



May 2021

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Academy Training Staff

Academy Administrator
[Wade Walling](#)

Operations Director
[Elizabeth Westfall](#)

Logistic Support Manager
[Bill Huffer](#)

Academy Training Program Manager (districts 1, 2 and 3)
[Paul Bradley](#)

Message from the Administrator

Today's fire service is much different from what it was 20 years ago. Administration of a fire department has become complex, with incredibly challenging issues such as dealing with Indiana State Board of Accounts or the Department of Local Government Finance.

A new fire chief should have a solid foundation of knowledge, skills and abilities in order to be effective at running his or her fire department. For years, Indiana has mandated that all police chiefs take a basic training course to maintain their police chief role. Now it's time for the fire service to do the same.

[House Bill 1270](#) was signed into law by Governor Holcomb on April 29, 2021. The bill establishes the fire chief executive training program. It also states that after [January 1, 2022](#), a newly appointed fire chief of a political subdivision must successfully complete the executive training program within one year of appointment. Volunteer fire chiefs are not required to complete the executive training program.

It also provides that the Indiana Department of Homeland Security may allow any of the following individuals to enroll in the executive training program if there is available space in the course:

- A chief officer
- Management level personnel
- A volunteer fire chief
- A volunteer chief officer
- Volunteer management level personnel

This is an awesome opportunity for the Indiana fire community and the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy. Thank you to everyone who supported this bill.

Wade Walling
Director of Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy

National Fire Academy Training

Academy Program Manager
(districts 4, 5 and 6)
[Megan Thiele](#)

Academy District Field Training
Manager (districts 7, 8, 9 and
10)
[Zach Westfall](#)

Academy Certification Staff

Certification Supervisor
[Donna Saine](#)

Program Coordinator
[Regine Johnson](#)

Fire Certifications Technician
[Nichelle \(Shelly\) Elliot](#)

Clerical Assistant
[Teri Dearmin](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- May 17-June 18: Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics (FOST210216), Crawfordsville Fire Department
- June 1-23: Fire Instructor I (INST1-210281), Marion Fire Department
- June 15-July 1: Fire Officer I (FO1-210169), Wayne Township Fire Department

Fire Investigator Recertifications

Indiana Fire Investigator I recertification requirements are temporarily suspended due to issues with the emergency rules expiring before the recertification is due. The expiration dates have been removed for all Fire Investigator I certifications that were issued after the emergency rules took effect.



The National Fire Academy's application period is open. Apply before June 15 for the first semester course, which runs September through March.

[Apply Online](#)

Academy Financial Manager Retires

After 31 years of service as a state employee, Academy finance manager Beth Clark retired on April 30. Clark served in many different roles with the agency before transitioning to the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy in 2018. Beth was instrumental in building the processes to set up grants IDHS currently offers to firefighter training districts and local fire departments.



Fire Department Spotlight

Converse Volunteer Fire Company (Converse, Ind.)



Led by Fire Chief Kevin Warnock and Assistant Chief Jake Simpkins, Converse Volunteer Fire Company has 35 members servicing roughly 75 square miles in Miami, Grant, Howard and Wabash counties. Its sister station is located in Somerset, Ind., near the Mississinewa Reservoir. The Converse Volunteer Fire Company was incorporated in 1950; however, they have meeting minutes dating back to April 1903.

Fire Investigator I certifications will not expire and those who are completing recertification hours will not be asked to turn in their recertification documents. This certification will be one of many that will be address in the full Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education IAC 655 rule re-write.

Public Safety Jobs Dashboard



Check out all the current openings on the [IDHS Public Safety Jobs dashboard](#). If your department is hiring and would like to promote the job, submit your information below the dashboard.

Converse Fire Station 1 was built in 1999, located along IN-18 right in the town of Converse, Ind. The outside shape of the building hasn't changed, but originally there was only the right-side bays. The left side was a large meeting/community room. In 2011, interior renovations were done and the left side was turned into apparatus bays.

The Fire and Public Safety Academy is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and delivering professional fire and public safety training, education and certification to Indiana's first responders in support of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's mission of protecting the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.

Contact the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy at
firecertifications@dhs.in.gov