

Indiana Winter Fire School 2025

Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2025



MADE@Plainfield
1610 Reeves Road
Plainfield, IN 46168





Welcome Letter

From:

John Shafer,
Director of Fire and Public Safety Academy

To: Fire Service of Indiana

On behalf of the Academy and our staff, we would like to invite you to attend our 2nd annual Winter Fire School.

In February of 2024, we held our first-ever Winter Fire School in Plainfield, Indiana, where we conducted 15 classes over the three-day weekend. Despite the snowy weather, over 225 students from 125 fire departments gathered for an unforgettable experience, honing their skills and learning new best practices at the first Winter Fire School.

In 2025 we have gone all-out by offering 43 classes, and we are allowing for some of the scheduling to be offered more than one time in the same weekend to accommodate students who wish to learn in more than one topic. This year we also opened a call for papers to solicit some of the best instructors in the nation. By doing so, this weekend's training opportunity will bring in instructors from the following states: Arkansas, Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and, of course, some of the best instructors that Indiana has to offer.

This year we are also offering a once-in-lifetime keynote event on Saturday evening after the regular scheduled classes end. We will have astronaut Mike Mullane speaking about "Normalization of Deviance" for the fire service. This event will be free for all to attend.

While many states offer exceptional fire schools, Indiana is the only state to offer all the classes at our Winter Fire School FREE of charge! Please make plans to join us on Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and Feb. 2, 2025, for a wonderful time of education and brotherhood.

Sincerely,

John Shafer

Director

Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy



2025 Winter Fire School Course Schedule



Friday, January 31st, 2025, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm


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2025 Winter Fire School Course Schedule



National Fire Academy Course (Saturday 1st & 2nd 2025) You must attend both days

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2025 Winter Fire School

Outcomes Over Objectives in Firefighter Education

Date: Friday, January 31st, 2025, 5 pm – 9 pm

Course Description:

Are you ready to revolutionize your approach to firefighter instruction? "Outcomes Over Objectives: New Perspectives in Adult Learning and Firefighter Instruction" – a groundbreaking course designed exclusively for fire service instructors seeking to elevate their teaching game.

In the dynamic world of firefighting, where split-second decisions can mean the difference between life and death, traditional teaching methods often fall short. This course is your gateway to mastering innovative adult learning strategies that will transform how you educate and prepare the next generation of firefighters.

What You'll Gain:

- **Adult Learning Mastery:** Discover cutting-edge strategies tailored for adult learners in high-stakes environments.
- **Outcome-Based Instruction:** Shift your focus from rigid objectives to meaningful, real-world outcomes.
- **Innovative Teaching Methods:** Explore small group training techniques that boost engagement and retention. Learn how to teach the "aggressive" workforce of today.
- **Skill Application:** Learn how to ensure your trainees not only understand but can apply critical skills under pressure.

By the end of this intensive and participant-centered session, you'll be equipped with a toolkit of innovative techniques to enhance retention, improve skill application, and ultimately produce more competent, confident firefighters.

Let's build a community of forward-thinking instructors committed to excellence in firefighter education. Together, we'll forge a new path in training that prioritizes real-world readiness over rote memorization.

Ready to transform your teaching and save lives in the process?

Instructor information:

Forest Reeder began his fire service career in 1978 and retired as Fire Chief of the Tinley Park (IL) Fire Department in 2021. He currently serves as the Interim Fire Chief for the Sterling, (IL) Fire Department. He has worked extensively in the areas of instruction, firefighter safety, and officer development and earned his Master of Science Degree in Public Safety Administration in 2004. He is the author of Fire Department Incident Safety Officer 4th edition (2025) and co-author of Fire Service Instructor Principles and Practices soon to be published in its 4th edition. Forest presents nationally on fire service leadership, safety, and instructor development. He was inducted into the Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2020 and awarded the Distinguished Alumnus award in 2021. In 2008, he received the ISFSI George D. Post Instructor of the Year, considered to be the highest recognition for fire service instructors in the nation. ***This course meets the Indiana 655 IAC requirements for fire instructor adult education CE hours!**

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-outcomes-over-objectives>





2025 Winter Fire School

"A Better 360: A Fresh Look at Scene Size-Up"

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

As our understanding of building construction and fire dynamics is improving, the next step in decision-making is using information gathered from your 360-degree size-up to establish a strategy and implement the incident action plan with evidence-based tactics.

Instructor Bio:

Forest Reeder began his fire service career in 1978 and retired as Fire Chief of the Tinley Park (IL) Fire Department in 2021. He currently serves as the Interim Fire Chief for the Sterling, (IL) Fire Department. He has worked extensively in the areas of instruction, firefighter safety, and officer development and earned his Master of Science Degree in Public Safety Administration in 2004. He is the author of Fire Department Incident Safety Officer 4th edition (2025) and co-author of Fire Service Instructor Principles and Practices soon to be published in its 4th edition. Forest has presented nationally on fire service leadership, safety, and instructor development. He was inducted into the Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2020 and awarded the Distinguished Alumnus award in 2021. In 2008, he received the ISFSI George D. Post Instructor of the Year, considered to be the highest recognition for fire service instructors in the nation.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-a-better-360-fresh-look-scene-size-up>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Building Comprehension for the Fire Service: Understanding Single Family and Multifamily Structures”

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

This class presents a different way of looking at, sizing up, and understanding buildings. It focuses on pattern recognition, understanding layouts, and building types in great detail including learning specific types of single-family homes multifamily structures, and apartment buildings. Tactics and pertinent traditional fire service building construction are tied into the class from start to finish.

Instructor Bio:

Jeff Lattz was born and raised in south suburban Chicago and grew up learning construction trade skills from my dad and became a member of the Laborer’s Union and worked in the Chicago area for several years. After becoming interested in the fire service, Jeff pursued it as a career and became a firefighter in Champaign, IL. After just over 20 years, Jeff retired as a Lieutenant, having spent the majority of my career on the busiest Engine and four years on the Squad. Jeff was heavily involved in training at the FD as well as at the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), where he also worked for 25 years, instructing in the Academy, Advanced Firefighter, Tactics 1&2, and Engine and Truck Ops classes. Jeff has continued in the fire service as an instructor, presenting his training program called "Building Comprehension for the Fire Service" throughout IL and FDIC International.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-building-comprehension-fire-service>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Community Risk Reductions for Operations Personnel What CRR is, is not, and why it is important for the 21st Century Fire Service”

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

This course is designed for line firefighters, offering a comprehensive exploration of community risk reduction (CRR) strategies and their practical applications. Participants will delve into the following critical topics:

- **Science of Fire Behavior:** Understanding the dynamics of fire growth and its implications for fire-related injuries and fatalities.
- **Capabilities of Local Fire Departments:** Assessing the strengths and limitations of local fire departments in managing community risks.
- **Fire Victim Survival and Recovery:** Exploring the processes that support fire victim survival and recovery.
- **CRR in Relation to Firefighter Injury and Death:** Examining how community risk reduction can mitigate the risk of firefighter injuries and fatalities.
- **Resource Reallocation:** Strategizing the reallocation of departmental resources to better meet the needs of the community.
- **Creating Positions through CRR:** Identifying opportunities to create specialized roles within the department focused on community risk reduction.
- **Strategic CRR:** Defining what strategic community risk reduction is and is not.
- **Prioritization of Community Risk:** Learning to prioritize risks within the community effectively.
- **Community Risk Reduction Model:** Understanding the framework for implementing community risk reduction initiatives.
- **Community Risk Assessment Process:** Conducting thorough risk assessments to identify and address community vulnerabilities.
- **Community Risk Reduction Planning:** Developing actionable plans to mitigate identified risks.
- **Real-World CRR Success Stories:** Analyzing successful case studies and real-world applications of community risk reduction.

