



# 38TH ANNUAL BRYANT STILES OFFICERS SCHOOL

# THE BRIDGE TO Leadership

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025

OWENSBORO CONVENTION CENTER



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STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING

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# Welcome Back To The Bryant Stiles Officers School

## By The

### Green River Firefighters Association

The fire departments and members of the Green River Firefighters Association welcome you back to the beautiful Owensboro Convention Center and the 2025 Bryant Stiles Officers School! We have once again planned a very diverse lineup of classes to assist you in becoming a better front-line supervisor and leader, with many **NEW CLASSES!** We carefully reviewed evaluations from previous events and have listened to your requests by adding some classes that may be hard to locate on a regional basis. Please take the time to carefully review the brochure and submit your class selection requests as soon as possible, to ensure your seat. For the most recent and current information about the 2025 Bryant Stiles Officers School by the Green River Firefighters Association, visit [www.sfrtarea3.org](http://www.sfrtarea3.org) or contact us at 270-273-3187. Thanks to the following leadership of the Green River Firefighters Association and the always dependable staff of State Fire Rescue Training District 3:

President – Charlie Rafferty – Airport-Sorgho FD

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – John Dunning – Madisonville FD

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Shane Richards – Hawesville FD

Secretary – Marc Henderson – McLean Co. Cent. Dist. (Vendor Coordinator)

Treasurer – Pat Thompson – Airport-Sorgho FD (School Coordinator)

Past President – Troy Roberts – Lewisport FD

District 3 Training Coordinator – Jimmy VanCleve (Registration Coordinator)

## Saturday Evening With The Vendors

The Bryant Stiles Officers School would not experience its continuous success if not for our dedicated and faithful commercial vendors. Several of our vendors have been with us from the beginning. We appreciate each and every participating vendor. Keep these dedicated vendors in mind when pondering your future personal and departmental purchases. The 45,000 square foot exhibition hall at the Owensboro Convention Center is the perfect setting to visit with friends of new and old. Each school participant will receive a door prize entry when visiting our commercial vendors. Door prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the event at approximately 8:30 pm CST.

# Registration Information

**Registration Form:** The registration form at the end of this brochure has been completely redesigned to better serve the applicant. You must enter a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice in each session you plan on attending to ensure we place you in a class of your choosing. Please feel free to copy the form as needed and complete the entire form prior to submission. You can mail to PO Box 700, Calhoun, KY 42327, or register online at [www.sfrtarea3.org](http://www.sfrtarea3.org).

**Choice of Classes:** Most classes fill up quickly so make sure you get your registration form and payment in as soon as possible to ensure your seat in the class of your choice. Classes with low enrollment will be cancelled 2 weeks prior to the school, so if you need a specific class, get your registration form and payment in as soon as possible to ensure your class makes it!

**Payment of Class Fees and Confirmation:** Registration fees must be submitted promptly upon application. Invoices will not be sent and your registration form with class fees listed should be used as your invoice/receipt. Purchase orders from municipalities will be accepted with payment to follow immediately. **Confirmation for classes will only be sent to a legible and valid email address upon receipt of payment!**

**Deadlines and Refunds:** Registration fee for a single session or the entire weekend is \$75 per student for payments received prior to close of business on February 14, 2025. Registration fee will be \$85 per student after February 14 and for any on-site registrations. **Refunds must be requested by email prior to February 14, 2025 to [pat.thompson@kctcs.edu](mailto:pat.thompson@kctcs.edu) listing the students name, method of payment to GRFA (check or credit card), and to whom to make the refund (check to submitting party on original payment).**

**Junior Firefighters/Explorers:** With this conference being a lecture setting, Junior Firefighters/Explorers are welcome at the Officers School; however, you must submit a letter from the Chief of the sponsoring agency stating they are aware that the Junior/Explorer is attending and the contact information with name and phone number of the on-site supervisor of the attending Junior/Explorer.

**Student Conduct:** All students/participants are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner as would be expected by the representatives of your sponsoring agency/jurisdiction. Inappropriate conduct or unnecessary disruptions will not be tolerated during any events or classroom sessions of the conference and will be dealt with accordingly. Remember, you are representing your department or organization while attending this or any other public event and many wear clothing, etc. that identify you with a particular agency, so please act accordingly.

# HOTEL INFORMATION

The Green River Firefighters Association would like to recommend these preferred hotels that have a long history of supporting the Bryant Stiles Officers School. These hotels will offer a special rate for firefighters and others attending the school, while rooms last. Please contact your hotel of choice for rates, and mention the Firefighter Conference when booking.



## **Holiday Inn Owensboro Riverfront**

701 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
270-683-1111

\$149\*



## **Best Western Plus**

1018 Goetz Drive  
270-689-0939

\$129\*



## **TownePlace Suites Owensboro**

3365 Hayden Road  
270-231-8222

\$129\*



## **Courtyard by Marriott Owensboro**

3129 Highland Pointe Drive  
270-685-4140

\$154\*

\*Must mention the Firefighter Conference for appropriate rate, while rooms last.

# Event Schedule

## **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21<sup>st</sup>**

7:00am - 8:00am On-Site Registration/Check-In

8:00am - 12:00pm Classes in Session

8:30am Kentucky Firefighters Association Executive Board Meeting

12:00pm - 5:00pm Conference Registration/Check-In

1:00pm - 5:00pm Classes in Session

1:00pm Fire Commission Meeting

3:00pm Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs Meeting

8:00pm - 12:00am Firefighter Appreciation Party  
DJ, Dancing, Prizes,  
Appetizers, and Drink Vouchers from:



## **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>**

6:30am - 8:00am On-Site Registration/Check-In

8:00am - 4:00pm Classes in Session

4:00pm - 9:00pm Saturday Evening with Vendors from

## **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>**

7:00am - 8:00am On-Site Registration/Check-In

8:00am - 4:00pm Classes in Session

**ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME!**

Lunch will be available for purchase by the Convention Center on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

## **Save The Date!**

# **2026 Bryant Stiles Officer School**

## **February 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**

**Like us on Facebook @GreenRiver Firefighters** 



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P R E S E N T S

# THE ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION PARTY

**FRIDAY,  
FEBRUARY 21  
8PM-MIDNIGHT**

**FRONT LOBBY  
OWENSBORO  
CONVENTION  
CENTER**

**BRYANT STILES  
OFFICERS  
SCHOOL**

THERE WILL BE FOOD, DRINKS, DANCING, & A DJ!  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



# SATURDAY EVENING WITH THE VENDORS

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

4:00 – 9:00 PM



Bring Your Family!  
Door Prizes Every Hour For  
Adults and Kids!  
Numerous Vendors From  
Across The Country!  
Multiple Vehicles on Display!  
Meet Sparky the Fire Dog!





**Green River Firefighters  
2025 Meeting Dates**



<b>January 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SFRT District 3 Greenville (Muhlenberg Co) 4678 Hwy 181 North Greenville 42345</b>
<b>February 21-23</b>	<b>Bryant Stiles Officers School Owensboro Convention Center</b>
<b>March 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Hanson FD (Hopkins Co) 101 Battle Ridge Drive, Hanson 42413</b>
<b>May 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Municipal Service Center (Henderson Co) 1449 Corporate Ct, Henderson 42420</b>
<b>July 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Owensboro FD Training Center 1323 Daviess St Owensboro 42301</b>
<b>July 31-Aug 2</b>	<b>Kentucky Firefighters Association Conference Maysville KY</b>
<b>September 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lewisport FD (Hancock Co) 590 Old Mill Road, 42351</b>
<b>October 24-26</b>	<b>Fall School/Owensboro Community College 4800 New Hartford Rd Owensboro 42303</b>
<b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Joint meeting with Dixie/SCKFA TBD</b>

**2026 Bryant Stiles Officers School  
February 20-22, 2026**

# Your Community Mental Health Center

**RiverValley Behavioral Health** is proud to be the first thought, first choice for behavioral healthcare in our communities, serving the Green River area since 1967. We offer a full range of mental health services and supports, in addition to substance use treatment, and services for those with intellectual & developmental disabilities.



