

2025



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:

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud to share the accomplishments and progress of the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). This year stands as a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our staff, who consistently elevate the standard of state government through their service. Our mission remains clear: the OSFM 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.

The OSFM's commitment to public safety is demonstrated in the vital work we perform in petroleum and chemical safety, elevator safety, arson and youth firesetting interventions, personal standards and education, boiler and pressure vessel safety, along with fire prevention. These efforts continue to serve the citizens of Illinois and strengthen the safety of our communities statewide.

The OSFM's staff brings an exceptional level of professionalism in public safety. We have achieved this by maintaining a highly trained and capable workforce that collaborates with local, state, and federal partners. These partnerships help offset the cost of training, equipment, facilities, and staffing, while allowing us to execute efficient and fiscally responsible practices.

In 2025, the agency launched the Fire Station Construction and Rehabilitation grant program awarding \$5,000,000 to the Illinois fire service to support station repairs, upgrades, and new construction. We also modernized our administrative and regulatory systems by transitioning to new technology platforms, creating more secure, streamlined processes. These improvements are designed to deliver faster, more reliable services for licensing, permits, inspections and compliance across multiple safety-regulation areas.

The OSFM remains one of Illinois' premier public safety agencies, supported by our DEIA Officer as we actively seek qualified, diverse candidates from every region of the state. This commitment extends to our procurement processes and business partnerships.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the OSFM team. Their dedication, professionalism, and tireless commitment have been the driving force behind our accomplishments this year. On behalf of the entire OSFM staff, I also extend our sincere appreciation to Governor JB Pritzker and the General Assembly for their continued support of public safety and their commitment to keeping the citizens of Illinois safe.

Michele L. Pankow
State Fire Marshal

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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/>

Agency Mission

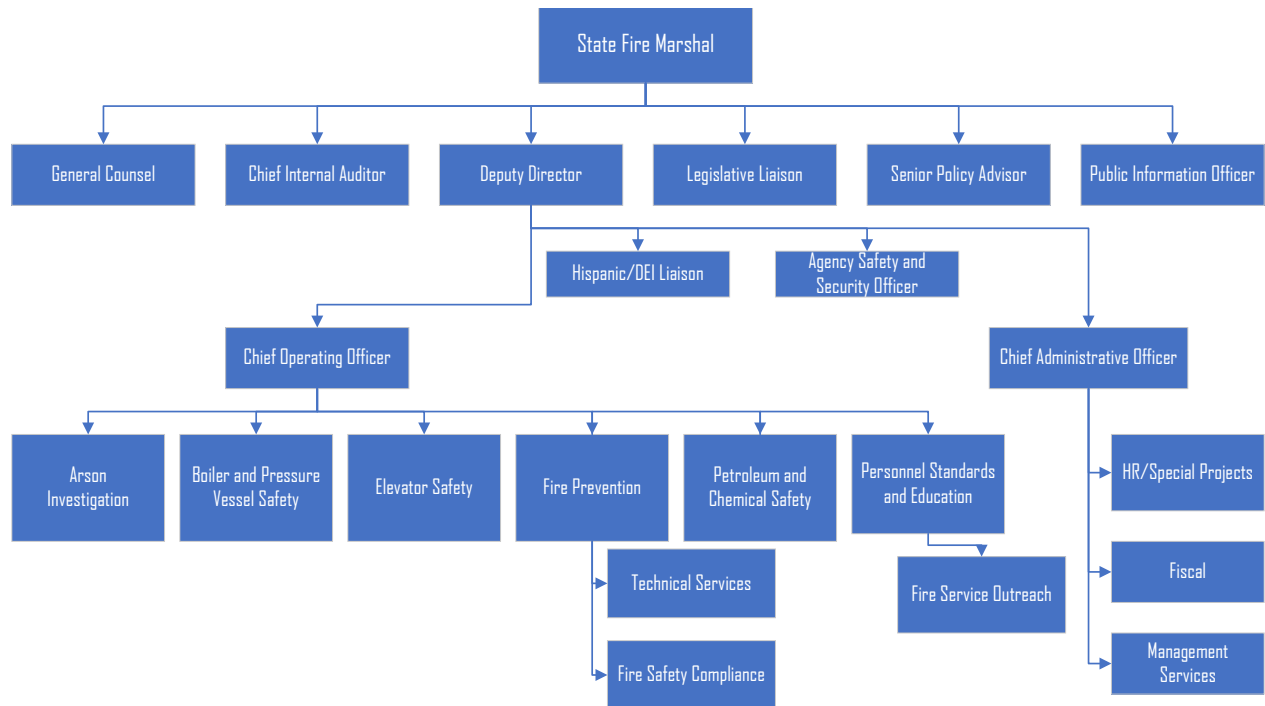
The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal is dedicated to working with our partners and providing assistance to the fire service in the protection of life, property and the environment through communication, inspection, investigation, certification and licensing.

