22. STUPID IS AS STUPID DOES
Fire Officer Leadership, Decision-Making, and Accountability

Instructor: John Buckman

Every fire officer makes decisions. Some decisions save lives, protect firefighters, and strengthen the organization. Others create unnecessary risks, damage morale, destroy reputations, and expose firefighters and fire departments to preventable consequences.

The difference between a good decision and a stupid decision is not always intelligence, experience, or rank. Frequently, it is judgment, preparation, attitude, ego, or failure to recognize predictable consequences.

"Stupid Is as Stupid Does" is a provocative, practical fire officer leadership course examining the behaviors, decisions, and leadership failures that create problems in fire departments.

The program challenges officers to examine their own actions and recognize how poor decisions can affect firefighter safety, operational effectiveness, organizational culture, personnel relationships, public confidence, and personal credibility.

Participants will examine realistic situations involving fireground command, accountability, discipline, ethics, interpersonal conflict, training, risk management, and organizational leadership.

The course is built around one fundamental principle: You do not have to be a stupid person to make a stupid decision. But as a fire officer, you are responsible for recognizing mistakes, correcting them, and learning from them.

About the Instructor:

John M. Buckman III served 55 years in the fire service from firefighter, Chief, state academy training director, author, photographer, International Association President and instructor. He has authored six books. He has produced 5 photography books. He is a highly sought after speaker for local, regional and national events. He has been at the Bryant Stiles Officers School each year since the beginning.