

Illinois CRR Stakeholder Taskforce

Promote the importance of Risk Reduction in Illinois by inspiring community ownership and providing coordinated resources

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Illinois Community Risk Reduction – What Happened in 2021?

In December of 2019, a group of fire service leaders from organizations and agencies across the state of Illinois gathered to discuss what Community Risk Reduction (CRR) should look like in Illinois. Through a SWOT analysis conducted that day, it became apparent that Illinois has 14 state agencies and other state organizations with strong networking capabilities, able to reach out to the state's 1,144 fire departments and the communities they serve. It would take organization, education, and dedication to overcome any existing misconceptions, negative perceptions, and a lack of knowledge about what CRR really is and what it can do for communities. At the end of the day, it was decided to move forward with future plans and coordinated efforts to provide CRR opportunities and resources for Illinois.



Fast forward to March 2020 when everything shut down due to COVID. Everything stopped as the entire state tried to figure out how to conduct business-as-usual, but not-so-usual. During this time the group met just enough to decide that the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association would serve as the state's lead organization for CRR. The OSFM provided grant monies to IFSI to develop basic CRR classes.

By February 2021, Zoom was a familiar option for many and work began in earnest to regroup and formalize with goals and objectives for IL CRR. It was decided that each of the 14 state fire service organizations would choose one member to represent them on the team at monthly meetings. Other state organizations would be added as auxiliary members once needs were established. The team became known as the Illinois CRR Stakeholder Taskforce. Marketing and outreach were identified as necessary early in the process. IFSI volunteered to handle all marketing needs and introduced Jill Sauer who has handled development of a website, Facebook page, and the IL CRR logo. The website and FB page went live in September 2021. Visit us at www.illinoisccrr.com! The website continues to grow with relevant notices, links to classes, trainings, downloadable articles for use in your community, and other resources.

In April 2021 a half day workshop with significant representation from the member organizations, produced the following mission statement: *Promote the importance of Risk Reduction in Illinois by inspiring community ownership and providing coordinated resources*”.

The Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts (IAFPD) invited the taskforce to present an overview of IL CRR at their June conference in Champaign, IL.

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The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) invited the CRR Taskforce to join the 14 state fire association organizations at the annual Fire Prevention Week luncheon to present an overview of CRR work in Illinois over the past year. The IFSA and OSFM were also awarded 1,000 smoke alarms from Vision 2020 for the state's Be Alarmed program.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Chicago Fire Department hosted a successful one-day Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Conference in Springfield, IL in October 2021. Presentations from national, state, county and community CRR experts provided insight to best practices and the fundamentals of successful implementation of the process. Throughout the day, a common theme became, "CRR is not just another name for Public Education or Fire Prevention".

The above information represents just a few of the highlights that moved CRR forward in Illinois. Behind the scenes, efforts have been underway to mine the state data and produce a state risk assessment document. This will help serve as a rudder for where we need to reach out and invest resources in the future. Illinois is also serving as a model for other states to integrate all branches of the fire service to enable their communities to understand and conduct CRR.

You can find more information, along with free and downloadable CRR planning guides, at Vision 20/20's website www.strategicfire.org.

We invite you to contact our organization at info@illinoisfirechiefs.org for resources and CRR updates. We welcome your questions, requests, and suggestions.