Core Values

Integrity • Commitment to Excellence • Service • Respect • Teamwork



Organizational Structure



Financial Information

\$ Actual	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Appropriation
Fire Prevention Fund (047)		
Personal Services	\$15,109,336	\$17,643,500
Retirement	\$7,739,784	\$8,201,800
Social Security	\$944,491	\$1,186,200
Group Insurance	\$3,877,276	\$4,913,600
Subtotal - Personal Services and Related	\$27,670,888	\$31,945,100
Contractual Services	\$1,335,506	\$1,200,000
Travel	\$334,535	\$275,000
Commodities	\$168,390	\$341,000
Printing	\$63,254	\$32,000
Equipment	\$481,501	\$1,544,000
Equipment - Reapprop	\$0	\$1,592,700
Electronic Data Processing	\$2,004,534	\$4,079,960
Electronic Data Processing - Reapprop	\$1,011,965	\$0
Telecommunications	\$387,574	\$265,000
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$611,902	\$701,000
Refunds	\$650	\$5,000
Subtotal - Other Operations	\$6,399,810	\$10,035,660
DEI Activities and Outreach	\$9,909	\$50,000
Electronic Firefighter Certification Testing	\$479,525	\$590,000
Firefighter Online Training Management System	\$380,000	\$380,000
Subtotal - Lump Sums	\$869,434	\$1,020,000
Cancer Screening Grant - Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$0	\$500,000
Chicago Firefighter Training Grant	\$4,271,200	\$4,905,800
Community Risk Reduction	\$21,828	\$70,000
Cornerstone - Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$500,000	\$500,000
Explorer-Cadet School - Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$100,000	\$100,000
Fire Inspections Basic Course	\$0	\$0
Firefighter Training Programs - Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$250,000	\$250,000
Firefighter Training Reimbursement	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000

\$ Actual	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Appropriation
Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction Grant	\$0	\$0
Fire Station Rehabilitation and Construction Grant - Reapprop	\$0	\$5,083,040
Hazmat Emergency Response Reimbursement	\$0	\$10,000
Illinois Firefighter Peer Support	\$75,000	\$75,000
Leadership Development and Decision Making Program Grant - Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$0	\$160,000
Minimum Basic Firefighter Training - Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Mutual Aid Box Alarm System	\$200,000	\$1,200,000
New Fire District Grant	\$0	\$500
Research Activities of the Illinois Fire Service Institute	\$250,000	\$250,000
Senior Officer Training	\$52,612	\$55,000
Small Equipment Grant	\$3,998,635	\$6,000,000
<i>Subtotal - Grants</i>	<i>\$12,169,274</i>	<i>\$21,609,340</i>
Fire Museum Building Rehabilitation	\$200,000	\$0
Fire Museum Building Rehabilitation - Repprop	\$1,324,993	\$1,077,037
<i>Subtotal - Capital</i>	<i>\$1,524,993</i>	<i>\$1,077,037</i>
Total - Fire Prevention Fund (047)	\$48,634,398	\$65,687,137

\$ Actual	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Appropriation
Underground Storage Tank Fund (072)		
Personal Services	\$2,519,292	\$3,001,400
Retirement	\$1,294,098	\$1,399,000
Social Security	\$184,231	\$218,500
Group Insurance	\$652,898	\$929,600
<i>Subtotal - Personal Services and Related</i>	<i>\$4,650,518</i>	<i>\$5,548,500</i>
Contractual Services	\$111,800	\$231,800
Travel	\$7,513	\$8,300
Commodities	\$5,998	\$9,000
Printing	\$516	\$3,500
Equipment	\$25,198	\$120,000

