

University of Missouri Extension



Fire and Rescue Training Institute

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL

# WINTER FIRE SCHOOL



FEBRUARY 6-8, 2026 • COLUMBIA, MO

# WEBCASTS

## Marc Bashoor

A 40+ year seasoned fire and emergency service veteran, having successfully led dynamic organizations in Maryland, West Virginia, and Florida.

Marc travels around the country delivering the Could YOU Rescue YOU? message, has lectured in Brazil and China on behalf of NFPA, and has served as the Executive Editor and now Senior Fire Advisor for FireRescue1.com since 2018.



## Jerry K. Wells

I still believe that the Fire Service is “the Ultimate Team Sport.” For any “Team” to be successful, individual members at all levels must understand their responsibility and be as prepared as they can be to do their part. This is about aptitude and attitude. Again, personal responsibility! All must buy into a common cause. In our case, DUTY, HONOR, DISCIPLINE, and SERVICE.



**Dirk A Christian** serves as the Planning & Mitigation Bureau Director and a Branch Chief with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

He previously served as the Emergency Response Division Chief for the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal, managing the state’s Regional Hazardous Materials Teams and Search and Rescue Task Forces. A retired U.S. Army Colonel with 30 years of service and three overseas deployments, Chief Christian is a decorated combat veteran and CPSE-designated Chief Fire Officer. He began his fire service career in 1990 and is currently Division Chief of Training for the Atkinson Fire Protection District (IL) and retired Fire Chief of Shawnee County Fire District #4 (Topeka, KS). An award-winning author and founding member of the Kansas Search and Rescue System, he continues to instruct in HazMat and rural fire-rescue operations.



**Scott Thompson** began his fire service career as a volunteer in 1981 and became a career firefighter in 1986. He currently serves as Chief of Department in The Colony, Texas. Thompson holds a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning and is a Certified Public Manager (CPM). An FDIC instructor and presenter since 2002, he is recognized for his expertise in suburban fire operations, leadership, and firefighter development. He authored The Functional Fire Company and numerous articles on training and command. Thompson also operates Functional Fire Company LLC and fireserviceleadership.com.



### 260 | Could YOU Rescue YOU **NEW**

**Marc Bashoor**, Fire Chief, (Retired)

**Saturday, February 7, 2026**

**8:00 - 12:00 PM**

Full class description on page 5.

Also available in-person on campus.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

### 261 | First Five Minutes

**Jerry K. Wells**, Battalion Chief (Retired),  
Lewisville Fire Department (TX)

**Scott Thompson**, Chief, Colony  
Fire Department (TX)

**Saturday, February 7, 2026**

**1:30 - 5:30 PM**

Full class description on page 9.

Also available in-person on campus.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor and  
Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

### 262 | Emergency Response to Hunting & Outdoor Emergencies

**Dirk A Christian**, Planning and Mitigation  
Bureau Director and Branch Chief, Kansas  
Division of Emergency Management

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

**8:00 - 12:00 PM**

Full class description on page 6.

Also available in-person on campus.

**\$70 SINGLE USER**  
INCLUDES ONE CERTIFICATE

SEE PAGE 21 FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS  
High Speed Internet Connection Required

**\$350 SITE LICENSE**  
INCLUDES TEN CERTIFICATES

One site license includes certificates for up to ten participants. Attend as a group at your local agency or departments can distribute the provided registration codes to individuals to register and attend online.

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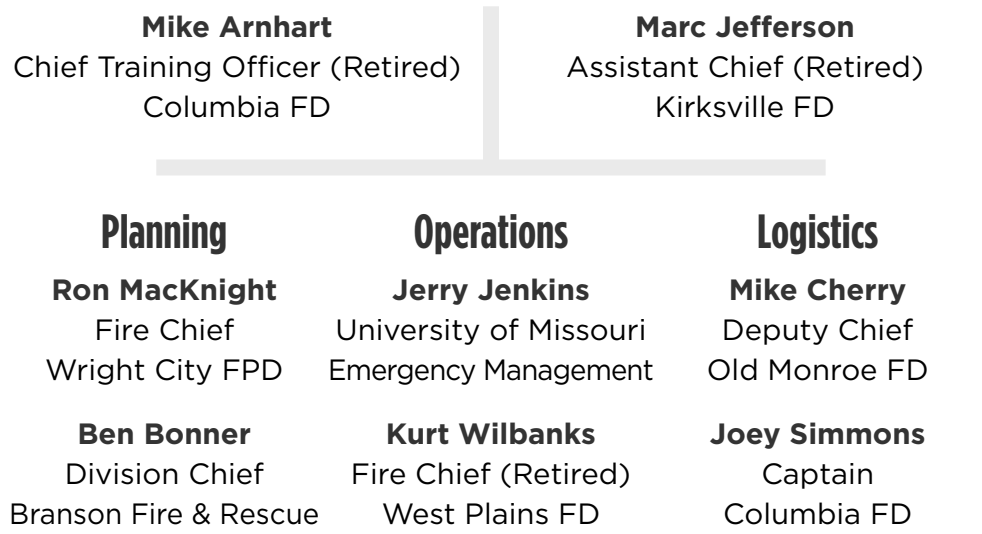
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Winter Fire School Command Team

The Fire and Rescue Training Institute utilizes an Incident Command System (ICS) model to run our fire schools and other special program deliveries. For many years, we have taught ICS to agencies throughout the state as a means to manage an emergency Incident. We are proud to be “walking the walk and not just talking the talk!”

The Fire School Command Team augments MU FRTI’s full-time staff and dedicates many hours to the planning and delivery of the Winter Fire School. The Fire and Rescue Training Institute would like to thank these Individuals and their departments for their involvement.

Unified Command



Friday, February 6

Wyndham Executive Center

- 12:00 p.m.
  - Customer Service Desk Opens
  - MU FRTI Sales Booth Opens
  - Equipment Exposition Opens

- 8:00 p.m.
  - Customer Service Desk Closes
  - MU FRTI Sales Booth Closes
  - Equipment Exposition Closes

Saturday, February 7

University of Missouri Campus

- 7:00 a.m.
  - Customer Service Desk Opens
  - MU FRTI Sales Booth Opens

- 8:00 a.m.
  - Classes Begin

- 12:00 p.m.
  - Lunch Break

- 1:30 p.m.
  - Classes Resume

- 3:00 p.m.
  - MU FRTI Sales Booth Closes

- 5:30 p.m.
  - Classes Conclude
  - Customer Service Desk Closes

Sunday, February 8

University of Missouri Campus

- 7:00 a.m.
  - Customer Service Desk Opens
  - MU FRTI Sales Booth Opens

- 8:00 a.m.
  - Classes Begin

- 11:00 a.m.
  - MU FRTI Sales Booth Closes

- 12:00 p.m.
  - Classes End
  - Certificates Issued
  - Customer Service Desk Closes

# TRAINER-the-TRAINER

**101** **FRIDAY ONLY** **\$50**

## **Responder Strong Mental Health Train-the-Trainer**

**Start Time:** February 6, 9:00 am

**End Time:** February 6, 4:00 pm

Sponsored by Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool

In today's demanding environment, the mental health of responders has never been more crucial. The Responder Strong Mental Health Train the Trainer course aims to equip trainers with the knowledge and tools necessary to promote mental well-being within their organizations. This course focuses on both increasing awareness of mental health issues and actively eroding the stigma that prevents many responders from seeking help.

Participants will engage with practical strategies and evidence-based practices that empower individuals to navigate the emotional and psychological challenges associated with their roles. Through interactive sessions, group discussions, and hands-on activities, trainers will learn how to create a supportive culture that encourages open conversations about mental health.

By completing this course, trainers will be well-prepared to foster resilience and promote mental wellness among responders, ensuring that no one has to suffer in silence. Join us to make a meaningful impact on the mental health of those who dedicate their lives to serving others.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 6 hours

# 4 HOUR WORKSHOPS

**102** **Saturday Only**

## **Aggressive Fireground Operations with Limited Staffing**

**Drew Smith**, EFO, CFO, Fire Chief, Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, IL

**Brian P. Kazmierzak**, Fire Chief, Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety, MI

Aggressive Fireground Operations and Limited Staffing? Usually, you don't hear those words together. This class takes a look at two low-staffed fire departments that use safe, effective, and efficient aggressive fireground operations that take modern fire dynamics into account. This class will give you material to take back and institute in your own fireground operations as well as training.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer and Fire Instructor 4 hours

**104**

## **Aggressive Interior Firefighting**

**Chris Tobin**, Firefighter, St. Louis Fire Department

Join us and examine how to be aggressive when fighting interior fires. We will discuss and address the requirements of aggressive tactics and strategies that departments need to deploy safe and effective interior operations. You will learn the benefits of an aggressive firefighting culture and the ten tactics that define an aggressive interior attack.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

**107** **Saturday Only**

## **Art of Reading Smoke**

**Phillip Jose**, Deputy Chief (Retired), Seattle Fire Department, WA

Fire officers must adjust to the changes in fire behavior that have occurred in recent years or more firefighters will die or be injured. Being able to read smoke on arrival is the key to predicting fire behavior. It helps you discover the specific location and intensity of a fire, building collapse potential, and the likelihood of hostile fire events such as flashover. This program promises to leave attendees with many street-smart tips that will help fire due decision makers.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

**109**

## **Before the Front Door**

**Nicholas A. Risch**, Lieutenant, Washington Fire Department

This class equips the first-arriving firefighter with essential tools for a successful initial response, effective size-up, and accurate building assessment. Guided by the principle that "the first five minutes dictate the next five hours," the course emphasizes the importance of decisive action before command arrives.

Starting with pre-alarm planning, we explore strategies to improve response efficiency and on-scene decision-making. The course then delves into identifying hazards and exposures, helping responders anticipate challenges before entering the structure.