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behavioral health

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## FRIDAY - HALF DAY CLASSES

### Morning

	Instructors
1 Emergency Incident Survivability Profile - Rescue Or Recovery	Kenn Fontenot
2 ResponderStrong	River Valley Behavioral Health
3 Buildings On Fire: Tactical Risks for the First-Due Company and Commander	Christopher Naum
4 Managing the Mayday	Michael Prete
5 Navigating OSHA's Proposed Emergency Response Rule	Mike Sutt

### Afternoon

6 Designing and Implementing a Training Program	Kenn Fontenot
7 Why Do We Keep Risking Our Lives When There Is Nothing To Be Saved?	John Buckman
8 Reading the Building: Building FACTS and Modern Size-Up on Today's Fireground	Christopher Naum
9 We Survived: Lessons Learned in a Grain Bin Rescue	Omer, Southard, Dobson
10 Managing the Mayday	Michael Prete

## FRIDAY - ALL DAY CLASSES

11 Kentucky Urban Search and Rescue Fundamentals	Doug Hargreaves
12 Fire Alarm Systems for Inspectors	Eric Grimes
13 Firefighter Recruitment and Retention	Dave Goldsmith
14 Fire Inspector II	Tim Juett
15 Body Language 101 For Fire Officers: How to Read, Interpret and Use Nonverbal Comm...	Zach Matthews
16 Teaching Scenario Based Haz-Mat Training	Thomas Miller

## SATURDAY - ONE DAY CLASSES

17 Storytelling For Fire Officers: How to Inspire, Influence, and Educate with Stories	Zach Matthews
18 The University of Extrication	Ron Moore
19 What's Next For Kentucky? How To Be Ready When MAJOR Disaster Strikes	Jody Meiman
20 Leadership Challenges, Be Ready to Lead!	Tim Whitham
21 Structural Firefighting with Limited Staffing in Today's Environment	John M. Buckman III
22 Leading And Managing Small Departments	Kenn Fontenot
23 Fire Suppression Systems For Sprinkler Inspectors	Richard Peddicord
24 Influence of Building Construction and Occupancy on Company and Command Decision...	Christopher Naum
25 First Arriving Engine Company and Highway Safety	Michael Prete
26 Fire Inspector I	Tim Juett

## SUNDAY - ONE DAY CLASSES

27 The University of Extrication	Ron Moore
28 Fireground Strategy: Commanding the Fireground	John Turner
29 Weather 101: What Emergency Responders Should Know About The Weather	Christine Wielgos
30 Fireground Operations with Limited Staffing	Tim Whitham
31 Dealing with Difficult People	John M. Buckman III
32 Fireground Management For The Small Department	Kenn Fontenot
33 Flashover/Backdraft and Managing Risks	Michael Prete
34 Fireground Leadership: Rebooting Old School Principles and From the Station to the Str...	Christopher Naum
35 A First Responders' Guide for Mental Health Issues Recognition	River Valley Behavioral Health
36 Teaching Anhydrous Ammonia Awareness and Operations	Thomas Miller

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY - TWO DAY CLASSES

37 NFA - Fire Investigations: First Responders (F0770)	Brittany Brown
38 NFA - Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success (F0648)	Janie Gunnell
39 NFA - New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues (F0760)	Melvin Byrne
40 NFA - Preparation for Initial Company Operations (F0458)	Lane Heins
41 NFA - Incident Safety Officer (F0729)	Stephen McLane

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE**

**2025 BRYANT STILES OFFICERS SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

(Please print clearly, complete all blanks, and duplicate this form as needed)  
(PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS REGISTRATION FORM AS YOUR INVOICE/RECEIPT)

LAST \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_ FIREFIGHTER ID# \_\_\_\_\_ RANK/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
DAY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL (for information/confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

WHICH DAYS ARE YOU ATTENDING: (check all that apply) Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIDAY MORNING CLASS (if taking all day class, list in this section):**

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLASS:**

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**SATURDAY CLASS: (if taking 2 day class, list in this section):**

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**SUNDAY CLASS:**

1<sup>st</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Visit our website at [www.sfrtarea3.org](http://www.sfrtarea3.org) for registration or credit card payment options, or mail or fax completed registration form to:

Green River Firefighters Association

P.O. Box 700

Calhoun, KY 42327

Office: 270-273-3187

Fax: 312-924-9420

Payments must accompany all registrations. Make checks payable to GRFA. Purchase orders and faxes will be accepted with payment following immediately. No phone registrations. Confirmation of classes will be sent ONLY AFTER payment is received. No refunds after close of business on February 14, 2025.

# 1. Emergency Incident Survivability Profile Rescue Or Recovery?

Rescue or Recovery? Tips for determining the Survivability Profile of victims at emergencies. Survivability potential of victims are clues learned during initial size-up including fire and smoke conditions, building construction, fire department training/equipment, and available resources. Tips can be applied to any emergency.

## **Instructor**

Kenn Fontenot is a charter member and the first Fire Chief of the LeBlanc Volunteer Fire Department. Fontenot is a principal member of the NFPA 1010 committee, NFPA 1700, and a former 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 currently instructing for the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy which is the state fire training agency. He is a past President and life-member of the Louisiana Fireman's Association. He holds an associate degree in Fire Science.



## 2. ResponderStrong

ResponderStrong: Most Responders are not familiar with the stress injury model or the long-term mental, emotional, and physical impacts of occupational stress and trauma. NDRI and ResponderStrong believe that Responders can protect themselves from the stresses of the job when they are empowered with the right knowledge, skills, and tools. The content of this course includes stress injury, the physiology of stress, suicide awareness and prevention, and resiliency. (4 hours)

### **Instructor**

RiverValley Behavioral Health is Your Community Mental Health Center:

Since 1967, RiverValley Behavioral Health has provided vital behavioral health services that fit the ever-growing needs of our communities. Our state-designated Community Mental Health Center serves the Green River region of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, Ohio, McLean, Union and Webster counties.

We offer a full range of mental health services and support, in addition to substance use treatment, and specialized care for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We prioritize your needs, offering a full continuum of evidence-based services tailored to you and delivered by a caring and dedicated team of professionals.

This class will be conducted by one or more of the professional full-time staff.



### **3. Buildings On Fire: Tactical Risks For The First-Due Company and Commander**

Arriving companies and personnel at today's structure fires must be able to rapidly and accurately identify key elements of a building, process that data based upon a widening field of variables present on today's evolving fireground and implement timely actions that address prioritized actions requiring intervention. This program will present tactical risks and key considerations for the First-Due Company, Company Officer and Commander affecting and influencing operational risk management, command and tactical safety and tactical protocols based upon occupancy risks, reading the building and adaptive management principles that incorporate the Building FACTS model and risks. This program presents insights from a wide variety of building types, eras and vintage and applies insights for Modern Methods of Construction, Tactical Fire Dynamic Challenges and Tactical and Command and Control Considerations.

#### **Instructor**

Christopher Naum is a 49-year fire service veteran and a highly regarded national and international instructor, author, lecturer and fire officer, he is a distinguished authority on building sciences and architectural construction issues affecting the fireground operations, command and tactics and has traveled extensively throughout the United States and internationally delivering training programs on building performance, construction and firefighting, fireground leadership, command management and operational safety. He has been lecturing and instructing throughout the United States and internationally for over thirty-eight years. His previously service included Fire Command, Fire Protection & Safety at a US nuclear power plant, over twenty years in field operations & suppression as a commanding company officer in New York and Training, Fire Academy and College academic curricula administration and management. Naum is also a technical consultant, advisor and subject matter expert to the NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program and Firefighter LODD reports.





## 4. Managing The Mayday

This program will review and discuss the common themes in firefighter injury and fatalities, discuss the role of Incident Command in the MAYDAY, the role of a firefighter in the MAYDAY, discuss the importance of effective communication, the PAR, and the importance of Rapid Intervention. In addition, the program will identify the relationship of the Incident Management System and a Rapid Intervention Team while reviewing Case Studies as they apply to other departments.

