2. I'm The Chief…Now What?

Beyond the Fireground: Leadership, Administration & Accountability

Lead Instructor: Adam Lyons

Becoming a fire chief involves more than leading emergency operations. This course explores the administrative, legal, and leadership responsibilities of managing a Kentucky fire department. Topics include Kentucky Fire Commission requirements, training compliance, records retention, financial oversight, and governance of departments. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in an open roundtable discussion addressing real-world challenges facing today's fire service leaders.

About the Instructors:

Adam Lyons has over 30 years of fire service experience in both career and volunteer departments. He currently serves as Deputy Chief of Fulton County Fire & Rescue and Captain/Training Officer with the Fulton Fire Department. Throughout his career, he has held various leadership positions, gaining experience in fire department operations, administration, and training. He also serves as an adjunct instructor with Kentucky State Fire Rescue Training.

Carrie Wilburn has 22 years of experience in the fire service, beginning with a volunteer department and serving the rest of her career with Lexington Fire Department. With Lexington, she held several positions including company officer and Bureau Commander of Fire Investigation and Recruiting and Hiring. Since 2024, she has served as Director of Operations for the Kentucky Fire Commission. Her background includes extensive expertise in fire service operations, investigations, recruitment, and personnel development.

Todd Warner brings more than 25 years of experience with the Kentucky Fire Commission, including three years serving as the State Fire Rescue Training District 2 Coordinator. He is also a retired Captain of the Paducah Fire Department, where he served for 23 years. From 2014 to 2022, Todd served as an Industrial Specialist with the Kentucky Fire Commission, providing specialized training and support to industry. Throughout his career, he has held numerous leadership positions, developing extensive experience in fire service operations, administration, and training. His commitment to firefighter development and public safety continues to support the fire service across Kentucky.

Dustin Staves has over 20 years of experience in fire and emergency services. He began his career in full-time roles in 911 communications and emergency medical services and has served as a volunteer firefighter with the Airport-Sorgho Fire Department since 2005. In 2021, Dustin joined the Kentucky Fire Commission as a Support Specialist with the former National Responder Preparedness Center. During his tenure, he worked closely with the team in the development of and transition to the Fire Academy of Kentucky, where he continued serving as a Training Specialist for recruit classes 004–006. In 2025, Dustin transitioned to the Operations Division of the Kentucky Fire Commission as a Training Records and Compliance Specialist. In this role, he is responsible for auditing training and financial records of more than 200 fire departments across Western Kentucky. In addition to his primary responsibilities, Dustin continues to serve as a part-time adjunct instructor and IFSAC evaluator with State Fire Rescue Training.