Through this course, line firefighters will gain valuable insights and practical skills to enhance their effectiveness in reducing community risks and improving overall safety.

Bio:

Anthony Flynn has served as a firefighter/paramedic and community risk reduction specialist with Crown Point (IN) Fire-Rescue since 2016. In addition, Anthony serves as the chairman for the Northern Indiana Safety Educators Association (NISEA) and Lead Instructor for IDHS District 1's PFLSE course. Anthony has an unwavering goal of bringing Community Risk Reduction to the forefront of the Indiana Fire Service and was most recently named “Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year” in the State of Indiana. Anthony has resided in “The Region” for 30 years. Anthony is married to his wife Karly and has a son Bentley, an infant daughter Ella, and two German Shepherds Linus and Lucy.

Location: MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-community-risk-reduction-operations-personnel>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Fire Suppression Strategy and Tactics with 6 Firefighters"

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm

Course Description:

This workshop discusses the reality of many fire departments being able to mount an aggressive interior fire attack with 6 people for the first 15 minutes. This is an interactive workshop with situational analysis as part of the educational process. Risk/Benefit decisions are discussed based upon the facts presented on the fire scene.

Instructor Bio:

John M. Buckman III has been involved in the fire service since 1970. He married Leslie in 1992. They have 4 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He is most proud of the title "pawpaw."

He served as the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Director for 15 years.

He served as the German Township Fire Department in Evansville Indiana as Fire Chief managing volunteers and career personnel for 35 years. Currently serving as President of the Board of Directors for German Township Fire Department.

John was the first Fire Chief of the Year in 1996 as selected by Fire Chief Magazine editorial board.

He served as Editor-In Chief for Fire Chief Magazine and Fire/Rescue1.

John has published 6 leadership books and 7 photography books. He has authored over 150 articles in various publications.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-fire-suppression-strategy-tactics-6-firefighters>





2025 Winter Fire School

IPumps

Dates: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 5 pm, Sunday February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

The IPumps course is designed for students who are new to the operation of pumping fire apparatus. Students will complete a series of pumping scenarios using the pump panel simulators to familiarize themselves and operate numerous pump features. Students will also participate in scenarios including first-in pump operations, operating relief valves and pressure governors, and relay pumping operations. This course extends beyond the traditional classroom delivery format.

Instructor information: Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) Instructors

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link:

Saturday AM: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-ipumps-saturday-am>

Saturday PM: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-ipumps-saturday-pm>

Sunday AM: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-ipumps-sunday-am>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Lean In and Lead Forward: What No One Told You Before You Signed Up!”

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

This interactive session will walk through the opportunities and challenges of being a leader through self-reflection, intentional conversations, and real-life application of leadership qualities. Strong leaders work for people as a servant leader so how do we navigate the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Boss? How do the 4 Ps of leadership (position, passion, purpose, people) inspire others to follow a learning leader who focuses on growth, mission, and vision? Join fellow leaders in this session, both informal leaders and formal leaders, for an interactive, lively, necessary conversation on how will lean in and lead forward as leaders!

Instructor Bio:

Dr. Brett Ellis is a 28-year veteran of the fire service, spent the majority of his career in Texas, then made the move to Missouri to serve as the Fire Chief for the City of Webster Groves. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Western Illinois University, a master's degree in leadership and Adolescent Development from Huntington University, and a Doctorate in Education (Transformational Leadership Focus) from Concordia University. As a consultant (AGILE Leadership Consulting Inc.), Ellis focuses on leadership conversations, firefighter behavioral health, conflict resolution, officer development, organizational movement, facilitating relationship building, and personnel role plays based on fire service lawsuits. Dr. Ellis' doctoral dissertation can be found on ProQuest worldwide which focuses on firefighter behavioral health and suicide in relation to traumatic events, as well, he teaches for the National Fire Academy for the Executive Leadership Program, is a Professor for Columbia Southern University, an author for Firehouse magazine under their Company Officer Leadership segment, and serves as the Board Chair for ASPEN Network Inc. Brett married his high school sweetheart, and they have 3 sons who love sports, music, and the outdoors. Dr. Ellis is a passionate life-long learner who simply strives to Be Better, Do Better, and Lead Better by serving those he is entrusted with as a Fire Chief and most importantly, creating opportunities for growth as leaders at every level.

Location:

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1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-lean-in-lead-forward>





2025 Winter Fire School

"NERIS and Using Data"

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

The new National Emergency Response Information System was officially launched in late 2024 and will rapidly expand and replace the legacy NFIRS system used for decades. This system is more than just a records system, it is a dynamic data framework that will help fire service leaders understand the risk, deployment, and performance of their agencies. In this course, you'll have a chance to listen to the latest information about NERIS and learn about the insights that it will bring to departments across the country.

Instructors information:

Fire Chief Tom Jenkins has served as the City of Rogers, Arkansas Fire Chief since 2009. Before he arrived in Arkansas, he served as Deputy Chief for the City of Sand Springs, Oklahoma Fire Department. Chief Jenkins is a 2006 graduate of the NFA Executive Fire Officer Program and a Chief Fire Officer and Chief EMS Officer designee from the Commission on Professional Credentialing. Chief Jenkins is a regular presenter at national conferences and serves in various capacities on numerous boards and committees, including NFPA 1710. Chief Jenkins has served as an adjunct professor for Oklahoma State University, Drury University, and Northwest Arkansas Community College. He worked as a student employee at FPP while attending OSU as an undergraduate student.

Jake Rhoades is a 30-year veteran of the fire service and serves as the Fire Chief for the city of Buckeye Arizona Fire-Medical-Rescue Department. He holds a Master of Science degree in Executive Fire Service Leadership and a master's degree in business management. He has served as an elected member of the IAFC Safety, Health, and Survival Board of Directors and served as an appointed commissioner for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-neris-using-data>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Sharpening Your Interview Skills for Fire Investigations”

Date: Sunday February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

This course is designed to sharpen the interview skills of fire investigators, enabling them to conduct effective and thorough interviews with witnesses, suspects, and other involved parties in fire investigation cases. Course topics include:

- **Types and Sources of Information:** Identifying the various types of information that can be gathered from interviews to include understanding the sources from which this information can be obtained.
- **Preparation and Planning:** Strategies for preparing and planning for interviews including developing a structured approach to ensure key topics are addressed.
- **Interviewing Methods and Techniques:** Building rapport with interviewees to create a conducive environment for information gathering. Effective questioning techniques to elicit valuable insights. Active listening skills to understand and interpret responses. Observing non-verbal cues to gain additional context. Documenting interviews accurately for future reference.
- **Challenges and Strategies:** Identifying common challenges faced during interviews. Implementing strategies to overcome these obstacles.
- **Use of Visual Aids:** Incorporating visual aids and other tools to enhance the interview process. Evaluating the effectiveness of these tools in gathering and presenting information.

The course utilizes a blend of lectures and class exercises to provide comprehensive learning experience. It is suitable for fire investigators of all experience levels who wish to improve their interviewing skills and knowledge.