### **Instructor**

Mike Prete retired after 37-years of active service as an Assistant Fire Chief at Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Services, a large combination department near our nation's capital. With over 40-years of fire and rescue experience, Mike started as a volunteer in a department that bordered Washington DC and served in a career capacity for Montgomery County holding positions from Firefighter Paramedic through Executive Operations Chief. In addition to his role directly relating to fire and rescue operations, he managed daily operational and administrative issues including budget, daily oversight and scheduling for 1300 full time personnel. Mike began teaching in his early days as a sergeant, serving as a recruit instructor, and has continued this passion today. With national and state instructor certifications, Mike has served as an adjunct instructor for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, NIMS Instructor for MEMA, Anne Arundel Community College adjunct instructor, Practical Incident Control Training lead instructor and holds various certifications in public safety. Since his retirement, Mike splits his time between teaching and as a project coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). Mike hosts the NFFF Podcast series Firefighter After Action Review which takes deep dives into Line of Duty Death incidents by discussing all aspects of these incidents with personnel who have knowledge of these tragic events.



## 5. Navigating OSHA's Proposed Emergency Response Rule

This class will review the proposed revision to OSHA 29CFR 1910.156 and how it applies to volunteer, combination, and career departments in the Commonwealth. The main topics that will affect each of us will be discussed, as well as the financial impact that will result.

There will be an opportunity for open discussion and questions with safety professionals to better prepare the upcoming standard.

### **Instructor**

Lt. Colonel Mike Sutt is the Deputy Chief of Operations for Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS in Louisville. In this executive capacity, he oversees Fire and EMS operations for the third largest department in the state. Mike has over 30 years of experience in Fire, EMS, and safety, serving in both the public and private sectors.

## 6. Designing And Implementing A Training Program

Attendees will learn how to conduct a training program needs analysis, determine mandatory training needs, design and implement a training program, and be given guidance for resources available for a training program.

### **Instructor**

Kenn Fontenot is a charter member and the first Fire Chief of the LeBlanc Volunteer Fire Department. Fontenot is a principal member of the NFPA 1010 committee, NFPA 1700, and a former 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 currently instructing for the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy which is the state fire training agency. He is a past President and life-member of the Louisiana Fireman's Association. He holds an associate degree in Fire Science.

## 7. Why Do We Keep Risking Our Lives When There's Nothing To Be Saved?

Why do we keep risking our lives when there is nothing to be saved? This program will discuss risk and the associated behaviors of firefighters. We have seen the stories. We have viewed the photos of firefighters. We will examine the 5 major reasons firefighters are injured or killed. We want and need aggressive firefighters, but we need firefighters who engage their brain before engaging their feet. We will look at several line of duty death events to see what can be learned from their experiences. Staffing, driving, strategy and tactics, safety and other topics will be discussed. The lack of experience and the need for wisdom will be discussed.

### **Instructor**

Chief John M. Buckman III served 35 years as fire chief for the German Township (Ind.) Volunteer Fire Department. He has presented at the Bryant Stiles Officers School for over 30 years. He served 14 years as director of the fire and public safety academy for the Indiana State Fire Marshal Office. He is most proud of the title “pawpaw” and loves spending lots of time with his grandkids. He is the Director of Government and Regional Outreach for lamResponding. He is a past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a co-founder of the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section. In 1996, Fire Chief Magazine named Chief Buckman Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. He is an accomplished photographer. He is a co-author of the Lessons Learned from Fire-Rescue Leaders and is the editor of the Chief Officers Desk Reference, and a contributing author to the 3rd Edition of Recruiting, Training and Maintaining Volunteers. He is the owner of Wildfire Productions and is a sought-after keynote speaker. He has presented education programs in each of the 50 states; Beijing, China; each province in Canada; and the Dominican Republic.



## **8. Reading The Building: Building FACTS And Modern Size-Up On Today's Fireground**

Today's buildings and occupancies continue to present unique challenges to command and operating companies during combat structural fire engagement. Building and occupancy profiling, identifying occupancy risk versus occupancy type, construction methods, features, systems and components require new skill sets in reading the building and implementing predictive occupancy profiling for today's firefighters, company and command officers for effective and efficient fireground operations. Incorporating the BuildingsOnFire FACTS model for First-Arriving Construction, Tactics and Safety, this program provides an overview of the methodology and process to increase operational effectiveness and ensure critical building factors are identified, assessment and monitored throughout the incident with insights on an enhanced size-up model, building and fire risk model and operational template that meets today's fireground challenges in various building types and occupancies.

### **Instructor**

Christopher Naum is a 49-year fire service veteran and a highly regarded national and international instructor, author, lecturer and fire officer, he is a distinguished authority on building sciences and architectural construction issues affecting the fireground operations, command and tactics and has traveled extensively throughout the United States and internationally delivering training programs on building performance, construction and firefighting, fireground leadership, command management and operational safety. He has been lecturing and instructing throughout the United States and internationally for over thirty-eight years. His previously service included Fire Command, Fire Protection & Safety at a US nuclear power plant, over twenty years in field operations & suppression as a commanding company officer in New York and Training, Fire Academy and College academic curricula administration and management. Naum is also a technical consultant, advisor and subject matter expert to the NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program and Firefighter LODD reports.



## 9. We Survived: Lessons Learned In A Grain Bin Rescue

Entrapment in a grain facility is most likely a fatal event. In this class we will hear from two area farmers that were trapped and survived the ordeal. We will also hear from the responders that were on hand to rescue the victims. On May 04, 2022, Union County farmer Doug Omer became entrapped inside of a 90,000-bushel grain bin. The class will begin with Doug telling his story of his entrapment in this 95-foot tall by 45-foot diameter bin and his recollection from when he got trapped to the rescue and finish with the trip to the hospital. Dale Pierce was the lead rescuer that spent over 4 hours in the bin working to free Mr. Omer from the grain and get him out of the bin and onto the ground. In neighboring Henderson County in March of 2024, Johnny Southard was engulfed by grain and had to be rescued by local rescuers. James Egbert was one of the first responding units to arrive and will provide information on the rescue activities that responders took to make this a successful rescue. Johnny, a 55-year veteran of farming operations, became entrapped in a 12,000-bushel bin while working alone and waited more than an hour until his nephew came to check on him. Dale Dobson will facilitate this class and provide the Best-Practices that responders should know to work these types of emergencies.

### **Instructor**

Doug Omer is a 55-year-old, lifelong farmer in the Henshaw Community in Union County. He farms about 3,000 acres of row crops and has about 250 head of beef cattle. Doug and his father have run the farming operation for many years.

Johnny Southard farms about 3,000 acres in Henderson County with two nephews. He has been farming for more than 55 years.

Dale Dobson works with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as the Safety Administrator. He is a proud Farmer, Firefighter, and EMT serving all of these roles in Hodgenville, KY. He is married with 3 kids and 6 grandchildren. Has a passion for safety, enjoys traveling the country, and over the past 33 years has seen agriculture progress and make safety a top priority. Dale's motto is "Life is good".



## 10. Managing The Mayday

This program will review and discuss the common themes in firefighter injury and fatalities, discuss the role of Incident Command in the MAYDAY, the role of a firefighter in the MAYDAY, discuss the importance of effective communication, the PAR, and the importance of Rapid Intervention. In addition, the program will identify the relationship of the Incident Management System and a Rapid Intervention Team while reviewing Case Studies as they apply to other departments.

### **Instructor**

Mike Prete retired after 37-years of active service as an Assistant Fire Chief at Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Services, a large combination department near our nation's capital. With over 40-years of fire and rescue experience, Mike started as a volunteer in a department that bordered Washington DC and served in a career capacity for Montgomery County holding positions from Firefighter Paramedic through Executive Operations Chief. In addition to his role directly relating to fire and rescue operations, he managed daily operational and administrative issues including budget, daily oversight and scheduling for 1300 full time personnel. Mike began teaching in his early days as a sergeant, serving as a recruit instructor, and has continued this passion today. With national and state instructor certifications, Mike has served as an adjunct instructor for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, NIMS Instructor for MEMA, Anne Arundel Community College adjunct instructor, Practical Incident Control Training lead instructor and holds various certifications in public safety. Since his retirement, Mike splits his time between teaching and as a project coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). Mike hosts the NFFF Podcast series Firefighter After Action Review which takes deep dives into Line of Duty Death incidents by discussing all aspects of these incidents with personnel who have knowledge of these tragic events.



