



# INDIANA WINTER FIRE SCHOOL 2026



**January 30 - February 1, 2026**

**Hosted at MADE@Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Rd., Plainfield, IN 46168**



## Welcome Letter

**From:**

John Shafer  
Director of Indiana 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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Winter Fire School! Over the last three years this fire school has grown to meet the needs of the Hoosier Fire Service. Last year we held 39 courses with 454 students in attendance. Our students came from all regions of the state with 160 different departments represented and 61 of the 92 Indiana counties represented.

We're excited to welcome you to this year's event, which has grown again to include 56 unique class offerings covering a wide range of fire service disciplines, from engine and truck operations to leadership, rescue, EMS, and beyond. Whether you're a new firefighter or a seasoned chief officer, this fire school is designed to deliver high-impact, relevant training that you can take back to your department and apply immediately.

This year's lineup features a dynamic mix of mostly classroom instruction, some hands-on training (HOT), and live demonstrations, led by some of the most respected instructors from across the Midwest and beyond. We've worked hard to create a weekend full of networking, learning, and professional development and we are looking forward to having you be a part of it.

As we prepare to go into the next year, please remember this event allows you to come together with your brothers and sisters from all regions of the state. Which allows you to take time to connect, ask questions, share your experience, and make the most of every session.

Thank you for your commitment to training, and for helping to make this fire school a success. We will be honored to have you here at the 2026 Winter Fire School.

**John Shafer**

*Fire and Public Safety Director*

**Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy**



# 2026 Winter Fire School

## Course Schedule

### **Friday, Saturday and Sunday: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026,**

### **Page #**



Surface Water Operations and Technician – State Certification Class

6

### **Friday: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026,**

### **Page #**



Adult Learning Principles for Better Fire Service Instruction

7

### **Saturday: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am to 12 pm – 4-hour sessions**

### **Page #**



A Better 360: Improving Fireground Size-Up

8



From Arches to Ashes: Fires in Fast-Food Restaurants

9



Ignite the Mind: How to Train Firefighters Using the Brain's Best Practices

10



Initial Response to Water Rescue Events

11



Prioritizing the Search & Implementing the Culture

12



Real-Life Training for Real-Life Tactics

13



Restoring the Kitchen Table: Building a Culture of Resiliency Within Your Peer Support Team and Department

14



The Birds and the Bees of Company Officer Leadership

15



Turn Everything into a Fire

16

### **Saturday: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm to 5 pm – 4-hour sessions**

### **Page #**



A Passionate Pursuit - The Seven P's To Perfection

17



Main Street 2026, a look at Tactics and Strategies on Legacy Buildings.

18



Managing the Mayday: An Incident Commanders Guide to Mayday Command & Control

19



Mission-Focused Leadership

20



Optimizing Sleep for Mental and Physical Health

21



Read Your Suspect: Advanced Interview Tactics for Fire Investigators

22



The High-Functioning Dysfunctional Fire Department: How to Thrive in Imperfect Systems

23



The Rural Challenge: Managing the Fireground

24



Traffic Incident Management Responder

25



What Right Looks Like - The Instructional Rules of Engagement

26










# 2026 Winter Fire School

## Course Schedule







### **Saturday: January 31st , 2026, 8 am to 5 pm – 8-hour sessions**

### **Page #**

-  Common Sense Technical Rescue – Hands-on 27
-  Evidence-Based Considerations for Your Fireground Playbook 28
-  Forcible Entry ...Can it be that easy? – Hands-on 29
-  Implementing Training at your Department - A Distilled Perspective 30
-  Responding to Pipeline Emergencies Train the Trainer 31
-  RIT Blitz: Firefighter Rescue – Hands-on 32
-  The Emotionally Intelligent-Ish Firefighter 33






### **Sunday: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am to 12 pm – 4-hour sessions**

### **Page #**

-  Beyond the Preconnect: Building the Attack Package Your District Demands 34
-  Developing Emergency Services Instruction in the 21st Century 35
-  Leadership Accountability: Leading With Trust, Not Micromanagement 36
-  NERIS 37
-  The First Due Engine to an Active Shooter/Hostile Event 38
-  The Job of an Officer 39

### **Sunday: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm to 5 pm – 4-hour sessions**

### **Page #**

-  BOSS Series: Management vs Leadership 40
-  Fire Inspectors: Preparing for Civil Unrest and Fires in Buildings Under Construction 41
-  Forged in Fire: Building Firefighter Resilience Through Emotional Intelligence 42
-  RIT Not Just a Check Box 43
-  Scene Size Up/360 44

# 2026 Winter Fire School











## Course Schedule











### **Sunday: February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 8 am to 5 pm – 8-hour sessions**

### **Page #**

-  Bringing the Research to the Fireground – Hands-on 44
-  Building Comprehension for the Fire Service: Understanding Single Family and Multi-Family Dwellings 46
-  Homemade Explosives: Awareness, Recognition, and Response 47
-  The First Due Truck – Hands-on 48
-  Traffic Incident Management Responder Train the Trainer 49
-  Working with Media: A Course for Rural First Responders 50

### **National Fire Academy Saturday and Sunday: January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 8 am to 5 pm – 8-hour sessions, \*Both days must be attended\***

### **Page #**

-  Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction 51
-  Decision Making for Initial Company Operations 52
-  Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations 53
-  Fire Chiefs: Challenging Issues 54
-  Fire Investigations: Fire as a Weapon 55
-  Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents 56
-  Incident Safety Officer 57
-  Supervising Emergency Medical Services 58
-  Training Operations in Small Departments 59
-  Youth Firesetter Intervention 60

### **Lodging Information**

### **Page #**

-  Hotel Rates 61

### **Disclaimers**

### **Page #**

-  Disclaimer Information 62



# **“Surface Water Rescue Operations & Technician Certification Course”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Friday January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6 – 10 pm, Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm, Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – finish**

**\*THIS IS A STATE OF INDIANA CERTIFICATION COURSE\***

### **Course Description:**

This course will provide the students with knowledge and skills to perform rescue operations of victims on the surface of the water. During the course, students will learn how to perform bank-based rescue, boat-based rescue, and in water rescue.

### **Instructor: Chuck Gunter & Amir Mousavi**

Chuck is in his 29th year in the Indiana fire service. He started as a volunteer in 1996 in his hometown of Holton Indiana. He was assistant chief of that department until moving to Versailles. In 2008 he was hired at the City of Greensburg and later the Decatur Township Fire Department. He is a lead instructor for their training academy and is currently the Lieutenant of Engine 71 on the B shift. He was hired as the District 6 and 9 Field Program Manager for the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy in 2020. He is also an active member of Indiana Task Force 1.

With over 20 years of experience Amir is the fire chief of the Tri-Township Fire Protection District. He holds a Masters of Science degree in Safety, Security and Emergency Management. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Indianapolis and Indiana University teaching Emergency Management and Homeland Security. He holds certifications in All Hazards Commander, Fire Officer 4, ICS Instructor, and Paramedic.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

### **Resources Required:**

PFD, Dry Suit, Throw Rope Bag, swimming clothes, towel.

