



## 39. New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues (F0760)



This 2-day course is designed to develop the managerial, administrative and leadership skills necessary for the first-time fire chief or chief officer who desires a leadership position in their department. This course addresses critical knowledge and skills pertaining to the responsibilities of a fire chief.

Topics covered include:

- Local politics and the role of the chief officer.
- Liability and risk management.
- Resources and items of knowledge needed to become a first-time leader in a new position in an agency.

### **Instructor**

Melvin Byrne has dedicated his life to public service, beginning as a volunteer firefighter and EMT in 1974. Throughout his tenure with the Ashburn Volunteer Fire Rescue Department, he has held every major position, including President, Assistant Chief, Chief, and on the County Fire Commission.

In his professional career, Melvin has brought his expertise to Loudoun County Virginia Fire Rescue, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. His commitment to excellence is further demonstrated by his graduation from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and his master's degree in Fire and Emergency Management Administration from Oklahoma State University.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Melvin treasures his family time, creating a balance between his dedicated service and personal life.