## 11. Kentucky Urban Search And Rescue Fundamentals

This 8-hour course provides a foundational understanding of the Kentucky Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) system, tailored for emergency responders and support personnel. Participants will explore the essential components of US&R operations, focusing on:

1. **Kentucky US&R System Overview:** An introduction to the structure, roles, and responsibilities within the state's US&R framework.
2. **Developing Mission Ready Packages (MRPs):** Training in creating and implementing MRPs, ensuring teams are adequately prepared for diverse emergency scenarios.
3. **Local and Regional Team Integration:** Strategies for effective collaboration among local and regional teams, emphasizing communication and resource sharing during disaster response.
4. **Future of Disaster Response in the Commonwealth:** Insights into emerging trends, technologies, and strategies shaping the future of emergency response in Kentucky.

### Instructor

Doug Hargreaves grew up in New England following his father's footsteps in the fire service. Doug entered the fire service in Kentucky himself in 1994. In 1998 Doug received a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Arson, Explosion and Investigation from Eastern Kentucky University. He spent 20 years with the Lexington Fire Department (KY) retiring in 2023 as Lieutenant having served as the department's Special Operations Executive Officer. During his career with the Lexington Fire Department, he was assigned to the Special Operations team his entire career. One of his assignments as a firefighter was on the heavy rescue company. He also served on the Ohio Task Force 1 as a Hazardous Materials Specialist. Doug currently works for the Division of Kentucky Emergency Management as the State Urban Search and Rescue Coordinator. He also is the co-writer of US&R legislation in 2023 that makes it mandatory for the Commonwealth of Kentucky to have a state-funded US&R team.



## 12. Fire Alarm Systems For Inspectors

This class is developed and presented for the industry professionals that are required to attend and receive recertification credit for licensure. This class will help the student have a deeper understanding of Fire Alarm systems. Discussion as to where they are required, installed and maintained, proper inspection of the systems, how they function, how they can help save a life, and how they may be a benefit to the fire service. This class qualifies for the six (6) hours continuing education required for State Certified Fire Alarm Inspectors, and CEUs for Building Inspectors.

### **Instructor**

Eric Grimes has been in the commercial fire alarm industry for over 35 years. He has worked for Simplex Time Recorders, Tyco Fire and Safety, Johnson Controls, Kaiser Aluminum – Warrick, and is currently employed by Alpha Energy Solutions. Eric holds an Associates of Applied Science in Electronics, and in Fire/Rescue Science Technology. He has been a Kentucky Certified Fire Alarm Inspector since 1990 and is NICET IV certified in Fire Protection Technology – Fire Alarm Systems.



## 13. Firefighter Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment and Retention is not just a local problem, it is a nationwide problem. This class is designed for Career or Volunteer Fire Departments that has a desire to add and retain members to their organization. There will be a strong focus on volunteer organizations.

We will address local, state and national statistics on where we were, where we are, and where we are going. We will review some out of the box ideas on recruitment.

We will address obstacles that keep your department from recruiting, as well as the changing culture and generational roadblocks. Attendees need to be prepared to work in group activities, and each attendee will need to bring your department and community information. (number of current members, run volume, square miles covered, and population)

### **Instructor**

Dave Goldsmith has 35 years of fire service experience in volunteer and combination departments. He is the retired Fire Chief of the Highview Protection District in Louisville, Kentucky. He served 10 years on the Kentucky Fire Commission, serving as chairman of the education committee. He is the past President of the Jefferson County Fire Instructors Association, past President of the Kentucky Regional Fire Training Academy, and former Commander of the Jefferson County HazMat Team. He also spent 15 years as an adjunct instructor at Texas A&M.

## 14. Fire Inspector II

**Prerequisite for this class is Fire Inspector I, verified by a copy of your Fire Inspector I certificate, and 6 months in the performance of inspections verified by your chief or supervisor.**

This class is the second step in the Fire Marshal's revised Fire Inspector program. This class is designed for the fire inspectors and building code officials that deal with life safety issues on a daily basis. The students will get detailed instruction on specific occupancy requirements, occupant load calculations and seating arrangements. This class will consist of instruction followed by an exam. Certificates are issued upon passing the test. Course Objectives: Attendees will be instructed in the performance of, and requirements for, complex fire inspections and code recognition; and will gain knowledge in occupant load calculation and seating arrangement in places of assembly, fair and exposition centers, and special events.

### **Instructor**

Kentucky Fire Marshal's Office – Tim Juett



## **15. Body Language 101 For Fire Officers: How To Read, Interpret, And Use Nonverbal Communication In Emergency Situations**

Body language is a vital component of communication, from emergency situations to personnel issues words are not always enough. Fire officers need to be able to read, interpret, and use nonverbal cues to assess the condition, needs, and emotions of the people they lead, as well as to convey their own intentions, confidence, and empathy. In this course, you will learn the basics and applications of body language in the context of being a fire officer. This course is useful for the kitchen table to the fire ground to include how to detect concealed weapons and signs of aggression.

### **Instructor**

Zach Mathews is an experienced speaker, international trainer and executive coach who inspires audiences with his fast paced and entertaining programs focused on leadership, communication, and personal growth. With over twenty-eight years in public safety, Zach brings a wealth of experience to the table. His journey has taken him from conservation officer and wildland firefighter to leadership roles such as Investigation Section commander, Training Section commander, Logistics Manager, and Office of Professional Standards commander. In 2019, the Indiana Department Homeland Security recognized Zach's leadership abilities, tapping him to teach essential skills like body language and executive leadership courses across the state. Zach now serves as the Planning Section Chief for the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy where he and his staff are responsible for firefighter certifications and instructor standards. Zach also coordinates statewide executive leadership training programs to include the biannual Indiana Fire Chief's Academy, and a company officer executive leadership course taught though out the state. Zach is a John Maxwell certified executive coach and DISC behavioral analyst who works one-on-one with fire chiefs to achieve both professional and personal goals. Zach has trained thousands throughout his career and is motivated to provide training that will positively impact the fire service. But what truly sets Zach apart is his passion for effective communication.



## 16. Teaching Scenario Based Haz-Mat Training

This 7 hour course will utilize a combination of teaching techniques designed and intended to give the student an understanding of how to develop and use simple to complex "Risk Based Response" scenarios to teach and/or reinforce mission critical thinking needed when dealing with emergencies involving hazardous materials. Students will work in groups on various scenarios and will be challenged to work at their certification level - from Awareness to Incident Commander - as part of a broader response group. Each student will receive valuable resources (2024 ERG, NIOSH Guide to Chemical Hazards, Haz Mat Glossary, etc.) that they can take back to their departments for use in setting up and delivering drills, exercises, and other programs. This course meets the requirements of OSHA 1910.120(q)(7) for Instructors who wish to teach hazardous materials.

### **Instructor**

Tom Miller is a 38 year veteran of the West Virginia fire service. He is a Pro-Board-certified Firefighter II, Fire Instructor III and as a Hazardous Materials Technician & Incident Commander, and is State certified to the Technician Level in various aspects of Technical Rescue including Vehicle Machinery, Rope, Swiftwater, and Confined Space. He has been an Adjunct Instructor with West Virginia University Fire Service Extension since 1990 and has written numerous courses on specialized topics on hazardous materials and emergency response and delivered them across the country. Tom has been published in trade publications including Firehouse and Fire Engineering magazines. He is the West Virginia Director to the NVFC and serves as the Chair of its Hazardous Materials Response Committee and its Pandemic Response Task Group, as well as serving as an SME on the various Technical Committees and with COVID-TAC, NFPA, PHMSA, the U.S. D.O.T., the National Security Council, and the D.O.D.. Tom also serves on the NVFC Homeland Security; Standards & Codes; and Health, Safety & Training committees. He is a Principal on the NFPA 470 (formerly 472/473/475/1072) Technical Committee and served on the Joint 1001/472 Task Group. Tom has B.S. degree from West Virginia State University and a M.A. degree from the School of Education and Professional Studies at Marshall University.



## 17. Storytelling For Fire Officers: How To Inspire, Influence, and Educate With Stories

Public speaking is a vital skill for fire officers, as they often must communicate with various audiences, such as their staff, the media, the public, and other stakeholders. Public speaking can also be a challenging and stressful skill, as it requires confidence, clarity, and charisma. One of the most effective ways to enhance your public speaking skills and overcome your fears is to use storytelling as a technique. Storytelling can help you capture the attention, interest, and emotions of your listeners, and convey your message in a memorable and impactful way. Stories are also a powerful tool for leaders to communicate their vision, values, and goals, and to connect with and influence their audiences. Stories can also help leaders to reflect on their own experiences and lessons learned, and to foster a culture of learning and growth in their organizations. This is a vital skill as fire officers seek more ways to enhance their communication skills. In this course, you will learn how to use storytelling as a public speaking tool for fire officers.