Bio:

Zach Mathews is an experienced keynote speaker, international trainer and executive coach who inspires audiences with his fast paced and entertaining programs focused on leadership, communication, and personal growth. Zach has a passion for connecting to others even in the most intense situations. This passion was born out of necessity when convincing a victim to jump from the rooftop of a car to his rescue boat or a suspect to sit down for a discussion about a case. Zach honed these skills as a detective, interrogator, trainer and eventually commander of a special investigation unit responsible for undercover wildlife investigations. Zach has taught these skills to public safety agencies for over twenty-five years and is still at it today! He was recruited by the Indiana Department Homeland Security to teach body language and leadership skills to public safety employees and is now providing his high energy **Reading People to Leading People** system to audiences of all kinds. Zach founded this system as a guide through a very personal communication journey using the science of kinesics and the art of storytelling.

Location: MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-sharpening-interview-skills-fire-investigations>





2025 Winter Fire School

"The Job of the Company Officer"

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

This highly interactive course is designed to delve into the roles and responsibilities of a company officer, focusing on the strategies necessary to build and lead a high-performing team.

Led by Doctor Ashby, the course features dynamic and engaging discussions, helping attendees to clearly understand the multifaceted role of a company officer.

Participants will gain insights into using both management and leadership techniques to become effective supervisors. The course aims to enhance individual, team, and organizational performance, ultimately aiming to deliver exceptional customer service.

This course is ideal for current company officers as well as those aspiring to take on this crucial role. Join Doctor Ashby to learn how to foster a productive and motivated team.

Instructor Bio:

Dr. Candace Ashby has over 34 years of fire service experience and is a Battalion Chief with the Indianapolis Fire Department. Her educational background includes a Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership. She is President of Key Fire Investigations and ELITE Public Safety Consulting. Dr. Ashby enjoys making a positive impact on the fire service through coaching and mentoring fire officers in all areas of management and leadership.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-job-of-company-officer>





2025 Winter Fire School

"The First Responders Mental Health Toolkit: What to Look for and Realistic Solutions"

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

This interactive presentation focuses on the benefits of behavioral health awareness and self-care for first responders. Common mental health issues are discussed, and attendees are provided take-home, usable points to employ with themselves, family members, and other first responders if they suspect behavioral health problems. The presentation will then focus on the reliability of first responder service suicide data and what to do when you suspect a colleague is suicidal. This presentation also discusses how Polyvagal Theory can be used as a prevention tool to enhance mental wellness, and attendees will learn techniques to activate the parasympathetic nervous system. Finally, this presentation describes the importance of leadership providing psychologically safe work environments to build resilience and prevent mental health conditions.

Instructor Bio:

Brandon Dreiman is a retired Captain and 23-year veteran of the Indianapolis Fire Department where he served as the Coordinator of Firefighter Wellness & Support. He is an International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Peer Support & Resilience Master Instructor and a member of the IAFF's Crisis Response Team. He is also a subject matter expert for the IAFF/IAFC Wellness Fitness Initiative Committee. His credentials include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia Clinician, Certified Sleep Science Coach, Certified Peer Support Professional, and Yoga Teacher. He now serves as the Behavior Health Specialist for ProTeam Wellness.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-first-responders-mental-health-toolkit>





2025 Winter Fire School

“A Firefighters Guide to Understanding Building Mechanical Systems”

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

This course would be a familiarization of basic building systems designed to help firefighters understand a lot of different things about buildings that are not covered in much detail, if any at all, in conventional building construction classes. This would provide them with a much better understanding of how everything works in a building and how to begin problem-solving and troubleshooting the situation when called out for any number of issues at a building that could be categorized as the typical "smells and bells" types of calls, how to safely shut different components and systems down, and minimize damage to the structures and contents.

Instructor Bio:

Jeff Lattz was born and raised in south suburban Chicago and grew up learning construction trade skills from my dad and became a member of the Laborer's Union and worked in the Chicago area for several years. After becoming interested in the fire service, Jeff pursued it as a career and became a firefighter in Champaign, IL. After just over 20 years, Jeff retired as a Lieutenant, having spent the majority of my career on the busiest Engine and four years on the Squad. Jeff was heavily involved in training at the FD as well as at the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), where he also worked for 25 years, instructing in the Academy, Advanced Firefighter, Tactics 1&2, and Engine and Truck Ops classes. Jeff has continued in the fire service as an instructor, presenting his training program called "Building Comprehension for the Fire Service" throughout IL and FDIC International.

Location:

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1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-firefighters-guide-building-systems>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Are You Ready for Your Next Recruit?"

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

Do you remember when you first came into the fire service? How were you welcomed? Onboarding? Treated? Most importantly, how did it make you feel?

Rushing to market for new recruits is not always the best approach to long-term sustainability and growth. Utilizing facilitated conversation and a series of interactive exercises, "Are You Ready for Your Next Recruit?" takes a retention-first attitude to evaluate the environment from top to bottom and discuss strategies to get our own house in order before we invite someone new into it.

Together we will identify opportunities and share best practices for today's public safety leaders to attract and retain the appropriate quantity and quality of personnel they need to support the delivery of emergency services in their communities. Together we'll work towards getting your fire department: "Ready for Your Next Recruit!"

Instructor Bio:

TIGER SCHMITTENDORF is Vice President of Recruitment & Retention Services for First Arriving, a full-service marketing and technology team headquartered in Richmond VA. He served as Deputy Fire Coordinator for the County of Erie Department Homeland Security & Emergency Services (Buffalo NY) for more than 20 years before retiring in 2018. There he was responsible for the recruitment, training, and mutual aid operations of 97 fire departments and 6,000+ firefighters. He is a Nationally Certified Fire Instructor and has actively served as a firefighter with the Evans Center Volunteer Fire Company in Angola NY since 1980, having served as Chief of Training, Public Information Officer (PIO), Recruiter, and his department's first-ever junior firefighter. He has 15 years of experience in engineering, sales, marketing, and management to now marketing the product he loves: fire and emergency services. Connect with him at: tiger@firstarriving.com, via FireRECRUITER.com, RuntotheCurb.com, SoldierFirefighter.com, or on social media.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-are-you-ready-for-your-next-recruit>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Dude It's You: A Leader's Tool to Introspection"

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

This course allows students to explore and identify their personal reaction preferences to situations. It is broken down into exploring their reactions and behaviors when things are not going right.

It is an opportunity for students to identify better and be aware of their actions in events. This awareness can give them tools to better respond to the events rather than blaming or denying their ownership. The tools to understand that we are ultimately only in control of our thoughts, actions, and responses. It deepens the understanding of the students' self-awareness and brings their best attributes forward.

The course aims to deepen students' self-awareness and bring their best attributes to the forefront, empowering them to handle diverse scenarios with confidence and integrity.

Instructor Bio:

Cora Showalter has been in public safety for twenty-one years, thirteen of those years in a leadership role. She is currently the Logistics and Administration Section Chief for the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy. She supervises the statewide movement of all mobile training props, the hiring of Academy employees, including instructors, and community risk reduction programs.

Cora has her master's degree in leadership and management and has been teaching and training in leadership skills and education since 2005. She holds a variety of certifications both in her current role and in law enforcement. Some of those certifications include topics such as field training, employee development, mentoring, recruit training, onboarding, and a variety of other training programs.

