34. Officers' Role in Leading Volunteers

Lead Instructor: John Buckman

Leading volunteers is one of the most challenging responsibilities in the fire service. Unlike career firefighters, volunteers often balance their fire department responsibilities with employment, family obligations, personal commitments, and competing demands on their time.

Fire officers must understand that volunteers cannot always be managed using the same approaches as full-time employees. Effective leadership requires communication, motivation, accountability, relationship building, conflict resolution, and an understanding of why people volunteer.

This six-hour interactive course is designed to help fire chiefs, assistant chiefs, battalion chiefs, captains, lieutenants, and aspiring officers develop the leadership skills necessary to build and maintain a successful volunteer or combination fire department.

The course emphasizes the difference between managing volunteers and leading volunteers, with practical strategies officers can immediately apply within their departments.

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.