

Photovoltaic System Fires

Solar panels are increasing in popularity and functionality. We are seeing smaller systems installed every day on homes, and companies are installing acres of solar “farms.” What are the dangers associated with these systems, and how do we respond to fires and other emergencies involving them?

Instructors – Kenn Fontenot and Wil Dane

Kenn Fontenot is the National Volunteer Fire Council’s Louisiana director and chair of the NVFC Health and Safety Committee. He is a charter member and the first Fire Chief of the LeBlanc Volunteer Fire Department. Fontenot is a principal member of the NFPA 1001 committee and an alternate member on the NFPA 1021 committee. He served for 12 years as the Regional Fire Training Coordinator at the Louisiana State University Fire and Emergency Training Institute and is a past-President of the Louisiana Fireman’s Association. He holds an Associate Degree in Fire Science.

Wil Dane has experienced a varied and distinguished Fire Services Career holding positions from firefighter to fire chief in Michigan and Texas. Additionally, Wil served as the Chief Administrative Fire Marshal-Enforcement and Investigation Division with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal’s Office and as Assistant Director-Municipal Programs for the LSU Fire and Emergency Training Institute. Wil has been the recipient of the Denham Springs [LA] Kiwanis Club’s Citizen of the Year Award [1984] and the Victoria [TX] Fire Department Officer of the Year Award [1998]. Wil is a 1988 Graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program and the Master of Public Administration Program at Eastern Michigan University in 1994.