With her passion for teaching and training in leadership, Cora has taught a wide variety of audiences and venues. She has taught for executive staff, court personnel, women summits, and women leadership groups of Fort Wayne.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-dude-its-you-leaders-tool>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Firefighter Leadership and Emotional Intelligence”

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

This course prepares fire service leaders to navigate the complexities of leadership by focusing on emotional intelligence (EI), effective communication, and understanding generational differences. Participants will learn how to manage emotions under pressure, build trust, and create a positive firehouse culture.

Key topics include mastering conversations for conflict resolution and operational clarity, fostering teamwork through cultural awareness, and leading multi-generational crews. By understanding the unique values and perspectives of different age groups, leaders will be able to inspire and motivate diverse teams.

This course is ideal for fire officers and those aspiring to leadership roles, providing essential tools to enhance team cohesion and performance.

Instructor Bio:

Jake Barnes' career started in the U.S. Air Force, where he served for five years as a fire protection specialist. After leaving the military, Barnes worked as a firefighter in Lexington, Kentucky, for eight years and in southern Indiana, for 20 years, where he retired as Battalion Chief of Training. Barnes is an instructor for the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, teaching NFPA 1403, Fixed Facility, NFPA 1700, and Basement Fire classes, and NFPA 1400 Series classes. Jake also serves as the host of 3 Point Firefighter, a podcast in its 5th season which is focused on pride, training and physical fitness.

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1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-firefighter-leadership-emotional-intelligence>





2025 Winter Fire School

“From Arches to Ashes: Fire in Lightweight Fast-Food Restaurants”

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

Based on extensive research and a library of behind the counter and actual incident pictures, this program is designed to save lives by bringing an in-depth awareness to all levels, from Firefighters to Company/Chief Officers, of the dangers of this very common form of construction that can be found in nearly every agency's response area. Topics covered include a review of the causes, common features and engineered lumber products used in their construction and operational considerations and tactical tidbits for fighting fires in these occupancies.

Spurred on by the tragic loss of Houston Firefighters Lewis Mayo and Kim Smith in an arson fire at a McDonald's Restaurant on Valentine's Day, 2000, this program takes the audience behind the counters, above the ceiling tiles, and on top of the roof for a first-hand look at the hidden dangers and hazards of these buildings that pose a deadly threat to firefighters and make managing incidents especially dangerous.

Bio:

JOSEPH KNITTER is a 43-year fire service veteran, retiring in 2022 as Fire Chief of the South Milwaukee (WI) Fire Department, where he served for 37 years. Most recently, Joseph served as the Interim Fire Chief for the South Shore Fire Department in Mount Pleasant, WI. Joseph has an AAS Degree in Fire Science, a BS Degree in Fire Service Management, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and has extensive fire service instructor, incident scene and leadership experience. Joseph previously taught fire certification classes for Milwaukee Area Technical College and continues to lecture throughout the region and serves as a representative for the Wisconsin Technical College System Fire Service Education Office.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-from-arches-to-ashes>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Leading Change with the 4 C’s: How Data Drives and Informs Decision Making”

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

This is an interactive session that explores how a learning leader uses data (quantitative and qualitative) for informed decision making to enact necessary change. We will explore the challenges and opportunities associated with change, how a coach’s philosophy drives the playbook, and how we build a Culture of Trust, Inclusivity and Transparency through Tenacious Teamwork as leaders.

Instructor Bio:

Dr. Brett Ellis is a 28-year veteran of the fire service, spent the majority of his career in Texas, then made the move to Missouri to serve as the Fire Chief for the City of Webster Groves. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Western Illinois University, a Master’s degree in Leadership and Adolescent Development from Huntington University, and a Doctorate in Education (Transformational Leadership Focus) from Concordia University. As a consultant (AGILE Leadership Consulting Inc.), Ellis focuses on leadership conversations, firefighter behavioral health, conflict resolution, officer development, organizational movement, facilitating relationship building, and personnel role plays based on fire service lawsuits. Dr. Ellis’ doctoral dissertation can be found on ProQuest worldwide which focuses on firefighter behavioral health and suicide in relation to traumatic events, as well, he teaches for the National Fire Academy for the Executive Leadership Program, is a Professor for Columbia Southern University, an author for Firehouse magazine under their Company Officer Leadership segment, and serves as the Board Chair for ASPEN Network Inc. Brett married his high school sweetheart, and they have 3 sons who love sports, music, and the outdoors. Dr. Ellis is a passionate life-long learner who simply strives to Be Better, Do Better, and Lead Better by serving those he is entrusted with as a Fire Chief and most importantly, creating opportunities for growth as leaders at every level.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-leading-change-with-the-4-c>





2025 Winter Fire School

“The Power of Sleep for Physical and Mental Health”

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

According to a recent study, over 40% of firefighters and law enforcement officers have a diagnosable sleep disorder, more than doubling the general population. The effects of sleep deprivation can range from simply feeling aggravated to chronic diseases like cancer and heart disease, as well as several mental health disorders. This presentation provides an interactive format to discuss what sleep cycles are, why they are important, and how they affect hormone levels. It evaluates powerful and simple sleep hygiene practices that people often overlook. Next, it discusses Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) and how personnel can utilize CBT-I to get remarkably better sleep in six weeks. Finally, this presentation describes the types and usefulness of various sleep trackers. The information is presented in a way that allows attendees not only to employ the skills but also relay them back to their co-workers.

Instructor Bio:

Brandon Dreiman is a retired Captain and 23-year veteran of the Indianapolis Fire Department where he served as the Coordinator of Firefighter Wellness & Support. He is an International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Peer Support & Resilience Master Instructor and a member of the IAFF's Crisis Response Team. He is also a subject matter expert for the IAFF/IAFC Wellness Fitness Initiative Committee. His credentials include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia Clinician, Certified Sleep Science Coach, Certified Peer Support Professional, and Yoga Teacher.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-power-of-sleep>





2025 Winter Fire School

“The Smith 6: Supporting Responder Mental Health After Tragedy”

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

Tragedy can deeply impact emergency responders, affecting their mental health and resilience long after the incident. This course offers an intimate case study review on the South Bend Fire Department’s experience following the devastating loss of six children in a residential fire on January 21st, 2024.

Moving beyond tactical and strategic responses, this program centers on the critical importance of supporting personnel’s well-being before, during, and especially after a tragic event.

Participants will explore the Sbfd’s response through the lens of responder mental health, examining the department’s immediate and long-term support mechanisms, the role of peer support, and leadership’s responsibility in promoting a culture of open communication and resilience. Through a combination of real-life experience, firsthand accounts, and expert insights, this course provides an honest look at where we succeeded and where gaps remained in addressing the psychological needs of our personnel.

This course is designed for leaders in emergency services, mental health professionals working with first responders, and peer support teams committed to ensuring the well-being of their personnel. Attendees will gain valuable insights into managing the mental health of their teams, developing support networks, and creating pathways for resilience in the face of profound loss.

This program is both a powerful learning tool and a call to action for departments seeking to strengthen their commitment to responding to mental health.

Instructor Bios:

Jon Knepp is the Captain of Truck 6, a lead instructor for the Sbfd Fire Academy, and the coordinator of the Sbfd Peer Support Team. Jon was on scene of this incident, managing and deploying in real time the peer support resources for our responders.

