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**Illinois Petroleum
Resources Board**

Press Release

25 Area Fire Fighters Trained in “Responding to Oilfield Emergencies”

Salem, IL – June 15, 2009 Approximately 25 firefighters from several Illinois counties were trained in “Responding to Oilfield Emergencies” Saturday June 13 at the Salem Illinois Fire Protection training facility. Fire department personnel from the counties of Madison, Bond, Effingham, Clinton, Marion, Wayne, and Jasper traveled to the Salem facility for this specialized training. Visiting fire fighters from Champaign and Kane counties also participated. The four hour class consists of instruction and hands-on experience controlling an intense fire in an oilfield setting. Link to pictures from this class:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/IFSI.training/FirefighterTraining2009#slideshow/>

The training is directed by the Illinois Fire Services Institute in cooperation with the Salem Fire Protection District and Southeastern Illinois College. Funding is provided by the Illinois Petroleum Resources Board (IPRB) free for any department in Illinois that has crude oil or natural gas production in their county. IPRB offers assistance with travel cost for departments or personnel that have been unable to participate. More classes will begin in the fall. Notices will be sent to departments in the approximately 40 Illinois oil producing counties. Nearly 100 firefighters were trained in 2008.

According to Charles Williams, IPRB Executive Director, the training is a good way for experienced and new fire fighters to gain expertise in this type of emergency. Steven Murphy, Captain with the Salem Fire Protection District and trainer for the Illinois Fire Services Institute noted that it is important for fire fighters to know the properties of oil and how to control the fire or the liquid itself, so they and others will be safe. Contact Charles Williams with any questions at ilprb@yahoo.com.