### **Prerequisites:**

You need to have the capabilities of swimming in water. Technical rescue awareness is also a prerequisite.

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-30-plainfield-surface-water-course>

Once you are registered for the operations you will be automatically enrolled in the technician.



# **“Adult Learning Principles for Better Fire Service Instruction”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6 pm – 10 pm**

**\*This course meets the Indiana 655 IAC requirements for fire instructor adult education CE hours!\***

### **Course Description:**

This Friday night keynote is for fire service instructors of Indiana who hold an active fire and emergency services instructor state certification! This discussion-based program will emphasize teaching to adult learners, such as the ones who serve in the fire service. Participants will explore instructional styles such as lectures, questions, discussions, small-group interaction, demonstrations, role-playing, and simulations as they can be effectively employed in the classroom and drill yard.

After completing this course, the practitioner will be able to:

- Describe how to motivate and teach adult learners.
- Define and describe competency-based learning.
- Explain the relationship of Bloom’s revised Taxonomy of Educational Objectives and the Dreyfus Model to lesson development.
- Describe how lectures, questions, discussions, small-group interaction, and demonstrations are employed in the classroom.
- Describe how role-playing can be strengthen and expedite learning.
- Describe the types of evaluations used to determine a student’s base of knowledge or skill competency.

### **Instructor: Erin McGruder**

Erin McGruder has been a firefighter/EMT for more than 20 years. She serves as a Planning Team Manager for FEMA USAR. She is a Planning Team Manager and retired canine handler for a Missouri USAR team. McGruder specializes in curriculum and instructor development as a fire service state training agency staff member for nearly a decade. She holds a master’s degree in public affairs and is currently studying educational psychology and adult learning at the doctoral level. McGruder is a National Fallen Firefighter Foundation Fellow and volunteers as a state advocate for the Everyone Goes Home program. Additionally, she serves as a Director for the International Society for Fire Service Instructors.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-30-plainfield-adult-learning-principles>



# **“A Better 360: Improving Fireground Size-Up”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

In the high-risk, fast-paced world of structural firefighting, the first 360-degree assessment often determines the safety of firefighters and the success of operations. A Better 360 is a modern, scenario-based course designed to improve the effectiveness of officers, ISO's, IC's and fireground personnel through proven models and actionable size-up tools.

Built around NFPA 1550 (2024), NFPA 1700, and evidence-based tactics, this course challenges attendees to elevate their role in recognizing hazards, predicting collapse potential, supporting strategy, and implementing tactics using modern tools like thermal imaging, tactical benchmarks, and live scenario briefings.

Participants will learn how to rapidly scan and assess structure fires using PALS, TAP, and MEDIC frameworks to support accountability, risk decisions, and command coordination.

### **Instructor: Forest Reeder**

Forest Reeder began his fire service career in 1978 and retired as Fire Chief of the Tinley Park (IL) Fire Department in 2021. He has served as the Interim Fire Chief for the Sterling, (IL) and Marion (IA) since retirement. 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.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-better-360-size-up>





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

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Fast-food restaurants are common across all jurisdictions, yet they often present hidden and potentially deadly hazards to firefighters. This program, developed from extensive research and real incident imagery—including behind-the-counter and structural views—aims to increase awareness and improve operational safety and effectiveness at these types of incidents.

Intended for all ranks, from Firefighters to Company and Chief Officers, the session explores the unique risks associated with lightweight, free-standing construction and engineered lumber products commonly found in fast-food establishments.

Spurred on by the tragic loss of Houston Firefighters Lewis Mayo and Kim Smith in a 2000 arson fire in a McDonald's restaurant, the program takes participants inside and atop these buildings to examine their structural vulnerabilities and fire behavior. Attendees will also gain practical insight into the common causes of fires in these occupancies, recognize key construction features, and enhance their strategic and tactical decision-making when responding to such incidents.

### **Instructor: Joseph Knitter**

Joseph Knitter is a 44+ year fire service veteran, retiring in 2022 as Fire Chief of the South Milwaukee (WI) Fire Department, where he served for 37 years. He holds an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Fire Science, a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Service Management, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Joseph has taught fire certification courses at Milwaukee Area Technical College and continues to lecture on fire service topics. He also serves as a representative for the Wisconsin Technical College System's Office of Fire Service Training.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-from-arches-to-ashes>



# **“Ignite the Mind: How to Train Firefighters Using the Brain’s Best Practices”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

The purpose of the course is to equip fire service instructors with effective, evidence-based learning strategies that are practical, adaptable, and immediately applicable in real-world training environments.

To effectively train the next generation of firefighters, instructors must go beyond technical knowledge—they need a deeper understanding of the psychological and physiological processes that drive learning. This presentation is designed to bridge the gap between the art and science of instruction, offering practical, research-informed strategies tailored for today’s evolving fire service workforce.

As the demographics and learning styles of recruits continue to shift, instructors must be prepared to adapt. This session explores how to align teaching practices with how the brain learns best, focusing on methods that enhance retention, performance, and real-world application. Key topics include the role of stress in learning—how it can both hinder and enhance memory—structuring hands-on training for maximum effectiveness and recognizing subtle student cues to tailor instruction in real time.

Additionally, participants will examine the impact of personal bias in the learning environment and learn strategies to become more self-aware, equitable, and effective in their instructional approach. By understanding how the brain functions under stress and during learning, instructors will be better equipped to create high-impact, learner-centered training that meets the demands of today’s fire service."

### **Instructor: Elizabeth Campbell & Ryan Sparks**

Elizabeth Campbell is a Captain of Planning with the Zionsville Fire Department and is a Criminal Justice Adjunct Professor at Ivy Tech. Holding a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, she specializes in instructional design for public safety. Her work bridges public safety and education, with a passion for effective, applicable, evidence-based training and public service.

**\*Please bring a laptop and other classroom materials\***

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-ignite-the-mind>



# **“Initial Response to Water Rescue Events”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

In the US, approximately 4,500 people drown each year, and drowning is the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 4. Water rescue events present unique challenges for first responders, but the right initial response can have a profound impact on rescue and recovery operations. This class will include the following key points:

- At risk populations and common water hazards
- Witness interview techniques
- The importance of the last seen point in water rescue
- Overview of equipment used in surface-based water rescue
- Case studies of high-profile water rescue events
- Actionable rescue techniques for law enforcement, first arriving fire and EMS units
- Hands on scenario-based training

### **Instructor: Bryan Fleck**

Captain Bryan Fleck is the current Dive Team Commander for the Indianapolis Fire Department. CPT Fleck also leads the rigorous Central Indiana Public Safety Dive School and is a Dive Rescue International Instructor for Public Safety Diver, Dive Rescue 1, Swiftwater I/II, and Ice Rescue. In his (little) free time, he teaches recreational scuba diving for Scuba Schools International.