Participants will learn how to "tell the story of the structure"—reading the building's cues, understanding its layout, and predicting fire behavior—all before stepping through the front door.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours



**112** Saturday PM **NEW**

## Behind the Scenes Decision Making at the World Trade Center

**Denis Onieal**, Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator (Retired)

In two short hours, the world's premiere city and fire department were challenged beyond anything they could have ever imagined. While many of the challenges, decisions and responses were well reported and documented, there were a number of 'behind the scenes' issues and decisions that were critical to that successful response.

On the morning of Sept 12th, I was sent to New York City to lead a United States Fire Administration team to do some of that behind-the-scenes work.

Every emergency services leader knows that these problems and decisions weren't unique to the WTC that day; they occur at any large incident. The key to success at a fire department's next disaster response is exposure to previous lessons learned, worst-case scenario anticipation and defining a process.

This presentation will highlight a few of those WTC issues and resolutions so that officers facing similar kinds of emergencies in the future can benefit from those lessons learned.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

**113** **NEW**

## Building the Team That Everyone Wants to Join

**Dennis Reilly**, Chief, (Retired)

Success on the emergency scene is directly tied to the environment and culture at the firehouse. Whereas many feel these are 30,000 feet macro issues relegated to the fire chief, any firehouse can build the environment to support operational excellence. This lecture will present simple, actionable steps to ensure that the time you spend in the firehouse supports the service delivery your community expects.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

**116** Saturday AM **NEW**

## Certified Advanced Fire and Ambulance District Training: Democracy and More

**Monte Olsen**, Instructor, MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute

This advanced training course is designed for fire and ambulance district personnel who seek to deepen their understanding of the democratic processes that impact public service operations. Participants will explore key facets of election procedures, board governance, and decision-making within their districts.

**117** Saturday PM **NEW**

## Certified Advanced Fire and Ambulance District Training: Revenue and Budgeting

**Monte Olsen**, Instructor, MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute

This comprehensive course is designed for fire and ambulance district professionals who seek to enhance their expertise in revenue generation and budget management. Participants will explore the critical financial elements that sustain operations and ensure effective service delivery to their communities.

**118** Sunday Only **NEW**

## Certified Advanced Fire and Ambulance District Training: A Menagerie

**Monte Olsen**, Instructor, MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute

This dynamic course provides fire and ambulance district professionals with a multifaceted understanding of the diverse elements that impact operational effectiveness and community safety. Participants will engage in an interactive learning experience that covers essential topics, fostering collaboration and innovation in their districts.

**119** **NEW**

## Controlled Tactical Aggression

**Mike Norris**, Captain, and Published Author

Controlled Tactical Aggression (CTA) is a decision-making framework developed over 26 years in the fire service, designed to help firefighters respond with control amidst chaos. By integrating insights from performance psychology, CTA teaches the vital skills of managing stress and making quick, effective decisions on the fireground. Attendees will learn to cultivate the CTA mindset, utilize tactical pauses, create mental maps, and enhance resilience, ensuring that they can navigate high-pressure situations effectively. This approach not only transforms stress into strategic action but also equips firefighters, officers, and chiefs with practical tools to enhance safety and improve outcomes on the fireground.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

**122** WEBCAST AVAILABLE **NEW**

## Could YOU Rescue YOU

**Marc Bashoor**, Chief, (Retired)

In these fast-paced course, we will examine significant industry/organizational events and discuss successful strategies for both personal and organizational success – whether that be during MAYDAY situations, after significant broader events, personal and personnel dilemmas, or in the decisions surrounding trust, honor, and ethics. In this constant world of change, one of the primary questions this class will help students answer is whether they will simply stand by, watch, and react, or whether they will participate as a mentor, a problem solver – ultimately as a leader.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours



# 4 HOUR WORKSHOPS

**125** Sunday Only

## **Courage Under Fire Leadership: 25 MORE Timeless Leadership Nuggets**

**Steve Prziborowski**, Chief, (Retired)

This is a continuation of the previous session “25 Timeless Leadership Nuggets,” and will build upon the first 25 discussed in that session. This session is intended for anyone in today’s fire service, from firefighter up to fire chief, regardless of time on the job or type or size of department. Attendees will be exposed to 25 more timeless leadership nuggets that can be used by anyone in today’s fire service, not just fire officers, to ensure they are being the best they can be for those they are fortunate to serve, within the department, within the community, and ultimately at home. Many of these nuggets can be beneficial to one’s personal life, while all can be beneficial on the job, whether at the firehouse or on the fireground. Numerous lessons learned will be shared and discussed in a positive and productive manner so that attendees can leave with information, tips and suggestions they can immediately put into action. Regardless of where we may find ourselves on the organizational chart, each one of us has a leadership responsibility to ensure that we are a highly functioning and contributing team member that is doing the right things for the right reasons.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

**126** **NEW**

## **Drills That Deliver – Mastering Initial Fireground Operations**

**Forest Reeder**, Chief, (Retired)

This fast-paced 4-hour course introduces company officers, trainers, and firefighters to the why, what, and how of using NFPA 1410 evolutions to improve first-due fireground performance, crew coordination, and tactical readiness.

Through scenario-driven drills, tactical timelines, and performance review strategies, participants will learn how to transform minimum company standards into maximum crew capability. The course focuses on water supply, initial attack lines, transitional fire attack, standpipe operations, and rescue-forward evolutions, all grounded in the updated 2024 edition of NFPA 1410.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

**129** Saturday Only

## **Emergency Medical Technician: Medical Buffet Refresher**

**Robert A. Draper**, Clinical Coordinator, University of Missouri EMS Education

Gain knowledge and expertise in this workshop with a buffet of medical topics. Discussion, analysis and advice will be presented on Emerging Special Pathogen, Behavioral Emergencies, Chemical and Biological Warfare, and Emergency and Trauma Care.

**EMS CEU’s:** EMT/Paramedic/Registered Nurse - Medical 4 hours

**131** Sunday — Webcast Available

## **Emergency Response to Hunting & Outdoor Emergencies**

**Dirk A. Christian**, Planning and Mitigation Bureau Director and Branch Chief, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

Hunters are accidentally shot while they are out hunting. The US Fish and Wildlife Service reports that hunters spend over 5 million cumulative hunting days in the field each year. While these emergencies are ‘low frequency’, they can be extremely complex and ‘high risk’ in nature. Are you trained and ready to respond to complex outdoor emergencies? Does your fire department train for rescue operations in the most remote areas of your district? This course will better prepare Firefighters to assess, rescue, and treat injured hunters and patients in the remote outdoors. During this class, we will review rapid trauma assessment and treatment for a myriad of GSW’s, puncture and penetrating wounds, arrow and broadhead injuries, cold water emergencies and hypothermia, and multisystem trauma injuries related to hunting and outdoor emergencies. Hands-On training scenarios will include use of common and specialized rescue equipment, and several different techniques to rescue hunters from a variety of tree stands, tree climbing rigs, elevated and ground blinds, falls – including hunting harnesses and suspension injuries, archery and arrow injuries, and a wide variety of traumatic injuries commonly associated with hunting, trapping, and outdoors sporting events.



132

NEW

## Extreme Leadership – Bridging the Leadership-Generational Gap for Excellence

**William Greenwood**, Manager, Fire and Emergency Preparedness

Extreme Leadership is a current FDIC International program that provides attendees with the three pillars of leadership. We will look at Intellectual Intelligence, Emotional Intelligence and Interpersonal Dynamics for a full 360 degree look at yourself (introspection) and for those you lead. Come learn about the science of leadership.

We will look at the body's physiological response during high stress events and how to manage that stress for better outcomes. We will teach you how to read and map people for best practices in building real positive working relationships. Extreme Leadership will also provide a mentoring program that will increase engagement, motivation and productivity. These best practices will bridge the leadership gap to increase recruitment and provide greater retention!

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

135

Saturday Only

## Farm Smart HazMat –Rural Response Considerations for HazMat Incident

**Dirk A. Christian**, Planning and Mitigation Bureau Director and Branch Chief, Kansas Division of Emergency Management

This course provides an in-depth overview of a myriad of tactical and operational considerations for Rural Fire Departments and First Responders when responding to a known or suspected hazardous materials emergency incident in farm and agricultural areas. This is the 'Street-Smart Class' for HazMat Operations for the Rural Midwest! This seminar includes critical emergency response topics including pre-planning for hazardous materials agricultural facilities in your first due response area, farm and Ag facility tours, understanding and dissecting response to Tier II facilities, product identification, risk-based response and risk management decision-making, personal protection and PPE requirements, situational awareness, critical information requirements, EMS Patient Decon and treatment considerations, rescue and Mayday events in hazmat environments, responder and equipment decontamination, and incident documentation. We will dissect the Top Ten Most Prevalent HazMat Incidents that you may respond to in Rural Ag America as part of the seminar. This course is well suited for Fire Service personnel of all ages, experience levels, and ranks, from new personnel to Chief Officers and anyone who may find themselves in command of these events.

**DFS CEUs:** Hazardous Materials Technician and Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

137

Sunday Only

## Fire Don't Care

**Sidney L. Morgan**, Captain, Republic Fire Department, (Retired)

**Michael J. Moore**, Deputy Chief, Southern Stone County Fire Department, (Retired)

A conversation about the things that really should matter to the fire service. The fires we fight are equal opportunity creator of chaos and will kill and injure any firefighter without discretion or discrimination. The Fire Doesn't Care whether you are a volunteer/ career, young/ old, what nozzle you use or what helmet you wear.

138

New

## Fire Service: Knowing the Risk and Rewards

**Teresa A. Crisman**, Director of Public Affairs, Office of the State of Maryland

**Sarah Sadler**, Specialist at National Institute of Standards and Technology

As communities and populations continue to evolve, it is crucial to understand how to effectively analyze data and recognize the strengths and achievements within your community. This knowledge will enable you to align your plan with the needs of your department when seeking funding, resource requests, and other forms of support.

