



The Illinois IAAI Chapter Presents the
Buxton/Mazzone Southern Zone

Fire/Arson Training Conference

May 11th and 12th, 2026

8:00 am - 5:00 pm each day

Southwestern Illinois College - "West Campus"
Law Enforcement Training Center

2300 West Main Street
Belleville, IL 62226

16 Tested Hours - \$95.00 - Lunch Included!!!

May 11th - Consent to be on/in a Fire Scene, (Exigent Circumstances/Search Warrants/Consent Forms) - 8:00 am - 11:30 am

Instructor - St. Clair County Asst. State's Attorney Mel Kimberlin

May 11th - Case Study, US v Pigg - Arson for Profit/Insurance Fraud - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Instructor - Assistant United States Attorney, Kevin Burke

May 12th - Solar Panels and the Fire Investigator - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Joe Paolo - EFI Global, Retired Fire Marshal, Plumsted Township Fire District

*****LUNCH PROVIDED WITH REGISTRATION*****

Preferred Hotels: Double Tree by Hilton, 1000 Eastport Plaza Drive Collinsville, IL (618)-345-2800
Drury Inn St. Louis/Collinsville, 602 No. Bluff Road Collinsville, IL (618)-345-7700
LaQuinta Inns & Suites, #6 Gateway Drive Collinsville, IL (618)-855-8400

Contacts for this event are Chester Borkowski (618) 410-3805, Shane Emrich (618) 925-0174, or Andrew Miller (618)-599-1112

To register, go to the [Chapter Home Page](#) and Click the Southern Zone Button

The IL-IAAI reserves the right to make changes to the itinerary as necessary.

Testing will be done on CFItrainer.net, using a PIN number that will be provided at the end of the conference. Disclaimer: No liability is assumed by the IL-IAAI for changes in program content, speakers, or venue. The instructor's presentation and content thereof are the responsibility of the individual instructor and not necessarily endorsed by any of the persons or organizations associated with this seminar. The IL-IAAI reserves the right to cancel, alter, or substitute any class or instructor without advanced notice. Cancellation policy- Full refund available up to 31 days before conference start, 50% refund available 30 days or less before conference start. Payment due at time of registration or at the door on the day of event.

INSTRUCTOR BIOS...



Mel Kimberlin - St. Clair County State's Attorney

Mel Kimberlin...



Kevin Burke - Assistant United States Attorney, Southern Illinois District

Kevin Burke is an Assistant United States Attorney who has worked in the U.S. Department of Justice for 20 years, with a focus on financial crimes and public corruption. He has served in diplomatic roles abroad, including training and advising foreign judges and prosecutors. Kevin's work includes close cooperation with the ATF and other investigators in arson and insurance fraud prosecutions in the Southern District of Illinois.



Joseph Paolo - Retired Plumsted Township Captain/Fire Marshal, Current Fire Investigator with EFI Global, East Coast

Joseph Paolo has over 30 years of Emergency Services experience, with 24 years of that being in fire investigations. Joe has been both a volunteer and career Firefighter and Fire Officer and retired as Captain/Fire Marshal from the Plumsted Township Fire District, #1, in April 2024. Prior to being hired in 2009 with Plumsted, Joe served as an Ocean County Assistant Fire Marshal, conducting fire code inspections and fire investigations. He has been involved in over 500 investigations during his career and is very active with the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), currently serving on their Board of Directors and belongs to the following State Chapters of the IAAI, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Texas. Currently, Joe instructs many fire investigation classes throughout New Jersey and across the Country for other State Chapters.

