



Battalion Chief Douglas Mayer

Homer Township Fire Protection District



Class of 1994

Bachelors of Science Construction



Mayer on West Peoria Engine 71

I'm currently our EMS Division Chief in which I oversee state licensing our personnel and vehicles to IDPH's ALS Paramedic level. I'm also President of our Firefighters' pension board which oversees and manages the funds for our retirement income.

Upon graduating from Bradley, I worked in the family construction business. However, It wasn't my true calling. I always had the desire to become a full-time firefighter. I decided to make the jump when the opportunity presented. My experiences at Bradley and West Peoria Fire Protection District helped me groom the skills necessary to realize that goal. Even though I'm not in the construction business anymore, my degree has not gone to waste. In fact, the first thing I do when sizing up a fire in any building is fall back on what I've learned with my degree to determine the type of construction and how it was built. That is a critical step in judging the safety of a building and whether to commit crews to the interior or fight the fire defensively. Also, the management skills I learned at Bradley and West Peoria Fire helps me greatly in between calls with running the day-to-day operations.

Dr. Matt Smetana

Medical Director, Mercyhealth System, Belvidere, IL



Bradley students Amanda Olsta Smetana at a training session of a house burn.



Class of 2009

Bachelors of Science
Health Science and Psychology



Dr. Matthew Smetana knows first hand how life can throw a wrench into even the best-laid plans. "I was dead set on becoming a physical therapist. I had some sports injuries in high school that led me down that pathway. However, I got involved with volunteering with a local fire department (West Peoria Fire Department). I really fell in love with emergency medicine and emergency medical services (EMS), and decided I wanted to become a physician," he explained.

Smetana, a Rockford native, is an Emergency Physician, the Emergency Management Medical Director, the Regional Healthcare Coalition Medical Director and Associate EMS Medical Director at Mercyhealth. He also is a physician with Mercyhealth's MD-1 program, a field response program that brings a physician to the scene of trauma and medical emergencies to assist local first responders. His job is very complex and features many different responsibilities. "I wear a lot of different hats. I am fortunate to work with some amazing groups of people in the emergency department, the health system and the community. I work with fire departments, ambulances, law enforcement as well as other regional hospitals and community partners...so, collaboration is key." Smetana also noted that he and his teams do lots of planning and preparation all the while, responding to numerous emergency related situations.

Above information from Rockford Chamber of Commerce "20 People You Should Know."

While at WPF, Smetana was EMT of the Year in 2007 and Firefighter of the Year 2008.