

# IPRF ISSUES

Risk & Safety Tips from the ILLINOIS PUBLIC RISK FUND

Vol. 14 No. 3 | Quarterly Issue | August 2014

## Are You Registered for IPRF eBlasts?



The IPRF Loss Control Team sends periodic eBlast emails to our members. The purpose of the information is to raise levels of safety awareness and promote available training resources, to reduce employee injuries within the program.

If you are not currently receiving eBlasts, you are missing:

- **Monthly Risk Reminders**
- **Safety News**
- **Available Safety Service Offerings**
- **Featured Monthly Online Safety Training Course**

To register to receive our eBlasts, you can sign-up by visiting [www.iprf.com](http://www.iprf.com) and clicking on the banner "Sign Me Up for EBlasts!" or visit the Loss Control page and click on the button on the right to sign up. After filling out your email address, first and last name, and department, you will be added to our email list.

Rest assured that IPRF is committed, as ever, to keeping their members informed about safety issues. This is a free service for IPRF members. IPRF keeps your information confidential and is not shared with any third parties.

## How Can We Better Serve You?

The IPRF is dedicated to its members and is always working toward higher levels of service.

**We need your input on:**

- Safety Concerns
- Claims Information
- Timeliness of Claims Processing
- Helpfulness & Courtesy of Our Claims Team
- Loss Control

**Please contact Paul Boecker III at  
[pboecker@ccmsi.com](mailto:pboecker@ccmsi.com) or (630) 649-6053**



## IPRF Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to submit an article to include in an upcoming IPRF Newsletter or to suggest a topic, please contact:

**Cindy Couturier at (810) 714-9000 or  
email: [iprfnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:iprfnewsletter@gmail.com)**

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## ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL RECEIVES \$1,000,000 SMALL EQUIPMENT GRANT



The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has been appropriated \$1,000,000 for the State of Illinois Small Equipment Grant Program. The purpose of this program is to provide grants directly to local units of government for the purchase of small equipment by a fire department, fire protection district or township fire department. These grants may not exceed \$26,000 to any fire department or fire protection district.

The open application period started Friday, August 1, 2014 and ends Tuesday, September 30, 2014. An application is required plus W-9 forms.

Please note: The NFIRS requirement has changed as stated on the application. When downloading the application you will find examples of the NFIRS requirement (Monthly Incident Counts Report) for your reference. These reports are required as an addition to the application. Please view the link below for application and W-9 forms.

<http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/news/fireservicenews.aspx>

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 5-11, 2014

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.



# Governor Quinn Fights for Stronger Gun Laws Across Illinois



**CHICAGO** – July 13, 2014, Governor Pat Quinn, joined by Congresswoman Robin Kelly, today visited the site of a recent fatal shooting in Chicago’s Morgan Park neighborhood to urge legislators to stand with families and communities and take action against gun violence. The Governor pushed passage of the Illinois Public Safety Act, legislation that would ban the sale or delivery of assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines in Illinois and require background checks for the transfer of guns. Today’s action is part of Governor Quinn’s agenda to make Illinois neighborhoods safer.

“The recent epidemic of violence in Chicago is unacceptable and we must join together to fight back,” Governor Quinn said. “Public safety is government’s foremost mission and Illinois should not wait any longer to act. There are too many victims of a war being waged on our streets, a war fueled in part by the availability of deadly, military-style assault weapons that have no purpose other than killing.

“We must work together to protect the lives of those we love and stop what’s happening in our communities. I urge the Illinois General Assembly to take a stand and pass this legislation that will save lives and protect communities.”

The Governor today was joined by Congresswoman Robin Kelly who recently released the Kelly Report on Gun Violence in America, the first-ever Congressional analysis of the nation’s gun violence epidemic that offers a blueprint for ending the crisis.