We encourage active participation in this discussion as we aim to provide valuable insights and practical tips on community risk reduction. Together, let us equip ourselves with the necessary knowledge to create safer and more resilient communities.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Inspector 4 hours



# 4 HOUR WORKSHOPS

141

Sunday Only

NEW

## Firefighter Mayday: Are You Prepared for the Unthinkable?

**Drew Smith**, EFO, CFO, Fire Chief, Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, IL

**Brian P. Kazmierzak**, Fire Chief, Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety, MI

The Firefighter Mayday: Are You Prepared for the Unthinkable presentation will focus on the critical leadership skills and procedures necessary for a fire incident commander to effectively manage a Mayday situation, including rapidly deploying a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), coordinating communication on the fireground, and making crucial decisions to ensure the safe rescue of a trapped or injured firefighter, emphasizing the importance of clear communication, quick decision-making, and thorough training to optimize rescue efforts in high-stress situations. This class will use real-life fireground audio and stress the importance of simulation-based training! This class will leave you with tools to take back to your department and institute to help prepare for Mayday!

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

142

NEW

## Fireground Strategies: Strategic Decision-Making

**Anthony Avillo**, Chief (Retired)

This presentation will cover the decisions that need to be made regarding fire scene strategy determination based on the arrival and/or forecasted conditions. Strategy selection considerations, strategy modification cues, and offensive-to-defensive / defensive to offensive strategic transition will be a focus for discussion. Situational fire topics will be discussed and highlighted by case studies and lessons learned from past incidents. Areas of focus will include below grade fires, attached and closely spaced buildings, cockloft fires, exposure issues, and large area buildings. We will further discuss the recognition of when an exterior strategic opportunity presents itself, precipitating a transitional strategy as the initial fireground action. Additional insights into strategies and tactics to make a transitional attack more effective will be covered. Further, additional alarm considerations as well as the importance of standard operating procedures as the foundation of fireground control and the importance of progress reports from all operational areas as the basis of ongoing review/evaluation/revision requirements. A must for the Incident Commander.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

145

## Firehouse Optimization — Developing Leaders and Enhancing Motivation

**Anthony Clinker**, Captain, and Nicholas Rhodes, Captain DPP, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, NV

Firehouse Optimization is dedicated to the improvement of fire and emergency services by developing effective leaders, enhancing motivation among personnel, and bringing best practices to the forefront. With our proven strategies and approach, we equip fire departments with the tools and knowledge necessary to maximize their impact and provide exceptional service to their communities. By focusing on leadership development, motivation, and best practices, we ensure that fire departments can operate at their highest potential.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours





**148** Saturday Only

## Fires in Large Commercial & Warehouse Facilities

**Brian S. Gettemeier**, Captain,  
Cottleville Fire Protection District

**Timothy P. Frankenberg**, Chief,  
Washington Fire Department

Large and mega volume structures are found in the vast majority of communities in Missouri. These structures range from 8,000 sq. ft. dollar discount stores, large retailers (Wal-Mart, Home Depot), to million sq. ft. distribution warehouses. Recent history in the U.S. has documented several large losses of these facilities. This class is largely based on NFPA 1700 *The Guide for Structural Firefighting* (2021 edition) as it applies to large volume facilities. We will address the importance of building familiarization, pre-incident planning, and fire prevention. We will also discuss the presence and limitations of the fire protection systems. Discussions on building construction styles and features utilized in these facilities. Additionally, we will look at the scientific study of modern fire behavior within large volume structures. We will discuss the strategy and tactical considerations when fighting fires in large volume structures.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor and Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

**150** Sunday Only

## Fires You Should Know

**Brian S. Gettemeier**, Captain,  
Cottleville Fire Protection District

**Timothy P. Frankenberg**, Chief,  
Washington Fire Department

This class looks at near miss and line of duty deaths, their lessons learned, and their impact on the Fire Service. The class will discuss these incidents and how to incorporate line of duty deaths into relevant training exercises. Tragically the circumstances of these incidents and their influence have not been passed along to the emerging generation of firefighters. Let's keep our commitment to never forget.

MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute

**151**

## First Due to an Active Shooter/Hostile Event

**Christine A. Tonetta**, Captain,  
Millville Fire Department (NJ)

In today's world, all first responders must be prepared to handle active shooter and hostile events (ASHE). The timeline of incidents—from early attacks to the most recent tragedies—underscores the increasing frequency of these events across all settings, from small towns to major cities. Firefighters, whether responding to a fire alarm or an EMS call, may arrive on the scene just moments after law enforcement.

Unfortunately, many volunteer and combination departments often lack the resources or time to commit to extensive three-day courses on ASHE incident management and integrated response. This course has been thoughtfully designed to respect the time of those eager to enhance their knowledge of active shooter response.

This lecture-based presentation will provide attendees with essential information to make informed decisions during an active shooter event in their jurisdiction. Participants will learn their role within the incident command system, how to effectively coordinate with law enforcement and EMS, and the fundamentals of establishing a Level II staging area. The course is focused and streamlined, drawing from the latest data in after-action reports, FBI studies, NFPA 3000, and Active Shooter Incident Management training—ensuring that participants receive the most relevant and up-to-date information.

As history has demonstrated, active shooter events can strike any department, regardless of size, location, or whether responders are paid or volunteer, therefore we must understand how to act effectively when faced with these critical situations.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

**154** WEBCAST AVAILABLE

## First Five Minutes

**Jerry K. Wells**, Battalion Chief (Retired),  
Lewisville Fire Department (TX)

**Scott Thompson**, Chief, Colony  
Fire Department (TX)

In addressing the critical “First Five Minutes” of every incident, certain key considerations must be at the forefront of leaders’ minds. While leadership plays a vital role during emergencies, other factors such as attitude, training and readiness are equally important in ensuring effective response and mitigation.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor and Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

**157** **NEW**

## Fueling Recruitment: Harnessing Colleges and Social Media to Empower Volunteer Fire Departments Recruitment

**Nick Siemens**, Division Chief of Training,  
Western Taney County Fire District

This course aims to empower fire service professionals with the essential knowledge, tools, and strategies to improve recruitment and foster community engagement by collaborating with local colleges and marketing programs. It specifically focuses on tackling recruitment and retention challenges within the fire service industry.



# 4 HOUR WORKSHOPS

160

## Get The Wet Stuff On The Red Stuff: Fire Apparatus Pump Theory & Operations

**John Wilke**, Senior Investigator,  
Boone County Fire Department

**Mark A. Woodward**, Director of Safety Training

This session provides a look behind the pump panel with goal of enhancing the apparatus operator's understanding of fire pump theory and proficient operational skills in order to deliver "big water". This course covers the history and types of fire pumps, with focus on the efficient use of apparatus centrifugal pumps. Instructors will discuss the basics of hydraulics, drafting, and hose stream utilization. Operational procedures are emphasized to help apparatus operators avoid expensive fire pump damage caused by incidents such as cavitation.

163

NEW

## Initial Actions for Missing Person Searches

**Alan Altis**, Rescue Specialist

This four-hour course, "Initial Actions for Missing Person Searches," is designed for first-arriving fire companies. It focuses on the critical first steps that set the foundation for a successful search operation. Participants will learn how to effectively secure the scene to preserve evidence and establish a safe working area, request the appropriate resources tailored to the specific search environment and situation, and scale the initial search efforts based on the size and complexity of the search area. The training emphasizes a methodical, logical approach to incident management, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response from the very beginning.

166

NEW

## Initial Fireground Decision Making

**Gary Graf**, Chief, Union Fire Protection District

The emergency incident can be a dynamic and constantly changing event, however the skill set, and direction used to stabilize the incident may be based upon an organizational standard. This organizational standard is based on the experience and skills of all responders from the Firefighter to the Incident Commander, and is the foundation of coordinated fireground operations.

Initial Fireground Decision Making will facilitate a discussion that will assist all responders to an incident on how to direct their actions based upon the conditions encountered. Regardless of rank or experience, these discussions will help to build a mindset and direction on how to enhance our skills to increase fireground effectiveness.

169

## Integrating Mental Resilience in Your Training Program

**Rick Best**, Chief Training Officer

**Lea Wandling**, Assistant Chief Eastland  
Fairfield Career and Technologies Center

Firefighting can be mentally taxing, with exposure to traumatic events being a regular part of the job. A fire instructor must emphasize the importance of mental resilience and stress management techniques. Providing support resources and fostering an environment where mental health is discussed openly can help trainees cope with the emotional challenges of the job.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

171

NEW

## Labor Management as a Strategic Advantage: Building Trust and Alignment

**Brian Schaeffer**, Chief, Columbia Fire Department

**Carl Scarborough**, Chief (Retired)

This session explores how labor-management collaboration can serve as a strategic advantage in fire departments/districts. Drawing from the Columbia Fire Department's recent experience and long history, Chief Brian Schaeffer shares practical strategies for building trust, achieving clarity and alignment, and transforming traditional labor relations into partnerships that strengthen organizational performance. Participants will gain insights into overcoming barriers, sustaining collaboration, and leading with shared purpose in today's dynamic fire service environment. Through case studies, and class discussions, participants will develop practical skills to navigate and mediate workplace conflicts effectively. Emphasis will be placed on fostering collaboration and understanding diverse perspectives, equipping students with the tools necessary to promote positive labor-management relations in various organizational settings.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours



175

## Large Vehicle Rescue: Awareness

**Donald A. Braun**, Training Officer, Cole County Fire Protection District

Accidents involving semitrailers and other large vehicles call for specialized knowledge and skills by emergency responders. This workshop is designed for those emergency response personnel who have an interest in, or experience in vehicle extrication and wish to expand their awareness. Large Vehicle Rescue: Awareness will provide participants with the insight and information needed when efficiently operating and using tow trucks, rescue struts, cribbing, and airbag systems typically used to lift and stabilize heavy vehicles. Realistic vehicle extrication scenarios will be presented and discussed along with the tactics and strategies that are best suited for the problems associated with these large vehicles.

