collected	\$3,573,537.76

# Division of Elevator Safety

The Division of Elevator Safety enforces the Elevator Safety and Regulation Act (225 ILCS 312). The Act requires that the design, construction, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, alteration, and repair of elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, moving sidewalks, platform lifts, stairway chairlifts, and automated people conveyances are in accordance with all applicable statutes and rules.

The Division also issues licenses to contractors, inspectors, mechanics, apprentices and helpers and inspection companies.

The Elevator Safety Review Board approves rules for the administration and enforcement of the Act. The Board has the authority to hear appeals on exceptions and variances and, depending on the outcome, grant or deny an exception for a variance, hold hearings, establish fee schedules, approve continuing education programs, and authorize all licensing.



Elevator inspectors work in the field making random checks for registration tags, checking the work of licensed inspectors, and checking mechanic licenses. Inspectors also visit municipalities that have agreements with the agency to enforce the Act to ensure that they are abiding by all relevant laws and rules. Additionally, inspectors investigate incidents and accidents, which are given the highest priority. Any complaint received is also given priority attention.

There are 37,423 registered conveyances in the state. Of this total, 14,351 are under state jurisdiction, and are 23,072 under the jurisdiction of the 180 municipalities with an agreement with the agency.

## Division Statistics

Full-Time Equivalent Staff (as of 12/31/24)	13
Permits Issued	575
Certificates of Operation Processed	12,126
Conveyances Registered	618
Licenses Processed	758
Fees Collected	1,432,505.00



# Division of Fire Prevention

**Inspections:** The Division of Fire Prevention is charged with ensuring no building endangers persons or property by reason of faulty construction, age, lack of repair, or any other cause that would make it especially susceptible to fire. Under the authority granted in the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS 25), the Division conducts fire safety inspections in accordance with the applicable laws and administrative rules adopted to ensure such fire safety. These inspections primarily concentrate on state-owned or regulated facilities including day care centers and group day care homes licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services, the Illinois Department of Aging, Illinois Department of Corrections, public schools (in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education), race tracks regulated by the Illinois Racing Board, permanently moored gaming facilities regulated by the Illinois Gaming Board, and telecommunications switching offices. Enforcement also ensures compliance with regulations pertaining to LP-gas tanks larger than 2,000 gallons in capacity or at any size installation intended for purposes of fueling vehicles or filling cylinders, and inspection of aboveground bulk and dispensing tanks holding flammable and combustible liquids.

The Division also concentrates its efforts on certain “target” hazards, including the inspection of hotel/ motel occupancies, and any occupancy where a fire hazard has been reported by the local fire authority or the general public. The Life Safety Code published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), has been adopted as Illinois’ rules for fire prevention and safety and serves as the primary enforcement tool of the Division of Fire Prevention when conducting building inspections. The Division also regulates fireworks storage.

The Division also performs inspections at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield and the DuQuoin State Fair. Fire inspections are conducted at public assembly areas, livestock barns, buildings, exhibits, concession areas, and tents prior to and during each of the events. Fire Prevention personnel provide fire awareness training to vendors and grounds security workers. Fire Prevention personnel also conduct routine fire patrols of the entire grounds of each facility.

**Licensing:** The Fire Prevention Licensing section of the Office of the State Fire Marshal licenses and oversees the regulatory compliance for several industries including Fire Sprinkler Contractors, Fire Equipment Distributors and Employees, Pyrotechnic Distributors and Operators, and registration of Consumer Fireworks Retailers and Distributors. Beginning July 1, 2026, registration will also include Sprayed Fire-Resistant Material Applicators.

**Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing:** Any individual or business entity that installs, maintains, repairs, or inspects any fire sprinkler system in Illinois must be licensed as a Fire Sprinkler Contractor by OSFM in accordance with the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act (225 ILCS 317). OSFM regulates the licensing and compliance for approximately 221 Sprinkler Contractors and their employees state-wide. This Act establishes minimum standards for licensure and qualification for Fire Sprinkler Contractors and their employees who design, inspect, and test water-based fire protection systems.

In 2024, OSFM began individually licensing Fire Sprinkler System Inspectors with nearly 450 applications received in the first month and a total of 773 for the year.

