OAPFF Leaders,

As our membership responds on the front lines of the Coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19), I am sure that you are being inundated with many questions and challenges that you have never had to anticipate before. From very limited and depleted supplies to ensuring adequate and appropriate PPE and exposure prevention and response policies in your department, our capabilities are being strained. There is little doubt that in the coming days, you will encounter problems that you are not sure how to address. Rest assured, that you are not alone. Along with the IAFF, the OAPFF is here to help you navigate these challenging times.

By this time, your department and municipality should already have a comprehensive response plan in place to address what is coming our way. If your department is still conducting 'business as usual', they are probably not prepared.

For the most current guidelines, please check out the IAFF Coronavirus resource page here. This site is the best and most up-to-date firefighter resource available. This website is updated as this situation develops. Please check regularly for updated guidance. If you are concerned that your department may be engaging in practices that are putting your members at an unreasonable risk, please feel free to reach out to me or your OAPFF District Vice President for guidance.

Finally, in case you missed it, here is a link to the IAFF Coronavirus update from the Legislative Conference last week. This video provides a wealth of information regarding the challenges that our brothers and sisters in Washington State began facing two weeks ago and what they learned. There are many great lessons shared here. This video is a must see!

Stay safe and don't hesitate to reach out to me with any concerns or questions that you have.

Fraternally,

David Bernzweig
OAPFF Director of Health, Safety, and EMS