

Minutes of March 10, 2010

Next Meeting: April 14, 2010

Program: CFD Abandoned Building Identification Hazards for FI

Location: **Salvation Army 8354 W. Foster Av. Norridge, IL 60706 (NE corner of Cumberland and Foster)**

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0900 hrs.

?? Welcome to all members, new and old.

?? We are back to metal chairs!

?? A moment of silence was held for all family members and Armed Forces personnel that have passed away. **Special Note: On Sunday, March 14, the wife of the FISF Executive Director Mike Schmitt, passed away unexpectedly. Please remember Mike and his family in your thoughts and prayers. We will forward arrangements as they become available.**

?? A motion was made, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the February Minutes. The motion passed. Note: We apologize for the Minutes not being published at an earlier time.

?? A motion was made, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed. A full copy of the report is available on our website.

?? The Board is in the process of creating a new data base on Access for training purposes. We will go back as far as January 2007 so we have the information needed for the OSFM in July 2011. The old records will still be maintained on our other data base..

?? Training hours will be recorded exactly as they are done. At the end of each meeting, and on the Minutes, we will announce how much time will be credited towards training.

?? Over 100 members were in attendance.

?? Nominations for the Harry P. Schaefer Award need to be turned in to a board member by the April Executive Board meeting, Tuesday April 6, so that we have time to select a worthy recipient. All board members e-mail addresses are on the web site.

?? We will present the Schaefer Award at the May seminar.

?? We are still working on a logo for our shirts.

?? **Important reminder: The May seminar is Wednesday May 19. Our speaker will be Carl Deleo and not members of the BATF as previously advertised.**

?? **Fires: Cicero**; two individuals were arrested for the fire that killed seven people and injured three firefighters, one seriously. Cicero reminded us to get the resources you need to the scene as quickly as possible; they had over 20 people to interview and the first few hours are critical. **Park Ridge** had a fire in a garage that they believe was ignited by an unattended space heater. **Norwood Park** had an 86 year old male suffer second and third degree burns after ash from his cigar caused his clothes to catch on fire. **Riverside**; a bed ridden woman died in a fire. Three police officers were sent to the hospital after trying to rescue her. **Greater Round Lake** also had a fire involving a bed ridden person. Initially it was thought that the fire was caused by smoking

materials but it was discovered that the bed had electrical components and that the components were still energized. Make sure we check beds for any electrical devices such as motors, blankets, heating pads, etc. that may be energized.

?? A brief discussion ensued regarding fire safe cigarettes. George Michehl, Deputy Fire Marshal, from Buffalo Grove gave a brief synopsis of how the cigarettes are supposed to function. George also gave examples of non-fire safe cigarettes still being found on the open market as well as the black market. George reminded us that cigarettes from Indian (Native American) Reservations are exempt from the law.

Our speaker was Mick Kopina, Group Supervisor, Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Services, Micro/Trace Section-Chicago. (FSC-C) The FSC is only supposed to work on criminal cases.

Mick talked about the importance of proper packaging of materials sent to the lab; they must stop evaporation and prevent cross-contamination. Unlined metal cans are best. Do not fill the cans to the top; only fill them about half way. You must leave an airspace at the top for tests to be performed properly. If you use Mason jars, remove the rubber gasket from the lid. If you need to send liquids the lab only needs a very small amount for a test; do not send large amounts of liquid unless, for some reason, you need the amount tabulated. Do not use plastic bags unless they specifically designed to be used for fire evidence collection, and do not use paper bags or coffee cans.

The use of comparison samples is always useful to the lab. It can help determine the original content of a material. (Since many products are made of petroleum products, or use petroleum in their manufacturing, it is necessary to find what levels of hydrocarbons were originally in a product and how much is present currently.)

Our thanks to Mick and to the ISP for allowing Mick to come and give his presentation to our organization.

Meeting/training adjourned at 11:30

Respectfully Submitted,  
John T. Gilleran  
Secretary F.I.S.F.