**EMS CEUs:** EMT/Paramedic/Registered Nurse - Operations 4 hours

178

## Leadership, Attitude, Mindset, Actions, and Presentation

**Jessica Jackson**, Firefighter/EMT, St. Louis Fire Department

The LA-MAP to Self-improvement class utilizes Leadership, Attitude, Mindset, Actions, and Presentation to facilitate an ongoing self-assessment, which is essential to reach one's full potential. Regular maintenance of skills, reinforcement of knowledge, and improvement of attitudes and mindset are crucial. This program aims to motivate and prepare firefighters to empower themselves and others in their circle of influence.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

181

NEW

## Leading with Purpose: A Dialogue for Future Officers

**Joseph Knitter**, Fire Chief (Retired), South Milwaukee Fire Department (WI)

Leading today's firefighters requires adaptability and a steadfast commitment to our core mission: SERVICE. Drawing on over 33 years of experience as a Company and Chief Fire Officer, this class encourages an interactive dialogue with participants to explore the mission of their organizations. Attendees will work together to identify community needs and desires for effective service delivery while assessing the capabilities of their organizations to meet these requirements.

Additionally, this course will highlight eight key strategies for achieving mission-focused service delivery success and fostering individual leadership development.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

184

NEW

## Managing Natural Gas Emergencies: A Response Guide

**Mike Booth**, Instructor, University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute

Every day in the United States, fire departments and emergency services deal with utility emergencies involving natural gas releases. This course provides emergency responders with practical knowledge of most common hazards, response issues, and equipment associated with natural gas transmission and distribution. The course will help responders with natural gas properties, how to recognize the dangers, and how to respond safely in a gas emergency.

187

Saturday Only

NEW

## Mobile Homes: Small House – Big Challenge

**Joseph R. Polenzani**, MPSLA, CFO, Battalion Chief, Franklin Fire Department (TN)

Manufactured housing accounts for about 10% of the new homes built each year. Learn what makes trailers different from "regular" wood-frame structures and how to safely operate within this challenging environment. Tactics for suppression and ventilation, as well as strategies for operating in high-density mobile home communities are also presented. This class begins with an overview of different types of manufactured housing. The students' interest is then engaged by a "fact vs. myth" section, where commonly held preconceptions are discussed. The presentation then moves to size-up exercises, where real-world examples are used to illustrate the features, modifications, and design elements that pose problems for responders. Offensive, defensive, and transitional attack tactics are evaluated. Two firefighter line-of-duty death incidents are used to reinforce lessons learned. The fourth section of the class covers firefighting in mobile home communities.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours



# 4 HOUR WORKSHOPS

189

## Occupied Until Proven Vacant

**Tyler A. Prater**, Firefighter,  
St. Louis Fire Department

Our legal system uses the “Innocent until proven guilty” philosophy as incorporated by our founding fathers. Now, someone please tell me why firefighters are treating building fires as “VACANT UNTIL PROVEN OCCUPIED?”

This 4-hour class will take the experienced suburban firefighters and give them the tools to be aggressive when searching fire buildings. This eye-opening discussion will help us look at the bigger picture of the primary search and the multiple components that come along with it! This course will discuss size up techniques, search tactics, fire behavior and case studies then connect them to our personal experiences. Group discussion / participation is ENCOURAGED. This isn't your average sit back and relax lecture, this is a passionate discussion on how to make our firefighters better at aggressive interior search operations in the fire building. This is one topic you do not want to take lightly!

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor and  
Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

192

NEW

## Off Airport Response to Downed Aircraft Emergencies

**Bruce Bjorge**, Fire Service Leader, Educator  
& Communications Specialist

Aircraft emergencies can happen anywhere. Unfortunately, most emergency response agencies receive little if any training on how to respond to these incidents. This course will provide information on common aircraft types, systems, and fuels used by aircraft and initial emergency response tactics and strategies to manage these incidents effectively.

195

Sunday Only

New

## Plan, Lead, Perform

**Brain T. Zaitz**, Assistant Chief,  
Kirkwood Fire Department

Have you ever looked at a company and thought, “I want to work on that engine”? Or see an organization that is hitting the mark and wonder “how did they get there?” Here is the secrete, they PLANNED!!! Success does not come to those that simply wish for it to happen. For us to be successful, both personally and organizationally, we must develop strong plans that will ensure we stay on path and achieve our goals. This course looks at plan development and what our plan should include such as mission, vision and values and how these play into our day-to-day operations. We will look at implementing the plan and how to lead with purpose. We will examine how our communications and culture impact our organization and how to leverage the strengths of our generational differences. This course will provide the tools and tactics to improve your organization, and your personal skill sets to move forward.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

196

NEW

## Quint Considerations for the Single Truck Suburban Department

**Rob Fisher**, Battalion Chief, (Retired)

This class will cover fireground operational considerations where a quint ladder or a nontraditional ladder truck (i.e., aerial apparatus with stored CAFS) is the only truck on the alarm. Many U.S. fire departments of varying sizes use nontraditional ladder trucks on the fireground. Smaller suburban fire departments are often challenged with traditional truck functions being completed by a nontraditional truck. How a department uses this apparatus will differ depending on the resources available to the organization, staffing, training, and department culture. The focus for the class is on the importance of truck work but from a non-traditional truck that is capable of stretching a hose line. The big question is, when do you stretch the line and work as an engine and when do you decide to position and work as a truck? Learn the pros/cons of operating a quint or nontraditional truck, lessons learned by others who have worked on them, and general operating guidelines.



## 199 NEW

### Recruitment + Training = Retention

**Joe Nedder**, Deputy Chief of Training, (Retired)

Today it has become quite apparent to all that recruiting and then retaining volunteer firefighters is a difficult mission! Retention is not only a recruit issue but an ongoing issue for all members. This class is designed to assist you in developing a retention program based upon a great training program that will help keep current members and attract and retain new members. In this class we will identify issues with recruiting and retention. Discuss solutions for retention and why training is the key and review how we “train the troops” with suggestions for improvements. Help set training priorities, the need to have quality training officer and the need for better officers training. We will examine how we need to groom the future in our fire departments. We will go to the core of training both new and existing firefighters. All firefighters who are involved in training, and training officers will benefit with new ideas, affirmation of techniques they might currently be using and learn some new thoughts and techniques in training and retention. The class is fast paced, seeks student input, and will challenge many of the “norms” with new or different ideas, and most of all it’s fun!

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

## 202 NEW

### Rescue Struts for Extrication and Stabilization

**Stephen Kimker**, Rescue Redefined

When seconds matter and lives hang in the balance, the mastery of extrication tools can spell the difference between tragedy and triumph. Among the array of equipment available to modern rescue teams, rescue struts stand as both a testament to engineering ingenuity and a cornerstone of safety. This course outlines the use of proper use of rescue struts in auto extrication and vehicle movement, offering insight into best practices, tactical applications, innovations, and considerations for responders.

## 205 NEW

### Residential Structure Fire with Entrapment! Are you Ready?

**Greg Mundy**, Assistant Chief, (Retired)

Life safety in residential structure fires is the fire services’ primary tactical objective but are we really capable of giving our citizens the best opportunity to survive upon our arrival? Developing the culture, planning and preparation is key to truly being able to operate at an ultimate level 100% of the time in an offensive fire. Large and small fire departments are challenged to recognize, locate and remove occupants during the initial six minutes. This course will discuss size-up, layout, thermal imaging, techniques, coordination and support in order to provide your highest level of service to save those in harm’s way. Tips and tricks for the how, why, when and where of residential structure fire rescue will be shared so your department can access and implement the items needed to actually fulfill the term “Life Safety” every time. Go make the grab!

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours



## 208 NEW

### Riding Shotgun

**Timothy S. Cowan**, Deputy Fire Chief, Dewitt Fire District

This course is designed explicitly for company officers riding in the right front seat, which is one of the most crucial positions in the fire service. The company officer is the lifeblood of the fire department. This presentation provides an in-depth look at the roles and responsibilities of occupying this seat, both on and off the fireground. Often, firefighters are unaware of the expectations that accompany this position. Many believe that riding shotgun only involves making decisions at emergency scenes. However, this is just one small aspect of a broader responsibility as a company officer. Company officers must recognize that they not only serve as fire officers but also become parental figures, coaches, counselors, and much more to their crew. Students will be equipped with the necessary tools to succeed on and off the fireground.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

## 211 NEW

### Search Essentials

**Robert James**, Firefighter, Frederick County Fire Department (MD)

Firefighters rescue about 881 civilians from residential structure fires every year. This equates to roughly 9 civilian rescue a day. It’s not a matter of “if” a civilian being trapped in a house fire in your district, it’s a matter of “when”, and that could be TODAY!!! This program is designed to take years of experience and break down the essential information of search. Search is a topic that we can talk about for days upon days and the tactics around it using training, data and facts. This class takes all that information and condenses it down to the “essentials” of what you need to know to be better prepared rescuers for our communities. This program uses actual experiences, captivating pictures and videos to help drive home the essential talking points.



# 4 HOUR WORKSHOPS

214

New

## Setting the Standard: Forge Excellence - Train with Purpose

**David McGlynn**, Chief, Letterkenny Fire Department (PA)

In the pursuit of excellence, we recognize that greatness is not a mere coincidence; it is a deliberate outcome shaped through rigorous training, high expectations, and the willingness to embrace challenges. "Setting the Standard: Forge Excellence - Train with Purpose" is designed for individuals and teams committed to elevating their skills and achieving the highest standards in their field. By fostering a culture that demands excellence, we empower ourselves and our peers to redefine what is possible.

Join us in setting the standard for excellence, where training is purposeful, challenges are embraced, and high expectations lead to remarkable results.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

217

## Swiftwater and Flood Rescue: Awareness

**Leslie F. Crews**, Deputy Chief, Monarch Fire Protection District

This classroom-based course is designed to provide participants with the necessary beforehand knowledge to safely conduct general water-based operations and search, and rescue calls specific to all environments involving moving water. Compliant with the awareness level, specified by NFPA 1670 Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents, this class covers equipment, training, physical requirements, pre-plan preparation, public education materials, site safety, accountability, size-up, hazard assessment procedures, utilization of the incident command system, risk versus benefit analysis procedures, and identifies what is considered to be the legal common practice in this increasingly common and dangerous environment.