CPT Fleck is married with two wonderful daughters ages 4 and 7. The Fleck family enjoys baseball games, rock climbing, movies, and traveling.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-response-water-rescue>



# “Prioritizing the Search & Implementing the Culture”

## 2026 Winter Fire School

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to bring data, research and statistics to the classroom to prepare students for the training ground and then to implement into the response. The course will discuss tactics, tools and techniques that prioritize the search during the size-up and operations. The primary objective of the course is to prioritize the search and implement a search culture into the student's organization.

### **Instructor: Eric Jones**

Eric Jones is a 20-year veteran of the fire service, currently serving as a Captain/Lead Instructor for the Scottsburg Fire Department. Eric is a certified Fire Instructor III, Fire Investigator and Fire Officer III (hopefully IV in a few weeks). He is the founder of Fire First Culture & Training and an adjunct instructor for Insight Fire Training LLC. Eric is published with Fire Engineering, an FDIC live fire safety instructor and an Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy Instructor for District 9. He is also a member of the International Society of Fire Instructors Association (ISFSI) and the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-prioritizing-search-implementing-culture>





# **“Real-Life Training for Real-Life Tactics”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Instructors are responsible for distilling the need-to-know information from the nice-to-know and nuts-to-know information that overwhelms our standard training and saps our time and attention. Why is that so challenging? Participants in this session will learn to develop training tactics that utilize training time most efficiently to maximize their company's, battalion's, or department's operational capacity.

Participants of this session will discuss how to distill and transmit knowledge while creating a scaffold with lesson planning. They will explore the importance of training in the context of the job, operations, and leadership. Participants will use this lens of context to integrate adult learning best practices and lessons from the Fire Service Research Institute with response needs, developing actionable training plans to achieve aggressive outcomes in the field.

**\*This course meets the Indiana 655 IAC requirements for fire instructor adult education CE hours!\***

### **Instructor: Erin McGruder**

Erin McGruder has been a firefighter/EMT for more than 20 years. She serves as a Planning Team Manager for FEMA USAR. She is a Planning Team Manager and retired canine handler for a Missouri USAR team. McGruder specializes in curriculum and instructor development as a fire service state training agency staff member for nearly a decade. She holds a master's degree in public affairs and is currently studying educational psychology and adult learning at the doctoral level. McGruder is a National Fallen Firefighter Foundation Fellow and volunteers as a state advocate for the Everyone Goes Home program,. Additionally, she serves as a Director for the International Society for Fire Service Instructors.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-real-life-training-real-life-tactics>



# **“Restoring the Kitchen Table: Building a Culture of Resiliency Within Your Peer Support Team and Department”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This course will offer an in-depth look at establishing a peer support team, understanding some of the basics of mental health and what it takes to be an effective peer support member, and how to promote a culture shift in your department regarding mental health, starting at the firehouse table. Students will be encouraged to participate in discussion, drawing on their experiences, as well as hear lessons learned from the South Bend Fire Dept peer support team.

### **Instructor: Jon Knepp**

Jon Knepp has 20 years of experience in the fire service, including both volunteer and career experience. He is currently the Captain of Engine 6 B shift on South Bend Fire. He is involved with the Swiftwater Team, the Instruction Bureau, and is the coordinator of the Peer Support Team.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-restoring-kitchen-table>



# **“The Birds and Bees of Company Officer Leadership”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This course takes a deep dive into what is truly killing firefighters. Once we have a look at these statistics, and discover what type of leaders we are, and the ones we don't want to be. This course gives the new company officer or future company officer five action steps they can leave with to make their crew a cohesive unit and create an environment where our firefighters feel appreciated and like their officer truly cares.

### **Instructor: Tony Bratcher**

Tony Bratcher has been a firefighter for 22 years. 4 years as a volunteer, and 18 as a career firefighter. He has previously served as a FF, Lieutenant, Captain, and currently serve as a Battalion Chief. He has spent 10 years as a logistics specialist on INTF1. He also spent 8 years as the President of Hancock County Firefighters Local 4787

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
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Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-birds-and-bees-company-officer>



# **“Turn Everything into a Fire”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

From your drive into the station, to truck checks, to the lift assist, you are encountering opportunities to prepare for the next working fire. Adding a "Fire First" vocabulary to your daily conversation will allow you to start seeing "Fire" everywhere you go. We will focus on several specific areas that you can easily turn into fireground activities.

### **Instructor: David Pruitt**

With over 24 years of personal experience in Fire, EMS and Special Operations experience, and a lifetime of seeking out passionate firefighters around the nation to learn from, David brings an exciting conversation to every class he presents.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-turn-everything-into-a-fire>





# **“A Passionate Pursuit – The Seven P’s to Perfection”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Gone are the days making up a "plan" in someone's front yard as their emergency unfolds. The public expects the fire service to be Prepared when they arrive. Using the 7 P's (Prior Proper Planning Prevents Piss-Poor Performance) we will unlock the winning combination, so you and your crews present a top performance when it counts the most.

### **Instructor: David Pruitt**

With over 24 years of personal experience in Fire, EMS and Special Operations experience, and a lifetime of seeking out passionate firefighters around the nation to learn from, David brings an exciting conversation to every class he presents.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-passionate-pursuit-perfection>



# **“Main Street 2026: A Look at Tactics and Strategies on Legacy Buildings ”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Everyday fire departments are challenged with a fast-spreading fire in legacy built, Type III continuous structures, aka. taxpayers on their Main Street. Fires in these can be devastating to a small town and attendees will be able to take back to their respective departments, all class materials and a few simulations they can cover in their own classroom settings.

### **Instructor: Joseph Pronesti**

Joseph Pronesti, 36-year veteran of the fire service currently serving as Chief of the Elyria, Ohio Fire Department, located in Northern Ohio. He is an FDIC instructor and monthly contributor of the "Main Street Memo" on the Fire Engineering Website.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-main-street-2026>



# **“Managing the Mayday: An Incident Commanders Guide to Mayday Command & Control”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

---

**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

When a Mayday is declared, every second—and every decision—counts. This workshop will offer chief officers a deep-dive analysis into a real-world Mayday incident, focusing on the critical role of incident command during high-stakes, high-stress events. Attendees will walk through the timeline of the incident, examining command decisions, communication challenges, resource management, and post-incident accountability. It will highlight lessons learned, best practices for Mayday preparedness, and the importance of training, policy, and command discipline. Whether you’re reviewing your department’s Mayday procedures or preparing your command staff for the unthinkable, this workshop provides strategic insight into leading when it matters most.