### Instructor

Zach Mathews is an experienced speaker, international trainer and executive coach who inspires audiences with his fast paced and entertaining programs focused on leadership, communication, and personal growth. With over twenty-eight years in public safety, Zach brings a wealth of experience to the table. His journey has taken him from conservation officer and wildland firefighter to leadership roles such as Investigation Section commander, Training Section commander, Logistics Manager, and Office of Professional Standards commander. In 2019, the Indiana Department Homeland Security recognized Zach's leadership abilities, tapping him to teach essential skills like body language and executive leadership courses across the state. Zach now serves as the Planning Section Chief for the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy where he and his staff are responsible for firefighter certifications and instructor standards. Zach also coordinates statewide executive leadership training programs to include the biannual Indiana Fire Chief's Academy, and a company officer executive leadership course taught though out the state. Zach is a John Maxwell certified executive coach and DISC behavioral analyst who works one-on-one with fire chiefs to achieve both professional and personal goals. Zach has trained thousands throughout his career and is motivated to provide training that will positively impact the fire service. But what truly sets Zach apart is his passion for effective communication.



## 18. The University Of Extrication

EV & Lithium-Ion Battery presentation with a tour of EVs, a classroom-style Extrication Update presentation, and a “10 Steps of Extrication” inside program for responders to vehicle collision scenes. EV incident response and the challenges faced by crews arriving at these inevitable incidents is one of the featured topics. Ron’s EV training also includes the latest on EV fire suppression, EV residential garage & charging station emergencies, plus advice for responders to stand-alone battery energy storage systems (BESS). Ron’s EV training also includes ‘static display time’ when participants tour, preplan, and inspect actual EVs. This presentation also looks at the difference between the technology of older vehicles and the new technology of vehicles today. Rescue Officers and especially local-level Extrication Instructors must understand how to modify their local-level training so crews are better prepared for the late-model vehicles running on the roads in our district right now. Items such as ultra-high strength steels(Boron), deployable running boards, laminated door window glass, changes in the structure of late-model vehicles including dash tie downs are addressed Another portion of this training session will cover an updated “10 Steps of Extrication” presentation. This general information is uniquely designed for Fire/Rescue & EMS providers responding to vehicles crash scenes.

### **Instructor**

Ron Moore of Plano TX is a retired Fire Division Chief after serving with Plano FD, McKinney FD, and most recently with Prosper Fire/Rescue. Ron’s specialty is interacting with participants as he instructs vehicle rescue & extrication classes; designed for the leaders of today. His vehicle rescue training programs come from personal experiences gained during his many years of vehicle collision responses in Pennsylvania, New York State and now the North Texas area. Ron focuses his programs on making local-level extrication training that addresses the NFPA 1006 Standard as participants will attest. Ron serves as an instructor at a Ft. Worth area fire training facility. He was recently inducted into the Firehouse ‘Hall of Fame’. Ron also stays involved in Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training; having served as a Master Instructor for delivery of the SHRP II program across the Nation.

## 19. What's Next For Kentucky?

### How to Be Ready When MAJOR Disaster Strikes

Two major disasters have devastated sections of Kentucky in less than a year. Not only should you be ready for the initial response, but you must also know that help is coming and what to do to prepare for that. Less than 24 hours after devastating tornadoes ravaged Kentucky on December 10-11, 2021, groups from across the state arrived in the hardest-hit communities. While some initially were tasked with providing incident support for a USAR mission at a high-profile structural collapse, many found themselves assisting county coordination and response throughout Western Kentucky. When these teams come to help, what should you expect? They are there to assist YOU, not to take over. With an All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) concept in mind, there will be a transition that needs to take place, with the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) still represented in the Unified Command. This is a national process that takes place that will also help local communities when federal agencies respond. Command and General Staff position must be represented early in a large incident to help a seamless transition take place if needed. Students will get an introduction to the AHIMT concept and hear how these transitions took place, not only during the tornadoes, but also the flooding that devastated Eastern Kentucky. You must know the "Planning Process" and the proper forms that go along with each designated function. The presentation will end with a simulation that will involve the student performing the initial response, as well as the transition to familiarize how this will take place. Members from throughout the state who responded to these FEMA Type I Incidents, which were the first designated in Kentucky's history, will be present to speak on best practice during these incidents.

#### Instructor

Jody Meiman has over 28 years of experience in local emergency preparedness and response. He currently serves as Executive Director for Louisville Metro Emergency Services which involves Louisville Metro EMS, MetroSafe (911 Call Center), 311, Emergency Management, and Special Events. He holds an Associate Degree in Fire and Safety Technology and retired as a Battalion Chief with the Louisville Division of Fire and Rescue after 20 years of service. He also retired from Lake Dreamland Volunteer Fire Department in southwest Jefferson County as an Assistant Chief. Jody is a Certified Emergency Medical Technician. He has participated and served as an on-scene Incident Commander during several complex hazardous material incidents and specialized rescue responses and is the Emergency Operations Center Manager during many of the large special events that take place in Louisville including Thunder Over Louisville, and all other events that involve the Kentucky Derby Festival. He worked and was a lead instructor for over 15 years with Industrial Safety and Training Services (ISTS) conducting environmental, health and safety training across the United States. Through his travel, he performed course development at all levels of competency for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) hazardous materials and Homeland Security training initiatives including Emergency Response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and Response to Terrorism. He routinely serves as an exercise evaluator for the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program initiative during drills, functional and full-scale exercises and consults and trains with other state, local and private sector clients on National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance, National Response Framework components, and Emergency Management Protocols to ensure coordinated relationships among response organizations and industries to promote sound preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation practices.





## 20. Leadership Challenges Be Ready To Lead!

One of the most misunderstood applications of promotions is what will be required of the individual. Moving from one position to another within the fire service is a daunting task. It is not easily accomplished and will require sacrifice. Leadership is a constant hard fought battle that will require all of the individual's abilities, a lot of time and effort, forward thinking, dedication, sleepless nights, stress, mistakes, gains, sacrifice, pride, intestinal fortitude and taking responsibility. Whether the fire officer wants to admit it or not, they are now the "BOSS", and with it comes a new mindset, abilities and the ability to avoid making critical mistakes that will affect their ability to motivate, lead and change their organization and the fire service. This presentation will identify how the practice of leadership is not easy, nor can it be frowned upon as it has its place in each organization, when leadership is not exuded, the climate, productivity and charisma of an organization remains consistent to what has become the norm. Just as the practice of leadership is not easy, finding the most appropriate way to influence personnel is just as complicated, as there are the set leadership characteristics of those in power, and the characteristics and traits of those within the organization.

### **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 to 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.



## 21. Structural Firefighting With Limited Staffing In Today's Environment

This workshop will discuss the strategic and tactical options for departments that respond to a structure fire with 6 firefighters for the first 30 minutes. What is the risk benefit of conducting interior suppression operations with 2 firefighters. Command duties along with training expectations will be discussed.

### **Instructor**

Chief John M. Buckman III served 35 years as fire chief for the German Township (Ind.) Volunteer Fire Department. He has presented at the Bryant Stiles Officers School for over 30 years. He served 14 years as director of the fire and public safety academy for the Indiana State Fire Marshal Office. He is most proud of the title "pawpaw" and loves spending lots of time with his grandkids. He is the Director of Government and Regional Outreach for lamResponding. He is a past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a co-founder of the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section. In 1996, Fire Chief Magazine named Chief Buckman Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. He is an accomplished photographer. He is a co-author of the Lessons Learned from Fire-Rescue Leaders and is the editor of the Chief Officers Desk Reference, and a contributing author to the 3rd Edition of Recruiting, Training and Maintaining Volunteers. He is the owner of Wildfire Productions and is a sought-after keynote speaker. He has presented education programs in each of the 50 states; Beijing, China; each province in Canada; and the Dominican Republic.