**Fire Equipment Distributor and Employee Licensing:** Individuals and business entities who sell, install, service, maintain, or test fire extinguishers and fixed fire protection systems are licensed as Fire Equipment Distributors under the Fire Equipment Distributor and Employee Regulation Act (225 ILCS 217). This Act requires Fire Equipment Employees be certified at

the appropriate level and licensed to perform fire equipment installation or service work in Illinois. The scope of this program includes fire extinguishers, pre-engineered restaurant/industrial suppression systems, and complex engineered extinguishing systems. OSFM regulates the licensing and compliance for approximately 194 Fire Equipment Distributors and nearly 839 licensed Fire Equipment Employees in various classifications.

### **Pyrotechnic Distributor and Operator Licensing and Consumer Fireworks Regulation:**

Individuals and business entities that engage in the possession, use, distribution, and display of all types of fireworks, pyrotechnics, and flame or special effects must be licensed or registered with OSFM in accordance with the Pyrotechnic Use Act (425 ILCS 35) and/or the Pyrotechnic Distributor and Operator Licensing Act (225 ILCS 227).

Individuals or business entities that possess, use, distribute, or display professional grade fireworks and pyrotechnics, including flame and special effects, must be licensed with OSFM. The scope of this licensing program includes traditional outdoor aerial fireworks, stage and entertainment special effects for theaters, concerts, festivals, and sports venues, as well as the television and movie industry. Licensing includes verification of training, experience, compliance with concurrent federal, state, and local regulations, as well as industry standards for performance and indemnity. OSFM licenses and provides regulatory compliance for approximately 50 Pyrotechnic Distributors and Production Company Distributors, along with approximately 400 Lead Pyrotechnic Operators, and over 3000 Registered Pyrotechnic Assistants. All professional pyrotechnic displays must be reported to the OSFM. As part of the oversight of the pyrotechnic industry, OSFM provides training and other resources to local jurisdictions that permit pyrotechnic displays and/or consumer fireworks sales.

Individuals or business entities that distribute Consumer Fireworks to the public, in addition to securing local authorization, must register with OSFM as a Consumer Fireworks Distributor/Retailer. OSFM registers over 160 seasonal Consumer Fireworks Retailers/Distributors annually throughout the state.

OSFM also collects data related to injuries associated with fireworks and pyrotechnics from hospitals and healthcare providers throughout the state. The greatest portion of these injuries are associated with the use of fireworks by the general public.

During the reporting period in 2024, OSFM received reports from approximately 45 hospitals with additional reports supplied by health care facilities. Information on those reports is provided below.

Fatalities - 1
Injuries Reported - 155
Leading cause of Injuries
Mortars - 36
Roman Candles/Shots/Balls - 13
Firecrackers - 6
Sky/Bottle Rockets - 8
Sparklers - Wire/Wood Core - 8

Leading locations of Injuries
Hands - 41
Eyes - 13
Torso - 17
Head/Face - 21
Legs - 20
Fingers - 11
Leading Types of Injuries
Lacerations - 25
Burns, Second Degree - 35
Abrasions - 24
Burns, First Degree - 27
Dismemberment/Amputation - 8
Other Injuries - 9

Full-Time Equivalent Staff (as of 12/31/24)	33
Inspections Performed	15893
School Inspections Performed by Division Personnel	1986
School Inspections Performed by Local Fire Departments	1401
% of School Inspections Completed Within the Statutorily Mandated One-Year Timeframe	100%
Inspections Performed -State Fairs	1874
Fire Equipment Distributor Companies Licensed	194
Fire Equipment Distributor Employees Licensed	839
Fire Sprinkler Contractors Licensed	217
Fire Sprinkler Inspectors Licensed	733
Pyrotechnic Distributor Companies Licensed	31
Pyrotechnic Operators Licensed	485
Pyrotechnic Use Act- Consumer Retailers	161
Production Companies Licensed	26
Fees Collected	\$1,395,142
Fines and Penalties Collected	\$23,250



# Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety

The mission of the Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety (P&CS) is to protect against threats to human safety and contamination of the environment that can occur by the underground storage of petroleum products and other hazardous substances through prevention, education, and enforcement.

To protect public health and safety, P&CS regulates Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) containing petroleum products and other hazardous substances. For fuel to be deposited in USTs facilities, they must pass a certification audit, which is done every two years.

The division works under a comprehensive program combining federal and state laws and rules to regulate UST system management, fuel dispensing, UST installation, repair and removal, emergency response, and financial responsibility requirements.