### **Instructor: Brian Kazmierzak**

Brian P. Kazmierzak, EFO, CTO is the Deputy Director of Public Safety / Fire Chief for the Benton Harbor (MI) Department of Public Safety, where he has served since 2020. Brian has a bachelor’s degree in fire service administration from Southern Illinois University and serves as the Director of Operations for [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com). Brian received the 2006 F.O.O.L.S. International Dana Hannon Instructor of the Year Award, the 2008 Indiana Fire Chiefs Training Officer of the Year Award Recipient, and the 2011 ISFSI/FDIC George D. Post Fire Instructor of the Year. In addition, Brian completed the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program in 2006. Brian was on the UL FSRI PPV Research Study Panel and the ISFSI/UL FSRI Basement Fire Tactics Study Panel. Brian has been a fire service student since 1991 and has taught and consulted for small departments as well as the metro-sized departments.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-managing-the-mayday>



## “Mission Focused Leadership” 2026 Winter Fire School

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Drawing from over 30 years of experience as both a Company and Chief Officer, this program equips fire service professionals of all ranks with the tools to lead with purpose.

Participants will learn how to define their organization's mission by identifying the unique wants, needs, and expectations of their community. The course emphasizes aligning leadership strategies with mission-driven service delivery, ensuring organizational efforts are mission-focused, effective, and community-centered.

### **Instructor: Joseph Knitter**

Joseph Knitter is a 44+ year fire service veteran, retiring in 2022 as Fire Chief of the South Milwaukee (WI) Fire Department, where he served for 37 years. He holds an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Fire Science, a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Service Management, and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Joseph has taught fire certification courses at Milwaukee Area Technical College and continues to lecture on fire service topics. He also serves as a representative for the Wisconsin Technical College System's Office of Fire Service Training.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-mission-focused-leadership>





# **“Optimizing Sleep for Mental and Physical Health”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 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.

**\*This course meets the Indiana Code 36-5-10.5-7(f) requirement for annual mental health training!\***

### **Instructor: Brandon Dreiman**

Brandon Dreiman is a retired Captain and 23-year veteran of the Indianapolis Fire Department where he served his last 7 years 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 Disaster 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 Recovery Coach, Certified Peer Support Professional, and Yoga Teacher. He now serves as the Behavioral Health Specialist for ProTeam Wellness.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-optimizing-sleep-mental-health>



# **“Read Your Suspect: Advanced Interview Tactics for Fire Investigations”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to enhance the interview and communication skills of fire investigators through proven techniques based on years of interrogation and criminal investigation experience. It teaches fire investigators how to use personal stories, nonverbal observations, and rapport-building techniques to conduct more effective interviews with witnesses, suspects, and other involved parties in fire investigation cases.

The course combines interactive lectures, video exercises, and practical activities to enhance the learning experience. Participants will engage in hands-on kinesics exercises and Q&A sessions for skill reinforcement. The course is suitable for fire investigators of all levels of experience who want to significantly improve their interviewing effectiveness and human connection skills in fire investigation scenarios.

**\*This course meets Indiana IAC requirements for Fire Investigator CE Hours\***

### **Instructor: Zach Mathews**

Zach has over twenty-six years' experience in public safety range from police officer, Conservation Officer, detective, Investigation Section commander (overt & covert operations), Training Section commander, Office of Professional Standards commander, and an instructor of a wide variety of topics. Early in his career, Zach developed a passion for conducting interviews and interrogations. He honed these skills both as a detective and a trainer teaching to both state and federal agencies for over eighteen years.

Zach was originally recruited by the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy in 2019 to teach leadership and body language skills across the state. He is now the Planning Section Chief and has trained well over a thousand Indiana firefighters on both leadership and interview skills. Zach is the 2024 John Buckman Leadership Excellence award recipient along with receiving the Indiana Chief's of Police Leader's Leader award, Detective of the Year, District Officer of the Year, Director's Leadership, and Governor's Outstanding Service Award. He is also a father of two adult children, Sam and Maggie, and has been married to his wife Megan for 25 years.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-read-your-suspect>



# **“The High-Functioning Dysfunctional Fire Department: How to Thrive in Imperfect Systems”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 4 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Every one of us works in a flawed system. Some rise above it; others get buried by it.

This program explores how the most effective firefighters and leaders stay mission-focused, create pockets of excellence, and preserve pride and performance even in the most politically or administratively challenging environments.

### **Instructor: Brandon Roark**

Brandon Roark is the Assistant Chief of Training for the South Bend Fire Department, where he’s spent the last 18 of his 28 years in the fire service. He leads hiring, training, and leadership development for one of Indiana’s busiest ISO 1 fire departments and also serves as a Program Coach with the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy.

Brandon is the co-founder of The Lake Effect Fire Conference and is known for calling it like it is—blending grit, humor, and high expectations to challenge firefighters and officers to lead better, train harder, and never lose pride in the job... even in less than desirable environments.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-high-functioning-dysfunctional>



# **“The Rural Challenge: Managing the Fireground”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

The rural incident commander faces many challenges within the first minutes on an emergency scene. Responding to fire and other emergency incidents in rural areas vastly differ from those in the urban environment. Low manpower, limited resources, and the need for efficient tactics are some of the challenges faced by the incident commander. During this 4-hr workshop, the student will embark on a journey as an incident commander in a rural environment. During the journey the student will see the similarities and differences between rural, suburban, and urban firefighting from the viewpoint of the incident commander. The student will then be able to navigate the challenges that a rural incident commander may face.

### **Instructor: Justin Bailey**

Justin Bailey is a 26-year student of fire service. He is the Fire Chief with the Oliver Springs (TN) Fire Department and a Captain/Training Officer with the Knoxville (TN) Fire Department, where he has been serving since 2007. He started his career in 1999 as a Junior Firefighter/Explorer with the Oliver Springs Fire Department. He is a part time fire instructor with the state of Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy, delivering classroom and hands-on instruction in various topics on-campus, at regional fire conferences, and at various local fire departments throughout Tennessee. He has presented at both local and national fire conferences on the topics of volunteer training program development, professional development, and rural fireground management.

Justin has an Associate’s Degree in Allied Health Science from Roane State Community College and a Bachelor’s Degree from the Columbia Southern University in Fire Administration.

### **Location:**

MADE @ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-rural-challenge>



## Responder Training Course Announcement

### 2026 Winter Fire School Course

The National TIM Responder Training Program was developed by responders for responders, and was designed to promote consistent training of all responders to achieve the three objectives of the TIM National Unified Goal (NUG):

- Responder Safety
- Safe, Quick Clearance
- Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Communications

The target audience for this course is all TIM disciplines, including Communications, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire/Rescue, Law Enforcement, Towing and Recovery, and Transportation/Public Works.