## 22. Leading And Managing Small Departments

This course is designed to cover the skills needed to meet the standard of NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Professional Qualifications. Topics to include:

- Leadership – to include characteristics of great leaders, leadership styles, which style is best, and the types of firefighter personalities.
- Management – demonstrating the difference from leadership, program management, and the who, what, when and how to manage.
- The definition and types of discipline.
- Program management and how to establish priorities and group nominal techniques.
- Tools of delegation and who and why to delegate.
- Mentoring
- Oral and written communication skills.

### Instructor

Kenn Fontenot is a charter member and the first Fire Chief of the LeBlanc Volunteer Fire Department. Fontenot is a principal member of the NFPA 1010 committee, NFPA 1700, and a former 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 currently instructing for the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy which is the state fire training agency. He is a past President and life-member of the Louisiana Fireman's Association. He holds an associate degree in Fire Science.

## 23. Fire Suppression Systems For Sprinkler Inspectors

This class will satisfy the requirements for the six (6) hours continuing education for suppression sprinkler inspectors licensed by the Kentucky Department of Housing, Building, and Construction. This will cover the code requirements, key definitions, the allowable types of fire sprinkler systems, system components, specific tests, inspections and maintenance activities, and required test duration for valves, sprinklers, gauges, alarm devices, fire department connections and fire pumps. This program includes examples and interactive discussion on how the requirements of NFPA 25 are applied.

### **Instructor**

Richard Peddicord began his firefighting experience at the age of 14 years old by attending the KY State Fire School in Lexington. After graduating high school, he volunteered with the Fayette County FD. He went on to work for the Kentucky State Police. He spent more than a decade designing, installing and inspecting fire protection systems in Kentucky. Richard has dedicated his professional career to learning and sharing his knowledge of the preservation of life and property in all fire and safety-related areas. Richard surpassed his childhood dream by becoming the Assistant Director for the Kentucky State Fire Marshal's Office. During his tenure with the Division of Fire Prevention, he had many accomplishments, including overseeing the initial operations of the Kentucky Safe Cigarette Program and the states sprinkler inspection program. Richard retired from the Kentucky Fire Marshal's office in 2020. Today, he serves as the Assistant Chief of the Stamping Ground Fire Department.



## **24. Influence Of Building Construction, Occupancy Risks And Fire Dynamics: Decision-Making On Today's Evolving Fireground**

Today more than ever, understanding and comprehending the complexities of the built-environment and construction and the effects of fire dynamics on fire suppression operations is a must. With an evolving dynamic fireground, simple to complex buildings and varied occupancies they present increasing challenges that are redefined strategic and tactical fireground management and impact operations on escalating and varied levels. Building construction, occupancy risks and the predictability of building performance under fire conditions have a profound influence on the management of operations, identification of tactical protocols and deployment of resources. Understanding key inherent building performance characteristics, insights from emerging fire research and their relationships and variables in command decision-making methodologies and practices, fundamental to firefighting and incident management on today's evolving and demanding fireground. A broad look at trends, risk and emerging construction issues challenging today's emerging and practicing company officers and commanders on a demanding and unforgiving fireground.

### **Instructor**

Christopher Naum is a 49-year fire service veteran and a highly regarded national and international instructor, author, lecturer and fire officer, he is a distinguished authority on building sciences and architectural construction issues affecting the fireground operations, command and tactics and has traveled extensively throughout the United States and internationally delivering training programs on building performance, construction and firefighting, fireground leadership, command management and operational safety. He has been lecturing and instructing throughout the United States and internationally for over thirty-eight years. His previously service included Fire Command, Fire Protection & Safety at a US nuclear power plant, over twenty years in field operations & suppression as a commanding company officer in New York and Training, Fire Academy and College academic curricula administration and management. Naum is also a technical consultant, advisor and subject matter expert to the NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program and Firefighter LODD reports.



## 25. First Arriving Engine Company AND Highway Safety

### **First Arriving Engine Company**

This program will help the student understand the role of the engine company on the fire ground. To accomplish this, this program will review building construction, discuss how to develop a relationship with truck crews to work together in suppression efforts, develop an understanding of individual engine company responsibilities as they arrive first due to an incident.

### **Highway Safety**

This program will discuss Traffic Management Policies and guidelines, the type of equipment that should be deployed for safety, the best methods for setting up apparatus success, the proper use of vests, properly using safety adjunct equipment and common-sense best practices

### **Instructor**

Mike Prete retired after 37-years of active service as an Assistant Fire Chief at Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Services, a large combination department near our nation's capital. With over 40-years of fire and rescue experience, Mike started as a volunteer in a department that bordered Washington DC and served in a career capacity for Montgomery County holding positions from Firefighter Paramedic through Executive Operations Chief. In addition to his role directly relating to fire and rescue operations, he managed daily operational and administrative issues including budget, daily oversight and scheduling for 1300 full time personnel. Mike began teaching in his early days as a sergeant, serving as a recruit instructor, and has continued this passion today. With national and state instructor certifications, Mike has served as an adjunct instructor for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, NIMS Instructor for MEMA, Anne Arundel Community College adjunct instructor, Practical Incident Control Training lead instructor and holds various certifications in public safety. Since his retirement, Mike splits his time between teaching and as a project coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). Mike hosts the NFFF Podcast series Firefighter After Action Review which takes deep dives into Line of Duty Death incidents by discussing all aspects of these incidents with personnel who have knowledge of these tragic events.

## 26. Fire Inspector I

This class is the first step in the Fire Marshal's revised Fire Inspector program. Fire and building code officials will benefit from this course. This class will provide instruction based on NFPA 1, 2018 Fire Code, NFPA 101, 2018 Life Safety Code, the Kentucky Standards of Safety (815 KAR 10:060) and the Kentucky Building Code (KBC). Officials will learn basic principles of fire inspections, and how it relates to the KBC and International Building Code (IBC). This class will consist of one fast-paced day of instruction followed by an exam. Certificates are issued upon passing the test.

### Course Objectives:

- Prepare the attendees to conduct fire inspections of buildings for fire hazards and code compliance per 815 KAR 10:060 (The Kentucky Standards of Safety).
- Determine if fire protection equipment is operational, maintained and in compliance.
- Determine the adequacy of exits.
- Determine an occupant load for a facility.
- Where required, ensure emergency fire evacuation drills are held.
- Advise property owners of the inspector's findings.
- Gain an understanding of projects that must be approved by the Division of Building Code Enforcement and other Divisions within the Department of Housing, Building, and Construction.

### Instructor

Kentucky Fire Marshall's Office – Tim Juett



## 27. The University Of Extrication

EV & Lithium-Ion Battery presentation with a tour of EVs, a classroom-style Extrication Update presentation, and a “10 Steps of Extrication” inside program for responders to vehicle collision scenes. EV incident response and the challenges faced by crews arriving at these inevitable incidents is one of the featured topics. Ron’s EV training also includes the latest on EV fire suppression, EV residential garage & charging station emergencies, plus advice for responders to stand-alone battery energy storage systems (BESS). Ron’s EV training also includes ‘static display time’ when participants tour, preplan, and inspect actual EVs. This presentation also looks at the difference between the technology of older vehicles and the new technology of vehicles today. Rescue Officers and especially local-level Extrication Instructors must understand how to modify their local-level training so crews are better prepared for the late-model vehicles running on the roads in our district right now. Items such as ultra-high strength steels(Boron), deployable running boards, laminated door window glass, changes in the structure of late-model vehicles including dash tie downs are addressed Another portion of this training session will cover an updated “10 Steps of Extrication” presentation. This general information is uniquely designed for Fire/Rescue & EMS providers responding to vehicles crash scenes.

### **Instructor**

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## 28. Fireground Strategy: Commanding The Fireground

This dynamic, interactive course is designed for all levels—from small volunteer to metro departments. It goes beyond the mechanics of using the command system, diving deep into the decision-making process at the command post and the critical role of the incident commander. Learn how to formulate effective strategies, know when to adapt, and how respond to a Mayday. Finally, prepare for what happens after the fire with guidance on handling media interviews. This course is full of nuggets to sharpen your command skills and build confidence in making life-saving decisions on the fireground.

