

# The Investigator



## I.A.A.I. Illinois Chapter News

2016 - Spring  
[www.il-iaai.com](http://www.il-iaai.com)

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### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*By Thomas Wegner, IAAI-CFI*

#### State of the Chapter for 2015

When you elected me President, I had a number of initiatives planned and want to share with you our progress.

We wanted to continue to offer as many training opportunities as possible. Once again our Training and Education Co-Chairs of Chris Ward and Craig Burgess put together over 100 hours of training throughout the state. They have managed to keep the training relevant and to keep up with the ever evolving science of fire investigation.

One of the Executive Board's initiatives was to diversify membership. Well over 80% of our membership consist of public and private fire investigators. Our thought was to obtain additional members from the insurance industry, attorneys, and other professions that deal with fire investigation. In order to reach out to expand our membership, we put on a number of one day seminars, often free, to attract these professionals. I truly believe this has opened a few eyes by identifying the diverse training the Chapter has to offer.

In addition to expanding our membership, we sought to bring training to other areas of the state. This was evident by moving the Hoyle Training Seminar to Hoffman Estates in an attempt to reach out to the northwest suburbs. The Buxton-Mazzone Seminar was held in Belleville again trying to offer training to another area.

Finally, we wanted to strengthen our relations with other organizations. We continue to support IFSI and the great work they do and offer instructors for the modules and classes. For the second year in a row, I was fortunate enough to meet with the Central Illinois Fire Investigators Association's leadership at their annual conference. The training they put on is tremendous and a strong organization. T&E put together a joint seminar with the International Association of Special Investigative Units, National Society of Professional Insurance Investigators and National

Association of Subrogation Professionals to provide a program just for the insurance industry.

Quite a busy year and plenty of accolades to go around. Your Executive Board has worked very hard to break away from the status quo in order to meet your training needs and for that I personally would like to thank each and every one of them for their contributions.

Be safe and take care of yourselves.

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#### Recognition Letter

Below is a copy of the email that the IAAI Executive Director sent to our very own, Jim Pioth, in recognition of his induction into the Senior Illinois Hall of Fame. Jimmys's dedication and work ethic is something we should all strive for. Well done Swordsman!! Here's the link to the newspaper article: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/lifestyles/ct-stc-brashinger-column-st-0107-20160105-story.html>

Hi, Jim:

Wanted to reach out to you and congratulate you on the recent award from the Illinois Department on Aging for your fifty years of community service. We are proud to learn that you were one of only three individuals inducted into the Senior Illinois Hall of Fame and enjoyed reading the article in the Chicago Times!

Your dedication and commitment to helping others has not only been evident in your work at home but with the IAAI (since 1979) as well. Thank you for your service and we are proud to have you as a member and IAAI-CFI. Thank you also to Claudia and your family for their support.

Keep up the good work and again, Jim, congratulations on the award and recognition. It is well deserved.

Regards,  
Deborah Keeler, Executive Director  
IAAI – Global Leaders in Fire Investigation

## NORTHERN ZONE REPORT

Northern Zone Director Craig Burgess, IAAI-CFI  
T/E Co-Chairman, Website Chairman

The 2016 Terrence Hoyle Northern Zone Conference went off without a hitch. Thanks to all who helped, especially Jim Pioth and Bruce Grafton, who epitomize the meaning of "Volunteer". Jimmy makes sure we have chapter themed merchandise to sell and Bruce takes inventory of the merchandise and tows our Chapter trailer wherever it needs to go. Then, as if that's not enough, both of them attend our events and man the merchandise table! Please join me with a "Tip O' the Brim" to both Jimmy and Bruce.

On April 8th, our Chapter partnered with three insurance organizations to provide CE for insurance professionals. Those other three organizations were the Illinois chapters of IASIU /NSPII /NASP. The Chapter would like to thank the following persons for their presentations: Eric Moch, an Attorney at HeplerBroom; Thomas Wegner, State Farm SIU; Brad Gordon and Emma Gaddipati, Attorney's at Grotefeld Hoffmann; Pete Loeblich, of Travelers Insurance; Chris Ward, Ward and Associates; and, yours truly. Also, thank you to our sponsors: HeplerBroom, Condon & Cook, Grotefeld Hoffman, Robinette Demolition, Ward & Associates, and Hoyle and Associates. Very special thanks to the Orland Fire Protection District for hosting the event.