\$ Actual	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Appropriation
Electronic Data Processing	\$41	\$10,500
Telecommunications	\$19,000	\$25,000
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$129,576	\$170,000
Refunds	\$0	\$4,000
<i>Subtotal - Other Operations</i>	<i>\$299,642</i>	<i>\$582,100</i>
Chicago Underground Storage Tank Program	\$457,955	\$550,000
<i>Subtotal - Grants</i>	<i>\$457,955</i>	<i>\$550,000</i>
Total - Underground Storage Tank Fund (072)	\$5,408,116	\$6,680,600

\$ Actual	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Appropriation
Fire Fighter Memorial Fund (510)		
Maintenance and Rehab of Fire Museum Building and for Museum Artifacts	\$41,200	\$75,000
Medal of Honor Ceremony, Scholarships and Firefighter Memorial Maintenance	\$130,348	\$300,000
<i>Total - Fire Fighter Memorial Fund (510)</i>	<i>\$171,548</i>	<i>\$375,000</i>

\$ Actual	FY25 Expenditures	FY26 Appropriation
Fire Prevention Division Fund (580)		
U.S. EPA Underground Storage Tank Program Grant	\$769,925	\$1,000,000
<i>Total - Fire Prevention Division Fund (580)</i>	<i>\$769,925</i>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>
TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$54,983,987	\$73,742,737
General Funds	\$0	\$0
Other State Funds	\$54,214,063	\$72,742,737
Federal Funds	\$769,925	\$1,000,000

OSFM Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility



OSFM has taken significant steps to advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) across our organizational culture. We have reaffirmed our commitment through formalized policies and by building the internal infrastructure needed to sustain this work. DEIA goals are fully integrated into our Agency's Strategic Plan, with initiatives aimed at both internal operations and external engagement. Progress is measured using relevant universal and industry-specific metrics, as well as direct feedback from Agency staff and regulatory stakeholders.

Over the past year, OSFM has continued moving forward on several key DEIA objectives. The Agency's DEIA Peer-to-Peer Working Group met regularly throughout the year. Members shared personal experiences and discussed current events affecting our communities. This active group serves as a safe space where staff can be their authentic selves. It also promotes education and awareness on important DEIA topics. Additionally, the group contributed to the Agency's diversity recruitment plan, helping increase awareness of OSFM among communities that may not be familiar with our work.

This year, OSFM also welcomed our second Equity Intern, Moise Kossike, who joined us from Rockford, Illinois. Moise, a volunteer firefighter with the North Park Fire Department, gained hands-on experience in the field and conducted research on improving outreach to minority partners.

OSFM participated in numerous outreach events focused on Black, Hispanic, Asian, LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented communities—particularly at high schools and colleges. We believe early engagement is essential to broadening awareness of fire service career pathways and trades. Highlights included marching in the Chicago Pride Parade, participating in the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute career fairs, and hosting events at Homewood-Flossmoor High School and Wilbur Wright College. Across these events, our goal was to build trust, strengthen long-term relationships, and ensure communities understand OSFM's mission. Throughout the year, all Agency divisions also visited schools of various grade levels to discuss career pathways, technical skills, and mentorship opportunities within their sectors.

Recognizing the diversity of Illinois, OSFM continued its work to break down language barriers and ensure Limited English Proficient (LEP) residents have equitable access to our services. Staff received resources better engage with LEP communities, promoting full and fair participation. We also finalized our Language Access Plan, now available to the public.

As we enter the new year, OSFM has put forward a comprehensive DEIA Plan for 2026. Our external efforts will focus on engaging the most marginalized communities in Illinois using a grassroots model. OSFM will prioritize building strong, authentic partnerships with high schools, colleges, trades and trusted local leaders, especially in communities with fire service programs. We plan to tailor our outreach—including bilingual presentations, accessible print materials, and community workshops—to meet the specific needs of these groups. Our vision is to be a trusted partner that consistently advances public safety while ensuring communities of color are informed, respected, and supported.

Internally, we will continue implementing our recruitment plan to diversify our workforce and more closely reflect Illinois's demographics, while also building a more inclusive environment. This long-term effort will involve all field divisions as they engage with fire programs in underserved areas across the state.

OSFM remains committed to advancing DEIA in meaningful and measurable ways, strengthening both our organization and the communities we serve.