Details for the upcoming TIM Responder Training course are as follows:

**Date:** Sat. Jan. 31, 2026

**Time:** 1:00pm-4:00pm

**Location:** MADE @  
Plainfield

**Address:** 1610 Reeves  
Rd., Plainfield IN, 46168

### TIM Responder Training Course Lesson Summary

1. **Introduction:** TIM training program purpose, the dangers encountered by emergency responders working in or near traffic, and the definition of TIM
2. **TIM Laws, Standards, and Terminology:** safe, quick clearance definition, supporting legislation, and common response terminology
3. **Communication and Command:** roles and responsibilities of public safety communications centers and transportation management centers, scene size-up reporting and Incident Command System as it relates to TIM
4. **Vehicle Positioning:** safe positioning of vehicles and blocking
5. **Scene Safety:** emergency vehicle markings, emergency-vehicle lighting, use of high-visibility safety apparel, and safe practices for working around moving traffic
6. **Traffic Management:** Four main components of a TIM area, Advance warning, how to set up a taper, and describe the purpose of a buffer space
7. **Scene Hazards and Other Considerations:** Safety concerns of vehicle fires, Hazardous materials, Vehicle fluid spills, and Crash investigations
8. **Clearance and Termination:** quick clearance strategies, towing and recovery communications, and incident termination



**Registration:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-traffic-incident-management>  
**For questions, contact us at:** [indianatim@indot.in.gov](mailto:indianatim@indot.in.gov)

This training has been endorsed by the following national associations: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (**AASHTO**), American Public Works Association (**APWA**), Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association (**CVVFA**), Division of State Associations of Chiefs of Police (**SACOP**), Institute of Transportation Engineers (**ITE**), Intelligent Transportation Society (**ITS**) of America, International Association of Chiefs of Police (**IACP**), International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (**IADLEST**), International Association of Fire Chiefs (**IAFC**), International Association of Fire Fighters (**IAFF**), International Municipal Signal Association (**IMSA**), National Association of State EMS Officials (**NAEMSO**), National EMS Management Association (**NEMSMA**), National Sheriffs' Association (**NSA**), National Volunteer Fire Council (**NVFC**), Towing and Recovery Association of America (**TRAA**), and Transportation Research Board (**TRB**).



# **“What Right Looks Like – The Instructional Rules of Engagement”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Are You Teaching What Right Looks Like—Or Just What’s Expected?

This course isn’t just about instructional techniques—it’s about credibility, mission, and mentorship. Whether you’re new to instructing or a seasoned training officer, you’ll leave this session with new clarity, stronger strategy, and renewed confidence to deliver training that reflects what right truly looks like.

**\*This course meets the Indiana 655 IAC requirements for fire instructor adult education CE hours!**

### **Instructor: Forest Reeder**

Forest Reeder began his fire service career in 1978 and retired as Fire Chief of the Tinley Park (IL) Fire Department in 2021. He has served as the Interim Fire Chief for the Sterling, (IL) and Marion (IA) since retirement. 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.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-what-right-looks-like>



# **“Common Sense Technical Rescue”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm**  
**\*This is a hands-on course\***

### **Course Description:**

The focus will be on technical rescue calls that can be mitigated with equipment that is already on the first due apparatus. Working with ingenuity, teamwork, an understanding of physics and safety, and some basic skills training, any fire crew can mitigate more common rescues that may intimidate smaller agencies. This course will equip rescuers with the knowledge and skills to approach these incidents with a divergent thinking mindset and the ability to begin the rescue process while awaiting resources that may be coming from a considerable distance away.

**\*Please bring your own PPE, if you do not have proper attire you will not be able to participate!\***

### **Instructor: Clinton Crafton & David Owens**

Clinton is a retired firefighter with over 30 years of service. Clinton retired in 2024 as the Deputy Chief of Operations with the Town of Whitestown Fire Department, having previously served with the Fishers Fire Department for 22 years. While at Fishers, Clinton served in every position up to Battalion Chief, where he led the dive rescue team and filled the role of Special Operations Coordinator for the department. Clinton has been heavily involved in all types of technical rescue since 1995. In addition to teaching technical rescue, Clinton served the INTF-1 for 14 years as a rescue squad leader and a rescue team manager. He is also a former Public Safety Dive Instructor for Dive Rescue International and a 10+ year FDIC HOT instructor. Clinton is also a contributor to Fire Engineering magazine and is the author of the ARS Technical Rescue Crib Notes.

David retired in June of 2025 with nearly 45 years of experience in the fire service that included Wayne Township Volunteer, US Air Force as a Fire Protection Specialist, Indianapolis Fire Department and Whitestown Fire Department. David went full-time with us at ARS and manages the Fire Protection Division. Dave has been involved in technical rescue teams for most of his career and holds technician level certifications in rope, structural collapse, trench, confined space, swift water, vehicle & machinery, Ice & hazmat. David spent many years on Indiana Task Force 1 and has several deployments under his belt including the WTC and Katrina. David is also a Dive Rescue International instructor in Ice Rescue and a former DRI instructor as a PSSI, DR1T and SWRT. David has several years as a member of the FDIC HOT team-teaching Heavy Vehicle Extrication and Common Sense Technical Rescue.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-common-sense-tech-rescue>



# **“Evidence-Based Considerations for Your Fireground Playbook”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This framework provides a structured approach to identifying and prioritizing critical fireground tasks, including: Incident Command, Search and Rescue Operations, Fire Control, Ventilation, Water Supply, Rapid Intervention Operations, Salvage and Overhaul, Firefighter Decontamination. Each section includes evidence-based best practices that are supported by FSRI research and additional considerations to think about when creating your own fireground playbook. The content in this document is a result of working with the fire service on various research projects, as well as the analyses of numerous line-of-duty death and injury reports. We encourage departments to assess your existing capabilities and use the guidance and considerations from this document to create an operational model that best fits the needs of your organization."

### **Instructor: John Buckman**

John M. Buckman has been involved in the fire service since 1970. He served as the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Director for 15 years. He served 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. He is an avid photographer who has captured photographs of events including President George W. Bush, Vice-President Elect Mike Pence, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, Indiana Governor Eric Holman, and Indiana Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch. He has photographed more than 300 fires in various cities across the country. He always has his camera close by; most often has a scanner going in his ear. John has published 6 leadership books and 7 photography books. He has authored over 150 articles in various publications. He currently serves as Education Coordinator for the International Association of Fire Chief Volunteer and Combination Officers Section.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield, Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-evidence-considerations>



# **“Forcible Entry ...Can it be that easy?”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm**  
**\*This is a hands-on course\***

### **Course Description:**

This course will take tried and true techniques and show how with new methodology allow a modern firefighter to be more successful with faced obstacles.

**\*Please bring your own PPE, if you do not have proper attire you will not be able to participate!\***

### **Instructor Bio: Chris Overpeck, Cody Dyer & Steve Yelich**

Chris Overpeck has been in the American Fire service since 1994; He has been fortunate to work in busy cities during his career allowing him to sharpen his skills and learning from some amazing mentors who have instilled in him early in his career to pass along any knowledge and make the job better. Currently Chris serves the city of Terre Haute as a company officer at Engine 3. Chris stays busy as an instructor with O'Byrne Fire Ground Training out of Kansas City Missouri, Real World Training Solutions in Indiana, as well as a contractor with Indiana DHS.

Cody Dyer has been in the fire service since 2008 starting out as a Volunteer Firefighter He's been with Crawfordsville Fire Department for 15 years and currently serves as the Battalion Chief of B-Shift. He has been an instructor for Indiana District 4 Fire Training since 2014 and is currently the District 4 Training Coordinator.