Additionally, the Division administers the state Eligibility and Deductible (E&D) program. The Division utilizes an online process for the submission of applications in order to expedite and streamline this process. This is the first step for UST owners to follow when they have had a release or contamination incident and they wish to access the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Fund (LUST Fund). The LUST Fund is administered by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), but screening for eligibility to access the LUST Fund and determining the deductible amount is done by P&CS staff. Requests are forwarded to IEPA after approval by P&CS for final processing.

The Division is also responsible for overseeing the Financial Responsibility program. As with the E&D program, P&CS utilizes an online process to allow for Financial Responsibility reporting. Financial Responsibility reports are required pollution liability policies UST facility owners must have in case of environmental or third-party property and personal injury damages caused by product releases from USTs. While the bulk of the coverage for post-release corrective action and remediation comes from the State LUST Fund per statute, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires the agency to ensure owners and operators of UST facilities demonstrate a current policy providing at least \$20,000 of supplemental liability insurance to cover expected gaps for costs related to corrective action and third party bodily injury and third party property damage.

The agency implemented its revised state UST regulations on August 7, 2024. States may use more stringent regulations of USTs than required by the USEPA, but state regulations cannot be less stringent.

In order to assist states in enforcing federal UST regulations, the USEPA provides grants to states. Grants are generally awarded in two-year cycles and can be used on any UST related activities that are approved by the USEPA. In August 2023 the agency was awarded more than \$1.2 million in federal funds from the USEPA to support the agency's enforcement of federal UST laws and regulations. The grant covers the period from October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2025. Funding from the current USEPA grant is being used to continue the development and maintenance of the P&CS UST information technology system and to purchase other miscellaneous equipment and supplies used by the division in enforcing UST laws and regulations.

While the agency has the responsibility for enforcing federal and state UST laws and regulations, that enforcement mandate has been delegated by the agency to the City of Chicago for all USTs located within the city. UST regulation in Chicago is done by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). The agency provides an annual \$550,000 grant to CDPH for the operation of the UST program in the City of Chicago.

## Division Statistics

Full-Time Equivalent Staff (as of 12/31/24)	27
Active Tanks Registered	18,712
Active UST Facilities	6,090
Initial Facility Certification Audits Performed (an audit is done every 2 years)	3,086
% of UST Facilities Inspected for Compliance	100%
% of UST facilities in Compliance with USEPA Requirements	72%
Notice of Violations Issued (NOVs) Issued	2,744
Notice of Violations Issued (NOVs) Cleared	3,986
Facilities Red Tagged	770
Field Investigations	151
UST Emergency Responses	5
Cases Currently Referred to Agency Legal Staff for Non-Compliance	118



# Technical Services

The Technical Services Section of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) supports other operating divisions within the OSFM as well as the fire service and general public with technical and engineering expertise in the form of code interpretation and plan and application review. Technical Services also provides expert advice in the agency's rulemaking processes for a variety of subjects, including aboveground tank storage regulation, liquified petroleum-gas (LP-gas) regulation, motor fuel dispensing facility operation, fire and life safety rules, safe cigarette rules, and myriad of other fire protection and petroleum and chemical safety-related issues.

Personnel in this section are supervised by the Section Chief, who is a fire protection engineer and reports to the Fire Prevention Division Manager. Technical Services personnel conduct plan reviews, assist with interpretations of applicable codes, assist operating divisions with the development of training sessions and the instruction of field personnel at those sessions, and create online training programs for Illinois fire service personnel. Technical Services personnel perform special functions for the OSFM, including representation on state and national code committees and task forces as well as making presentations to the public and the regulated community on technical issues. Additionally, staff accompany Fire Prevention Division inspectors on field inspections to assist in developing compliance strategies for more challenging facilities. The work of the Technical Services Section is conducted from the Chicago office of the OSFM at 555 W. Monroe Street, Chicago and the OSFM headquarters in Springfield.

On March 17, 2020 the Technical Services Division staff started working from home as a part of Restore Illinois. Since that date, and through various surges of the pandemic and a remote working pilot program, the staff of the Technical Services Division continues to work in various levels of remoteness.

Technical Services staff participate in ongoing continuing education to maintain and improve their credentials. One staff maintains certification as NFPA Certified Fire Plan Examiners and as a Certified Safety Professional, even though this certification is not required for their job titles.

