

David Dato has been in the fire and EMS field since 1978. Chief Dato attended Marquette University, with areas of study in both engineering and business administration. He is currently serving as Chief of the Wauconda Fire Protection District. He has held this position since 1992. Chief Dato has also been a certified paramedic for over thirty years. In 2010 Chief Dato was awarded the prestigious “Fire Chief of the Year” award from the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Dato is a member of the of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force and serves as the co-chair of the Communications and Technology Committee, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), member of the MABAS (fire mutual aid) Communications Committee, Chair of FEMA Region Five (six states) “Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group and a Communications Unit Leader for the Illinois Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1. He is also the Illinois Fire Chiefs’ representative to the IREACH Board.

Chief Dato has served as Chairman of the Lake County Emergency System Telephone Board (ETSB) since 1994. Chief Dato consults with public safety agencies and other organizations on a pro-bono basis. He, along with a few other individuals, has been responsible for specifying and purchasing communications equipment for multiple Homeland Security Projects in Illinois.

Most recently, Chief Dato has served as a peer evaluator for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), reviewing tactical interoperability and incident command plans across the Nation.

Chief Dato is very active in numerous communications associations nationwide as well as in fire service organizations.