

ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE UPDATE (1/4/10)

(David F. Clark, Deputy Director)

Cornerstone classes are now available.

Thanks to the efforts of numerous people and organizations, the state legislature passed a bill restoring the Cornerstone funding, and the Governor recently signed it. IFSI is once again able to deliver Cornerstone classes. Contact your local IFSI field instructor or Regional Rep to set up classes. We appreciate the support of everyone who worked to get the funding restored.

Work is progressing on the new IFSI Learning Resource & Research Center (LRRC). Concrete has been poured, and steel has been erected. We anticipate completion of the building itself next summer, and its opening in early fall 2010 after the electronic and IT equipment is installed.

You can pay a lasting tribute to a firefighter, department, or fire organization by providing an inscribed brick for the brick walkway in the Memorial Plaza at the entrance to the LRRC and the Firefighter's Memorial Hall. Various sizes and styles of bricks are available for donations of \$125, \$250, \$500, and \$750. For information and to reserve your memorial brick contact Harry Clore at 217-244-6359 or hclore@fsi.illinois.edu

IFSI currently offers a number of classes on-line. Check our website for information. Once the new LRRC is finished, we will be offering blended learning classes in which the students do the "classroom" portions on-line, and then come to IFSI or one of our Regional Training Centers (RTCs) for the hands-on portion. This will save you time and money, and make access to classes more available. FAE will be the first one offered.

Remember, **you can now print out your own IFSI class completion certificate for virtually all courses.** In the past we only gave certificates for courses that were 12 hours or more in length. Now, you can print a certificate for shorter classes, if you want one. Check our website for details of how to do this. www.fsi.illinois.edu

We will no longer be mailing out certificates, so if you need one, just print your own, and you have it immediately. This service is not retroactive.

IFSI produced for the North American Fire Training Directors an on-line workshop to assist fire departments to improve their chances of receiving Fire Act Grant money in the future. This program is available on our website, and it walks you through how to apply for a grant. We think you will find it helpful.

Departments that ask for Training as part of their Fire Act Grant requests stand a better chance of receiving the other things for which they are asking. The feds have begun to see training as going hand-in-hand with "stuff." They are becoming less anxious to award a fire engine or SCBA, etc if the department does not have training to use it effectively. Some Illinois fire departments have already received grant money for training, and IFSI has provided it.