Brandon Roark is the Chief of Training, and one of the staff chiefs that responded to this incident. Brandon was ultimately deployed to the hospital to ensure our injured firefighters, and their family’s needs were being tended to.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-smith-6-supporting-responder-mental-health>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Rail Car Incidents Response for Crude, Ethanol and Other Flammable Liquids"

Dates: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm, Sunday February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm

Course Description:

The All-Hazards Training Center at The University of Findlay has developed the Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol, and Other Flammable Liquids training course for the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (DOT PHMSA) to educate emergency responders on freight rail car incidents involving hazardous materials, specifically crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids. As more and more rail traffic transports cargo, including hazardous materials, the responder community must become educated about the dangers and unique hazards presented by rail cars carrying these commodities. The information covered in this FREE training course will enhance the ability of emergency responders to assess the scene of a rail car incident and understand the resources needed to remediate the emergency, including how the railroad will play a critical role in the response.

Hands-on scenarios using a rail car simulator are conducted to emphasize the objectives of the training including:

- Identifying the design, construction, components, and markings of rail tank cars that carry crude/flammable liquids
- Recognizing and identifying the chemical being transported, and the properties that must be considered in an emergency
- Assessing the scene to determine the potential hazards to people, property, and the environment
- Recognizing mitigation strategies including offensive, defensive, and non-intervention strategies for fire and/or spill incidents. This is not a tactics course but rather focuses on strategy and decision-making.
- Identifying key resources in the rail/freight industry as well as federal, state, and private resources for response assistance

Instructor information: DOT Grant Instructors

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

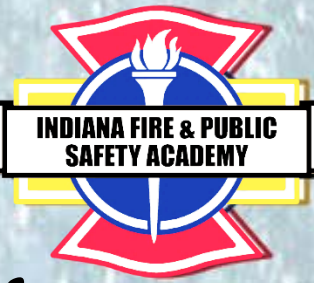
This class is an 8-hour class that is being offered both days of the Winter Fire School, only register for the day that you can attend.

Registration Link:

SATURDAY: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-dot-alert-railcar-incident-response-training-day-1>

SUNDAY: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-dot-alert-railcar-incident-response-training-day-2>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Hoarder Fires – Engine Company Considerations”

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm

Course Description:

Hoarder Fires - Engine Company Considerations will be a mix of lecture as well as hands on for students to put what they learned in the PowerPoint to use in a practical skills station. This class will cover the different levels of hoarding, the fire behavior associated in vent-limited hoarder fires, scene size-up additional safety concerns for engine company operations. The challenges of effectively moving hoselines in hoarder conditions. The hands out port with consist of tips and tricks of moving a charged hoseline through a pallet course which will mimic hoarder conditions.

Instructor Bio:

My name is Jeffrey Kish, I began my journey in the Fire Service in 2007. I got my start as a Volunteer Fire Fighter with Merrillville Fire Department. I rose through the ranks and finished as a Captain. In 2013, I was hired as a Firefighter/EMT with the City of Gary Fire Department. During that time, I worked at Schererville Fire Department as well as Lakes of Four Seasons as a Fire Chief. In 2021, my journey took me to Central Indiana where I accepted a position as a Firefighter/EMT with the Brownsburg Fire Territory. I am currently assigned to Engine 131 " Main Street Mansion" as a nozzlemen. I currently work as an Instructor for IDHS for District 4 as well as 5.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-horder-fires>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Residential Fireground Search Tips"

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm

Course Description:

Every fire department in the United States has different policies & procedures when it comes to their search culture. This program will focus on all aspects of search and how we can improve our tactics to better civilian outcomes from our tactics. In this hybrid class of Lecture and H.O.T we will cover topics that can help you implement search tactics within your organization.

Instructor Bio:

Nicholas Kieta has a decade plus of experience in the fire service. Currently serving on Truck 1 for the City of South Bend. Nick has had a passion as a student and instructor for the entirety of his career. He currently holds positions as a training coordinator at the South Bend Fire Department along with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-residential-search>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Search and Rescue: Initial Actions"

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm

Course Description:

This 8-hour course was designed to prepare emergency services responders to respond and take correct initial actions as an individual in starting an investigation and searching for missing/injured subjects. It presumes the student to be well qualified for incident command and emergency operations. This course will cover the duties of an incident commander, incident size-up, mission documentation, initial search tactics, and the practical applications of lost person behavior in both lecture and hands-on tabletop sessions based on real missions.

After the completion of the course, students will be able to profile a subject quickly, plot theoretical and statistical search areas, identify the highest probability areas to deploy SAR resources, have direction as to additional investigation paths, and rapidly field tasks to ensure the best possible outcome for the subject.

With one (1) in 44 youths being diagnosed with a form of autism, and 8 out of 10 geriatric patients being dementia they are prone to wandering, so it's just a matter of time before you have to go looking for them. This class will prepare you for these types of responses in your jurisdiction.

* Students who attend & complete the skills for this course will also receive a National Association for Search & Rescue – Search and Rescue Initial Actions (SARIA) Certification*

Instructor Bio:

Micah Bell is a career wildland firefighter for the National Park Service. In 2014, he and other like-minded individuals in Porter County founded the Porter County Search and Rescue Team. The team responds across NW Indiana assisting police and fire authorities with lost and missing person incidents. Micah is a National Association for Search and Rescue certified SAR Tech 2 as well as an instructor for many NASAR courses. He serves on a national Incident Management Team as a Public Information Officer and is a former Army Officer. He is active in Scouts BSA (formerly Boy Scouts of America) and is married with two sons.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168



Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-search-rescue-initial-actions>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Tried and True Forcible Entry for the Modern Firefighter"

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm

Course Descriptions:

This course will allow each student the chance to learn some modern techniques that are being taught throughout the American Fire Service. There will be various obstacles students will have the chance to rotate through giving each student a chance to learn new material they can take back to teach their own department.

Instructor Bio:

Chris has been active in the American Fire service since 1994. He has served in both career and Volunteer aspects. Currently Chris is a suppression Lieutenant serving the citizens of Terre Haute. Chris is an active State instructor, an instructor with Real World Training Solutions and an instructor with O'BYRNE Fireground Training out of Kansas City Missouri. Chris is involved as voice commentary at FDIC The Heat and a sales team member with Dinges Fire Equipment.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-tried-true-forcible-entry-modern-fireman>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Water Rescue for the First Due”

Date: Saturday February 1st, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm

Course Description:

Lecture will consist of water rescue surface/subsurface basic command and rescue operations. Individuals will learn what to expect and how to manage water emergencies as first arriving responder. Lecture will also cover basic techniques and skills to rescue/recover victims and if needed self-rescue. How to interview witnesses, how to assess, secure and protect scenes. Who to call and when to call at awareness, operations and technician level. Basic equipment that is needed. 3-4 case studies of actual water rescue emergency. Using the knowledge learned during the lecture, attendees should be able to interact with each case. The class should be able to see what went well, what could've been done better. What they would've done or who should've been contacted if it was in their area. Hands on Skills Throw bags in open space, how to grab victims for rescue and recovery, Ring buoy, Proper PPE (PFD, Drysuits), Hands on Ropes, Simple 1-1 & 2-1 rope system with or without Pulley

Instructor information:

Josh McBurney is Firefighter/Paramedic with Crown Point Fire Department. He has been in the fire service for 15 years. Josh is currently the Commander for the Crown Point Water Rescue team. He has been leading the team for the past five years. Josh has extensive training in surface and subsurface water rescue and public safety diving. He is a certified SDI (Sport Diving International), ERDI (Emergency Rescue Diver), ASEs (Auto Sub-Surface Extrication and Salvage) instructor. He also holds many technical state and outside training institute rescue certifications. Josh currently an instructor for state of Indiana fire academy in district 1.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-water-rescue-first-due>





2025 Winter Fire School

Guarding Against Normalization of Deviance

Date: Saturday, February 1st, 2025, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Course Description:

In this discussion, Mullane uses the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster as an example of how a World-class team can be victimized by incremental deviances from safety best practices. Challenger resulted from a catastrophic failure of the O-rings, Criticality 1 components used to form pressure seals between the four propellant-filled segments that comprise the twin solid-fueled rocket boosters. Even though there were multiple instances of leaking O-rings in the 24 missions preceding Challenger, launches were never suspended to give engineers adequate time to address the problem. In hindsight, the serial justifications over 4 years to continue launch operations, reveal an incremental creep from best practices, i.e., a normalizing process. Challenger proved to be a 'predictable surprise'.