The Buxton/Mazzone Southern Zone Conference is set for May 19 and 20. Best of luck, for a successful conference, to our Southern Zone team consisting of Greg Vespa, Corey Reeves, and Mike Presson. They have a great line up planned! Get details and register at [il-iaai.com](http://il-iaai.com).

Details for this year's Annual Training Conference are being finalized and will soon be posted on our website. Details for the Terrence Hoyle Memorial Golf Outing are posted on the website and an event was created on our FaceBook page. This golf outing benefits Burn Camp. Steve Hoyle, Tom Wegner, and Chris Ward are the organizers and they are looking for hole sponsors.

Lastly, I hope all eligible voters voted in this year's IAAI election. Always know our mission is to provide you with the best training available, so please, if you have any suggestions or concerns, let your board members know. Keep training and stay safe everyone!

## CENTRAL ZONE REPORT

By Central Zone Director John Knapp IAAI-CFI

Greetings from the Central Zone.

The Illinois Chapter Training and Education Committee are at work developing the training schedule for 2016. Already in place are the following:

- Southern Zone Seminar May 19-20, 2016 Swansea, IL.
- IFSI Fire College June, 2016
- Terrence Hoyle Golf Outing August 25, 2016 Green Garden Country Club in Monee, IL
- IL-IAAI Annual Training Conference September 25-28, 2016 Champaign, IL.

The Central Illinois Fire Investigator's Association Conference was held in East Peoria in March. The presentation by Dr. DeHaan was excellent. Great work by the CIFIA board and training committee. Many thanks to those who attended and those who sponsored the program. Plans are already underway for next year. The location and dates will be posted in our next issue.

As you can't miss in each issue of this newsletter there are numerous opportunities throughout the state (and country) for continuing education. Whether or not you choose to attend the annual Illinois Chapter seminar or sponsored seminars which are held in the Northern, Central, or Southern Zones, I suggest that you try to plan ahead to attend at least one or two. You will find that the instructors are second to none and the networking opportunities with other agencies will be beneficial. Last but not least give [www.CFItrainer.net](http://www.CFItrainer.net) a try and you will find another great opportunity to learn.

Until next time, Be safe!

See photos from the conference on page 8 . . .

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The advertisement for PuroClean features a large, stylized logo with the text "PuroClean" and "The Paramedics of Property Damage" below it. To the left of the logo is a circular emblem with a cross and the text "THE PARAMEDICS OF PROPERTY DAMAGE". Below the logo, the phone number "(217) 351-PURO" is displayed, along with the American Red Cross Disaster Response logo. To the right, it says "24-HOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE". At the bottom, four categories are listed: WATER, FIRE, MOLD, and BIOHAZARD, each with a corresponding image.

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## SOUTHERN ZONE

By Cory Reeves IAAI-CFI

“The function of education is to teach one to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”  
–Martin Luther King

Hello fellow members of the Illinois Chapter–IAAI. The Southern Zone Directors would like to report that we are alive and well. I myself am in the final months of my 4th three year term as a Board Member and, although I enjoy working with the other Board Members on your behalf, I feel it is time to step aside and let new ideas come to the table. Therefore, I will not be seeking re-election at the September conference. I am sure the nominating committee will find a great, hardworking and ambitious person to fill the position.

On to Zone news: By the time this is published we may have held the Buxton/Mazzone Training Seminar in Swansea IL. We are at a new venue this year; The Swansea Improvement Association Hall. It is quite different from what we have done in past years so it is new and exciting for the committee. Chairman Greg Vespa, Co-Chairman Rob Helmcamp and their team have put together a great curriculum.

We are currently working on a one day training seminar somewhere in Southern Illinois; I think it is slated to be a vehicle fire investigation course. More information will be published when the details are worked out.

As always we are looking for Southern Zone members to step up and bring your talents to the Chapter with Cheerful Service for committee work on training seminars, as well as, committees the Chapter has that are vital to the health and goals if the Illinois-IAAI. Please email or call me or any board member or better yet President Wegner to volunteer to help your Chapter. Yes, it is your Chapter; the ideals and goals of the IAAI and especially the Illinois-IAAI Chapter belong to the membership who are the Stakeholders in the programs and services provided. I encourage and challenge you to get involved. The work is rewarding and beneficial not only to you and the Chapter; but, also other investigators in our State.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” -Nelson Mandela

## TRAINING ARTICLE

By Craig Burgess IAAI- CFI

If you haven't already done so, please take a look at the Chapter's new website, at [www.il-iaai.com](http://www.il-iaai.com).