Senate Bill 3659 – the Illinois Public Safety Act – was introduced during the recent spring Legislative session by State Senator Dan Kotowski (D-Park Ridge) and supported by Governor Quinn. It bans the possession, delivery, sale and purchase of assault weapons, large capacity ammunition feeding devices such as magazines or clips, and .50 caliber rifles and cartridges in Illinois. Valid Firearms Owners Identification Card (FOID) holders who possess any of these devices at the time the law is enacted would be allowed to keep them, but could not transfer or sell them except to a family member. The legislation also requires background checks for the transfer of firearms except to a family member or at a gun show.

A review of mass shootings between January 2009 and January 2013 by Mayors Against Illegal Guns found that incidents where assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines were used resulted in 135% more people shot and 57% more killed, compared to other mass shootings.

“This is a common-sense solution to preventing gun violence and keeping our children and families safe,” Senator Kotowski said. “This measure will protect our communities by ensuring that military-style assault weapons are off the streets and out of hands of criminals.”

Governor Quinn has long fought to protect Illinois neighbor-

hoods from gun violence. He signed legislation in 2013 that increases penalties on gun owners who don’t report the theft or loss of a weapon. This major legislation was a key priority in the Governor’s 2013 State of the State address. He also signed a law in 2011 to increase penalties for convicted felons who are found carrying guns – this helps fight gun crime in Illinois by ensuring that felons who are convicted of new weapons offenses will be sent to prison and not allowed to walk the streets of Illinois. Governor Quinn also signed a law in 2009 establishing mandatory prison time for gang members convicted of possessing a loaded gun in a public area.

Seven states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws banning assault weapons: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. In addition, Minnesota and Virginia regulate assault weapons.

## Illinois State Police 37th Annual Awards Ceremony



**SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois State Police (ISP) Director Hiram Grau was joined by ISP command staff members today to recognize the noble contributions made by sworn and civilian members of the Illinois State Police, government agencies and the public.

The 37th Annual Awards Ceremony was held at Glenwood High School in Chatham, Illinois and paid tribute to the acts of heroism and professionalism displayed by 92 men and women who were honored during the event.

“Today we recognize the outstanding efforts and sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Illinois State Police,” said ISP Director Hiram Grau. “The courage and determination of our sworn and civilian employees in keeping Illinois citizens safe is commendable. Their unselfish acts and commitment to serve their agency and community underscores their desire to help others,” he added.

### **Officer of the Year, Trooper Bradley R. Williams**

Assigned to District 20 for his entire career, Trooper Brad Williams exemplifies the tenets of the Illinois State Police – Integrity, Service, and Pride. His motivation and desire to excel are evident by his performance. Selected as a motorcycle officer in 2012, Trooper Williams can be found patrolling District 20 on his motorcycle regardless of temperature. He is often approached by citizens with questions regarding his motorcycle duties and is always willing to take the time to speak with and educate them. Trooper Williams maintains a high level of activity, including leading District 20 with over 950 citations in 2013, and his contribution to improving traffic safety is evident.

### **Telecommunicator of the Year, Laurie delosReyes**

Ms. delosReyes has proudly served the Illinois State Police for 32 years as a telecommunications professional. She is an exceptional employee who has earned the respect of sworn officers, peers and subordinates. Ms. delosReyes consistently maintains her personal composure and professional demeanor during high stress situations. She is a knowledgeable employee and is well versed in her job duties as well as department policies and procedures. She possesses the knowledge to handle work of the most complex nature. Ms. delosReyes has received countless letters of gratitude for helping with serious incidents during her career.

## Illinois State Police, cont.

### Forensic Scientist of the Year, Katherine A. Sullivan

Ms. Katherine Sullivan is a Forensic Scientist 3 in the Forensic Biology/DNA section at the Joliet Forensic Science Laboratory. Her dedication, integrity, leadership, and pride are demonstrated by her quality work and her commitment to advancing the field of forensic science. In 2013, she worked more than 300 DNA cases, far exceeding casework productivity expectations and placing her as one of the highest producing scientists in the Forensic Biology/DNA Section. More importantly, her work is consistently thorough and of the highest quality. Ms. Sullivan's leadership is evident through her forward thinking and her ability to plan for future scientific advancements, an attribute necessary for the constantly evolving science of DNA.

