

Minutes of June 11, 2008

Next Meeting: September 10, 2008

Program: Subrogation

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

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 0910

?? A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the May minutes. The motion passed.

?? A motion was made, and 2nd, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed. A copy of the report is available on our web site.

?? Mitch advised attendees that he is developing a program for Firefighter statements. Further, when an investigator asks for statements, and the firefighter doesn't fill out a form or give a statement, we are to remind them they are interfering in an investigation. By not cooperating they can be criminally charged and in his words, "do jail time."

?? Also, Mitch was downstate training with the State Police and got shot 2 times by a 9mm paint ball gun. It hurts, but very educational he said.

?? **Reminder: These are the last minutes that will be mailed!** Minutes will now all be on-line and no longer mailed.

?? Dues are also now \$75.00 and due now. You should have gotten a notice.

?? Asked about any fires, no response. But, later we talked about seniors in Nursing homes and smoking, Niles had a fire with two fatalities; Norridge has a fire believed to have been caused by seniors smoking.

Program was Chicago Bomb & Arson Unit with their Robotics Squad.

Commander John Escalante gave a short talk indoors and then everyone went outside to the parking lot for a further demonstration of the capabilities of the CBA Unit's Robots. They have three robots: one at O'Hare and two South. The two Explosive Techs were Y. Augustin, and Robert Yamane. CBA has a ride along program. They are looking for bomb techs and prefer people from the military with Ordinance Experience. Robot was demonstrated but not all hardware could be operated due to technical matters. Also a thank you to Ken Foszcz, Round Lake FPD for donning the Bomb Squads Bomb Suit on such a warm humid day.

As usual I was on vacation and unable to attend the meeting. So, I would like to thank Arnie Witzke for taking notes from the meeting.

Unfortunately we also have sad news to report. On June 1, **Donald Swisher**, 51, of the Arlington Heights Fire Department, died while doing work on a pool at Discovery Day

Camp in Vernon Hills. Don was wearing SCUBA gear and the circumstances surrounding his death are still under investigation; but at this time it appears to be a tragic accident. On June 2, **Officer Jesse Goldsmith**, 42, of the Vernon Hills Police Department, died of an apparent heart attack. On July 2, **Officer Richard Francis**, 60, of the Chicago Police Department, was shot and killed in the line of duty.

I did not know Officer's Francis and Goldsmith, but I did know Don Swisher. Don always had a smile on his face and was a great guy (he also drove a fire engine like no one I've ever seen). All of these men will be missed by their families, friends, and colleagues. Please take a moment to remember them in your thoughts or prayers and give your own family members a hug, because you just do not know when your time is up.

Respectfully submitted,
John Gilleran
Secretary F.I.S.F