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. Additionally, the SSO serves as the Agency lead on safety-related equipment purchases and their implementation.

The Agency played a crucial role during the State Emergency Operations Center activations for the Clinton Nuclear Power Station full-scale exercise of the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents. In this capacity, the SSO supported coordinated decision-making, monitored evolving exercise conditions, and collaborated with state and federal partners to validate radiological response procedures. This engagement strengthened statewide readiness and reinforced the SEOC's ability to manage complex, high-consequence incidents through interagency coordination and radiological emergency preparedness.

The SSO also represented the agency at the swearing-in ceremony for 39 public safety professionals deploying to Texas under an Emergency Management Assistance Compact request, honoring the commitment of responders preparing to assist another state in need and highlighting the importance of mutual aid partnerships and national emergency response solidarity. The Agency's presence underscored its support for personnel who step forward to serve communities beyond Illinois.

In anticipation of the 2025 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 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.

The Agency continued holding meetings with the Safety Working Group, a collaboration of agency employees who are committed to safety. As such, this year, the Agency purchased new carbon monoxide detectors for the Boiler & Pressure Vessel Safety Division, 4-Gas monitors for the Arson Investigation Division, safety harnesses, lanyards, and other safety equipment for the Elevator Safety Division, automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for the Marion Office and Illinois Fire Museum, as well as an employee and visitor management system for the Springfield Office that will allow for greater accountability for the Agency's employees while in the office.

Looking ahead, the Agency Safety & Security Officer will remain committed to ensuring the agency continues to maintain the highest standard of safety and security.

Illinois Community Risk Reduction



Illinois Community Risk Reduction (CRR) continues to strengthen its role in advancing safety and prevention efforts statewide. In the past year, CRR officially came under the umbrella of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM), further aligning statewide prevention initiatives and providing a centralized structure to support local departments and partners in their CRR endeavors. As part of this transition, a new CRR website has been launched and is accessible through sfm.illinois.gov/illinois-crr, offering tools, guidance, and resources to help departments create, expand, or enhance their Community Risk Reduction programs.

The Illinois CRR group is made up of fire service organizations from across the state and has continued to grow by welcoming additional non-fire service partners. This expansion reflects a true Community Risk Reduction approach, recognizing that preventing injuries, fires, and other hazards requires collaboration across disciplines. Outreach efforts are ramping up, with increased engagement planned for fire departments and communities in the coming year to promote best practices, data-driven decision-making, and shared responsibility for community safety.

Due to the rapid and successful expansion of Illinois CRR, members are increasingly being sought after as CRR conference presenters—both across Illinois and on the national stage. Illinois CRR members have also been recruited to serve on the NFPA CRR Elevation Team, helping guide the future of CRR nationwide, and to participate in the National Association of State Fire Marshals' (NASFM) PIO/CRR Network.

Looking ahead, the Illinois State Risk Assessment is scheduled for completion in early 2026 and will serve as a critical foundation for guiding prevention priorities statewide. The CRR group also successfully hosted its 5th Annual Illinois CRR Conference, bringing together stakeholders to share ideas, successes, and lessons learned. Planning is already underway for the 6th Annual Conference, as Illinois CRR continues to grow, evolve, and support safer communities and departments throughout the state.

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 encourage 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 17 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 2025, the Division dispersed \$1,450,000 to local fire departments and fire protection districts for claims for reimbursement. The division approved 2,223 claims for a total of 161,136 hours of training to 142 departments. The Division also processed 10,348 certifications and 9,474 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.

2025 Statistics:

- 375 active Illinois fire departments from 65 different counties participating in the program
- 11,083 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- \$336,025 worth of life-saving smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- 9,666 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms installed in Illinois homes
- 3,204 Illinois homes protected with new smoke alarms
- 68% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms were non-functional or expired (5,007 of 7,376 pre-existing alarms)
- 7,800 (4,111 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
- 10 media events across the state, promoting the importance of working smoke alarms



*Protecting Homes,
Educating Communities*

2025 Impact Report



9,666

10-year sealed battery smoke
alarms installed in Illinois homes



\$336,025

worth of live-saving smoke alarms (11,626
units) distributed to Illinois fire departments

97

bed shaker alarms installed for
deaf or hard of hearing residents



375

participating Illinois fire
departments from 65
different counties



3,204

Illinois homes protected
with new smoke alarms

7,800

(4,111 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



68%

of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes
that received new smoke alarms were
non-functional, or were expired
(5,007 of 7,376 pre-existing alarms)



10

media events across the
state, promoting the
importance of working
smoke alarms



**CAMP
I AM ME**
ILLINOIS FIRE SAFETY ALLIANCE

Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

IFSA.org/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.