## Details of Specific Work

1. Reviewed plans and applications submitted for installation or modification of
  - Aboveground flammable and combustible liquid storage tanks, and
  - Liquefied petroleum gas tanks.
2. Reviewed architectural and engineering drawings of new construction, renovations, and additions for compliance with state codes, including submittals relative to for compliance with state codes, including submittals relative to
  - Life Safety Code compliance,
  - Fire alarm system installation or modification,
  - Fire sprinkler system installation or modification as well as review of existing water supplies,
  - Commercial kitchen hood and duct exhaust systems,
  - Other specialized suppression system installation or modification, and
  - Private and municipal water supply systems.
3. Analyzed Fire Safety Evaluation Systems (FSES) that offer building owners in certain occupancy classifications alternative methods for proving equivalent life safety in nonconforming structures.
4. The review and processing of reports related to hull integrity and stability for Illinois permanently moored crafts.
5. Analyzed Prison Fire Safety Plans submitted from Illinois correctional facilities.



6. Prepared technical recommendations for the State Fire Marshal to assist in his response to variance requests.
7. Prepared and delivered training programs and materials for members of the agency's field inspection workforce to familiarize them with applicable codes and changing technologies in an effort to ensure consistency in code enforcement across the state.
8. Assisted Fire Prevention Division staff attain NFPA Fire Inspector I and II certification.
9. Delivered training to new Fire Prevention Division inspectors.
10. The Life Safety Code online training program was transferred over to the Illinois Fire Service Institute where they will provide better technical support related to their online learning platforms. Technical Services is still involved in the content of the program. This program was developed for Illinois fire service in December 2018 to upgrade the existing knowledge of the Illinois firefighter, who does not have formal inspection training or certification for performing the inspections that are required by the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS Fire 25/9).
11. Prepared and delivered training programs and materials for other state agencies, specifically IDHS and DCFS.
12. Assisted with the development of rules and statutes, either for OSFM or other state agencies.
13. Provided training to AHJs so they could become Qualified Fire Officials and participate in the public school inspection program. Technical Services responsibility includes upkeep of the checklists and glossary as well as answering code questions from education administrators, local authorities, and OSFM staff related to existing public school buildings.
14. Provided training for various authority having jurisdiction organizations and public school safety organizations throughout Illinois.
15. The Tier 2 online training program for the QFO program was transferred over to the Illinois Fire Service Institute where they will provide better technical support related to their online learning platforms. Technical Services is still involved in the content of the program. The Tier 2 program is part of the requirements found in Title 41 Ill. Adm. Code 111.
16. Represented the OSFM on state and national working groups and code development committees related to fire prevention, life safety, and hazardous materials issues, as follows:
  - Member of the NFPA Standards Council
  - Member of the following NFPA Technical Committees:
    - NFPA 1, *Fire Code*
    - NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*
    - Chair, NFPA 401, *Recommended Practice for the Prevention of Fires and Uncontrolled Chemical Reactions Associated with the Handling of Hazardous Waste*
    - NFPA 420, *Standard on Fire Protection of Cannabis Growing and Processing Facilities*
    - NFPA 5000, *Building Construction and Safety Code*
  - Member of the Underwriter's Laboratories Standard Technical Panels related to air-conditioning and refrigeration systems (60335-2-40 and 60335-2-89).
  - Member of CANENA's Working Groups for multi-national harmonization for air-conditioning and refrigeration systems (WG 60335-2-40 and WG 60335-2-89).
  - Member of the National Association of State Fire Marshal's Model Code Committee.
  - Member of the National Association of State Fire Marshal's Standards Committee.
  - Participated on the ICC-International Fire Code's Fire Code Advisory Committee.
  - Represented OSFM on the statewide Water Distribution Water Quality Committee. Other members include the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois EPA.
  - Represented OSFM on the statewide Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board as created by Administrative Rule 17-1565-Illinois Prescribed Burning Act.
  - Represented OSFM on the Illinois Hydrogen Economy Task Force, as created by Public Act 102-1086.

- Represented OSFM on the Northern Illinois Fire Inspectors Association.
- Represented OSFM on the Automatic Fire Alarm Association.
- Participate on the emergency response team at the office at 555 W. Monroe Street, Chicago.