The nearest upcoming training event will always be the first item you see. There will be a link that will take you to a description of the event, as well as, the registration page. Registration couldn't be easier, especially via credit card. No credit card, no problem. We have provided information on how to pay by bank draft. If that's not your thing, elect the invoice method that will automatically generate an invoice for you to turn in for payment.

As you continue to scroll down the webpage, you will see various important announcements, followed by IL-IAAI and IAAI training events that are scheduled further down the road.

We have also provided an area to post free training opportunities. If you know of or are planning a training event that is germane to our craft, please let us know so we can post it.

There is much to see, like a link to the Facebook group page for this year's golf outing that benefits “Camp I Am Me”.

Event check-in will also have a new look and procedure, starting in earnest with the ATC in September. When someone registers for an event, they will receive a “ticket” with a bar code and a QR code, description of the event, and other pertinent information. Most of us have a smart phone and the QR code can be displayed and scanned on the phone's screen, thus saving paper. Sign in sheets will become a thing of the past, except in emergencies. The T/E committee will be able to communicate last minute changes to all or one registrant very easily.

The members-only area will begin to fill up with pertinent and interesting information, as it is passed along. The Board members have received new [il-iaai.com](http://il-iaai.com) email addresses that will make it easier to remember, for example, the new addresses are the board member's first initial and last name@[il-iaai.com](mailto:il-iaai.com).

The last six months have been busy building this tool for all members to use and have access to. It's not perfect, but with the members' feedback, perhaps we can get it pretty darn close! Thank you for your time.



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## NEWS FROM OSFM

By Chris Valentine

Greetings from the State Fire Marshal's Office. Hopefully by the time you get this it will have stopped raining, the sun will come out and it will start getting warmer.

The Fire Marshal's Office is happy to announce that after several months of working with the Fire Safety Alliance, we will be taking over the Juvenile Fire Setters Program. Our next training date is scheduled for May 25-26th, 2016 at the Rockford Fire Department. If you would like to register for this class go to the State Fire Marshal web site and click on the JFSIP link, click on forms and fill out the class registration form. The new toll-free hotline number is 844-689-7882 to request an interventionist or there is a form on our web site to request one. If you have any questions about this program give us a call at 217-782-9116.

Also Greg Castronovo is currently out east going through canine training. He and his new partner, Ava, will graduate at the end of April and will be in service the first week of May. That will put us up to 7 canine teams throughout the state.

We also had a couple of retirements at the end of March. Terry Ford, who was the Arson Supervisors for a few years and for the past several years in charge of Management Services, retired after 17 yrs. with the agency. Tom Fraase, our vehicle coordinator, retired after 23 yrs. of service. They will be missed and we wish both Terry and Tom a very happy retirement.

Well that is about all from the Fire Marshal's Office. Hope to see you at some of the upcoming conferences and as always, be careful.



## INTERNATIONAL REPORT

by Joe Mazzone, IAAI-CFI

The 2016 IAAI International Training Conference (ITC) in Orlando, Florida, is fast approaching. Hope to see the Illinois Chapter well represented, as usual. 2017 conference will be April 9-14 at the Rio in Las Vegas. 2018 ITC is set for May 20-25 in Frisco (just outside Dallas) Texas.

IAAI membership worldwide was 8935 when last reported. We are hoping to crack the 9000 benchmark very soon. In the Illinois Chapter, membership in the International is required to be an active member (vote or hold office) in the chapter. Many other states do not have this requirement. If you are not yet a member of the International, go to the website and check out the Benefits of Membership section.