Instructor Bio:

From combat reconnaissance missions over the skies of Vietnam to Space Shuttle missions to climbing some of the highest peaks across the globe, Mike Mullane knows what teamwork, leadership, and safety are all about. His programs on these topics have educated, inspired, and motivated tens of thousands of people from every walk of business and government. In addition, Astronaut Mullane has authored several critically acclaimed books and videos.

Mullane was selected as a Mission Specialist in 1978 in the first group of Space Shuttle Astronauts. He completed three space missions aboard the Shuttles *Discovery* (STS-41D) and *Atlantis* (STS-27 & 36) before retiring from NASA and the Air Force in 1990. Mullane has been inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame and has received many awards, including the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, and the NASA Space Flight Medal.

Location:

Plainfield High School (Auditorium)
One Red Pride Drive
Plainfield, IN 46168





2025 Winter Fire School

"Emergency Response Guide to Autism Incidents"

Date: Sunday February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

This class offers a basic understanding of Autism and Down syndrome-related emergencies. It is intended for all public safety individuals seeking the knowledge and skills to rescue effectively. Attendees will learn from subject matter experts, interactive lectures, case studies, and hands-on skills.

Instructor information:

Matthew Kodicek is a captain at Crown Point Fire Department. Matt started Fire service in 1999 with the Lake Hills Volunteer Fire Department. Matt graduated from Purdue University. Matt has been with the Crown Point Fire Department for over 20 years. Matt is a State of Indiana Fire Instructor 3 and EMS Primary Instructor. Matt coordinates both EMS and Fire Certifications for Crown Point Fire Department and the State of Indiana. Matt also created Ben's Blue Bags Autism Awareness Program after his son Ben. Over the past five years, over 3000 first responders in five states have completed the training.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-emergency-response-autism-incidents>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Fireground Company Officer Operations"

Date: Sunday February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

The Company Officer is responsible for their crew's actions on the fireground. They are the leader that directs their team to be able to complete the mission. Some situations can be life-or-death situations, and the company officer usually only has seconds to make these decisions. Come and learn and find out the knowledge and personal tips from a seasoned officer with over 30 years of experience at the Indianapolis Fire Department.

Instructor Bio:

Eric Dreiman is a veteran of the Indianapolis Fire Department, Eric recently returned to the field as a Battalion Chief after a long tenure serving as the Division Chief for Training. Eric served in various busy companies throughout the city over his long career.

A passionate instructor, he has impacted thousands of students across the country teach at FDIC, Firehouse Expo, and other training events. Eric is also the host of the Hooks & Hoses podcast for Fire Engineering and a contributor to Fire Engineering magazine.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-fireground-company-officer-operations>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Resource 1 How to Workshop"

Date: Sunday February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

The State of Indiana has purchased IFSTA Recourse One as an online training service for most of its classes. IFSTA's Resource One is an online fire service training solution, based on IFSTA-validated publications and curriculum.

The IFSTA Resource One Classroom learning management system (LMS) is provided as a no-cost benefit to fire departments and educational institutions that use IFSTA manuals.

In the R1 Classroom, instructors will find IFSTA curriculum components provided in an online setting AND additional, premium content for instructors who want a more comprehensive e-learning solution.

Content includes:

- Chapter quizzes and tests
- PowerPoint slides
- Discussion forum
- Skill sheets

Instructor information:

Joseph Ferrantella is a 25-year veteran of the fire service. He began teaching for the Indiana Firefighter Training System (IDHS) in 2008 and is currently the district 1 Training Coordinator for the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy. As District Coordinator, Joe serves one of the busiest training Districts in Indiana covering Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Jasper and Newton Counties. Joe is a career firefighter/paramedic serving as a Battalion Chief for the Crown Point Fire Department (IN).

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-resource-1-workshop>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Searchable vs. Survivable: Educated Decision Making”

Date: Sunday February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm

Course Description:

This lecture will cover many topics related to search. It will keep the focus on our primary mission of the fire service... LIFE! With our modern fire environment time is not a luxury we have, and it is imperative that we have a system in place designed for quick decision making. We will discuss the importance of sizing up the search upon our 360 and utilizing the manpower we have wisely to occupy the spaces where our victims are most likely to be found. We should be locating and removing victims in the most efficient manner and using the data we have collected from research, coupled with real world experiences to choose the proper tactics for us to succeed in our efforts of putting our civilians first. This class is about being intelligently aggressive and focusing our efforts on where we can do the greatest good at the moment. Searching is about predictable behavior patterns as well as prioritizing spaces that our victims are most likely to be found, when we can do so. There is no singular mode, rather multiple methods to enhance the survivability for the unprotected occupant. We must break free from the standard approach of this is how we have always done it and concentrate our efforts on what is best for our civilians trapped by fire.

Instructor Bio:

Sean Duffy is currently a Firefighter with the City of Ann Arbor Fire Department. Over his 20-year career he has worked in several response districts including rural, suburban and urban areas with varying staffing levels. Sean is a Co-founder of Build Your Culture, a published author, national speaker and has instructed all over the country and internationally. With a strong passion for primary search, he has authored and co-authored several fire service materials on the topic. You can find Seans work published in Fire Engineering and Firehouse Magazines as well as the book of Search. Recently Sean was accepted to serve as a technical panel member for the UL FSRI Multi-Story Residential Tactics Research Project. Sean believes strongly in providing quality fire training as well as maintaining a desire for continuous growth, both professionally and personally.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-searchable-vs-survivable>





2025 Winter Fire School

"30-Second Tactical Worksheet"

Date: Sunday, February 2nd, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

This course provides Incident Commanders with a quick, straightforward, and highly effective method for managing incidents. Utilizing a 30-second worksheet, this training equips ICs with the tools they need to succeed by clearly outlining all tactical priorities, maintaining resource accountability, and identifying when additional resources are required. The versatile worksheet can be utilized on a single sheet of paper, a whiteboard, or a tablet, offering flexibility to suit any command environment. This course will enhance your incident management skills with this practical and efficient approach.

Instructor Bio:

With 31 years of dedicated service in the fire department, Dennis Argyrakis recently retired from the Elmwood Park Fire Department in Suburban Chicago, where he served with distinction as a Captain and Training Officer.

Dennis holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Administration and was employed at an Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal as Chief Fire Officer, Incident Safety Officer, and Paramedic.