17. Assisted the Fire Prevention Division with difficult or controversial inspections.
18. Prepared statistical data reports and legislative reports as required by executive staff.
19. Provided assistance in appeal hearings, subpoenas, court cases, and FOIA requests.
20. Participated in OSFM's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Peer to Peer) Working Group.

## Breakdown of Work for 2024

Above ground flammable liquid storage tank plan and application reviews	773
LP-gas tank plan and application reviews	56
Building construction, fire suppression system, fire alarm system plan reviews, and FSES evaluations	172
Prison fire safety plan reviews	15
Variance requests analyzed	94
Percentage of plan reviews completed in ≤ 10 days	97.3%
Training contact hours provided to the OSFM and local fire service personnel (presentation and preparation)	582
Total of telephone, email, and written inquiries and meetings with occupancy owners, enforcement agencies, contractors, architects, and engineers related to applicable rules, interpretations of codes, and explanation of OSFM policies and procedures	8,765





# 2024 Illinois Fire Statistics

- Illinois fire departments responded to 1,547,328 incidents in 2024.
- 37,023 of those incidents were fires including:
  - 15,827 structure fires.
  - 6,131 vehicle fires
- These fires resulted in nearly \$531 million in property damage.
- 102 persons were killed in Illinois due to fire.
- 74% of all fire deaths occurred in the home.
- 56% of all fatal fires were in buildings with smoke alarms.
- In 2024, Illinois saw a 9% decrease in fires compared to 2023.
- The number one known cause of fires in Illinois is cooking.
- A fire is reported every 14 minutes in Illinois.
- Every 20 seconds, an Illinois fire department responds to an emergency.
- Mutual aid was given from other fire departments on 108,477 incidents.
- 146,649 incidents were determined to be false calls.
- Illinois fire departments responded to 1,086,827 rescue and medical emergencies.

## A Day in the Illinois Fire Service

Today, 4,228 calls for service will be resolved by the hardworking firefighters in our state. Of these calls:

- 101 will be fires,
- 401 will be false alarms, and
- 2,969 will be medical or rescue calls (including MVCs).
- One in every 362 fires will be fatal.

## Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Installation Program

2024 Statistics:

- 320 active Illinois fire departments from 61 different counties participating in the program
- 10,620 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- \$238,625 worth of life-saving smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- 8,677 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms installed in Illinois homes
- 2,835 Illinois homes protected with new smoke alarms
- 67% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms were non-functional or were expired (3,149 of 4,720 pre-existing alarms)
- 5,252 (2,962 high-risk) Illinois residents educated on smoke alarm maintenance, home fire safety, and home fire escape plans, as well as protected by new smoke alarms





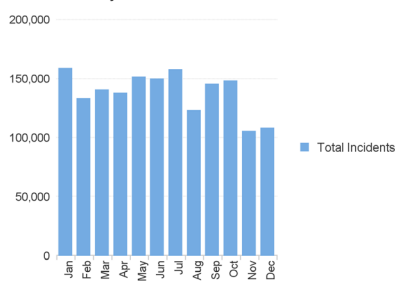
# NFIRS Dashboard Summary Report (All Incidents)

Report Period: 1/1/24 to 12/31/24

## Summary By Incident Type Category

Incident Type Category	Total Incidents	Percent	Aid Given	Exposures	Grand Total
Fires (100-173)	37,023	2.4%	15,247	458	52,728
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat Calls (200-251)	1,013	0.1%	70	0	1,083
Rescue and EMS Calls (300-381)	1,086,827	70.2%	34,053	1	1,120,881
Hazardous Condition Calls (400-482)	48,717	3.1%	1,712	0	50,429
Service Calls (500-571)	135,092	8.7%	11,127	0	146,219
Good Intent Calls (600-672)	87,597	5.7%	39,836	0	127,433
False Alarm and False Calls (700-751)	146,649	9.5%	6,283	0	152,932
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster Calls (800-815)	1,305	0.1%	47	0	1,352
Special Incident Type Calls (900-911)	2,956	0.2%	99	0	3,055
Unknown or Not Reported	149	0.0%	3	1	153
Grand Total	1,547,328	100.0%	108,477	460	1,656,265