### **Instructor**

John Turner holds the rank of Fire Chief in Derby, KS, a position he has held for the past five years. His career spans four decades, having risen through the operational ranks in some of the busiest companies within the Wichita Fire Department in Wichita, KS. A chief officer since 2009, he has managed numerous major emergencies. He is a contract instructor at the National Fire Academy and holds a master's degree in education. Chief Turner has conducted training sessions in over 30 states.

## **29. Weather 101: What Emergency Responders Should Know About The Weather**

This class will go over several meteorological topics that will be very useful for fire, police or any first responder. The class will begin with basic storm spotter information, including storm types, storm identification, safety and reporting procedures. Some advanced level storm spotting techniques and topics will also be covered. You will then learn all about Doppler Radar and how to interpret basic radar data and how to use it. Lastly, the class will end with a comprehensive overview of severe weather safety and how to stay the most up to date with the ever-changing weather.

### **Instructor**

Christine Wielgos is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Paducah KY. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology from Northern Illinois University. She has worked with the National Weather Service in Paducah KY since March 2000. As Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Christine's responsibilities include ensuring consistency and integrity of National Weather Service products and services, conducting safety and preparedness programs throughout the area, leading education and training courses for partners and the public, as well as occasionally working the forecast and warning operations desks.



## **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. Fire ground 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 to 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 personal 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 to 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.

## 31. Dealing With Difficult People

Dealing With People Issues This presentation will discuss the challenges leaders have today dealing with personnel behaviors in both career and volunteer firefighters. Discipline is not a negative word. Leaders should use positive discipline more often than negative discipline. The one thing that leaders dislike more than all of the other tasks is “conflict.” Dealing with the interpersonal issues with volunteers as well as career personnel can give leaders major headaches. None of us like confronting another about their bad/inappropriate behavior. How do you get all of the players to play on the same team? One or two team members can bring an entire company, battalion or department to a very unhappy group of individuals. We will identify a actions leaders have to take to create a positive motivational climate that breeds creativity, innovation and productive members? We will discuss the duties, rights and responsibilities for officers. We will discuss the personalities and associated behaviors and how to deal with them.

### **Instructor**

Chief John M. Buckman III served 35 years as fire chief for the German Township (Ind.) Volunteer Fire Department. He has presented at the Bryant Stiles Officers School for over 30 years. He served 14 years as director of the fire and public safety academy for the Indiana State Fire Marshal Office. He is most proud of the title “pawpaw” and loves spending lots of time with his grandkids. He is the Director of Government and Regional Outreach for lamResponding. He is a past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a co-founder of the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section. In 1996, Fire Chief Magazine named Chief Buckman Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. He is an accomplished photographer. He is a co-author of the Lessons Learned from Fire-Rescue Leaders and is the editor of the Chief Officers Desk Reference, and a contributing author to the 3rd Edition of Recruiting, Training and Maintaining Volunteers. He is the owner of Wildfire Productions and is a sought-after keynote speaker. He has presented education programs in each of the 50 states; Beijing, China; each province in Canada; and the Dominican Republic.

## **32. Fireground Management For The Small Department**

This course will cover basic fireground management principals and how to apply practical fireground tactics. We will also take a look at resource management and operational considerations.

### **Instructor**

Kenn Fontenot is a charter member and the first Fire Chief of the LeBlanc Volunteer Fire Department. Fontenot is a principal member of the NFPA 1010 committee, NFPA 1700, and a former 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 currently instructing for the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy which is the state fire training agency. He is a past President and life-member of the Louisiana Fireman's Association. He holds an associate degree in Fire Science.



## 33. Flashover / Backdraft AND Managing Risks

### **Flashover/Backdraft**

This program will review the fire science surrounding energy, forms of ignition, and modes of combustion, discuss the impact of thermal energy on heat, temperature, and heat transfer, review the physical states of fuel, discuss the relationship between oxygen and life safety, identify the products of self-sustained chemical reactions, recognize signs, causes, and effects of rapid-fire development specifically discussing BLEVE, smoke explosions, flashovers, and backdrafts. Finally, this program will look at protective clothing and its limitations as defenses against these threats.

### **Managing Risks**

This program will define the issues and factors that the leadership of an organization uses to manage risk both in the station, in public and on the scene of an incident. The program will look to develop an understanding of personal influence and how traits, values and tradition affect risk. This program will help develop strategies for risk assessment and develop tools to manage risk in all aspects of the fire service.

### **Instructor**

Mike Prete retired after 37-years of active service as an Assistant Fire Chief at Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Services, a large combination department near our nation's capital. With over 40-years of fire and rescue experience, Mike started as a volunteer in a department that bordered Washington DC and served in a career capacity for Montgomery County holding positions from Firefighter Paramedic through Executive Operations Chief. In addition to his role directly relating to fire and rescue operations, he managed daily operational and administrative issues including budget, daily oversight and scheduling for 1300 full time personnel. Mike began teaching in his early days as a sergeant, serving as a recruit instructor, and has continued this passion today. With national and state instructor certifications, Mike has served as an adjunct instructor for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, NIMS Instructor for MEMA, Anne Arundel Community College adjunct instructor, Practical Incident Control Training lead instructor and holds various certifications in public safety. Since his retirement, Mike splits his time between teaching and as a project coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). Mike hosts the NFFF Podcast series Firefighter After Action Review which takes deep dives into Line of Duty Death incidents by discussing all aspects of these incidents with personnel who have knowledge of these tragic events.



## **34. Fireground Leadership: Rebooting Old School Principles For Today's Demanding Fireground AND From The Station To The Streets**

### **Rebooting Old School Principles for Today's Demanding Fireground**

Much is being debated related to tactics, methodologies, practices and the learnings gleaned from emerging research and insights. What has today's fireground evolved into when we talk about traditional firefighting operations and engagement? Has it remained constant-Has it changed? Do we continue to operate utilizing time proven methodologies or are we prepared to identify new adaptive methodologies and practices? The demands on today's fire service require us to look back in order to progress forward. This keynote reboots the principles and operational practices of modern firefighting while integrating progressive models that build upon the fire company's skills, knowledge and abilities to effectively mitigate an incident that with aggressive firefighting, predictive risk management and tactical discipline associated with operational excellence.

### **From the Station to the Streets**

Leadership starts at the station and transitions to the streets and incident scene requiring new skill sets, awareness, insights and operational adaptiveness. Leadership and Operations are integral and are fundamental to all facets; on and off the fireground. What defines Fireground Leadership in 2025 and beyond for Company and Command Officers.

### **Instructor**

Christopher Naum is a 49-year fire service veteran and a highly regarded national and international instructor, author, lecturer and fire officer, he is a distinguished authority on building sciences and architectural construction issues affecting the fireground operations, command and tactics and has traveled extensively throughout the United States and internationally delivering training programs on building performance, construction and firefighting, fireground leadership, command management and operational safety. He has been lecturing and instructing throughout the United States and internationally for over thirty-eight years. His previously service included Fire Command, Fire Protection & Safety at a US nuclear power plant, over twenty years in field operations & suppression as a commanding company officer in New York and Training, Fire Academy and College academic curricula administration and management. Naum is also a technical consultant, advisor and subject matter expert to the NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program and Firefighter LODD reports.



## 35. A First Responders' Guide For Mental Health Issues Recognition

This class will utilize several 'mini courses' that are educational for the recognition of issues leading to mental health or behavioral emergencies that the First Responder may respond to, including:

**Suicide Prevention** - Attendees will be able to identify myths & facts about suicide, risk factors for suicide, and how to identify the appropriate resources for individuals experiencing suicidal ideation

**Intro to Substance Use Disorders** - Attendees will be able to identify signs of a potential substance use disorder, understand the varying models of addiction and stages of change, and identify a variety of substance use disorder treatment options.

**Compassion Fatigue and Resiliency** - Participants will learn the roles resilience and compassion satisfaction play in combating the high levels of compassion fatigue and trauma exposure, which individuals from all disciplines are experiencing now more than ever.

**Opioid Overdose and Narcan Administration** - This training teaches participants how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and administer the opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone. It also covers how Substance Use/Opioid Use Disorder is treated and discusses the importance of destigmatizing language.

**Code Red** – CODE RED is a safety planning tool informed by evidence, designed to engage youth and adults in identifying trusted individuals, postponing risky decisions, and finding activities that provide relaxation and distraction from suicidal thoughts.