During his tenure as Captain in Elmwood Park, Dennis was responsible for the roles of Shift Commander and Incident Commander on all incidents. Additionally, when responding to neighboring towns, he adeptly took on the role of Incident Safety Officer or Sector Chief, demonstrating his versatility and leadership in various large-scale emergencies with multiple agencies.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1610 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-30-second-tactical-worksheet>





2025 Winter Fire School

"Civilian Rescue: Removing the Occupant"

Date: Sunday, February 2nd, 2025, 1 pm – 5 pm

Course Description:

Locating the victim is only half the battle. It is in the act of removing them that the rescue truly takes place. There are many tactical considerations searchers must evaluate and understand to increase the survival odds of trapped occupants. Maintaining situational awareness of not only the incident, but the location of the victim in relation to the best removal point will guide rescuers in making the appropriate decisions that will ultimately increase the victim's odds of surviving the environment they are in. Knowing how and when to implement certain tactics is of great benefit to both civilians and firefighters. This lecture will not only discuss best practices but will also cover information found during extensive research on various situations that contribute to our victims' outcomes and better prepare rescuers to make appropriate decisions during the removal process.

Videos of actual fireground rescues will be shown and lessons learned regarding the removal process will be discussed.

Instructor Bio:

Sean Duffy is currently a Firefighter with the City of Ann Arbor Fire Department. Over his 20-year career, he has worked in several response districts including rural, suburban, and urban areas with varying staffing levels. Sean is a Co-founder of Build Your Culture, a published author, and a national speaker and has instructed all over the country and internationally. With a strong passion for primary search, he has authored and co-authored several fire service materials on the topic. You can find Sean's work published in Fire Engineering and Firehouse Magazines as well as the book of Search. Recently Sean was accepted to serve as a technical panel member for the UL FSRI Multi-Story Residential Tactics Research Project. Sean believes strongly in providing quality fire training as well as maintaining a desire for continuous growth, both professionally and personally.

Justin "J Lo" Lorenzen started in fire service in 2005 at a rural combination department about 30 miles south of the metro and was there for 3 years before getting hired at OKCFD. He's currently a Lt./Paramedic on the south side of Oklahoma City at station 7/C, "Capitol Hill Creepers", where he drives Battalion 603. Justin served as a training officer for 3 years in OKCFD's training division. He's currently the president of OKC's local F.O.O.L.S chapter, Mid-America F.O.O.L.S OKC Metro, as well as a small part of the Firefighter Rescue Survey (Internal Survey Implementation). Throughout his career, Justin has taught at several conferences and training events both locally and nationally. Justin is a member of the Firefighter Rescue Survey team and has assisted multiple departments in developing their own internal rescue tracking system and contributing to the national rescue survey. His passion is Search and all things training and most importantly leaving the job better than he found it!

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-civilian-rescue-removing-the-occupant>





2025 Winter Fire School

“A Distilled Perspective of a Good Training Culture”

Date: Sunday, February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 12 pm
*

Course Description:

How do we implement training within our organizations? More specifically, how do we implement new tactics through training? This lecture will give you the tools to self-audit and identify where your resistance begins and ends. By the end of this class, we will discuss how to present and instruct new information to your organization's different audiences of new, senior, and administrative levels to meet your training goals.

Instructor Bio:

Nicholas Kieta has a decade-plus of experience in the fire service. Currently serving on Truck 1 for the City of South Bend. Nick has had a passion as a student and instructor for the entirety of his career. He currently holds positions as a training coordinator at the South Bend Fire Department along with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-a-distilled-perspective>





2025 Winter Fire School

“Optimizing Firefighter Readiness in Smaller Fire Departments”

Date: Sunday February 2nd, 2025, 8 am – 5 pm

Course Description:

This course provides fire department leaders and trainers with the tools and strategies to design, implement, and evaluate effective training programs tailored for small-size fire departments. Emphasizing resource management, adaptability, and safety, participants will learn to address the unique challenges posed by limited personnel and equipment while ensuring their teams are prepared for diverse emergency scenarios. The course combines theoretical instruction with practical, hands-on approaches, aiming to enhance operational readiness and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

Participants will explore key elements of training program development, including identifying training priorities, leveraging available technology and community partnerships, and creating scalable exercises suited to smaller teams. The course also focuses on leadership and communication skills crucial for fostering teamwork and ensuring safety during high-stress situations. By the end of the course, attendees will be equipped to build sustainable training frameworks that can be regularly updated and adapted as their department's needs evolve.

Instructor Bio:

Allan is a 15-year member of the Hagerstown Jefferson Township Fire Department where he currently serves as Assistant Chief and Training Officer. In addition to these responsibilities, Allan has been an instructor at the local and district level for the last ten years. Allan holds a B.S. in Secondary Education from Indiana University and an M.A. in Military History from Norwich University.

Having taught at numerous conferences, including last year's Indiana Winter Fire School, Allan has earned a reputation for delivering practical, engaging training solutions that drive results. Passionate about continuous learning and departmental growth, Allan is dedicated to enhancing fire service preparedness through dynamic, adaptable training programs.

Location:

MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-2-plainfield-optimizing-firefighter-readiness>





2025 Winter Fire School

Decision Making for Initial Company Officer

National Fire Academy

February 1st & 2nd 2025 8:30 am – 5:00 pm both days

THIS TWO-DAY COURSE IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP THE DECISION-MAKING SKILLS NEEDED BY COMPANY OFFICERS TO ACCOMPLISH ASSIGNED TACTICS AT STRUCTURE FIRES.

All activities and scenarios used in this course are based on structure fires. With the real possibility of being the first to arrive at an incident, the CO's initial decisions will have an impact throughout the entire incident. It is vital that COs be able to make good management decisions that have a favorable impact on the eventual outcome. In addition to a possible role as the initial Incident Commander, the CO may well be assigned a subordinate position within the Incident Command System organization. COs need to have a clear understanding of the system, the position that they are assigned to, and their role in the organization if they are to function effectively and help make the system work.

INSTRUCTOR: Battalion Chief Patrick Harper -Indianapolis Fire Department

Battalion Chief Harper is a 27-year veteran of the fire service and has served on volunteer, combination, and career fire departments. Harper is a member of the International Society of Fire Service Instructor's Credential Council and holds a B.S. in Public Safety Management, an A.S. in Fire Science, and an A.S. in Organizational

Location: MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168





2025 Winter Fire School

Incident Command for Highrise Operations

Dates: February 1st & 2nd 2025 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Both Days

This 2-day course is designed to assist emergency response officers who have responsibility for managing high-rise incidents. Course content includes organizing resources, developing strategies, and managing tactical operations to protect life and minimize damage during an incident.

Students attending will gain knowledge in the following:

- Knowledge of basic Incident Command System organization.
- Knowledge of strategy and tactics for structural firefighting.
- Knowledge of building construction used in high-rise buildings.
- An understanding of the type of building systems existing in high-rise buildings.
- Identifying strategic and tactical operations and resource needs for high-rise building fires.
- Identifying roles and responsibilities for Command & Control procedures for major rise operations and hazards.
- Examining case studies where firefighters lost their lives fighting firefighters in high-rise buildings.