Other International news items:

- Check out the two new modules on CFItrainer.net, Introduction to Youth Set Fires and Legal Aspects of Youth Set Fires.
- IAAI-CFI certifications have passed the 2100 plateau. The CFI program was designed and activated as an Illinois Chapter function. It was quickly adopted practically verbatim – by the International. Illinois was also the first state to begin testing at Chapter seminars.
- 24 Chapters, including Illinois, participate in the Enhanced Chapter program. Six additional chapters have expressed interest.
- The Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony class is being revamped, as it is every few years. Stay tuned if you need this prerequisite for your CFI certification.
- An 8-hour Report Writing class is in the works.
- The Editorial Review Committee is making some changes to facilitate and speed up the process by which articles are published in the Fire & Arson Investigator.
- Director Randy Watson reports that the 2017 Edition of NFPA 921 should be out by the end of this year



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The Illinois Chapter of the IAAI is conducting the 2016 nominations, balloting and election process in accordance with the Constitution and By Laws as well as the Standard Operating Procedures of the Nominating Committee for Elected Offices.

In doing so the committee is accepting nominations by written form as is being published in the Newsletter, mass mailing and also available on the IL-IAAI Web site as well as upon request. The dead line for submission in writing is Thursday September 1, 2016. The committee encourages all who want to nominate someone to do so as early as possible.

The six positions available for nominations for 2016 are: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, 3 Directors (one from each zone).

FORM \*\*\*\*\*

This form can be delivered to Nominating Committee Chair, Chapter Director Mike Presson, by mail, email or in person by the deadline date of September 1, 2015.

Mike Presson, IAAI-CFI, IAAI-ECT  
Pyr-Tech, Inc.  
843 St. Louis Road  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
[mpresson@il-iaai.com](mailto:mpresson@il-iaai.com)  
618-401-4991

Nominated Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Nominated for: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated Date: \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
*Nominating Committee Use Only*

Date Nomination Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee eligible for Elected Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee accepted nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

If Eligible date questionnaires sent: \_\_\_\_\_ If not eligible date notifying letter sent: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:



## THE ILLINOIS IAAI CHAPTER

PRESENTS THE

# BUXTON/MAZZONE SOUTHERN ZONE

TRAINING CONFERENCE

**MAY 19 AND 20, 2016**

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EACH DAY

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Cory Reeves [creeves@il-iaai.com](mailto:creeves@il-iaai.com) 618-623-8584 Mike Presson [mpresson@il-iaai.com](mailto:mpresson@il-iaai.com) 618-401-4991

Greg Vespa [gvespa@il-iaai.com](mailto:gvespa@il-iaai.com) 217-306-4191

### Thursday, May 19th

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Grinnell Mutual Insurance - Burn Modules - Classroom

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch - Catered At Hall

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Grinnell Mutual Insurance - Burn Modules - Practical

### Friday, May 20th

8:00 am - 12:00 pm ABRAXAS - Juvenile Fire Setters - Interactive Video Conference

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch - Catered At Hall

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Instructor TBA - NFPA 1033 Knowledge Points

### GRINNELL INSURANCE BURN MODULES

Grinnell Insurance Company has been presenting their burn modules for several years now and this year we will be fortunate to partake in this very informative live burn training. After a short class room discussion Grinnell will conduct several live burns on site where attendees will witness first hand fire progression and the various aspects that affect the progression from ventilation, fuel load, to the different types of fuel we are confronted with in today's Society.

### ABRAXAS

ABRAXAS will present an interactive video conference with several juvenile fire setters, who have all agreed to tell their story and answer any and all questions regarding what brought them to their decisions in the life path they chose. This training has been received very highly and will give attendees an in-depth look into the mind of the juvenile fire setter. ABRAXAS began in Marienville, Pennsylvania over 40 years ago with only one site and only 30 clients. Now, Abraxas Youth & Family Services operates a variety of residential, community-based, alternative education, detention and shelter services across five states.

### Instructor TBA

For the last session of our Conference we will cover the various knowledge points listed in NFPA 1033, all of which are required of the fire and arson investigator. This portion of the Conference will cover as many if not all of these knowledge points and focus on where to find them in NFPA 921 or other fire/arson investigative publications.

# 2016 TERRENCE HOYLE MEMORIAL GOLF OPEN

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**WHERE:** *New Location...*

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Tom Wegner 708-774-9741  
[twegner@wideopenwest.com](mailto:twegner@wideopenwest.com)

Chris Ward 815-405-5491  
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PLAYER # 2. \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER # 3. \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER # 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

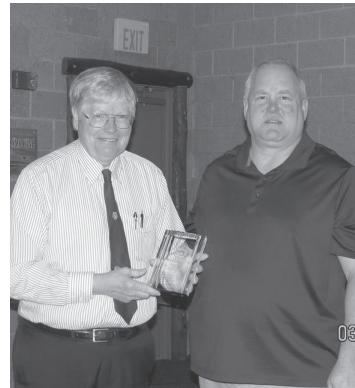
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Your entree fee is requested at least one week in advance of the outing. Make checks payable to the Terrence Hoyle Memorial Open.

