



**METROPOLITAN
FIRE CHIEFS
ASSOCIATION
OF ILLINOIS**
www.MetroChiefs.org



FALL SYMPOSIUM



**Thursday
Sept. 5, 2024**



**8:00-8:30 Sign-in &
Breakfast Buffet
8:30-8:45 Brief Meeting
8:45-12:15 Program**



**The Empress
200 E. Lake St
Addison, IL**

"Lithium-Ion Batteries and Fires – and Fire Department Responses" presented by Brighton Area Fire Authority (MI) Fire Chief Michael O'Brian. As we all recognize, this is one of the "hottest" topics in the fire service today, and one of grave concern related to the safety of our personnel and the citizens we protect. Chief O'Brian is a recognized "expert" related to battery fires and related codes, currently serving as the International Director for the Fire and Life Safety Section of the IAFC and a member of several committees of the ICC.



As follow-up to the Lithium-Ion Fires presentation above, Argonne Laboratory Fire Chief Ben Duval will present the **"MABAS Division 16 Lithium-Ion Battery Response Policy."** Chief Duval is Chairman of the Division 16 EV committee and has put a lot of time into navigating concerns and creating this policy. He will discuss its creation and answer questions related to it.



There have been accounts of pending Illinois Department of Health & Family Services (HFS) GEMT Audits, with concerns raised for transporting agencies that are not billing at rates consistent with their GEMT Cost Reports' calculated costs-per-transport. Additionally, some agencies report HFS approving BLS rates at higher dollar amounts than ALS rates – and there are other questions. During their **"Updates and Concerns Related to the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Funding,"** Naperville Fire Chief Mark Puknaitis, Deputy Chief Phil Giannattasio, and Billing Specialist Jen Walker will answer these questions, sort-out the rumors, and provide updates related to the GEMT program. These Naperville FD Chiefs have been involved with fire department participation in GEMT in Illinois since the first discussions regarding the potential for the program to come into Illinois, and are in frequent contact with HFS regarding the program.

\$35 for attendees from agencies with a Metro Chiefs Member

\$45 for other attendees

Register online at metrochiefs.org/events