**EMS CEUs:** EMT/Paramedic/Registered Nurse - Operations 4 hours

14

220

Sunday Only

## Tactical Decision-Making

**Phillip Jose**, Deputy Chief (Retired), Seattle Fire Department (WA)

This highly interactive and informative class will enable participants to learn to achieve rapid, accurate solutions to fire ground problems. Engaging discussions are guided using fire ground videos, recognition primed strategies, and a question-based approach. Phil Jose's interactive style engages participants in the decision-making process, to learn and identify the strengths and weaknesses of their tactical plans.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor and Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

221

## Tactical Impact

**Jason M. Hoevelmann**, Chief, Florissant Valley Fire Protection District

**James L. Silvernail**, Chief, Kirkwood Fire Department

Aggressive tactical implementation on the fireground is not optional, it's an obligation. Firefighters, fire officers, and commanders must be decisive and deliberate, making immediate, direct impact to save lives and protect property. We have taken a serious oath, carrying a heavy weight where indecision and unpreparedness are forbidden.

Aggression isn't a dirty word; it's a demanded condition, yet not simply acquired. Without preparation and experience, it can be deadly. The fireground must be respected. To achieve tactical mastery and consistent performance, operations should include: effective training and preparation, a progressive culture, experienced leadership, well-maintained tools and apparatus, and a solid game plan (standard operating guidelines or procedures). Tactical Impact is the action required for consistent strategic success, saving lives and protecting property.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor and Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

224

## The Empowered Aerial Operator: Mastering Truck Specifications and Operations

**Nick Wilbur**, Firefighter/EMT, Arlington County Fire Department (VA)

Do you want to gain a comprehensive understanding of ladder trucks' abilities and learn how to optimize their positioning on the fire ground? This must-take course will leave you with valuable knowledge to maximize the use of your aerial device and make informed decisions for future specifications. First, students will examine the specification process. Discover what to ask for in a ladder truck and how the specification can affect operations. This insight into aerial operations will be further clarified by a careful look at operator's manuals. Attendees will then put their understanding to the test through dozens of interactive scenarios focused on practical skills and aerial and tower ladder positioning. Prepare to take a deep dive into ladder truck functions, such as aerial overrides and emergency backup procedures. Topics covered include vehicle operation, safety systems, new technology, and options that impact vehicle abilities.



227

NEW

## The Firefighter's Toolkit: 101 Tools and Techniques for Success

**Fred Malven**, Assistant Chief, Fire Operations & Training, Nevada Fire Department (IA)

Consider this course as "Fire Service Tools 101: Mastering Their Use in the Field." Drawing inspiration from the foundational works of Harold Richman ("Truck Company Operations"), Andrew Fritz ("Tools of the Trade"), and Jimm Walsh (VentEnterSearch.com), this course explores a comprehensive range of fire service tools and strategies for maximizing their effectiveness during operations. Participants will delve into the history and evolution of essential firefighting tools and discover fascinating insights about both familiar and lesser-known equipment. The curriculum includes practical combinations of tools, such as the well-regarded "married set," offering an evaluation of their synergies and performance in various scenarios. In addition to tool combinations, the course emphasizes methods for refining and enhancing tool functionality, ensuring versatility and effectiveness for both individual and team operations. Ample time will be dedicated to open discussions and sharing experiences from class participants, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

Attendees will learn that efficient equipping is fundamental to optimizing both individual and team performance, let's turn up the heat on your firefighting capabilities!

230

Saturday Only

New

## The Future Firefighter's: Preparation Guide

**Steve Prziborowski**, Chief, (Retired)

The journey to becoming a firefighter can be challenging and complex. Many individuals aspire to join the fire service, yet a multitude of factors can hinder their ability to navigate the hiring process successfully. Drawing from over 20 years of experience in the fire service—both as a candidate and as an evaluator—I have compiled essential insights and strategies to help you stand out in this competitive field.

This course is designed to equip aspiring firefighters with practical tools and knowledge to enhance their hiring potential. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the application process, interview techniques, and the essential skills required to excel in fire service assessments.

Attend this class on campus and receive a free copy of *The Future Firefighter's Preparation Guide*.



232

## The Professional Volunteer Fire Department

**Thomas Merrill**, Fire Commissioner, Snyder Fire Department (NY)

The purpose of this presentation is to deliver the message that being a professional firefighter has nothing to do with earning a paycheck but has everything to do with attitude, appearance, commitment, and dedication. It includes how members approach the job. How they prepare, train, and care for their equipment. Also, how they treat the public and their members. Additionally, how they behave and interact with the public, both on and off duty.

235

NEW

## The Rescue Playbook: Tactics, Tips and Theories

**Cody J. Brdicko**, Firefighter, Heavy Rescue 33, Omaha Fire Department

This program dives deep into the complex and high-risk world of technical rescue, exploring the skills, strategies, and science behind saving lives in the most challenging environments. From structural collapse and confined space incidents to rope, trench and rapid intervention team (RIT) operations, we break down proven tactics, real-world tips, and the underlying theories that guide successful outcomes. Understanding why our tools, equipment, and techniques work is just as vital as knowing how to use them—this knowledge ensures rescuers can adapt in dynamic, high-pressure situations when conditions don't match the textbook. Whether responding to natural disasters, industrial accidents, or large-scale emergencies, this course equips rescuers with a blend of hands-on skills, critical thinking, and operational insight to work safely, efficiently, and effectively. Designed for both seasoned responders and those building their rescue foundation, it's a comprehensive resource for anyone committed to mastering the art and science of technical rescue.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

# 4 HOUR WORKSHOPS

238

NEW

## The Rural Challenge: Managing the Fireground

**Justin Bailey**, Chief, Oliver Springs Fire Department (TN)

The rural incident commander faces many challenges within the first 10-20 minutes on an emergency scene. Responding to fire and other emergency incidents in rural areas vastly differ from those in the urban environment. Low manpower, limited resources, and the need for efficient tactics are some of the challenges faced by the incident commander. During this 8-hr workshop, the student will embark on a journey as an incident commander in a rural environment. During the journey, the student will see the similarities and differences between rural, suburban, and urban firefighting from the viewpoint of the

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

241

NEW

## The Tactical Engine: Reloaded

**Nicholas Peppard**, Firefighter/Paramedic, Oshkosh Fire Department (WI)

The Tactical Engine is a down and dirty look at the blue-collar fundamentals of aggressive engine work. This recently updated class has been stripped down, overhauled and restructured to add more technical knowledge, real world scenarios and dynamic discussion points. This class will examine effective tactics for first-alarm assignment engine companies. It will explore efficiently performing essential fireground tasks, will delve into tactical priorities and will examine fireground decision making. The class will also address truck work for engines that don't have the luxury of properly staffed truck companies arriving in a timely manner. Subjects covered will include attributes and foundational principles of building a high-performing engine company, size up, initial actions, water supply considerations, the engine search, forcible entry, coordinated ventilation, riding assignments, weapon selection, hose line management, and how to maximize limited staffing/resources in various operational arenas. This class is geared toward those looking to maximize the performance of their engine company.

244

NEW

## TIGHTROPE: Mastering the Balance Between Fireground Effectiveness and Organizational Efficiency

**Larry Conley**, Chief, (Retired)

This high-impact, interactive session equips firefighters and leaders at every level to master that balance. Participants will explore how to lead with clarity, communicate with purpose, and perform with consistency, no matter the environment. Through guided self-assessment, peer-driven discussion, and realistic scenario reflection, you'll gain practical tools to help you: Strengthen decision-making under pressure, manage up, mentor down, and lead across your organization, align operational priorities with organizational goals, build trust, morale, and accountability within your crew. Stay grounded in the "why" behind the work. Whether you wear one bugle or five, career or volunteer, this session will challenge you to rethink your leadership balance, refine your focus, and return to your department ready to walk the TIGHTROPE with confidence, purpose, and power.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours



247

NEW

## Unity & Resilience: Interactive Strategies for Mass Casualty Response

**Joe Cvach**, Battalion Chief, Anne Arundel County Fire Department, Maryland

An immersive course designed for emergency response personnel to enhance their ability to manage Mass Casualty Incidents (MCIs) with precision, calmness, and strategic foresight. MCIs present a unique set of challenges that vary widely in complexity and scale. This program emphasizes the importance of establishing a robust management system early on, providing participants with the necessary tools and insights to discern critical aspects of an incident beyond its immediate chaos. This course offers a comprehensive examination of the multifaceted nature of MCIs, highlighting key lessons learned and fostering a shared understanding of effective incident management. Participants will gain a thorough understanding through the examination of real MCI scenarios from three distinct viewpoints: Command Officer, First Arriving Officer, and Technical Rescue Firefighter. This tri-perspective approach enables a deeper understanding of the operational, tactical, and strategic dimensions of MCIs. The course also outlines the limitations and expectations inherent to MCIs, helping attendees identify potential areas to enhance their MCI and Incident Command System (ICS) plans. Moreover, this program serves as a foundational step for developing a localized MCI training plan, empowering participants to apply the knowledge and skills acquired to improve preparedness and response strategies within their organizations.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

250

NEW

## Wall Up!

**Bill Ridgeway**, Training Captain, Crystal Fire Department

Wall Up! is a building construction class that is geared at topics not covered in any significant detail in standard fire service classes. Topics include: Tilt wall, ICF, unreinforced masonry, engineered components, fire walls/ratings, safe rooms, various methods of construction, and more. The class also goes into differences between residential and commercial construction. Wall UP! goes a step further and shows common obstacles and considerations for responses to jobsites while a building is under construction. The class covers the importance of paying attention to buildings under renovation and those lacking maintenance. Construction accidents and a preemptive thought process for responses are also presented.