Steve Yelich has been active in firefighter training for many years. In 2007 he was the lead instructor for the Indiana Fire Training RIT and FF Survival program. He is an active live-fire instructor as well as a member of the O'Byrne Fire ground Training Cadre. He is an active site safety officer at FDIC. He is currently a captain with the Terre Haute Fire Department. He holds many certifications up to and including Fire Officer IV.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-forcible-entry>





# **“Implementing Training at your Department – A Distilled Perspective”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 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: Nicholas Kieta**

Nicholas Kieta has a decade-plus of experience within the fire service. He works for the City of South Bend, Indiana, and is currently assigned to Truck 1. Nick has had a passion as a student and instructor for the entirety of his career. He currently holds a training position as an Academy Coordinator at the South Bend Fire Department and an instructor with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Duty Pride Tradition Training.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-implementing-training>





# **“Responding to Pipeline Emergencies: Train the Trainer”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 8 am – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

The National Association of State Fire Marshals, working in conjunction with DOT PHMSA and Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy will be presenting a full day of training on pipelines and responding to pipeline incidents. This course is based upon the 3rd edition of the Pipeline Emergencies curriculum which has been used as a successful guide by responders across the country, to aid them in responding to these types of incidents. This is a Train-the-Trainer program. Pipeline Emergencies is designed to help fire service and industry emergency responders develop the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and effectively manage a pipeline incident. It is based upon nationally recognized engineering practices, recommended operating practices, and training programs.

### **Instructor: Philip Oakes**

Fire Chief (Ret.) Philip Oakes will be the instructor for this program. A retired fire chief with over 23 years of experience and response to numerous oil field and energy emergencies, Philip has taught this curriculum all over the world for several years. He is the current Chief of Operations of the National Association of State Fire Marshal! He was also the former State Fire Training Director of Wyoming.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-responding-pipeline-train-trainer>



## **“RIT Blitz: Firefighter Rescue”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm**

**\*All students will need FULL PPE, SCBA, RIT bag and ropes bag.\***

#### **Course Description:**

This comprehensive RIT training program equips firefighters with the critical skills and knowledge needed to respond effectively to firefighter emergencies. Participants will gain a clear understanding of RIT roles, responsibilities, and activation procedures within the incident command system. The training covers identification and deployment of essential RIT equipment, including the assembly of fully stocked RIT packs ready for rapid response. Firefighters will develop and apply search techniques to locate downed personnel, manage air supplies, and perform Air Pak conversions to sustain the victim during extrication. Hands-on instruction in victim packaging and multiple removal techniques ensures readiness for real-world challenges. High-stress scenario-based exercises simulate realistic rescue situations, reinforcing clear radio communication, coordinated team movements, and decision-making under pressure. The course concludes with a structured post-incident debrief, allowing teams to reflect on performance, identify areas for improvement, and solidify lessons learned for future deployments.

**\*Please bring your own PPE, if you do not have proper attire you will not be able to participate!\***

#### **Instructor: Kevin Stindle & Marc Deitsch**

A 22-year veteran of the fire service, Kevin has dedicated his career to operational excellence, practical training, and effective leadership. He spent 7 years in the Fire Training Division of Carmel Fire Department, where he specialized in delivering real-world, common-sense training designed to meet the everyday challenges of active fire companies. His focus has always been on translating skills into practical, repeatable actions on the fireground. Currently, he serves as the C-Shift Executive Officer for the Carmel Fire Department. His approach emphasizes team readiness, strategic thinking, and making sure every firefighter is equipped — mentally and physically — for the demands of the job.

Marc Deitsch began his fire service career with the Carmel Fire Department (CFD) in 2005. In 2014, he was promoted to Lieutenant, leading his crews in preparing for all types of emergencies through rigorous, hands-on training. A few years later, Marc helped establish the department's first Safety and Training Officer position, where he instructed seven recruit classes and led monthly training sessions for veteran firefighters. In 2022, Marc assumed command of the C Shift as Battalion Chief, bringing his commitment to firefighter development to the forefront. He continues to coach and empower his team to make confident, informed fireground decisions — cultivating both technical skill and leadership in every firefighter under his command.

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-RIT-blitz-firefighter-rescue>



# **“The Emotionally Intelligent-Ish Firefighter”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Enhance Self-Awareness and Emotional Regulation:

Participants will identify personal emotional triggers and develop techniques to manage emotions effectively in high-stress situations.

Improve Interpersonal Communication and Empathy:

Firefighters will learn to recognize emotional cues in others and apply active listening skills to improve teamwork and crew dynamics.

Strengthening Leadership Through Emotional Intelligence:

Attendees will apply intelligence principles to lead with clarity, build trust, and make sound decisions under pressure.

### **Instructor: Jake Barnes**

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.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-emotionally-intelligent-ish>



# **“Beyond the Preconnect: Building the Attack Package Your District Demands”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

Today's fires burn hotter, faster, and deadlier than ever before—and the traditional “one-size-fits-all” attack line is no longer enough. Built to Fight is a dynamic and forward-thinking course that challenges firefighters and officers to reimagine how they build and deploy their engine company’s attack package.

Grounded in modern fire behavior science and matched with the latest in hose and nozzle technology, this course walks participants through a practical, step-by-step process for designing stretch-ready, flow-capable, and district-appropriate hose line configurations. Whether you’re fighting fire in rural farmhouses, tight urban row homes, or big-box commercial spaces, the goal remains the same: water on the fire—fast, efficiently, and aggressively.

We’ll explore not just the physical tools, but the operational mindset needed to move beyond the standard 200’ preconnect and build an engine that’s smart, adaptable, and built to win in your environment.

### **Instructor: Jordan Hempker**

Captain Jordan Hempker is an 18-year fire service veteran with experience in rural and suburban operations. He currently serves as a shift commander with Harrison Township Fire Department in central Ohio, where he focuses on adapting engine company tactics for limited staffing and diverse incidents. His approach emphasizes tactical clarity, aggressive operations, and leadership that meets today’s fireground challenges.

Jordan began his career as a volunteer firefighter, proudly serving for 10 years while gaining valuable experience across multiple part-time departments. He later served full-time with Shawnee Township Fire Department and American Township Fire Department, both located in Lima, Ohio.

He owns and operates Western Buckeye Training, a fire service training company focused on modern, mission-driven operations. In addition, Jordan is a consultant for Mercedes Textiles, contributing to training and education on fire hose and attack packages across North America.

Jordan is married to his wife, Brittany, and they share their home with three dogs. He also takes great pride in being an uncle.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-beyond-preconnect-district-demands>



# **“Developing Emergency Services Instruction in the 21st Century”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

As fire and emergency services enter the twenty-first century, it is becoming more and more evident that instructors and training officers alike must understand and adapt to a new era of modern, technology-centered instructional practices. As digital learning continues to develop and expand across all aspects of educational services, instructors have to be motivated to take on the challenge of understanding the digital learning opportunities available and how to best apply them to fire and emergency services instruction.