With the decommissioning of NFIRS, Illinois fire departments began onboarding to the USFA's new reporting system, the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), in November 2025. Effective January 1, 2026, NERIS is the USFA's exclusive reporting system.

2025 Statistics:

- Illinois fire departments responded to 1,682,250 incidents in 2025.
- 41,041 of those incidents were fires, including:
 - 17,256 structure fires
 - 6,133 vehicle fires
- These resulted in over \$1.4 billion in property damage.
- 136 persons were killed in Illinois due to fire.
- 69% of all fire deaths occurred in the home.
- 27% of all fatal fires were in buildings with confirmed smoke alarms present.
- In 2025, Illinois saw a 10% increase in fires compared to 2024.
- The number one known cause of residential fires in Illinois is cooking.
- A fire is reported every 13 minutes in Illinois.
- Every 19 seconds, an Illinois fire department responds to an emergency.
- Mutual aid was given from other fire departments on 112,522 incidents.
- 155,805 incidents were determined to be false calls.
- Illinois fire departments responded to 1,179,048 rescue and medical emergencies.

A Day in the Illinois Fire Service

Today, 4,609 calls for service will be resolved by the hardworking firefighters in our state.

Of these calls:

- 112 will be fires,
- 427 will be false alarms, and
- 3,230 will be medical or rescue calls (including MVCs).
- One in every 302 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://webappspt.illinois.gov/SFM/osfm_fex/.

32nd 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. One family was presented the Line of Duty Death Gold Badge by the State Fire Marshal. The 2024 Honoree of the Line of Duty Death Gold Badge was:

Firefighter Cristian Medrano, Aurora Fire Department

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. There were no recipients for this year's ceremony.

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. There were no recipients for this year's ceremony.

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 2025 individuals awarded the Firefighter Excellence Award were:

Captain Derek Strohl, Buffalo Fire Protection District
Firefighter/EMT Matthew Nee, Chicago Fire Department
Firefighter/EMT Anthony Torres, Chicago Fire Department
Captain Justin Moffitt, Galesburg Fire Department
Firefighter Tyler Brackett, Galesburg Fire Department
Firefighter Nicholas Morrissey, Galesburg Fire Department
Captain Ryan Reynolds, Streator Fire Department
Lieutenant Edward Levy, Streator Fire Department
Firefighter Russell Callahan, Streator Fire Department
Assistant Chief Cody Rogers, Taylorville Fire Department
Deputy Chief Todd Friddle, Wilmington Fire Department
Lieutenant Dan Rozak, Wilmington Fire Department
Lieutenant Dalton Schulz, Wilmington Fire Department
Firefighter/Paramedic Matthew Schroba, Wilmington 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 2025 departments awarded the Firefighter Excellence “Unit Citation” Award were:

Bolingbrook Fire Department
Galesburg Fire Department
Lincolnshire Riverwoods Fire Protection District
Streator Fire Department
Taylorville Fire Department

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 2025 recipients were:

Thomas Langdon, Engineer, Village of Lansing Fire Department
Aaron Brown, Fire Prevention Inspector II, Office of the State Fire Marshal
James Bentley, Petroleum & Chemical Safety Division Manager,
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

2025 Statute Changes

Bills passed related to OSFM's activities:

- P.A. 104-0102 (SB1446): Amended the State Fire Marshal Act. Requires OSFM to track and record the manner of death for firefighters in Illinois, including suicide and the various types of cancer.
- P.A. 104-0416 (SB2303): Amended the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act. Specifies minimum fines for repeat occurrences of unlicensed work within a 24-month period.
- P.A. 104-0291 (HB3290): Amended the Environmental Protection Act. Updated deductibles for leaking underground storage tank remediations
- P.A. 104-0364 (SB0784): Amended the Interstate Mutual Emergency Aid Act. Any public safety agency may provide assistance to any other public safety agency in the State or in a bordering State at the time of a disaster.