ANY & ALL PROCEEDS OF THIS EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO A CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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**CIFI Conference Snapshots ...**





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Incendiary fires and insurance policies are inexorably linked. Any investigation of an incendiary fire should also include a close look at the insurance policy involved.

In an (April 2009) Insurance Angle article, Attorney Rick Hammond wrote about the growing issues facing insurance companies when faced with claims not from insureds but from mortgage companies.

These issues are continuing to cause problems for insurance companies. "Friction Fires" i.e. the mortgage rubbing up against the insurance policy, seem to be a more and more common claim. As Mr. Hammond said "It is safe to say that experience has taught some insurance companies that, when property owners become financially unable to take care of their secured obligations, or become so neglectful of their obligations that foreclosure must be resorted to, the likelihood of fire becomes greater".

Sometimes the insured has abandoned the property and it is actually the mortgage company making a claim. Many insurance policies contain a Mortgage Clause which states something to the effect of, in the advent of a claim the mortgage company will be named on any payments and if a claim is denied, that denial shall not apply to a valid claim of the mortgagee. Adding another layer of uncertainty to these claims is that mortgage companies often hire mortgage servicing companies to present their claims. (It would be interesting to look into whether these companies are complying with IL Statutes regarding public adjusting firms?)

Trends seem to indicate that mortgage companies and mortgage servicing companies are becoming more aggressive in their presentation of claims and filing of suits. It is important to note that in order for a mortgage company to submit a successful claim under the mortgage clause of a policy there are conditions with which they must comply. These usually include notifying the insurance company of any change in risk. This would include initiation of a foreclosure action, or vacancy. The mortgage company is also usually required to file a Proof of Loss. In a recent claim the mortgage company's claim was successfully denied when the investigation of the claim learned that they were aware the insured had vacated the property and did not notify the insurance company. In fact the mortgage company had hired a maintenance company to cut the grass which had grown several feet high.

In cases of foreclosure, if the foreclosure took place after the date of loss, the mortgagee may no longer have an insurable interest and therefore not have a standing to present an insurance claim. Foreclosure documents can be requested from the mortgage company and also may be available at the county circuit clerk's office. A title search may be helpful in determining insurable interest and can be requested for a nominal fee from a title company.

These claims can be complex, but it is important that insurance companies fully investigate these claims. When anyone intentionally starts a fire for the purpose of obtaining insurance benefits it is a particularly heinous act. They are placing their own pecuniary interests above the safety of firefighters and the general public



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P.O. Box 1096 Murphysboro, IL 62966  
Phone: (618) 687-4900 \* Fax: (618) 687-4805  
Email: midwest@midwest-fire.com

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1433 W. Jeffrey Dr.  
Addison, IL 60101

Toll Free: 800-693-2085  
Phone: 630-376-1164 \* Fax: 630-376-1170  
Email: ronald\_krupp@efiglobal.com

## Important Membership Announcement

Membership access to IL-IAAI has been updated. Emails with your USERNAME went out April 8, 2016.

**\*\*IF YOU DID NOT GET AN EMAIL PLEASE NOTIFY  
membership-admin@il-iaai.com**

If you received the email, click on the RESET YOUR PASSWORD and follow the prompts. When you have reset your password, login to the member's login page and you will be able to see the Members Only pages. On the members login page ALSO PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PROFILE INFORMATION.

If you do not see your profile information it just means that your membership subscription shows as EXPIRED in our database and it needs to be paid+visit the International site. The Enhanced Membership option allows you to become a Chapter member as well as an International member. There may be a month lag for updates from the International site.



