



2018 BRYANT STILES OFFICERS SCHOOL

Green River Firefighters Association

February 23 – 25, 2018

Owensboro Convention Center - Owensboro, KY



13. LEAD from the FRONT: Fireground Tactics, Leadership, and Team Building and Fire in the Great Smoky Mountains

Morning Session:

Topics to be covered in this colorful PowerPoint presentation include Leadership Development, Critical Incident Decision-Making, Fireground Tactics, Achieving Your Goals, and Motivating Your Team. Your instructor will share case studies and powerful lessons learned from his personal experiences during his 36-year career on the Chicago Fire Department. In the Fireground Tactics portion we will compare modern tactics to traditional tactics from the perspective of what has changed and why? Audiovisuals are used to reinforce the lessons learned. The goal of this presentation is leadership development, increased safety awareness, and effectiveness on the fireground. Attendees should leave with a better understanding of fire science, fireground tactics, leadership principals, and critical incident decision-making.

Steve Chikerotis retired in November of 2014 as a Deputy District Chief after a 36-year career with the Chicago Fire Department. He was a fire officer for 26-years, a chief officer for 16-years, and a fire service instructor for over 30-years. As a Deputy District Chief Steve oversaw operations of 30 fire stations and 7 Battalions. Throughout his career he has also held the positions of Chief of Fire Academy Operations, Director of Training, Safety Officer, as well as working on Chicago's busiest fire companies and battalions. Steve is a student of the game holding an A.A.S. in Fire Science, and B.S. in Business Administration, as well as dozens of state and national certifications. Chikerotis is also a dedicated fire service instructor, regularly delivering classes and keynote addresses at conferences throughout the nation. He's been an on staff instructor at the Chicago Fire Academy, Illinois Fire Service Institute, Harold Washington College, and RICO Fire Rescue. Chikerotis is also a published author, and is currently working on his third book. In addition, Steve also has worked on over one hundred projects in the television and movie industry over the last 27-years as a screenwriter, storyline consultant, and technical advisor, including the movie "Backdraft". Currently he is working on the hit NBC television show "Chicago Fire", which is starting its sixth season.

This class will be offered Saturday and repeated on Sunday.

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For further information about the 2018 Bryant Stiles Officers School contact the Area 3 Training Center (888) 306-8015 or GRFA@att.net



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Afternoon Session:

The 2016 Great Smoky Mountains wildfires were a complex of wildfires which began in late November 2016. Some of the towns most impacted were Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, both near Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The fires claimed at least 14 lives, injured more than 100, and are one of the largest natural disasters in the history of Tennessee. By December 12, the fires had burned more than 10,000 acres (15 square miles) inside the national park, and 6,000 acres in other parts of the area. At least 14,000 area residents and tourists were forced to evacuate, while over 2,000 buildings were damaged and/or destroyed. One of the largest wildfires was the Chimney Tops 2 Fire, which burned more than 10,000 acres, and closed the Chimney Tops Trail. The Great Smoky Mountains wildfires were the deadliest wildfires in the eastern U.S. since the Great Fires of 1947, which killed 16 people in Maine. In addition, the fires were also the most deadly and destructive of the 2016 Southeastern United States wildfires.

Pigeon Forge Fire Chief **Tony L. Watson** is a second-generation firefighter. The foundation of his career is in volunteer firefighting, where he served 20 years. Watson worked full time in emergency medical services (EMS), rising through the ranks to become the training officer for a growing advanced life support transport system. Along the way, he became a multidisciplinary instructor in fire/rescue and EMS. Watson's extensive experience in the field led him to Walter State Community College (adjunct instructor) and the National Fire Academy (instructor). In 2007, Watson was hired as chief of the Pigeon Forge Fire Department, the first person to serve in this role in an official capacity. Under Watson's leadership, the department has grown from a mostly volunteer department to a combination department with 50 members. An active member of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Watson has served on the board of directors and also as chairman of the safety committee. Dedicated to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Sevier County (Tenn.), Watson has served as vice president of the Sevier County Fire Chiefs Association. Watson earned his associate of arts degree in fire science from Walter State Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational management, and a master of arts in education degree in organizational training, the latter two from Tusculum College. Watson has attended courses and trained in wildland urban interface. He is currently in his fourth year of the National Fire Academy's executive fire officer program. Watson has been a featured speaker at various fire safety conventions and seminars as well as other organizations. Under Watson's leadership, Pigeon Forge has become a leader in the wildland fire programs arena, having recently been chosen as a pilot city for the Ready-Set-Go program, a partnership between International Association of Fire Chiefs and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

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