2025 Rule Changes

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

- 41 Ill. Ill. Adm. Code 141 Requirements for the Participation and Certification of Fire Protection Personnel

This rulemaking revised the adoption of NFPA standards for multiple fire protection personnel certifications; updated and clarified certification requirements for multiple certifications; revised and clarified the recertification process for when certifications are no longer current; streamlined the process when claims for reimbursement are submitted on behalf of fire protection personnel for applicable training expenses; revised rates of reimbursement for costs associated with training programs utilized by fire protection personnel; and made other minor updates and clarifications.

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 five canine teams consisting of a certified Arson Investigator and a certified Accelerant/Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine. During 2025, OSFM had several canines retire. Currently, OSFM has two ATF Accelerant Detection Canines and three North American Police Work Dog Ignitable Liquid Canines. 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 291 general public outreach contacts and 300 public safety outreach contacts across the State to provide awareness of the YFSI Program. The agency had 114 requests for Youth Fire Setting Interventions in 2025. The agency also put on three Youth Fire Setting Interventionist training classes and certified approximately 58 students. We are working on conducting 3-4 training classes throughout the state in 2026. 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 12-31-2025)	16
Investigation Requests	977
Canine Calls	235
Cases closed with Arrest	49
Cause and Origin - Incendiary	216
Cause and Origin - Undetermined	504
Cause and Origin - Accidental	148
Cause and Origin - Natural	1
Cause and Origin - Explosion	10
Cause and Origin - Assists to Requesting Agencies	108
Fatalities	133



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 99,022 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 159. 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 12/31/25)	21
Inspections Performed	45,864
Violations Issued	7,163
% of Inspections That Are Past Due-State	2.84%
% of Inspections That Are Past Due-Insurance Companies	1.01%
Audits Conducted	27
Commissions Issued - New and Renewals	224
Repair Permits Issued	79
Repair License Organizations - New and Renewals	30
Fees Collected	\$3,513,509.82

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 to ensure they are in accordance with all applicable statutes and rules.

The Division monitors the 181 municipality agreements that third-party inspection companies have with state agreements. We verify that the company provides the agency with an insurance policy or certificate copy issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the state that meets the requirements of the state law. Confirm that their inspectors meet the ASME QEI-1 Standards for the Qualifications of Elevator Inspectors.

We administrate and provide certification and registration of conveyances, outside the City of Chicago. All licensing of mechanics, apprentices, inspection companies, elevator contractors are maintained and administrated through the division per the state's requirements.

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

All Inspectors meet the current (ASME) QEI-1 Standard for the Qualifications of Elevator Inspectors. Accident investigations are given the highest priority. They work with inspectors and maintenance providers to investigate and determine the root cause, once determined and resolved conveyances are returned to service in safe working condition. Customer complaints received are given priority as well. They inspect the work of licensed inspectors, and check mechanic and apprentice's 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.

There are 41,561 registered conveyances in the state. Of this total, 16,859 are under state jurisdiction, and 24,702 are under the jurisdiction of municipalities having an agreement with the agency.



Division Statistics

Full-Time Equivalent Staff	13
Permits Issued	462
Certificates of Operation Processed	8,380
Conveyances Registered	342
Licenses Processed	845
Fees Collected	1,273,948.20

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 2025, OSFM received reports from approximately 45 hospitals with additional reports supplied by health care facilities. Information on those reports is provided below.

Fatalities - 0
Injuries Reported - 152
Leading cause of Injuries
Mortars - 37
Roman Candles/Shots/Balls - 15
Firecrackers - 4
Sky/Bottle Rockets - 7
Sparklers - Wire/Wood Core - 11

Leading locations of Injuries
Hands - 40
Eyes - 13
Torso - 17
Head/Face - 21
Legs - 20
Fingers - 11
Leading Types of Injuries
Lacerations - 26
Burns, Second Degree - 35
Abrasions - 13
Burns, First Degree - 20
Dismemberment/Amputation - 12
Other Injuries - 19

