



30. Fireground Operations With Limited Staffing!

This presentation will identify how modern fire ground tactical decisions and best practices don't always align with today's fire service. Almost 90 percent of the fire departments in the United States are in small communities with a population of 10,000 people or less and are all, or predominantly volunteer agencies. Fireground tactics and acceptable standards indicate that a minimum of 16 firefighters should be the minimum number of firefighters on the fireground. However, how does the agency with only three or four members on scene start fire suppression activities? Then try and add Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT), Incident Command System (ICS), and the OSHA two-in, two-out rule all influence the fireground commander's decisions as it pertains to fire suppression. In this class, students will learn how to provide superior fire suppression while waiting for additional personnel to arrive on scene and be proactive in their approach to dealing with emergency situations prior to the actual dispatch.

Instructor

Tim Whitham has served as the Fire Chief for the City of Edwardsville, Kansas since 2015. He has over three decades of fire service experience and has served in all capacities from firefighter, company officer, and fire chief. Tim is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program and has designations as a Chief Fire Officer and Fire Marshal from the Commission on Professional Credentialing. He holds a bachelor's degree in Fire and Emergency Response Management from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh and a master's degree in leadership from Grand Canyon University. Chief Whitham is the Fire Science Program Director for Johnson County Community College, prior to this appointment he served many years as an instructor. He is also an instructor for the National Fire Academy, and is an instructor, evaluator and site coordinator for the Kansas University Fire Service Training Program.