**DFS CEUs:** Incident Safety Officer 4 hours

253

Saturday only

NEW

## Water as a Weapon

**Lynn Morgan**, Captain, Republic Fire Department

**Michael J. Moore**, Deputy Chief, Southern Stone County Fire Department

This course is designed to empower firefighters with the essential knowledge and skills needed to effectively use water as a primary tool for extinguishing structure fires. By adhering to NFPA 1410 standards, participants will explore the critical role of water application and supply during fire incidents. Targeted at firefighters of all experience levels, this course aims to enhance your understanding and execution of water application techniques, ensuring improved performance during structure fire operations. Through a combination of theoretical insights and practical exercises, you will gain valuable expertise that can be immediately applied in real-world firefighting scenarios.

Join us to refine your water application skills and elevate your firefighting capabilities!



## 8 HOUR WORKSHOPS

255

### Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training

**Charlie W. Peel**, Regional Coordinator,  
MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute

This workshop will provide the necessary training and education required for newly appointed ambulance and fire district board members under Missouri state law. The Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts and Missouri Ambulance Association has developed the curriculum used in this class to assist new board members in understanding legal liabilities and personal obligations of their position. Topics include: authority of the board, responsibilities, rules, laws of elected boards, elections, and how to preside at a meeting.

**Missouri POST CEUs:** Legal 8 hours

256

### Company Officer Bootcamp

**Brain T. Zaitz**, Assistant Chief,  
Kirkwood Fire Department

The company officer's role is arguably the most critical in the fire service, linking line firefighters and administration. They provide daily leadership and make crucial decisions as the first arriving unit on the fireground, responsibilities not to be taken lightly. This boot camp combines lectures and hands-on activities that challenge participants and foster growth. Attendees will explore leadership skills such as active listening, trust-building, delegation, and creativity to transform a crew into a team. We'll examine how station environments can hinder success and how company officers can overcome those barriers. The session also reviews tactics and strategies, emphasizing how objectives connect overall strategy to fireground execution. You'll leave with new skills that strengthen both your crew and organization.

**DFS CEUs:** Fire Instructor 4 hours

## 12 HOUR CLASSES

257

NEW

### Grief Following Trauma

**Chaplain Ed Hatcher**, EdD, MDiv, LPC,  
CTS, Missouri Fire Chaplain Corps

In the course of one's career, it is inevitable that emergency responders will encounter traumatic death and loss issues both personally and professionally. Professionals often feel ill-prepared to provide effective care throughout the grief process. This course will cover key grief and loss concepts relating to trauma and traumatic death. Participants will increase their knowledge of how trauma impacts the grief process and will gain skills for evaluating and supporting persons who have experienced traumatic death and loss. This course is designed for anyone who works with people who experience grief and loss following a traumatic event.



## 40 HOUR BLENDED LEARNING CLASSES

258

### Fire Officer I (Blended)

**Olan Morelan**, Assistant Chief,  
Springfield Fire Department

This course is designed to provide individuals with the ability to perform as an entry-level supervisor in a fire service organization. Following the requirements of NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, Chapter 4, 2014 edition, this course examines the fire officer level I role in human resources management, community and government relations, inspection and investigation, emergency services delivery, and health and safety. This is a blended delivery course. Participants will meet in-person for the first day of class and to receive login instructions. The remainder of the class will be instructor-led through an online portal over seven weeks.

**DFS CEUs:** Instructor 24 hours, Inspector 8 hours, Investigator 8 hours

259

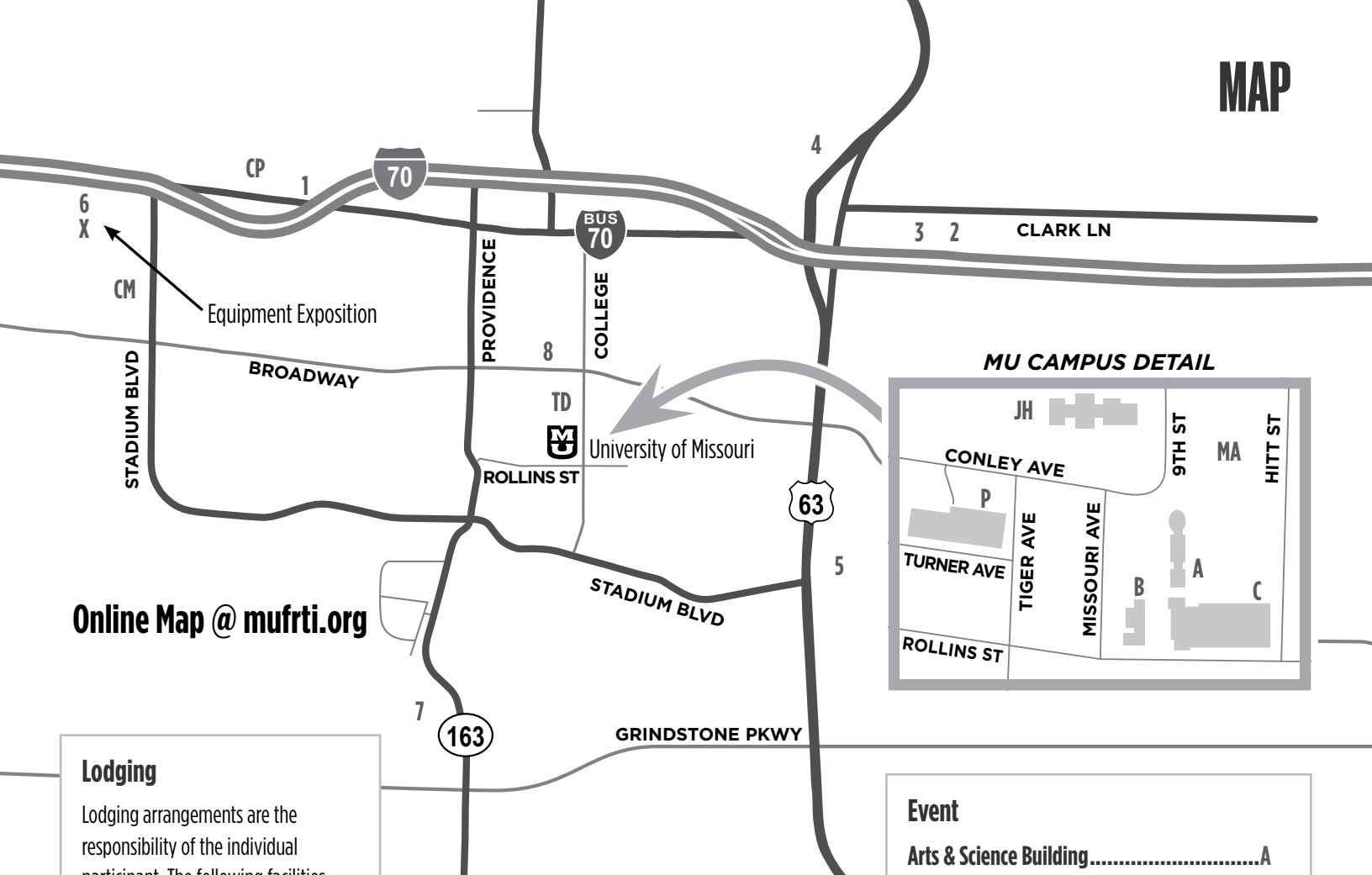
### Fire Officer II (Blended)

**Mike Novak**, Division Chief,  
Kirkwood Fire Department

This course is designed to provide individuals with the ability to perform as a supervisor/manager in a fire service organization. Following the requirements of NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, Chapter 5, 2014 edition, this course examines the fire officer level II role in human resources management, community and government relations, inspection and investigation, emergency services delivery, and health and safety. This is a blended delivery course. Participants will meet in-person for the first day of class and to receive login instructions. The remainder of the class will be instructor-led through an online portal over seven weeks.

**DFS CEUs:** Instructor 24 hours, Inspector 8 hours, Investigator 8 hours





Online Map @ [mufrti.org](http://mufrti.org)

## Lodging

Lodging arrangements are the responsibility of the individual participant. The following facilities have been designated as official hotels of the fire school. The rates listed are discounted. To receive these rates you must make reservations at least 30 days prior to fire school and indicate you are attending the Winter Fire School. Rates are flat unless noted. All facilities have smoke detectors in sleeping rooms per local ordinance. All Hotels Meet The Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990.

## Attractions

<b>Columbia Mall</b> .....	<b>CM</b>
2300 Bernadette Dr	
<b>Cosmo Park</b> .....	<b>CP</b>
1615 Business Loop 70 W	
<b>The District</b> .....	<b>TD</b>
Downtown Columbia, Missouri	
<b>Jesse Hall &amp; Columns</b> .....	<b>JH</b>
MU Campus, Conley Ave.	
<b>Museum of Art</b> .....	<b>MA</b>
520 S 9th St. (Ellis Library)	

## Event

<b>Arts &amp; Science Building</b> .....	<b>A</b>
Classrooms, MU Campus, Conley Ave.	
<b>Strickland Building</b> .....	<b>B</b>
Classrooms, MU Campus, Rollins St.	
<b>Webcasts</b> .....	<b>C</b>
MU Student Center, 911 E. Rollins St.	
<b>Equipment Exposition</b> .....	<b>X</b>
2200 Interstate 70 Dr SW	
<b>MU Student Center</b> .....	<b>C</b>
911 E. Rollins St.	
<b>Parking</b> .....	<b>P</b>
Please Park Only in Designated Lots	

ID	HOTEL	ADDRESS	PHONE	WEBSITE	RATE
1	Comfort Suites	1010 Business Loop 70 West	573-443-0055	choicehotels.com	\$99
2	Fairfield Inn and Suites	1115 Woodland Springs Court	573-886-8888	marriott.com	\$109
3	Hampton Inn	3410 Clark Lane	573-886-9392	hamptoninn.com	\$125
4	Hilton Garden Inn	3300 Vandiver Drive	573-814-5464	hiltongardeninn.com	\$129
5	Holiday Inn Express & Suites	1402 Cinnamon Hill Lane	573-442-8034	ihg.com	\$129
6	Wyndham Executive Center	2200 I-70 Drive Southwest	573-445-8531	wyndhamhotels.com	\$125
7	Stoney Creek Hotel	2601 South Providence Road	573-442-6400	stoneycreekhoteles.com	\$99
8	The Broadway	1111 East Broadway	573-875-7000	thebroadwaycolumbia.com	\$155

# REGISTRATION

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

☐ FEMA SID\* and/or ☐ Drivers License Number  
(one of the above numbers is required to issue MU CEUs)

First Name

MI

Last Name

Home Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Day Phone

Evening Phone

Email Address

☐ Female ☐ Male Date of Birth: ☐ Career ☐ Volunteer

Organization

Rank/Title

In Case of Emergency Contact:

Name

Phone

☐ This is my first time attending Winter Fire School.

