

# MATTHEW W. KNOTT

MS, EFO, CFO, CEMSO, FM, MIFireE, CEM

## SUMMARY

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Public service leader with over twenty years of experience in career and volunteer fire departments, as well as law enforcement. Served in various capacities, with progressive responsibilities, including as a Chief Officer for over twelve years. Participated in many activities to promote and encourage professional development and growth of the fire service as well as to promote the mission of our organization. Committed to our community and improving the well-being and quality of life for our residents.

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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- Management and oversight of a budget and grant funding in excess of \$55 million a year.
- Proven record of successful oversight and management of workers' compensation, HIPPA, FOIA, EEOC compliance, and confidential records.
- Leading the charge for metrics based performance and continuous improvement.
- Participating in collaborative efforts with community leaders, elected officials, senior management, and consultants to develop solutions to address community wide issues.
- Continued efforts towards building a healthier and safer work environment for our firefighters and paramedics.

## EXPERIENCE

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1997–Present Rockford Fire Department

Rockford, IL

- Promoted to Division Chief in 2009
- Currently responsible for two divisions, including planning, organizing, budgeting, directing, and supervising the administrative and human resources functions. Previously served in the role of Division Chief of Training.
- Additional duties include leadership of the fire prevention, public education, and arson investigation programs.
- Active in fire service accreditation by serving as Team Leader, Peer Assessor, and Mentor for Center for Public Safety Excellence.
- Responded to Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Irene, various National Level Exercises, served as Public Information Officer for Fairdale, IL tornado, and many local disasters.
- Serve as Safety Officer and Public Information Officer for the Regional Incident Management Team.

## EDUCATION

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2004-2007 Northern Illinois University, Masters of Science, Industrial Management- Safety

1991–1995 Northern Illinois University Bachelors of Science, Geology

## **SELECTED CERTIFICATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS**

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### **International Association of Fire Chiefs**

- Fire Service Executive Development Institute (2016 – 2017)
- Executive Edge Leadership Symposium (2011)

### **Center for Public Safety Excellence Commission for Professional Credentialing**

- Chief Fire Officer (2010, 2013, 2016, 2020)
- Chief EMS Officer (2012, 2015, 2018, 2021)
- Fire Marshal (2013, 2016, 2020)

### **Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal**

- Chief Fire Officer (2018)
- Fire Officer II (2011)
- Arson Investigator (2010, 2018)
- Incident Safety Officer (2009)

### **National Fire Academy**

- Executive Fire Officer (2016)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Training for Fire/EMS (2013)

### **International Association of Arson Investigators**

- Fire Investigation Technician (2017)
- Courtroom Testimony (2016)

### **Illinois Emergency Management Agency**

- Professional Emergency Manager (2013, 2016, 2021)
- Professional Development (2012)

### **International Association of Emergency Managers**

- Certified Emergency Manager (2009, 2015, 2020)

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency/National Domestic Preparedness Consortium**

- Incident Management Team Training (2020)
- Incident Command - Train the Trainer (2018)
- Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident (2015)
- Jurisdictional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (2015)
- Integrated Emergency Management Course (2014)

### **Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board**

- Certified Basic Law Enforcement Officer (2004)

## THOUGHT CONTRIBUTIONS

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**Center for Public Safety Excellence (2018-2021).** Served as team lead for a significant portion of the development of the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) model. This document provides the template that is used worldwide for fire service accreditation. In 2021, I presented an introduction of this document on the Vision 20/20 Community Risk Reduction Podcast.

**Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.** Chairperson for the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Committee. The focus is on improving the DEI of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and to provide tools and resources to fire departments statewide. Serve as a Director for the Association and represent the State of Illinois on the Great Lakes Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs since 2017.

### International Fire Chiefs Association

- HAZMAT Fusion Center (2010) – Developed a framework for recommended hazardous materials training and International Fire Chiefs Association programming.
- Fire IT Innovation Collective Committee Member (2016-2019) – Committee designed to discuss innovative ways that information technologies can assist with delivery of services and support our missions.

**Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (2015-present).** Member of the Statewide Hazardous Materials Steering Committee. This committee develops training programs, develops and manages grant requests, and establishes standards of response throughout the state for hazardous materials response teams.

### National Quality Forum

- **Healthcare System Readiness Committee (2019).** Developed metrics for healthcare systems to measure the effectiveness of their disaster readiness. [https://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2019/06/Healthcare\\_System\\_Readiness\\_Final\\_Report.aspx](https://www.qualityforum.org/Publications/2019/06/Healthcare_System_Readiness_Final_Report.aspx)
- **Telemedicine Committee (2020-present).** Developing a measurement framework to allow prehospital and hospital based clinicians to determine effectiveness and quality of telemedicine. Anticipated document release is 2022.

Served on content development committees, provided peer review, or served as a subject matter expert for the development of the following textbooks:

- Meyer, Eugene. *Chemistry of Hazardous Materials*. Pearson, 2010.
- Gorbett, Gregory E., and James L. Pharr. *Fire Dynamics*. Pearson, 2011.
- *Essentials of Firefighting, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. IFSTA, 2019.
- *Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033*. Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2021.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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International Association of Fire Chiefs, 2009-present  
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, 2009-present  
Association Society of Safety Engineers, 2009-present  
Winnebago Fire Chiefs Association, 2009-present  
National Fire Protection Association, 2010-present  
International Code Council, 2010-present  
Institution of Fire Engineers, 2011-present  
National Society of Executive Fire Officers, 2012-present  
International Association of Arson Investigators, 2016-present

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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**Transform Rockford** (2017-present). Working to develop a community wide scorecard and a set of metrics for Transform Rockford and the greater Rockford community to help assess progress towards stated goals.

**Alignment Rockford** (2015-present). Working to develop a public safety pathway with the Rockford Public Schools District #205. Current presenter at Academy Expo events, school career days, and serve as a Capstone Presentation Panelist at Roosevelt High School.

**American Red Cross** (2015-2018). Board member. Helped to develop the Fighter's Battle fundraising event and continue to collaborate on neighborhood smoke alarm installation efforts.

**Rockford Fire Department Explorer Post** (2016-present). Serve as program advisor and youth mentor for high school students learning about careers in fire and EMS.

**Auburn High School Junior ROTC** (2015-2020). Parent Association Member. Association President 2018-2019 school year. Led parent support of JROTC program and fundraising efforts.

## **LOCAL AND PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITIONS/HONORS**

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**Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and Illinois Fire Chiefs Association** – Humanitarian Service Medal for outstanding and sustained individual and team actions for the period of September 5 to October 14, 2005, in service within the State of Louisiana, Hurricane Katrina response.

**Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Division 8** – Award for unselfish service to Algiers District Station 17 and participation in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

**Illinois Department of Public Health and Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council** – Presenter Award for presenting at Medical Evacuation Seminar in 2009.

**City of Rockford – Excellence Everywhere Award** – presented for collaboration efforts between the Fire Department and Human Services in 2012.

**Connecticut Department of Emergency Management** – Certificate of Appreciation. Presented for dedicated efforts on behalf of the citizens of the State of Connecticut, whose lives were affected by Tropical Storm Irene and Winter Storm Alfred.

**Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (2015)** – Outstanding Accomplishment Award. For support and coordination with all agencies involved with the investigation of a large commercial fire that occurred at 1916 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Rockford, IL.

**Rockford Register Star (2018)** -75 People You Should Know

**Northwest Quarterly Magazine (2018)** – 25 Most Interesting People in the Rockford Region

**WREX TV (2018)** – Inspiring 815 Award