### Medal for Honor

The Medal for Honor is awarded to Illinois State Police personnel who perform a heroic act that, by its nature, results in saving a life, preventing a serious crime, or apprehending a person who committed a serious crime.

This year's recipients:

Trooper Brian R. Scott, District 10

Trooper Brad R. Williams, District 20

### Purple Heart

The Purple Heart Medal is presented to Illinois State Police personnel who, while in the performance of enforcement duties, are seriously injured or killed while encountering deadly force. Receiving the Purple Heart this year is Trooper James M. Sauter.

On March 29, 2013, **Trooper James M. Sauter** was on duty in his ISP squad car when his vehicle was struck by a truck tractor semi-trailer at I-294 southbound at Willow Road. He was pronounced dead at the scene early Friday morning and had been a member of the Illinois State Police since June 29, 2008. Trooper Sauter had just completed a temporary assignment in Air Operations and was recently reassigned to District 15 as a patrolman.

### Lifesaving Medal

The Lifesaving Medal is awarded to Illinois State Police personnel who perform actions or who apply techniques that result in saving or sustaining a human life.

Honorees:

Captain John B. Rattigan, Bureau of Identification

Master Sergeant Theodore J. Rhodes, District 12

Sergeant Craig R. Demaret, SWAT

Trooper John W. Carroll, District 22

Trooper Dwayne L. Jennings, District Chicago

Trooper Michael J. Kasprak, District 17

Trooper Brian M. Kelliher, District Chicago

Trooper Chad R. Martinez, District 5

Trooper Jose F. Malave, District Chicago

Trooper Jose A. Montes, District Chicago

Trooper Ralph E. Shelton, District 13

Trooper Brian M. Spillane, District Chicago

Trooper Howard R. Sterling, District Chicago

Trooper Demetrio Torres, District Chicago

Trooper Joel D. Vanburen, District 2

Officer Tracy Grantlen, PSU

### Director's Award of Distinction

The Director's Award of Distinction is presented to any individual, agency, or group outside the Illinois State Police who gave extraordinary support and assistance to accomplish the goals of the Department.

Honorees:

Investigator Dwayne Buretz, Secretary of State Police

Mr. Nicholas D. Carter, Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Scott Emberle, Edelstein, Illinois

Ms. Susan Feldhake, Effingham, Illinois

Officer Steven Francisko, Illinois Conservation Police

Ms. Deanna Gawron, Westmont, Illinois

Mr. Michael S. Hairgrove, Schaumburg, Illinois

Mr. Marcos Hernandez, North Aurora, Illinois

Mr. Anthony Ladd, Chicago, Illinois

Chief George Lindsey, Chief of Winchester Police Department

Mr. Ron Newman, South Elgin, Illinois

Mr. Christopher Pratt (from 2013), Odin, Illinois

Mr. Tim Sjostrom, St. Charles, Illinois

Mr. Mike Stoner, St. Charles, Illinois

Ms. Mandy Vergara, Effingham, Illinois

Inspector Doug Wade, Blackhawk Area Task Force

Department Commendation

Master Sergeant Robert Seas (Retired)

Department Achievement Medal

Aaron R. Kustermann, State Terrorism Intelligence Center

### Officer of the Year Award

Officers nominated for the ISP Officer of the Year Award must display a combination of the following qualifications and characteristics: outstanding contribution in the area of assignment; valor in the line of duty; exceptional knowledge and ability to complete job functions; overall productivity; civic contributions; and professional appearance and demeanor.