☐ I am a minor, (16-17 years old) and attending with the following adult:

\* Details about the FEMA Student Identification number and how to sign up are available here: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/>

**ENROLLMENT FEES** **STEP 1:** FILL IN BOTH the number and title for each class you wish to attend AND an alternative choice. IF your first choice is not available, you will be enrolled in your alternative choice. Up to twelve hours of classes are included, but are not required for enrollment.

1ST CHOICE		ALTERNATIVE CHOICE		STEP 2: CHECK ONE based on date of payment
Class #	Title	Class #	Title	
1	1	1	1	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FEE:</b> \$270 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>AFTER 01/23/26:</b> \$320
2	2	2	2	
3	3	3	3	
<b>STEP 3: OPTIONAL</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter Health and Safety Summit Train-the-Trainer (Friday 9-4 pm)				<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FEE:</b> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>AFTER 01/23/26:</b> \$100
<b>STEP 4: OPTIONAL</b> - If you wish to attend these optional classes please check the corresponding box. ONE SUNDAY workshop is included.				<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FEE:</b> \$390 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>AFTER 01/23/26:</b> \$440
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Officer I - 40 Hour Blended Learning Class (Saturday 8-5 pm)		1st Choice Sunday Class #		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Officer II - 40 Hour Blended Learning Class (Saturday 8-5 pm)		Alt Choice Sunday Class #		
<b>STEP 5: TOTAL</b> your fees on the line provided:				

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Check: Enclosed and made payable to the University of Missouri.

☐ Purchase Order or Letter of Billing Authorization: Enclosed and includes phone number and address.

Paying with Credit Card: Please register online at [mufrti.org](http://mufrti.org)

Organization

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

<b>REGISTER</b>	<b>ONLINE:</b> <a href="http://mufrti.org">mufrti.org</a> Online registration and payment via credit card or purchase order available. Register as group or individual.	<b>MAIL:</b> Mail payment and completed form to MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute 2800 Maguire, C1 Columbia, MO 65211	<b>EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:frti@missouri.edu">frti@missouri.edu</a> Submit completed registration form along with purchase order or letter of billing.	<b>QUESTIONS?</b> Contact us at <a href="mailto:frti@missouri.edu">frti@missouri.edu</a> 573-882-4735
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No refunds will be given after January 23, 2026. Cancellations must be made in writing for consideration of any reimbursement or credit.  
By registering you are agreeing to allow any photos taken of you during Winter Fire School by MU FRTI to be used in future promotions.

# WEBCAST REGISTRATION

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

☐ FEMA SID\* and/or ☐ Drivers License Number  
(one of the above numbers is required to issue MU CEUs)

First Name MI Last Name

Home Mailing Address

City State Zip Code

Day Phone

Evening Phone

Email Address

☐ Female ☐ Male Date of Birth:  ☐ Career ☐ Volunteer

Organization

Rank/Title

\* Details about the FEMA Student Identification number and how to sign up are available here: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/>

## ENROLLMENT FEES

**STEP 1:** CHOOSE the webcast(s) you wish to attend

**STEP 2:** CHOOSE the License type

### WEBCASTS

### TIMES

### SINGLE USER

### DEPARTMENT SITE

☐ Could YOU Rescue YOU  
Marc Bashoor

Saturday 8-12 pm

☐ \$70

☐ \$350

☐ First Five Minutes  
Jerry K. Wells, Scott Thompson

Saturday 1:30-5:30 pm

☐ \$70

☐ \$350

☐ Emergency Response to Hunting & Outdoor Emergencies  
Dirk A. Christian

Sunday 8-12 pm

☐ \$70

☐ \$350

**STEP 3:** TOTAL your fees on the line provided:

### SINGLE USER LICENSE - \$70 PER WEBCAST

Per person, per webcast, and includes one certificate.

### DEPARTMENT SITE LICENSE - \$350 PER WEBCAST

Per department, per webcast, and includes ten certificates.

Detailed information on access instructions will be provided via email within two weeks of webcasts.

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Check: Enclosed and made payable to the University of Missouri.

☐ Purchase Order or Letter of Billing Authorization: Enclosed  
and includes phone number and address.

Paying with Credit Card: Please register online at [mufrti.org](http://mufrti.org)

Organization

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

## REGISTER

**ONLINE:** [mufrti.org](http://mufrti.org)  
Online registration and payment via  
credit card or purchase order available.  
Register as group or individual.

**MAIL:** Mail payment and completed form to  
MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute  
2800 Maguire, C1  
Columbia, MO 65211

**EMAIL:** [frti@missouri.edu](mailto:frti@missouri.edu)  
Submit completed registration  
form along with purchase  
order or letter of billing.

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact us at  
[frti@missouri.edu](mailto:frti@missouri.edu)  
573-882-4735

No refunds will be given after January 23, 2026. Cancellations must be made in writing for consideration of any reimbursement or credit.  
By registering you are agreeing to allow any photos taken of you during Winter Fire School by MU FRTI to be used in future promotions.

# INFORMATION

## LOCATION

Winter Fire School courses and workshops will be conducted on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. The Equipment Exposition will be located in the Wyndham Executive Center.

## CLASS SELECTION

Participants of the 2026 Winter Fire School may select any three (3) 4-hour workshops, or any one (1) 8-hour workshop or 40-hour blended learning course and any one (1) 4-hour workshop, or any one (1) 12-hour workshop. We will make every effort to enroll you in your first choice selections. However, in the event that your primary choices are full, please choose alternate selections for each course or workshop selected. Changes in class selection must be made immediately upon receipt of confirmation and are subject to availability.

**POST:** Qualifies for the Department of Public Safety's Peace Officer Standards and Training Program continuing education requirements.

**CEU:** Qualifies for Continuing Education Units a measure used to assist emergency service professionals to maintain their license.

## AGE DISCLAIMER

Individuals under the age of 16 may not participate in the Winter Fire School. Those 16 to 17 years of age may participate with a written statement of responsibility by an accompanying adult member of the sponsoring organization who will participate in the same class(es). This must be filed with our office prior to the school. Contact MU FRTI for more information.

## DRESS CODE

It is each student's responsibility to use good judgment in selecting attire that projects a professional image while remaining appropriate for climate and classroom activities. Acceptable attire at the fire school is business casual or official department uniform.

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability or status as a qualified protected veteran. For more information, call Human Resource Services at 573-882-4256, the Director of MU Equity/Title IX Coordinator at 573-882-9069 or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. This publication is made available in accessible formats upon request. For assistance please call 800-869-3476.

## TUITION

Preregistration is required for the 2026 Winter Fire School. Accepted payment methods include department purchase order, letter of billing authorization on official letterhead, personal check made payable to University of Missouri, and VISA, MasterCard, or Discover credit cards.

**FEE:** ..... \$270

**After 1/23/26:** ..... \$320

## WEBCAST

Webcasts require a high speed internet connection. Single User fees are per person, per session. Site License fees include ten participants per session. All registered participants will receive certificates. Access information will be provided via email prior to webcasts.

**Single User:** ..... \$70

**Site License:** ..... \$350

## BLENDED LEARNING

Participants will meet in-person with their laptop for the first day of class to receive an orientation and login credentials. The remainder of the class will be instructor-led online during the weeks that follow.

**FEE:** ..... \$390

**After 1/23/26:** ..... \$440

## BILLING AND REFUNDS

Invoices will not be sent to individuals. Organizations may be billed for fees if the registration form is accompanied by a purchase order or authorization letter signed by an organization administrator on official letterhead. Billing for all registered participants will be done regardless of attendance.

*Full refunds upon written request received on or prior to January 23, 2026.*

*No refunds after January 23, 2026.*

## CONFIRMATION

All participants will receive an email confirmation upon registering. A final class confirmation and schedule will be sent via email after January 23, 2026. If you have not received a class confirmation and schedule one week prior to the conference, please contact (573) 882-4735.

## ALCOHOL/SMOKING POLICY

The University of Missouri is both an alcohol and smoke free campus.

## PARKING

For a detailed map of designated parking areas please visit: [mufrti.org](http://mufrti.org).

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

If you need assistance at the fire school you may stop by the Service Desk during the following times:

**Friday, February 6: 12:00-8:00 p.m.**  
Wyndham Executive Center

**Saturday, February 7: 7:00-5:30 p.m.**  
MU Campus at the Arts and Science Building or the Strickland Building

**Sunday, February 8: 7:00-12:00 p.m.**  
MU Campus at the Arts and Science Building or the Strickland Building

## CONFERENCE QUESTIONS?

Questions about Winter Fire School:

Fire and Rescue Training Institute  
800-869-3476 or 573-882-4735  
email: [frti@missouri.edu](mailto:frti@missouri.edu)

## REGISTRATION QUESTIONS?

Questions about registration:

Fire and Rescue Training Institute  
800-869-3476 or 573-882-4735  
email: [frti@missouri.edu](mailto:frti@missouri.edu)

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute at 800-869-3476 immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.



# CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

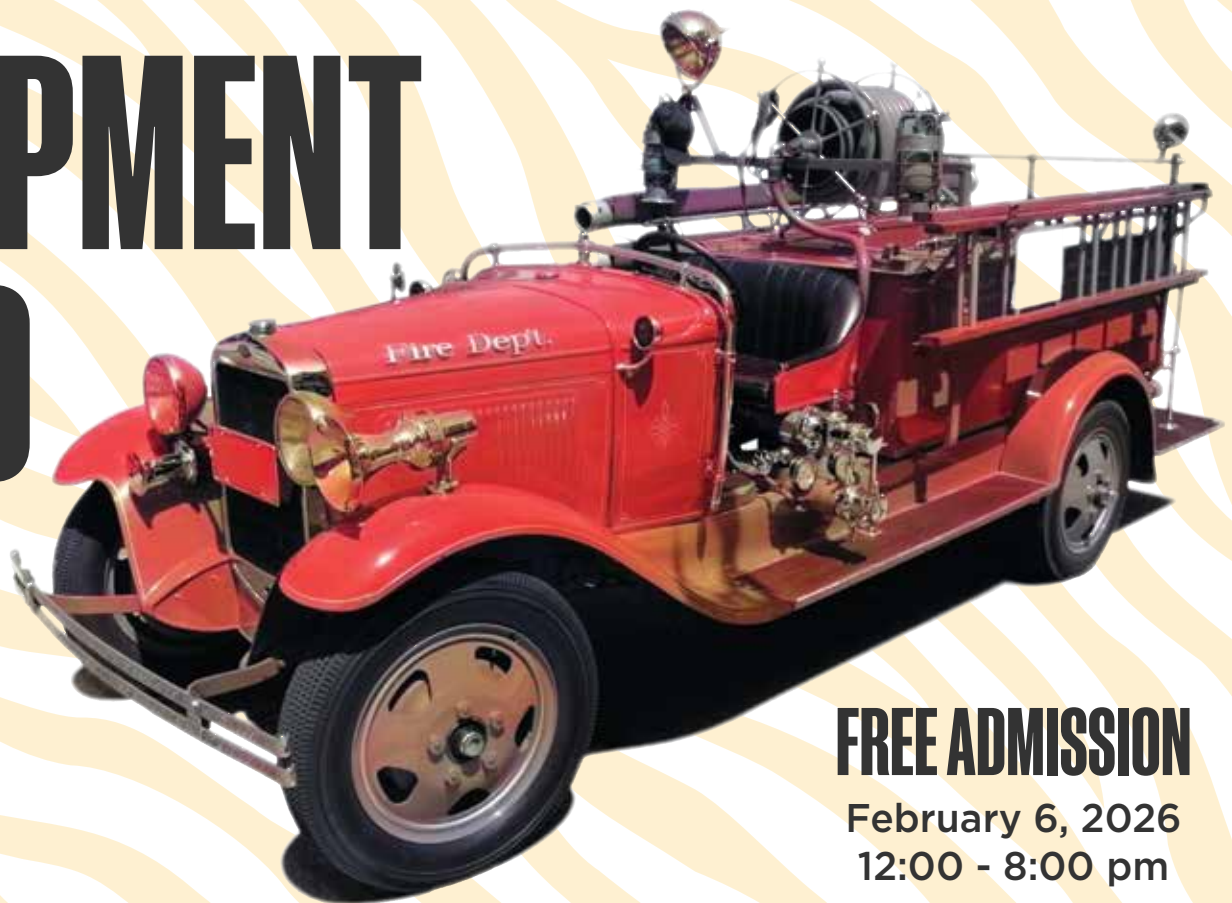
CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE		LEGEND	TIME OFFERED				CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS									
			NEW	● WEBCAST			Page Number	EMS	HAZMAT	Incident Safety	Inspector	Instructor	Investigator	POST	Tech Rescue	
				SAT AM	SAT PM	SUN AM										
#	Course Title															
101	Responder Strong Mental Health Train-the-Trainer (Friday Only: 9-4 pm)					4						*				
102	Aggressive Fireground Operations with Limited Staffing		●	●		4				*		*				
104	Aggressive Interior Firefighting		●	●	●	4				*						
107	Art of Reading Smoke		●	●		4				*						
109	Before the Front Door		●	●	●	4				*						
112	Behind the Scenes Decision Making at the World Trade Center	❖		●		5				*						
113	Building the Team That Everyone Wants to Join	❖	●	●	●	5						*				
116	Certified Advanced Fire and Ambulance District Training: Democracy and More	❖	●			5										
117	Certified Advanced Fire and Ambulance District Training: Revenue and Budgeting	❖		●		5										
118	Certified Advanced Fire and Ambulance District Training: A Menagerie	❖			●	5										
119	Controlled Tactical Aggression	❖	●	●	●	5				*						
122	Could YOU Rescue YOU — Webcast Available	❖	●	●	●	5				*						
125	Courage Under Fire Leadership: 25 MORE Timeless Leadership Nuggets				●	6				*						
126	Drills That Deliver – Mastering Initial Fireground Operations	❖	●	●	●	6						*				
129	Emergency Medical Technician: Medical Buffet Refresher		●	●		6	*									
131	Emergency Response to Hunting & Outdoor Emergencies — Webcast Available				●	6										
132	Extreme Leadership - Bridging the Leadership-Generational Gap for Excellence	❖	●	●	●	7						*				
135	Farm Smart HazMat –Rural Response Considerations for HazMat Incident		●	●		7		*	*							
137	Fire Don't Care				●	7										
138	Fire Service: Knowing the Risk and Rewards	❖	●	●	●	7					*					
141	Firefighter Mayday: Are You Prepared for the Unthinkable?	❖			●	8				*						
142	Fireground Strategies: Strategic Decision-Making	❖	●	●	●	8				*						
145	Firehouse Optimization — Developing Leaders and Enhancing Motivation		●	●	●	8						*				
148	Fires in Large Commercial & Warehouse Facilities		●	●		9				*		*				
150	Fires You Should Know				●	9										
151	First Due to an Active Shooter/Hostile Event		●	●	●	9				*						
154	First Five Minutes — Webcast Available		●	●	●	9				*		*				
157	Fueling Recruitment: Harnessing Colleges and Social Media to Empower Volunteer Fire Departments Recruitment	❖	●	●	●	9										
160	Get The Wet Stuff On The Red Stuff: Fire Apparatus Pump Theory & Operations		●	●	●	10										
163	Initial Actions for Missing Person Searches	❖	●	●	●	10										
166	Initial Fireground Decision Making	❖	●	●	●	10										
169	Integrating Mental Resilience in Your Training Program		●	●	●	10						*				
171	Labor Management as a Strategic Advantage: Building Trust and Alignment	❖	●	●	●	10						*				
175	Large Vehicle Rescue: Awareness		●	●	●	11	*									
178	Leadership, Attitude, Mindset, Actions, and Presentation		●	●	●	11						*				
181	Leading with Purpose: A Dialogue for Future Officers	❖	●	●	●	11						*				
184	Managing Natural Gas Emergencies: A Response Guide	❖	●	●	●	11										
187	Mobile Homes: Small House – Big Challenge	❖	●	●		11				*						
189	Occupied Until Proven Vacant		●	●	●	12				*		*				
192	Off Airport Response to Downed Aircraft Emergencies	❖	●	●	●	12										
195	Plan, Lead, Perform	❖			●	12						*				
196	Quint Considerations for the Single Truck Suburban Department	❖	●	●	●	12										
199	Recruitment + Training = Retention	❖	●	●	●	13						*				
202	Rescue Struts for Extrication and Stabilization	❖	●	●	●	13										
205	Residential Structure Fire with Entrapment! Are you Ready?	❖	●	●	●	13				*						
208	Riding Shotgun	❖	●	●	●	13						*				
211	Search Essentials	❖	●	●	●	13										
214	Setting the Standard: Forge Excellence - Train with Purpose	❖	●	●	●	14						*				
217	Swiftwater and Flood Rescue: Awareness		●	●	●	14	*									
220	Tactical Decision-Making				●	14				*		*				
221	Tactical Impact		●	●	●	14				*		*				
224	The Empowered Aerial Operator: Mastering Truck Specifications and Operations		●	●	●	14										
227	The Firefighter's Toolkit: 101 Tools and Techniques for Success	❖	●	●	●	15										
230	The Future Firefighter's: Preparation Guide	❖	●	●		15										
232	The Professional Volunteer Fire Department		●	●	●	15										
235	The Rescue Playbook: Tactics, Tips and Theories	❖	●	●	●	15				*						
238	The Rural Challenge: Managing the Fireground	❖	●	●	●	16				*						
241	The Tactical Engine: Reloaded	❖	●	●	●	16										
244	TIGHTROPE: Mastering the Balance Between Fireground Effectiveness and Organizational Efficiency	❖	●	●	●	16						*				
247	Unity & Resilience: Interactive Strategies for Mass Casualty Response	❖	●	●	●	17				*						
250	Wall Up!	❖	●	●	●	17				*						
253	Water as a Weapon	❖	●	●		17										
255	Certified Fire and Ambulance District Board Training — 8 Hour Workshop - Saturday Only			●	●	18									*	
256	Company Officer Bootcamp — 8 Hour Workshop - Saturday Only		●	●		18						*				
257	Grief Following Trauma — 12 Hour Class	❖	●	●	●	18										
258	Fire Officer I — 40 Hour Blended Learning Class		●	●	●	18					*	*	*			
259	Fire Officer II — 40 Hour Blended Learning Class		●	●	●	18					*	*	*			





Fire and Rescue Training Institute  
2800 Maguire Boulevard C1  
Columbia, MO 65211-8200

# EQUIPMENT EXPO



**FREE ADMISSION**

February 6, 2026  
12:00 - 8:00 pm

Wyndham Executive Center • 2200 Interstate 70 Drive SW • Columbia, MO

**SAVE THE DATE**

Summer Fire School • May 2026

Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference • November 2026