

Fire Investigators Strike Force  
[www.fisf.org](http://www.fisf.org)  
Minutes of December 9, 2009

Next Meeting: January 13, 2010

Program: Chicago Police Department Case Review

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

Time: 0900

President Kushner opened the meeting at 1100 hrs.

- Mitch wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year.
- A moment of silence was held for the four police officers from Lakeland, Washington: Ofc. Mark Renniger, Ofc. Ronald Owens, Ofc. Tina Griswold, and Ofc. Greg Richards, who were ambushed and murdered in the line of duty. We paused for all of our veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and again for for the 13 people killed at Fort Hood, Texas. We also remembered Russ Constantino of the Gurnee Fire Department and Battalion Chief Doug Brignall of the Peoria Fire Deaprtment; both brothers passed away due to cancer.
- Nominations for the executive board, from the floor, were called for three times. A motion was made from the floor to nominate the current board. There was a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the nomination. A vote was called for and the board was re-elected unanimously. Once again your executive board is; President Mitch Kushner, Vice-president Stan Grygiel, Secretary John Gilleran and Treasurer Jeff Fleck.
- Arnie Witzke will continue to be the membership chairman. Mary Lacey, Dan Zerfass, Jeff Wynn, and Mike Loesch will be the training co-ordinator's. Our thanks to Arnie, Mary, Dan, Jeff, and Mike for all of their help.
- On behalf of all the board members I would like to express our gratitude for your continued confidence in our ability to run this great organization.
- Thank you to all of the departments and organizations that support the Strike Force. There are 194 departments as members (remember your police departments are automatically members); we average over 80 members at meetings and over 120 members at seminars.
- 70 members attended today. It was good to see all of you.
- A motion was made, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the November Minutes. The motion passed.
- A motion was made, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accept the Treasurers Report. The motion passed.
- A new training schedule is available on the web site. We try to come up with new and interesting trainings every year. It is not easy. If any one has ideas for training, please share them with us.

- Our congratulations to everyone who was promoted, or retired, this year. Special congratulations to Ron Neubauer, of the Countryside Fire Protection District, who recently retired after 33 years of service.
- Please remember to pay your dues.
- **Please notify Arnie Witzke if you need to change your contact person.**
- You can find a training schedule at the website [www.fisf.org](http://www.fisf.org).
- A vendor has been chosen to make shirts embroidered with the Strike Force logo. Orders will be taken starting in January. Examples of the shirts, without the logo, can be seen at [Tri-mountain.com](http://Tri-mountain.com)

Mitch gave a presentation regarding the IAAI on-line training site CFI Trainer.net. This is a web site that has a series of modules that you can take at your own pace. Best of all the training is FREE ( a firefighter's favorite word). Mitch strongly suggested that you take notes just like you would in a regular class as the tests are not easy. The classes take about 90 minutes to complete and you can come back to where you left off if you have to leave. Mitch pointed out that some of the sections suggest pre-requisites of other taking other modules first. Mitch pointed out that he learned the hard way that he should have heeded the suggestions and not try to skip ahead.

Please remember all of our members of the armed forces who will not be home with their own families this holiday season because they are overseas protecting our families and our country.

On behalf of the board, have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

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