### Officer of the Year nominees:

Division of Administration

Sergeant Michael A. Severino, Logistics Bureau

Division of Forensic Services

Sergeant Abigail B. Keller, Crime Scene Services Command

Division of Internal Investigation

Sergeant Elliot R. Alger, Southern Command

Division of Operations

Operational Services Command

Trooper Gregory A. Lecas, Special Operations Command

Special Agent Scott C. Rhodes, Medical Fraud Control Bureau

ISP Patrol

Trooper Jeffrey A. Meisenheimer, District 1

Trooper Nathan K. Schramka, District 2

Trooper Jose A. Alvarez, District Chicago

Trooper Jeffrey T. Murray, District 5

Trooper Scott W. Ahrens, District 6

Trooper Andy T. Fratzke, District 7

Trooper Jacob C. Duro, District 8

Trooper Eric J. Weston, District 9

Trooper Kevin C. Smith, District 10

Trooper Kenneth G. Patterson, District 11

Trooper Ryan J. Finney, District 12

Trooper Christopher J. Watson, District 13

Trooper Bryan M. Clauson, District 14

Trooper James A. Sauter, District 15

Trooper Brian J. Bottcher, District 16

Trooper John C. Morscheiser II, District 17

Trooper Stephen M. Tarter, District 18

Trooper Matthew D. Haywood, District 19

Trooper Brad R. Williams, District 20

Trooper Erik R. Shay, District 21

Trooper Brian C. Watkins, District 22

*"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage."*  
Maya Angelou



Unfortunately, due to lack of space, the IPRF Newsletter is unable to list all of the brave men and women honored at the Illinois State Police 37th Annual Awards Ceremony. Copy the link below for more details.  
<http://www.isp.state.il.us/media/pressdetails.cfm?ID=813>

# WORK ZONE TRAFFIC SAFETY

**WHO IS AT RISK:** Each year AFSCME members die or are seriously injured when vehicles crash through traffic control devices and enter a work zone. Workers are also struck by equipment operating within the work area. Repairing streets and bridges, cleaning catch basins, and rebuilding manholes are examples of tasks that require workers to share the road with other vehicles.



**PREVENTION:** A traffic control plan must be developed BEFORE the work begins to guide drivers through/around work zones.

**A traffic control plan should include:**

- Advance warning to drivers of road work ahead,
- Traffic control devices to clearly mark the work zone and channel traffic through it, and Returning traffic to normal traffic patterns as quickly, safely and efficiently as possible.

**A traffic control plan needs to address these factors:**

- Type of roadway (number of lanes, divided or undivided highway, etc.),
- Volume and speed of traffic (the number and speed of cars, trucks, etc.),
- Type of job and how long it will last, and
- Type and number of traffic control signs and devices.

**Detours:** Closing roads and re-routing traffic away from the maintenance activities puts a safe distance between workers and traffic.

**Barriers:** Concrete barriers, also called Jersey barriers or K-rails, separate workers from traffic. They are used for long-term projects such as during road construction and bridge deck replacement. Concrete barriers are commonly used to temporarily change stretches of 4-lane divided highways into two-lane roads.

**Reducing the Speed Of Traffic In Work Zones**

Methods to slow traffic in work zones include:

- Driving pilot cars at reduced speeds to slow traffic,
- Portable rumble strips on roadways,
- Portable radar units mounted on construction vehicles,
- Aggressively enforcing speed limits in work zones,
- Doubling the fines and/or points charged against a driver's record for speeding.

**Advance Warning Signs:** Signs should be located far enough in advance of the work area to allow vehicles to move smoothly and efficiently around work areas. They must clearly inform motorists of approaching activity and guide drivers around or through the activity.

**All advance warning signs must be:**

- orange background with black lettering or symbols,
- retro-reflective or illuminated if used when it is dark,
- 4 feet by 4 feet if traffic moves at 45 miles per hour or faster,
- 3 feet by 3 feet if speeds are 40 mph or lower,
- 7 feet above the road surface (measured to bottom of sign),
- at least 1 foot above the road surface if the sign is portable,
- less than 50 percent of the top two rails or not more than 33 percent of all rails if mounted on a barricade.