Instructor: NFA Adjunct Instructor

Location: MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-incident-command-highrise-operations-incident-management>





2025 Winter Fire School

O0729 Incident Safety Officer National Fire Academy

February 1st & 2nd 2025 8:30 am – 5:00 pm both days

Course Goal: This course is designed for fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responders who may be designated by the Incident Commander (IC) as an ISO while working within an Incident Command System (ICS). These assignments may occur during firefighting, EMS, special-operations-type incidents, and training evolutions. This course is an incident-specific, scenario-oriented course designed to teach students what an ISO needs to know at an incident.

Course Description: The Safety officer's responsibilities fall into two clear-cut categories: those associated with responding at the incident scene, and those associated with managing the day-to-day affairs of the department. The Incident Safety Officer (ISO) course is focused on the incident and the role the Safety Officer plays as part of the Command Staff. The target audience is Company Officers (CO) who are experienced in firefighter safety issues and are familiar with an Incident Command System, hazardous materials management, and related emergency operations. The program provides the student with the decision-making process and skills required to recognize unsafe acts and conditions and take appropriate corrective actions.

Instructor: Chris Crail is currently the Fire Chief of the Portage Fire Department in Portage, Indiana. Chris has served the citizens of Portage for 22 years. He has served as the Lead Instructor for Indiana's District 1 Career Fire Academy for the past three years, he has trained hundreds of firefighters across Northwest Indiana, always demonstrating a strong commitment to the highest standards. Chris has also served as the administrative liaison for the Fire Department's Water Rescue Team, where he previously held the roles of Team Leader and Dive Instructor.

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-incident-safety-officer>





2025 Winter Fire School

Supervising Emergency Medical Services

Dates: February 1st & 2nd 2025 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Both Days

This 2-day course provides an introduction to the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to navigate current emergency medical services (EMS) management issues and the challenges in moving from EMS provider to EMS supervisor.

This is a brand-new National Fire Academy course, and this is the first time it has been offered in Indiana!

Course topics and activities include:

- The leadership transition.
- Time and task management.
- Communication.
- Information and technology.
- Talent management.
- Health and safety.

Instructor: NFA Adjunct Instructor

Location: MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-supervising-emergency-medical-services>





2025 Winter Fire School

Training Operations in Small Departments

February 1st & 2nd 2025 8:30 am – 5:00 pm both days

This two-day course is designed to provide students with some basic tools and skills to coordinate training in a small fire/EMS organization.

Course Content Includes:

- Leadership issues in fire service training, such as why and how the local training officer must be a catalyst for change and personal motivators within the department.
- Identifying legal issues affecting the training function, including the understanding of a standard of care and the impact of OSHA and NFPA standards
- Safety considerations in training Marketing training internally
- Identifying ways to justify training needs Resolving training conflicts using appropriate conflict resolution techniques.
- Selecting and evaluating training curricula and materials from outside sources
- Effective delivery and evaluation of training

INSTRUCTORS: Mike Parks is currently the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy Field Operations Section Chief where he oversees the direct delivery of state fire training programs for the State of Indiana through the ten Homeland Security districts.

He has a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University and is an NREMT-Paramedic and holds numerous fire service certifications such as Fire Officer IV, Fire and Emergency Service Instructor I-II-III, Inspector I/II, and many more.

Assistant Chief Jim Miller started his fire service career at Brownsburg Fire Territory in 2005, following a career that included time in private sector management, the United States Army, and as a Reserve Deputy with the Hendricks County Sheriff's Department. His time with the Pittsboro Fire Department began in 2020. In the fire service, he has held many formal and informal positions, including Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Division Chief, Recruit Academy Lead Instructor, ISO Manager, and SCBA coordinator. Jim holds a degree in applied fire science from Ivy Tech and is a graduate of Leadership Hendricks County (2018).

Jim stays busy outside of his role with the Pittsboro Fire Department, as well. He serves as an instructor, evaluator, and program developer with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. He serves as a member of the Hendricks County Special Operations Command, which leads the Hendricks County Rescue Task Force in technical rescue training and response.

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-training-operations-small-departments>





2025 Winter Fire School

Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer

Dates: February 1st & 2nd 2025 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Both Days

This 2-day course identifies operational activities and safety concerns for structural Company Officers (COs) assigned to a wildland-urban interface (WUI) incident.

Topics covered include:

- Introduction to WUI firefighting.
- Interface environment.
- Wildland fire behavior.
- Command and control issues of WUI firefighting.
- Brush & Grass fire operations
- Brush Rig operations
- Rural Tactics.

If you are an officer who has the potential to respond to brush or wood fires in your jurisdictions, then this class is a must for you to be able to protect your community!

Instructor: NFA Adjunct Instructor

Location: MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-wildland-urban-interface-firefighting-structural-company-officer>





2025 Winter Fire School

Youth Fire Setting Intervention Specialist

Dates: February 1st & 2nd 2025 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Both Days

"Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist" is a 2-day course based on the requirements of National Fire Protection Association 1035, Standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist and Youth Firesetting Program Manager Professional Qualifications pertaining to the youth firesetting intervention specialist.

This course focuses on how identification, intake, screening, disposition, and follow-up are used to mitigate youth firesetting behavior. Course content includes understanding the motivations behind youth firesetting and how the impact of adverse childhood experiences and behavioral/mental health changes can influence firesetting behaviors. This course is for the practitioner who provides services at the program delivery level.

Instructor: NFA Adjunct Instructor

Location: MADE@ Plainfield
1600 Reeves Road
Plainfield Indiana 46168

This course meets Indiana IAC requirements for Fire Investigator CE Hours

Registration Link: <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-youth-firesetter-intervention>



2025 Winter Fire School Hotel Rates



Homewood Suites by Hilton
Plainfield/Indianapolis Airport

Winter Fire School Rate

Friday, Jan. 31 – Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025
1 Queen Bed Studio Suite Nonsmoking
\$110 per night plus tax
7-day cancellation before arrival date
One-night room and tax
Cutoff date: Friday, Jan. 3, 2025

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=INDPDHW&arrivalDate=2025-01-31&departureDate=2025-02-02&groupCode=WFS&room1NumAdults=1&displayCurrency=USD>



Fairfield Inn & Suites Indianapolis
Plainfield

Winter Fire School Rate

\$119 per night plus tax
Cutoff date: Jan. 10, 2025

(There is a possibility that this block is released prior to Jan. 10, depending on how many people are booking.)

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1724860823370&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true>



Springhill Suites Plainfield

Winter Fire School Rate

\$125 per night plus tax
Cutoff date: Jan. 24, 2025

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1730914903833&key=GRP&guestreslink2=true>



Hampton Inn Plainfield

Winter Fire School Rate

\$139 per night plus tax
Cutoff date: Jan. 4, 2025

(There is a possibility that this block is released prior to Jan. 4, depending on how many people are booking.)

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/winterfireschoolifpsa2025/>

2025 Winter Fire School Course Schedule



Disclaimer

- ❖ All lodging arrangements are the responsibility of the individual participant. The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy is not responsible for securing or funding any lodging for participants.
- ❖ Individuals under the age of 18 may not participate in the Winter Fire School.
- ❖ By registering on Acadis for any Winter Fire School course, you are consenting that your image may be used, without limitations, in print publications, online publications, websites and on social media.
- ❖ It is each student's responsibility to use good judgment in selecting attire that projects a professional image while remaining appropriate for climate and classroom activities. Acceptable attire at the Winter Fire School is business casual or official department uniform.
- ❖ The MADE@Plainfield facility is an alcohol- and tobacco-free campus.

❖ **For General Winter Fire School Questions – joshafer@dhs.in.gov**