

# FIRE FAX

VOLUME 36

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ISSUE 1

## FROM THE DESK OF



*Cory Bengel*  
Director East

I hope this message finds you all healthy and safe. It is great to be getting back to normal both at home and on the job. Your Iowa IAAI representatives on the east side of the state have been working to hold a lunch and learn. Director of Investigations, Luke Ossman, a Special Agent with the Fire Marshal's Office, has put together a class scheduled for August 10, 2021 at Coralville Fire Station #2. Please RSVP if you plan on attending.

I want to encourage all of our members to attend the chapter's annual seminar. This is a great training and more importantly networking opportunity that likely all of us need following the past year. The board has a list of great instructors at a fantastic atmosphere planned for you.

I want to take some time and discuss who's going to fill your shoes? By that I mean who is the next person in line for your job. If you were to leave your position today, have you prepared the next person to conduct fire investigations at your organization? I know I haven't. I suppose I was waiting for someone to come to me with interest because that is what I did. However, that was fifteen years ago and it seems that just doesn't happen anymore. I have been attending classes on leadership and management and I have learned that we have to bring people into our circles. Ask them if they are interested, spark their interest and discover their interests and incorporate them into their career to keep them interested. So I want to encourage all of you for the next time you are on a fire scene and firefighters or police officers are still on scene, let them assist. Our job is no secret, it's very interesting! Talk about why the fire burned the way it did, explain the fire patterns, explain the fire growth process. I think that

we fire investigators unfortunately are a dying breed and we have to show the next generation just how great our jobs are and explain why we do what we do.

Everyone stay safe, wear your PPE, and I hope to see you all at the annual seminar in September.

**FROM THE DESK OF**



*Joe Rodriguez*  
**Director of Detection**

Hope everyone had a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July and didn't have to go out and work that weekend!

Who said this?

*“The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers.”*

The answer to this will be at the end.

When I first joined the fire service twenty plus years ago, our department was transitioning from paper reports to reports being done on the computer. I had an old school Officer who didn't embrace the change well but had no choice but to do it. Desktop computers were very new to him and he made the newer firefighters do the reports. Some might say he didn't like change and others might say that he used his resources (personnel) to get the reports done. Whatever you think, change is going to happen as we advance in technology and individual skill sets from future generations.

As I looked at our workforce, we have about four different generations working in our ranks, but some of you might have five generations you are working with.

Each generation was brought up with different changes here in the U.S. and from world events. Here are the generations that I am talking about. If you do a search on the world wide web or just google it, you will find different views or terms to describe the generations. Here is a breakdown for generations from Dean College.

For the sake of argument, in this article this is what I am referring to:

TRADITIONALISTS – Born before 1945 – Great Depression, WWII, Disciplined, Vaccines

BOOMERS – Born 1946 -1964 – Vietnam, Moon Landing, Civil/Women’s Right Movement

GEN X – Born 1965 to 1976 – Fall of Berlin Wall, Gulf War, Internet, MTV, AIDS, Mobile Phone

MILLENNIAL – Born 1977 to 1997 – 9/11 Attacks, Community Service, Social Everything (Google/Facebook)

GEN 2020 – Born after 1997 – High expectations, Apps, Social Games, Tablet Devices

How well does your organization work and communicate with all generations? I feel that every person has a distinct set of skills and different things that they bring to your team or organization. I will use myself (Gen X) as an example. I would prefer to draw my fire scene diagrams on graph paper because that’s the way I am most comfortable doing it. The good ole pencil and paper approach. I am very comfortable with this method. As we embrace technology in our organization, we have software that does this for us and looks great and automatically stores it in the system. The issue for me is that it took me a long time to create that sketch in the computer versus hand drawing it. I still consider myself a novice in this area but seeing my colleague creating 3D models is very impressive. The more I used the program, the faster I was able to create the diagrams. I didn’t want to be like the Officer who didn’t embrace change. I took ownership of not knowing how to use the program and asked for help from a colleague who was younger and was so fast at creating diagrams.