Full-Time Equivalent Staff (as of 12/31/25)	33
Inspections Performed	16094
School Inspections Performed by Division Personnel	2025
School Inspections Performed by Local Fire Departments	1371
% of School Inspections Completed Within the Statutorily Mandated One-Year Timeframe	100%
Inspections Performed -State Fairs	1943
Fire Equipment Distributor Companies Licensed	29
Fire Equipment Distributor Employees Licensed	183
Fire Sprinkler Contractors Licensed	100
Fire Sprinkler Inspectors Licensed	205
Pyrotechnic Distributor Companies Licensed	8
Pyrotechnic Operators Licensed	30
Pyrotechnic Use Act- Consumer Retailers	175
Production Companies Licensed	20
Fees Collected (This includes fuel haulers)	\$497,600
Fines and Penalties Collected	\$22,000

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 May 2025 the agency was awarded more than \$1.1 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, 2025, to September 30, 2027. Funding from the current USEPA grant is used to continue the development and maintenance of the P&CS UST information technology system and to help purchase vehicles, 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 12/31/25)	27
Active Tanks Registered	18,572
Active UST Facilities	6,338
Initial Facility Certification Audits Performed (an audit is done every 2 years)	3,032
% of UST Facilities Inspected for Compliance	100%
% of UST facilities in Compliance with USEPA Requirements	74%
Notice of Violations Issued (NOVs) Issued	3,358
Notice of Violations Issued (NOVs) Cleared	3,483
Facilities Red Tagged	755
Field Investigations	164
UST Emergency Responses	4
Cases Currently Referred to Agency Legal Staff for Non-Compliance	284

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, liquefied 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 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 Examiner and as a Certified Safety Professional, even though this certification is not required for their job title.

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
 - 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 (FSSES) 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 her 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 to AHJs in the areas of NFPA 101-Core Chapters as well as OSFM regulations related to aboveground storage tanks.
15. Provided training for various authority-having jurisdiction organizations and public-school safety organizations throughout Illinois.
16. 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.
17. 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 ASHRAE 15 SSPC and 3 subcommittees.
 - Member of the Safety for Next Generation Refrigerants.
 - Member of the National Association of State Fire Marshal's Model Code and 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 with the Northern Illinois Fire Inspectors Association.
- Represented OSFM with the Illinois Fire Inspector Association including participation on their Codes and Standards Subcommittee

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

Breakdown of Work for 2025

Above ground flammable liquid storage tank plan and application reviews	740
LP-gas tank plan and application reviews	57
Building construction, fire suppression system, fire alarm system plan reviews, and FSES evaluations	152
Prison fire safety plan reviews	31
Variance requests analyzed	128
Percentage of plan reviews completed in ≤ 10 days	98.2%
Training contact hours provided to the OSFM and local fire service personnel (presentation and preparation)	488
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	8,720



2025 Illinois Fire Statistics

- Illinois fire departments responded to 1,682,250 incidents in 2025.
- 37,023 of those incidents were fires including:
 - 17,256 structure fires.
 - 6,133 vehicle fires
- These fires resulted in over \$1.4 billion in property damage.
- 136 persons were killed in Illinois due to fire.
- 69% of all fire deaths occurred in the home.
- 27% of all fatal fires were in buildings with confirmed smoke alarms present.
- In 2024, Illinois saw a 10% increase in fires compared to 2024.
- The number one known cause of residential fires in Illinois is cooking.
- A fire is reported every 13 minutes in Illinois.
- Every 19 seconds, an Illinois fire department responds to an emergency.
- Mutual aid was given from other fire departments on 112,522 incidents.
- 155,805 incidents were determined to be false calls.
- Illinois fire departments responded to 1,179,048 rescue and medical emergencies.

A Day in the Illinois Fire Service

Today, 4,609 calls for service will be resolved by the hardworking firefighters in our state.

Of these calls:

- 112 will be fires,
- 427 will be false alarms, and
- 3,230 will be medical or rescue calls (including MVCs).
- One in every 302 fires will be fatal..

Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Installation Program

2025 Statistics:

- 375 active Illinois fire departments from 65 different counties participating in the program
- 11,083 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- \$336,025 worth of life-saving smoke alarms distributed to Illinois fire departments
- 9,666 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms installed in Illinois homes
- 3,204 Illinois homes protected with new smoke alarms
- 68% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms were non-functional or expired (5,007 of 7,376 pre-existing alarms)
- 7,800 (4,111 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
- 10 media events across the state, promoting the importance of working smoke alarms



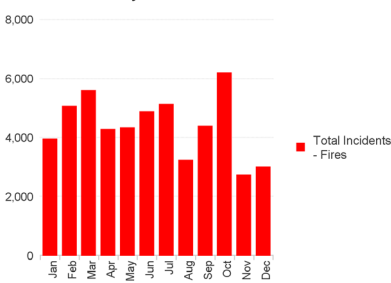
NFIRS Dashboard Summary Report (Fire Incidents)

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

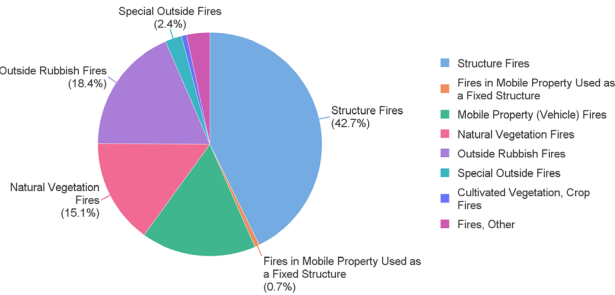
Fire Incident Counts By Month of Year



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

NFIRS Dashboard Summary Report (All Incidents)

Report Period: 1/1/25 to 12/31/25

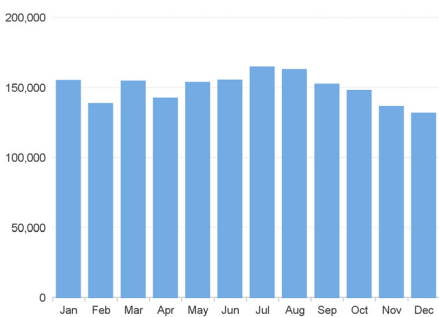
Total Fire Departments 1,020

Total Incident Reports 1,795,489

Summary By Incident Type Category

Incident Type Category	Total Incidents	Percent	Aid Given	Exposures	Grand Total
Fires (100-173)	41,041	2.4%	17,025	341	58,410
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat Calls (200-251)	953	0.1%	60	0	1,013
Rescue and EMS Calls (300-381)	1,179,048	70.1%	34,186	0	1,213,235
Hazardous Condition Calls (400-482)	54,203	3.2%	1,721	1	55,925
Service Calls (500-571)	151,719	9.0%	10,885	0	162,604
Good Intent Calls (600-672)	95,875	5.7%	42,587	0	138,462
False Alarm and False Calls (700-751)	155,805	9.3%	5,874	0	161,679
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster Calls (800-815)	1,142	0.1%	60	0	1,202
Special Incident Type Calls (900-911)	2,351	0.1%	119	0	2,470
Unknown or Not Reported	113	0.0%	5	1	119
Grand Total	1,682,250	100.0%	112,522	343	1,795,119

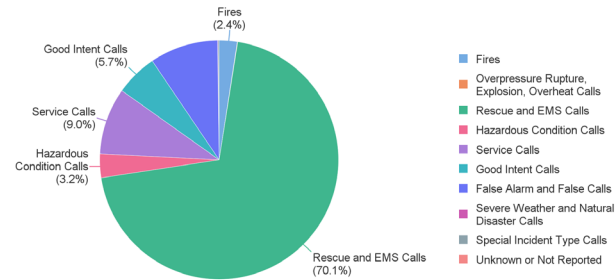
Incident Counts By Month of Year



Monthly Incident Counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
154,969	138,572	154,566	142,530	153,499	155,223	164,514	162,807	152,404	147,969	136,311	131,755	1,795,119

Incident Type Category Summary



Percent Valid

99.5%

Percent Released

99.4%

Incident Valid Status Summary

Incident Valid Status	Total	Percent
Valid	1,786,267	99.5%
Invalid	8,852	0.5%
No Activity	370	0.0%
Grand Total	1,795,489	100.0%

Incident Release Status Summary

Incident Valid Status	Total	Percent
Released	1,784,138	99.4%
Unreleased	11,351	0.6%
Grand Total	1,795,489	100.0%

Fire Service Injuries

1,448

Fire Service Deaths

2

Fire Service Casualty Summary

Fire Service Casualties	Fire-Related	Non-Fire	Grand Total
Fire Service Injuries	769	679	1,448
Fire Service Deaths	1	1	2
Total Fire Service Casualties	770	680	1,450



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