**Drug Endangered Children Awareness** - This training will help participants understand who drug endangered children are along with the risks and long-term impacts that are associated with parental and caregiver substance misuse and drug activity.

### Instructor

RiverValley Behavioral Health is Your Community Mental Health Center.

Since 1967, RiverValley Behavioral Health has provided vital behavioral health services that fit the ever-growing needs of our communities. Our state-designated Community Mental Health Center serves the Green River region of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, Ohio, McLean, Union and Webster counties.

We offer a full range of mental health services and support, in addition to substance use treatment, and specialized care for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We prioritize your needs, offering a full continuum of evidence-based services tailored to you and delivered by a caring and dedicated team of professionals.

This class will be conducted by one or more of the professional full-time staff.





## 36. Teaching Anhydrous Ammonia Awareness And Operations

This 7-hour course will utilize a combination of classroom and demonstration techniques to teach students key information and skills needed when dealing with an emergency that involves Anhydrous Ammonia (UN 1005). Students will work through scenarios - from product identification and isolation, all the way through proper decontamination methods - designed and intended to keep responders safe when dealing with this highly toxic product. Students will get to see and touch an Ammonia training prop that they can later access for training in their area. Each student will receive valuable resources (2024 ERG, NIOSH Guide to Chemical Hazards, Haz Mat Glossary, etc.) that they can take back to their departments for use in setting up and delivering drills, exercises, and other programs. This course meets the requirements of OSHA 1910.120(q)(7) for Instructors who wish to teach hazardous materials.

### Instructor

Tom Miller is a 38 year veteran of the West Virginia fire service. He is a Pro-Board-certified Firefighter II, Fire Instructor III and as a Hazardous Materials Technician & Incident Commander, and is State certified to the Technician Level in various aspects of Technical Rescue including Vehicle Machinery, Rope, Swiftwater, and Confined Space. He has been an Adjunct Instructor with West Virginia University Fire Service Extension since 1990 and has written numerous courses on specialized topics on hazardous materials and emergency response and delivered them across the country. Tom has been published in trade publications including Firehouse and Fire Engineering magazines. He is the West Virginia Director to the NVFC and serves as the Chair of its Hazardous Materials Response Committee and its Pandemic Response Task Group, as well as serving as an SME on the various Technical Committees and with COVID-TAC, NFPA, PHMSA, the U.S. D.O.T., the National Security Council, and the D.O.D.. Tom also serves on the NVFC Homeland Security; Standards & Codes; and Health, Safety & Training committees. He is a Principal on the NFPA 470 (formerly 472/473/475/1072) Technical Committee and served on the Joint 1001/472 Task Group. Tom has B.S. degree from West Virginia State University and a M.A. degree from the School of Education and Professional Studies at Marshall University.

## 37. Fire Investigation: First Responder (F0770)



This 2-day course presents a basic overview of a fire investigation. Students will review the basics of fire chemistry and develop an understanding of the role of the first responder in relation to fire suppression and fire investigation. The course will stress the importance of fire scene awareness, evidence identification, preservation and the basics of a fire investigation. Students will develop an appreciation for the convergence of suppression, investigation, science and law.

### **Instructor**

Brittany Brown works at South Adams County Fire Department as the Division Chief of Fire Prevention/Fire Marshal. Brown has previously served as the Fire Marshal and Training Officer for the Lovington Fire Department in Lovington, New Mexico and as the Team Chief for the Lea County Arson Task Force. Brown has also worked for the State of Texas as a Deputy State Fire Marshal, Code Enforcement Bureau, and as a Deputy State Fire Marshal for the New Mexico Fire Marshal's Office in the Fire Investigation Bureau. Brown has also spent time working for the Clovis Fire Department in Clovis, New Mexico, and the Farwell Fire Department in Farwell, Texas working in fire investigation, firefighting, and emergency medical services capacities. Brown is currently the Vice President for the New Mexico Fire Marshal's Association and works as an adjunct instructor for The National Fire Academy and The New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy and the National Fire Academy. She also teaches for the Southern California Safety Institute and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Brown holds a dual Bachelor of Science in Aviation Maintenance Management with majors in Aviation Management and Aviation Safety with an Undergraduate Specialization in Aviation Safety. Brown also holds a Master of Science in Systems Engineering with a technical specialization from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Forensics with a concentration in Arson, Explosives, Firearms, and Toolmarks (AEFTI).



## 38. Leadership In Supervision: Frameworks To Success (F0648)



This 2-day course provides the supervisor with the knowledge and skills to perform successfully in the fire and emergency medical services (EMS) environments. The course addresses professionalism, resilience, emotional intelligence and situational awareness, as well as managing conflict, delegating mentoring, coaching, empowering, and building collaboration and synergy for professional growth.

### **Instructor**

Janie Gunnell has been a fire instructor for numerous years and contract instructor for the National Fire Academy for nearly 10 years. She is retired from Nassau County (FL) and the Florida State Fire College. She was President/Chief of Jacksonville Emergency Medical Auxiliary with Jacksonville Fire/Rescue. She has degrees in Business Administration and Fire Science Administration. She has been a career paramedic and Quality Assurance Officer. She was also a Public Information Officer for both Fire and Emergency Management departments. She has served on the Command Staff during multiple EOC activations. She was a district leader for the Florida PIO Deployment team. She has been a speaker and instructor at the Florida Governors Hurricane Conference and the Florida Fire Chiefs Conference to name a few. She was on the curriculum design team and the instructional team for a two-day FEMA class, Crisis Leadership for Local Officials, which was taught in 40 states.



## 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.

## 40. Preparation For Initial Company Operations (F0458)



This course is designed for Company Officers, acting Company Officers, or senior firefighters responsible for the management of a single company at an emergency incident, including those officers who are responsible for company readiness, personnel safety and leadership as it relates to company operation.

### **Instructor**

Lane Heins began his career in Emergency Services in 1994. As a paid-on call firefighter, Lane worked through the ranks as a Firefighter, MPO, and Lieutenant of Apparatus. In 2004 Lane was hired as the Full-time Battalion Chief of Fire Prevention and then promoted to Deputy Fire Chief. Lane also served as the Interim Fire Chief for a period of time. In 2016, he left the fire service for a period of time and was the Safety coordinator Nutrien Ag Solutions in an Illinois Chemical Facility.

Teaching as always been a passion of Lane's. He is currently the Fire Protection Technician Instructor for Blackhawk Technical College's Associates Degree Program. Lane also teaches for the Wisconsin Emergency Management Office and the National Fire Academy Incident Management Curriculum. He is also a State of Wisconsin Fire Service Representative. Lane also teaches the Active Shooter Incident Management Class.

Lane is a proud graduate of the University of Wisconsin Platteville with a BS in Education, a Masters Degree in Emergency Services Management from Columbia Southern University, and a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program

When Lane is not teaching or working, he enjoys helping a high school classmate with farming operations and excavation work. Lane and his wife Lana have two daughters, Ava and Alli, and a dog Max.

## 41. Incident Safety Officer (F0729)



This 2-day course examines the Safety Officer's role at emergency responses. This course focuses on operations within an Incident Command System (ICS) as a Safety Officer and emphasizes response to all-hazards types of situations.

### **Instructor**

Stephen McLane currently serves as the Executive Director of the Missouri Emergency Response Commission. In this role, he leads a team of dedicated staff to ensure that the response community is prepared for hazardous materials emergencies. He previously served as an Environmental Program Specialist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Stephen was a member of the Environmental Emergency Response section and responded to hazardous materials releases and other environmental disasters. For ten years prior to moving to emergency response, he was the Department of Natural Resources Health and Safety Consultant.

Stephen has also served with the Boone County Fire Protection District since 1990. He currently holds the rank of Captain/Emergency Medical Technician. He is an Adjunct Faculty member with the University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training Institute and a contract instructor for the National Fire Academy. His instructional background primarily focuses on responder safety and hazardous materials response.

McLane completed an Associate in Science, Fire Service Administration degree from Columbia College in 2008, and in 2012 completed the Company Officer Certificate program from the University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training Institute. He holds an Instructor II certification with the Missouri Division of Fire Safety as well as an Emergency Medical Technician license.