Understanding the generation your customer comes from might help you communicate better with them. I was recently investigating a fire at a young married couple’s home (MILLENNIAL). During my interview with them, the wife hardly spoke, and the husband was not giving me a lot of information. I was able to get more information later that evening through texting back and forth. They felt comfortable talking via texting and were extremely open about the case. Consider the person(s) you are talking to during your investigation, what generation they are from, and what is the way they are most comfortable communicating. This might help you gather more information.

Understanding your team individual skills and being open to next generations skills will only make your team stronger in the long run. By collaboration between the generations

and respecting the differences each generation brings to the team, you will produce a great product at the end.

The author of the Quotation is: Socrates (469-399 B.C.)

## **2021 Iowa IAAI Seminar**

Please join us for the 2021 Iowa IAAI Fire Investigation Seminar & Annual Meeting at the Cedar Rapids Marriott September 7-9, 2021. Please remember to make your hotel reservations by August 17<sup>th</sup> and register for the conference by August 27<sup>th</sup> for the best registration fee. Click link to see brochure.

[https://dc3e5043-234d-41ec-9c16-92a9426041af.filesusr.com/ugd/78fa48\\_c9ea00bacfc347229afea4d9607740b3.pdf](https://dc3e5043-234d-41ec-9c16-92a9426041af.filesusr.com/ugd/78fa48_c9ea00bacfc347229afea4d9607740b3.pdf)

## **Bi-Law Changes**

### **Current Bi-Law**

#### ARTICLE III

#### ELECTION, TERMS AND OFFICES

##### Section 1. Requirements to Hold Office.

- A. Must have been an active member of the Iowa Chapter for at least the previous 24 months. For the position of Director of Prosecution, the nominee must be an active member of the Iowa Chapter.
- B. Must be a member of the IAAI, Inc. or immediately join upon election.

##### Section 2. Officers. The officers for the Chapter shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

- A. The Officers shall be elected every year except Secretary Treasurer who shall serve a two year term.
- B. To be eligible for the Office of President, the candidate must have previously served for at least two years as a board member or other officer position.

Section 3. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of one individual duly elected from each section of the membership, plus two members at large. The directors at large shall consist of one duly elected member residing east of Interstate 35 and the second member shall reside west of Interstate 35.

Past Presidents. All retiring Chapter Presidents shall become ex-officio members of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Chapter. Ex-officio members shall have the privilege of attending and participating in all meetings of the Board, but shall not have voting power in such meetings.

Section 4. Sections. This Chapter shall consist of four sections: Detection, Insurance, Investigation and Prosecution. It shall be the obligation of each section to evaluate its needs and resources and communicate the same to the Board of Directors through their Director. The election of a Director and evaluation of needs shall take place during the annual meeting of the chapter. The first two days of the annual meeting shall be utilized for this purpose and education needs of the specific sections and/or the general membership.

Section 5. Terms.

A. Each duly elected officer shall serve a one (1) year term except the Secretary/Treasurer who shall be elected to a two-year term.

B. Board members shall serve a three (3) year term except when filling an unexpired term of office.

Section 6. Vacancy. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies on the Board between annual meetings, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the President, for a member of the appropriate section who so required, and the newly appointed member or members of the Board of Directors shall hold office only until the next annual meeting. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies in the office of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President or Secretary/Treasurer between annual meetings, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors and the newly appointed officer or officers shall hold office only until the next annual meeting.

Section 7. Election. The officers and Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the sections or chapter at large as appropriate in the month of September.

Section 8. Nominating Committee. During each annual meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee which shall submit to the membership at the next annual meeting, a list of nominees to fill expiring terms for President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and the Board of Directors. At the time of the election, the floor shall be open for the purpose of additional nominations, nominating and electing of sectional directors to the board shall be conducted within the sectional annual meeting.

