



2018 BRYANT STILES OFFICERS SCHOOL

Green River Firefighters Association

February 23 – 25, 2018

Owensboro Convention Center - Owensboro, KY



17. Volunteer Fire Service Culture: Essential Strategies for Success

Firefighting is one of the most physically and mentally demanding jobs that an individual is asked to perform. Each year, an average of 100 firefighters die and more than 70,000 are injured in the line of duty while training, responding to or returning from an emergency incident, or on an actual emergency scene. The nation's fire service is comprised of more than 700,000 volunteer firefighters or 75% of the total of all firefighters. The volunteer fire service has existed for over 200 years and is steep in traditions. It is those traditions that has created a culture that often drives these brave firefighters to place their own health and safety at risk because of a desire to help others. Today, a new paradigm is being developed that strives to change that culture and reduce the line of duty death and injury statistics. The National Volunteer Fire Council published the text "Volunteer Fire Service Culture – Essential Strategies for Success" as a guide to volunteer fire service leaders who desire to change the culture and attitude towards personal health and safety. This training program utilizes this text to reinforce the need for change and provide a roadmap for implementation of change.

This class will only be offered on Saturday.

David Lewis is an active member of the Odenton Volunteer Fire Company (Maryland), having served for over 45 years as a volunteer firefighter/EMT and past Chief Officer and currently serving as the company's President. David is also a Past President of the Anne Arundel County Volunteer Firefighters Association and of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. He is also active at a regional and national level as a Director to both the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association and the National Volunteer Fire Council. Following a successful career in both state and federal government, David retired in 2015 to spend more time giving back by serving in a teaching capacity. He now is active as an adjunct instructor with the National Fire Academy, the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, and University of Maryland University College. As an emergency services educator, Mr. Lewis is able to apply his life experiences in an environment that shares with others and builds future leadership across the emergency services communities.

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