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**Central Illinois Fire Investigators Association**  
**Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of even months**  
**Annual March Training Conference**  
*Scholarships [www.cifia.org](http://www.cifia.org)*

## The Investigator



*is the official publication of the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc. This newsletter is published quarterly and is solely an educational and advisory aid to fire departments, police departments, fire investigators, state police departments, sheriff's departments, insurance personnel and individuals working to investigate, prosecute, and suppress the crime of arson. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official opinion of the IAAI or the Illinois Chapter.*

### Newsletter Deadlines:

**Winter - January 15 \* Spring - April 15**  
**Summer - July 15 \* Fall - October 15**

## Illinois Chapter Officers

### PRESIDENT

Thomas Wegner  
IAAI- CFI

State Farm Insurance  
PO Box 558007  
Chicago, IL 60655  
708-774-9741

*Term expires Sept. 2016*

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Chris Ward  
IAAI- CFI

24901 S. Donegal Drive  
Manhattan, IL 60442  
815-405-5491

*Term expires Sept. 2016*

### SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Shawn Ahrens  
IAAI- CFI

NC\_bound@comcast.net  
*Term expires Sept. 2016*

### LEGAL COUNSEL

John C. Cassidy  
Sudekum, Cassidy &  
Shulruff, Chtd.  
20 North Clark Street  
Suite 1400

Chicago, Illinois 60602  
(312) 803-6250

### NEWSLETTER

Sheryl Drost  
[firefoto4@aol.com](mailto:firefoto4@aol.com)  
(815)-509-3706

John Knapp  
309-427-7673

### NORTHERN ZONE

Pat Kane IAAI- CFI  
Wauconda Fire District  
109 W Liberty  
Wauconda, IL 60084  
847-526-2821  
*Term expires Sept. 2018*

Guy Maisonneuve  
Kankakee Fire Department  
383 E. Oak Street  
Kankakee, IL. 60901  
815-936-3629  
*Term expires Sept. 2016*

Craig Burgess IAAI- CFI  
791 Fairway Drive  
Bensenville, IL 60106  
630-364-0933  
*Term expires Sept. 2017*

### CENTRAL ZONE

John Knapp, IAAI -CFI  
Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal  
East Peoria Fire Department  
201 W. Washington St.  
East Peoria, IL 61611  
Office: 309-427-7673  
Cell: 309-712-9081  
*Term expires Sept. 2018*

John High IAAI-CFI  
15805 S. Markley Rd  
Danville, IL. 61834  
(217) 443-5836  
*Term expires Sept. 2016*

Chris Valentine  
1035 Stevenson Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703  
217-785-4713  
*Term expires Sept. 2017*

### SOUTHERN ZONE

Cory Reeves IAAI-CFI  
PO 23677  
Belleville, IL. 62223  
618-623-8584  
*Term expires Sept. 2016*

Mike Presson IAAI-CFI  
Pvt-Tech, Inc.  
843 St. Louis Road  
Collinsville, IL 62224  
618-401-4991

email - [mpresson@pyrtech.com](mailto:mpresson@pyrtech.com)  
*Term expires Sept. 2018*

Greg Vespa  
GMV642@msn.com  
501 Orchard Lakes Circle,  
Belleville, IL. 62220  
(217)-306-4191  
*Term expires Sept. 2017*



IAAI - Illinois Chapter  
P.O. Box 558007  
Chicago, IL 60655

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## John Deere Zero-turn Lawn Mower Recall



### **Hazard:**

A fuel hose could have been cut during manufacturing, allowing fuel to leak, posing a fire hazard.

### **Remedy:**

View Details Repair Consumer Contact: Deere and Company at (800) 537-8233 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET or online at [www.deere.com](http://www.deere.com) then click on USA, then select Product Recall Information on the drop-down menu under Services & Support for more information.

### **Recall Details:**

This recall involves John Deere models Z445, Z645, Z655, and Z665 zero-turn mowers with serial numbers beginning with 1GXZ, manufactured from August 10, 2015 through September 9, 2015. A complete list of serial numbers included in this recall is on the firm's website. The mowers are green and yellow with yellow wheels. The model number is on the front of the machine, near the operator footrest. The serial number is located behind the seat, in front of the engine.

Incidents/Injuries

**No incidents or injuries have been reported.**

### **Remedy:**

Consumers should immediately stop using these recalled zero-turn lawn mowers and contact a John Deere dealer for a free repair. After identifying four reports of cut fuel hoses during the manufacturing process, John Deere is contacting all registered owners of the recalled lawn mowers directly.