## ARTICLE IV

### GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Quorum. The government of the Iowa Chapter shall be vested in the officers and the Board of Directors and fifty percent (50%) of the members present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Duties. The board of directors shall have the full power to initiate and transact all kind of business necessary to the existence of the organization and the observance of its purposes. They shall determine the date and location of the annual meeting and shall outline the program of activities during such meeting. They shall have general powers to direct, control and supervise the affairs of the Iowa Chapter.

In order to efficiently conduct Chapter business, the board may conduct a vote by telephone, facsimile, mail or electronic mail as deemed necessary. They may be compensated at the rate per mile as set by the board when driving their own vehicle and meal expenses at a rate set by the board.

Section 3. Chairperson. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors shall be the President and he/she shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. President's Duties. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Iowa Chapter, and it shall be his/her responsibility to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Iowa Chapter and to preside at the meetings of the Iowa Chapter. He/she shall appoint appropriate committees for the conduct of the activities of the Iowa Chapter and shall require reports at each annual meeting, and as otherwise desired from the committees so appointed and from the officers of the Iowa Chapter.

Section 5. Vice President's Duties. In the absence of the President, the First Vice President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and shall act as such. The First Vice President shall be Chairperson of the Audit Committee. Duties of the Second Vice President to be assigned by the President and/or the board of directors.

Section 6. Secretary/Treasurer's Duties. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the records and minutes of the organization and shall maintain a current roll of members and the Constitution and other documents of value. He/she shall be custodian and depositor of the funds of the organization and shall disburse such funds by check as authorized by the Board of Directors for purposes which promote the welfare and objectives of the organization. He/she shall render a complete summary of all income, disbursements and balances whenever requested by the Board and to the membership at each regular meeting. A written copy of this report shall be made available to any member upon request. He/she shall receive and acknowledge all communications of the Iowa Chapter addressed to him/her or that which may be submitted to him/her by the officers of the IAAI and perform such duties as assigned by the President.

Section 7. Board of Directors' Duties. The Board of Directors shall have the power to remove from office any officer or member of the Chapter for any of the following reasons:

A. Conduct or actions that would tend to discredit or would be detrimental to the reputation of the Iowa Chapter or the International Association.

B. For good cause, as submitted in writing, by any officer of the organization.

C. Any officer or member shall have the right to appeal, provided his/her request is received in writing at least thirty (30) days following the removal. The appeal shall be heard by the Appellate Review committee comprised of active past presidents of the chapter who shall either uphold or reverse the actions of the board of directors.

D. Board duties also outlined in Article IV Section 2.

### **Proposed Change to Bi-Laws**

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- D. Board duties also outlined in Article IV Section 2.

## ARTICLE VI

### FINANCE

Section 1. Dues. Dues for active and associate membership in the Iowa Chapter shall be thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year. Association membership will run from October 1 through September 30. Dues shall not be prorated regardless of time of dues payment. New members filing a New Membership Application during the Iowa Fire Marshal's Annual 2-week school shall be granted full membership rights and privileges from the date of application through September 30 of that year.

Section 2. Financial Review Committee. The Financial Review Committee shall review the accounts of the Treasurer annually to verify the assets and liabilities of the Iowa Chapter. The Committee may, in its discretion, retain the services of an accounting professional to assist in the review process.

Section 3. Gifts/Grants. All gifts or grants to the Iowa Chapter may be accepted by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall make proper acknowledgment of all such gifts or grants accepted.

## *Recent Recalls*

### American Outdoor Brands Recalls Caldwell Earmuffs with Rechargeable Lithium-Battery Packs Due to Fire and Burn Hazards



**Name of product:**

Caldwell E-Max® Pro BT Earmuffs with rechargeable lithium battery packs

**Hazard:**

The soldering within the lithium-battery pack housing can allow the wiring to detach and cause the unit to overheat, posing fire and burn hazards.