Advance warning signs should be placed so as to give motorists enough time to react to the conditions they will find ahead of them. In general, the distance between the first warning sign and the work area should be increased the faster that traffic is moving.

## 2012 WORK ZONE FATALITIES

Illinois ranked 6th in work zone fatalities at 19, and 10th in total traffic fatalities with 956. The top three states with the worse record of fatalities is: Texas, 3398 total fatalities, 125 work zone related. California, 2857 total fatalities, 67 work zone related. Florida, 2373 total fatalities, 51 work zone related. Rhode Island and Alaska hold the title of the least fatalities, both having zero work zone fatalities.

Source: [www.workzonesafety.org](http://www.workzonesafety.org)



## DIRECTORY

### CLAIMS

<b>Lori Mittlestaedt</b> lmittlestaedt@ccmsi.com	Claims Manager	P (630) 649-6071 F (217) 477-5937
<b>Paul Boecker, III</b> pboecker@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Supervisor	P (630) 649-6053 F (217) 477-5912
<b>Kim Dubravin</b> kdubravin@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Supervisor	P (630) 649-6072 F (217) 477-5906
<b>Elena Lumbreras</b> elumbreras@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Supervisor	P (630) 649-6051 F (217) 477-6382
<b>Glenn Macey</b> gmacey@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6057 F (217) 477-5939
<b>Dahlia Johnson</b> dahlia.johnson@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6058 F (217) 477-5941
<b>Barbara Keller</b> bkeller@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist Subrogation	P (630) 649-6067 F (217) 477-7280
<b>Thalia Nevels</b> tnevels@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6069 F (217) 477-7282
<b>Christine Dapper</b> cdapper@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6059 F (217) 477-7283
<b>Laurie Czizik</b> lczizik@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6062 F (217) 477-7281
<b>Gabriela Bennett</b> gbennett@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6074 F (217) 477-5929
<b>Elaine Serafino</b> eserafino@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6064 F (217) 477-7289
<b>Kevin Orouke</b> kevin.orourke@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6055 F (217) 477-7273
<b>Carol Biagi</b> cbiagi@ccmsi.com	Medical Only Representative	P (630) 649-6060 F (217) 477-7288
<b>Nancy Radzienta</b> nradzienta@ccmsi.com	Medical Only Representative	P (630) 649-6068 F (217) 477-7285
<b>Ryan Evers</b> revers@ccmsi.com	Claims Specialist	P (630) 649-6076 F (217) 477-5922
<b>Kathy Kuzmicki</b> kkuzmicki@ccmsi.com	Medical Only Representative	P (630) 649-6063 F (217) 477-7286
<b>May Soo Hoo</b> msoohoo@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Clerk	P (630) 649-6066 F (217) 477-7287
<b>Josie Murray</b> cmurray@ccmsi.com	Unit Claims Clerk	P (630) 649-6065 F (217) 477-7278

### LOSS CONTROL

<b>Jim Patino</b> jpatino@ccmsi.com	Loss Control Supervisor Lisle, IL	P (630) 649-6078
<b>Terry Berger</b> tberger@ccmsi.com	Loss Control Consultant Lisle, IL	P (630) 649-6081
<b>Ted Golden</b> tgolden@ccmsi.com	Loss Control Consultant Lisle, IL	P (630) 649-6079
<b>Brad Hoffman</b> bhoffman@ccmsi.com	Loss Control Consultant Lisle, IL	P (314) 418-5508
<b>Randall House</b> rhouse@ccmsi.com	Loss Control Consultant Lisle, IL	P (630) 649-6086
<b>Bill Bloch</b> bbloch@ccmsi.com	Loss Control Consultant Danville, IL	P (217) 444-1220
<b>Donna Ryan</b> donna.ryan@ccmsi.com	Administrative Assistant Lisle, IL	P (630) 649-6082 F (217) 477-7290

**IPRF | 3333 Warrenville Road | Lisle, IL 60532**  
**Toll Free Phone: 1-888-532-6981 | Toll Free Fax: 1-888223-1638**

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