This presentation is focused on the fundamental elements of digitized instruction and how it can be applied in fire and emergency services training programs. This presentation is designed to provide the fire and emergency services instructor with basic knowledge of current digital learning trends along with a guided framework on how to apply “best practice” digital learning within the training structure of our profession. The presentation will conclude with an examination of tips, tricks, and tools for digitized learning that instructors can take with them to diversify and modernize their instructional practices.

**\*This course meets the Indiana 655 IAC requirements for fire instructor adult education CE hours!\***

### **Instructor: Allan Bullock**

Allan is a 16-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  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-developing-emergency-services-instruction>



# **“Leadership Accountability: Leading with Trust, Not Micromanagement”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This course equips company officers with the tools to lead effectively without falling into the trap of micromanagement. Participants will explore the balance between oversight and autonomy, learning how to foster trust, accountability, and high performance within their teams. Through real-world examples and practical strategies, officers will gain confidence and managing personnel while developing future leaders in the fire service.

### **Instructor: Alex Zielinski**

With over 20 years of experience in asset protection and public safety, Alex serves the Eli Lilly Fire Department in Lebanon, Indiana as Deputy Chief and Division Chief of Training. Alex is also a member of the Gaston Volunteer Fire Department.

Alex has spoken at events such Fire-Rescue International and the Indiana Emergency Response Conference on leadership, hazmat, and first responder safety.

Before joining Lilly, he served with the Hammond Fire Department (IN), the Providence Fire Department (KY), and was a Training Captain with the Toyota Fire Department.

Alex is currently a PhD student in the Emergency and Protective Services program at Capitol Technology University and holds an MBA from Western Governors University.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-leadership-accountability-with-trust>





## **“NERIS”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 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.

#### **Instructor: Tom Jenkins**

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.

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-NERIS>



# **“The First Due Engine to an Active Shooter / Hostile Event”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

### **Course Description:**

In today’s world, there is no question that all first responders—paid or volunteer—must be prepared to respond to active shooter and hostile events (ASHE). These incidents can happen anywhere, at any time, and often unfold rapidly, requiring a coordinated, informed response from all emergency services. This presentation provides practical, no-fluff guidance specifically tailored for fire departments that may not have the resources for extended ASHE training.

Attendees will receive essential information that empowers them to make informed decisions when responding to these high-risk, dynamic events. The course focuses on understanding the firefighter’s role within the incident command system, integrating effectively with law enforcement and EMS, and establishing and managing a Level II staging area.

Grounded in lessons learned from real-world after-action reports, FBI studies, NFPA 3000, and Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) training, the lecture will cover critical topics including ASHE terminology, incident statistics, response procedures, apparatus placement, and radio communications. Designed with respect for limited time and resources, this presentation delivers actionable insights to help first responders initiate the conversation within their departments and improve preparedness. The ultimate goal is for attendees to return to their stations equipped to engage in planning, coordination, and future training—because when an ASHE incident occurs, every responder must know their role and be ready to act.

### **Instructor: Christine Tonetta**

Christine Tonetta serves as the B-shift Captain and training officer at the Millville (NJ) Fire Department, as well as an administrator and instructor at the Cumberland County (NJ) Fire Academy. With over 25 years of dedicated service in fire and EMS, Christine has extensive experience in both volunteer and career roles. She holds an AS in fire science and a BS in Organizational Leadership.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-first-due-active-shooter>



## **“The Job of an Officer”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 12 pm**

#### **Course Description:**

This is a class where participation will be highly encouraged to set the stage for a large group discussion to better define the job of a company officer, roles, responsibilities, needs, and advice for how to be the best company officer you can be.

#### **Instructor: Candace Ashby**

Dr. Candace Ashby is a career firefighter with over 35 years of fire service experience and is currently a Battalion Chief with the Indianapolis Fire Department. Her educational background includes a Doctorate of Management in Organizational Leadership. Dr. Ashby travels the country helping public safety organizations solve problems, such as the disconnect between admin and operations, low morale, performance issues, and organizational change. She is also the President of Key Fire Investigations and ELITE Public Safety Consulting. Dr. Ashby enjoys making a positive impact through coaching, mentoring, and leading positive change!

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

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



## **“BOSS Series: Management vs Leadership”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

#### **Course Description:**

This class is a continuation to Leadership From The Bottom Up. We will discuss how we must rely on both management and leadership skills to be a better boss.

#### **Instructor: Candace Ashby**

Dr. Candace Ashby is a career firefighter with over 35 years of fire service experience and is currently a Battalion Chief with the Indianapolis Fire Department. Her educational background includes a Doctorate of Management in Organizational Leadership. Dr. Ashby travels the country helping public safety organizations solve problems, such as the disconnect between admin and operations, low morale, performance issues, and organizational change. She is also the President of Key Fire Investigations and ELITE Public Safety Consulting. Dr. Ashby enjoys making a positive impact through coaching, mentoring, and leading positive change!

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-boss-series-management-leadership>



# **“Fire Inspectors: Preparing for Civil Unrest and Fires in Buildings Under Construction”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This two-part course offers a comprehensive approach to fire prevention through two focused courses. The first addresses the growing issue of fires in buildings under construction by examining major incidents, identifying gaps in existing fire safety systems, and providing a broad range of strategies that stakeholders can implement to reduce risk. The second course, designed specifically for fire inspectors, focuses on preparing communities for civil unrest from a fire prevention perspective. It emphasizes proactive planning, regulatory guidance, and practical recommendations to protect property, reduce injuries, and enhance firefighter safety during disruptive events. Together, these courses equip participants with the knowledge and tools to improve fire prevention and code enforcement efforts in high-risk situations.

### **Instructor: Philip Oakes**

Fire Chief (Ret.) Philip Oakes will be the instructor for this program. A retired fire chief with over 23 years of experience and response to numerous oil field and energy emergencies, Philip has taught this curriculum all over the world for several years. He is the current Chief of Operations of the National Association of State Fire Marshal! He was also the former State Fire Training Director of Wyoming.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-fire-inspectors>



# **“Forged in Fire: Building Firefighter Resilience Through Emotional Intelligence”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This course explores how emotional intelligence (EI) can be used to strengthen the mental resilience, team dynamics, and leadership capacity of today’s firefighters. Through interactive discussions, real-world fire service scenarios, and self-assessment tools, participants will develop core EI skills—such as self-awareness, emotional regulation, empathy, and effective communication. The course is designed to help firefighters manage stress, enhance decision-making under pressure, and create a healthier, more connected firehouse culture. Whether in the rig, on the fireground, or back at the station, emotional intelligence is a critical tool for building strong, adaptable, mission-ready firefighters.