**Remedy:**

Replace

**Recall date:**

July 21, 2021

**Units:**

About 13,740 (In addition, about 88 were sold in Canada)

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/American-Outdoor-Brands-Recalls-Caldwell-Earmuffs-with-Rechargeable-Lithium-Battery-Packs-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards>

# Harbor Freight Tools Recalls One Stop Gardens 15,000 and 30,000 BTU Tank Top Propane Heaters Due to Burn Hazard



**Name of product:**

One Stop Gardens 15,000 and 30,000 BTU Tank Top Propane Heaters

**Hazard:**

In windy weather, the flame can be directed to the rear of the unit, which can melt the “tip switch” safety shut off feature at the rear of the heater. This poses a risk that the heater will not turn off if it tips over and poses a burn hazard to consumers.

**Remedy:**

Refund

**Recall date:**

July 21, 2021

**Units:**

About 350,000

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/Harbor-Freight-Tools-Recalls-One-Stop-Gardens-15-000-and-30-000-BTU-Tank-Top-Propane-Heaters-Due-to-Burn-Hazard>

# Rite Aid Recalls Rechargeable Handheld Fans Due to Fire Hazard



**Name of product:**

Rechargeable handheld fans

**Hazard:**

The fan’s lithium ion battery can overheat while charging, posing a fire hazard.

**Remedy:**

Refund

**Recall date:**

July 21, 2021

**Units:**

About 9,780

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/Rite-Aid-Recalls-Rechargeable-Handheld-Fans-Due-to-Fire-Hazard#>

## Real Flame Recalls Arroyo and Hideaway Wood Burning Fire Pits Due to Fire Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Crate and Barrel (Recall Alert)



**Name of product:**

Arroyo and Hideaway Wood Burning Fire Pits

**Hazard:**

Wood stored under the unit can ignite, posing a fire hazard.

**Remedy:**

Refund

**Recall date:**

July 15, 2021

**Units:**

About 700 (In addition, about 81 in Canada)

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/Real-Flame-Recalls-Arroyo-and-Hideaway-Wood-Burning-Fire-Pits-Due-to-Fire-Hazard-Sold-Exclusively-at-Crate-and-Barrel-Recall-Alert#>

## BRP Recalls Side-by-Side Vehicles Due to Fire Hazard (Recall Alert)



**Name of product:**

Model Years 2020 and 2021 Can-AM Defender HD10 side-by-side vehicles

**Hazard:**

The stock CVT air intake can become completely obstructed with snow causing the drive belt to overheat and break, posing a fire hazard.

**Remedy:**

Repair

**Recall date:**

July 22, 2021

**Units:**

About 34,400

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/BRP-Recalls-Side-by-Side-Vehicles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard-Recall-Alert>

# ECHO EGi-2300 Watt Generators Recalled Due to Fire and Burn Hazards; Manufactured by TTI (Recall Alert)



**Name of product:**  
ECHO EGi-2300 Watt Generators

**Hazard:**  
The unit can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers.

**Remedy:**  
Repair

**Recall date:**  
July 8, 2021

**Units:**  
About 3,700

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/ECHO-EGi-2300-Watt-Generators-Recalled-Due-to-Fire-and-Burn-Hazards-Manufactured-by-TTI-Recall-Alert#>

# Polaris Recalls RZR Recreational Off-Road Vehicles Due to Fire Hazard (Recall Alert)



**Name of product:**  
Model Year 2021 RZR PRO XP and RZR PRO XP 4 (ROVs)

**Hazard:**  
The vehicles were manufactured without copper seal washers on the turbocharger's oil supply line, which can result in an oil leak, posing a fire hazard.

**Remedy:**  
Repair

**Recall date:**  
May 13, 2021

**Units:**  
About 32

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/Polaris-Recalls-RZR-Recreational-Off-Road-Vehicles-Due-to-Fire-Hazard-Recall-Alert#>

*The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the IAAI or the Iowa Chapter IAAI.*

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**This edition of Firefax was presented by  
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