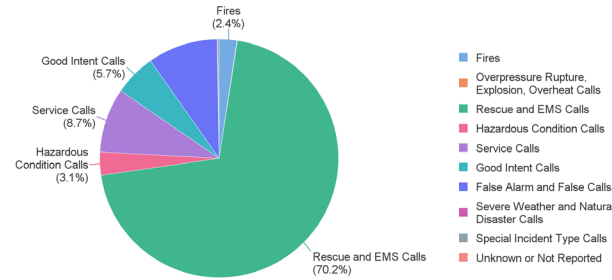
## Incident Counts By Month of Year



## Monthly Incident Counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
158,450	132,793	140,367	137,553	151,219	149,575	157,468	122,630	145,166	148,029	105,039	107,976	1,656,265

## Incident Type Category Summary



Percent Valid  
99.6%

Percent Released  
88.2%

## Incident Valid Status Summary

Incident Valid Status	Total	Percent
Valid	1,649,460	99.6%
Invalid	6,801	0.4%
No Activity	358	0.0%
Grand Total	1,656,619	100.0%

## Incident Release Status Summary

Incident Valid Status	Total	Percent
Released	1,460,870	88.2%
Unreleased	195,749	11.8%
Grand Total	1,656,619	100.0%

Fire Service Injuries  
1,530

Fire Service Deaths  
0

## Fire Service Casualty Summary

Fire Service Casualties	Fire-Related	Non-Fire	Grand Total
Fire Service Injuries	785	745	1,530
Fire Service Deaths	0	0	0
Total Fire Service Casualties	785	745	1,530

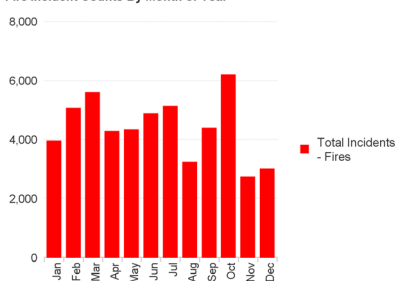
# NFIRS Dashboard Summary Report (Fire Incidents)

Report Period: 1/1/24 to 12/31/24

## Summary By Incident Type Category

Incident Type Group	Total Incidents	Percent	Aid Given	Exposures	Grand Total
Structure Fires (111-118)	15,827	42.7%	11,343	282	27,452
Fires in Mobile Property Used as a Fixed Structure (120-123)	248	0.7%	130	10	388
Mobile Property (Vehicle) Fires (130-138)	6,131	16.6%	896	118	7,145
Natural Vegetation Fires (140-143)	5,601	15.1%	1,486	5	7,092
Outside Rubbish Fires (150-155)	6,815	18.4%	299	10	7,124
Special Outside Fires (160-164)	880	2.4%	145	12	1,037
Cultivated Vegetation, Crop Fires (170-173)	279	0.8%	226	0	505
Fires, Other (100)	1,242	3.4%	722	21	1,985
Grand Total	37,023	100.0%	15,247	458	52,728

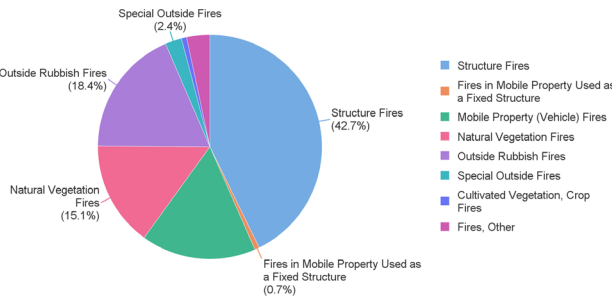
## Fire Incident Counts By Month of Year



## Monthly Incident Counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
3,949	5,058	5,594	4,273	4,327	4,882	5,124	3,220	4,384	6,184	2,734	2,999	52,728

## Fire Incident Type Category Summary



## Fire Dollar Loss Summary

Dollar Loss	Grand Total
Total Fire Property Loss	\$368,683,490
Total Fire Contents Loss	\$161,898,617
Total Fire Dollar Loss	\$530,582,107

Total Fire Dollar Loss  
\$530,582,107

Civilian Fire Injuries  
342

Civilian Fire Deaths  
102

## Civilian Fire Casualty Summary

Civilian Fire Casualties	Grand Total
Civilian Fire Injuries	342
Civilian Fire Deaths	102
Total Civilian Fire Casualties	444



State of Illinois  
Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal  
<https://sfm.illinois.gov/>