### **Instructor: Kirsten Martin**

Kirsten Martin is a Lieutenant with Goochland County Fire-Rescue and a seasoned fire service professional with over 20 years of experience. She serves as a contract instructor with the National Fire Academy and has presented nationally on leadership, emotional intelligence, and firefighter wellness, including at FDIC International. Kirsten is a graduate of the NFA’s Managing Officer Program and a current student in the Executive Fire Officer Program. She holds a B.A. in Human Resource Management from the University of Richmond and is pursuing her M.A. in Organizational Leadership at Waldorf University. Known for her dynamic leadership style and passion for mentorship, Kirsten is committed to advancing professional development and resilience in the fire service.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-forged-in-fire>





## **“RIT Not Just a Check Box”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

#### **Course Description:**

In the high-stakes environment of fireground operations, success hinges not only on technical skills but also on the physical readiness of responders. RIT Not Just A Check Box is a comprehensive course designed to equip firefighters with the essential knowledge and practices necessary for optimal performance in rescue operations and searches. This Lecture delves into the critical physical and psychological challenges faced during firefighter rescues. This course is designed to give fire service professionals a deep understanding of the physiological strains and tactical demands placed on rescuers when a fellow firefighter is in distress. This lecture will provide participants with a foundational understanding of the demands faced by rescuers during high-risk firefighter down situations. Students will leave with a better appreciation of the importance of physical fitness, mental preparedness, and tactical knowledge for ensuring the safety of both down firefighters and rescuers. This class will go over the data behind the importance understanding how firefighters get injured or die on the fire ground and how it will help us be better to save ourselves or one of our own. It will also go over a LODD the instructor was involved in as part of the RIT to give insight and lessons learned and real world experience.

#### **Instructor: Brandon Cory**

Brandon Cory has been in the fire service for 15 years. Currently a Firefighter for Marquette City Fire Department, a Rescue Specialist/Training Officer for Marquette County Special Rescue Team, and a team member of his local Peer Support Team. He holds an associate's degree. Has wrote articles for different fire service magazines and a chapter in the 30 Fires You Must Know book. Brandon is part of Build Your Culture Cadre and has taught all over the nation.

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-RIT-not-check-box>



## **“Scene Size Up/360”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 1 pm – 5 pm**

#### **Course Description:**

The first arriving unit on any fireground has the most crucial task of establishing a 360 scene size up. Providing a brief assessment of the building construction, fire conditions, occupancy type, and other hazards puts all the responding units on the same page on what they are responding to. In this interactive class we will discuss the approach to the 360 scene size up on how to correlate that information into tactical based decisions.

#### **Instructor: Jordan Hempker**

Captain Jordan Hempker is an 18-year fire service veteran with experience in rural and suburban operations. He currently serves as a shift commander with Harrison Township Fire Department in central Ohio, where he focuses on adapting engine company tactics for limited staffing and diverse incidents. His approach emphasizes tactical clarity, aggressive operations, and leadership that meets today's fireground challenges.

Jordan has previously served full-time with Shawnee Township Fire Department and American Township Fire Department, both located in Lima, Ohio, and worked for several part-time departments early in his career. He owns and operates Western Buckeye Training, a fire service training company focused on modern, mission-driven operations. In addition, Jordan is a consultant for Mercedes Textiles, contributing to training and education on fire hose and attack packages across North America.

Jordan is married to his wife, Brittany, and they share their home with three dogs. He also takes great pride in being an uncle.

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-scene-size-up-360>



# **“Bringing the Research to the Fireground”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

"Discussing using the FSRI research for fireground decision making. Will also discuss actual fires and outcomes. Sets and reps will reinforce the topics. End session with small scale prop burns.

**\*Please bring your own PPE, if you do not have proper attire you will not be able to participate in the demonstration!\***

### **Instructor: Dale Saucier**

Currently a Captain (E53 B Shift) at White River Township FD. 29 years as a career firefighter and 39 years as a member of the fire service. Also serves as an instructor at ESEC and with the State Fire Academy.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-research-to-fireground>



# **“Building Comprehension for the Fire Service: Understanding Single Family and Multi-Family Dwellings”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm**

### **Course Description:**

This course will provide an understanding some of the most common single family and multi family structures found in most parts of the country. This class focuses on learning how to read and interpret buildings from the exterior by learning to recognize key identifying architectural/construction features, visual patterns, party walls, and numerous other cues and clues when sizing up buildings, to help make better tactical decisions such as laddering, search, line lead outs. This course will also include many details about common floor plans and layouts, stairwell types and configurations, features of balloon frame structures that aren't covered in books to help clarify what to look for when checking for the point of origin or extension, and much more. This in-depth study will help dramatically improve situational awareness in and around buildings, improve observational skills and size ups and improve overall firefighter safety.

### **Instructor: Jeff Lattz**

Jeff has been in the Fire Service for over 33 years with a background in construction. He retired from the Champaign, IL Fire Dept., having served many of those years as a Lieutenant on an Engine and Squad. He also worked for the Illinois Fire Service Institute for 25 years and was an active instructor for many years for a number of their training programs. Over 20 years ago he put together a training program he calls, “Building Comprehension for the Fire Service”. These classes primarily focus on thoroughly understanding single family and multi-family dwellings. He created these classes because he felt that mainstream established Fire Service training didn’t seem to cover much beyond traditional textbook “building construction” material, which leaves many firefighters struggling to apply directly to tactical decision making. He is continuously studying, researching and revising material for his presentations to make them the best he is able to. He was blessed with the opportunity to serve many years in Champaign-Urbana, IL which provided an extensive range of all construction types, including thousands of multi-family dwellings to learn from. He’s been blessed with opportunities to share this in many IL Fire Departments, MABAS regions, FDIC 2023, 2024 and two Fire Engineering articles, and last but not least, Indiana Winter Fire School 2025. He has Facebook page called “Building Comprehension for the Fire Service” to share this content. His passion and overall goal is to help firefighters understand buildings on an entirely different and deeper level to help them dramatically improve their situational awareness, tactical decision making, and become safer and smarter on the fireground.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

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



# Homemade Explosives: Awareness, Recognition, and Response AWR-313



## DATE & LOCATION

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 | 0800 - 1700 EST |

**2026 Winter Fire School Offering**

MADE  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield, IN 46168

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Homemade Explosives: Awareness, Recognition, and Response course is designed to provide emergency first responders with the skills to recognize and respond to incidents involving Homemade Explosives (HME) through lectures and exercises. Emergency first responders are presented with information necessary to recognize HME precursors, HME manufacturing indicators, and HME exposure indicators, and determine pre-detonation and post-detonation response strategies.

Throughout this course, emergency first responders discuss how to implement safe response strategies with recognizing the presence of HME indicators; understanding these response actions is critical to mitigating the hazards associated with HME

For full information and to register, search "20260201" on Acadis Portal or  
<https://on.in.gov/HME-Plainfield>

*New Mexico Tech utilizes a QR code the day of the training, supplied by the instructors for registration, pre/posttests, and certificates. Students are required to bring a digital device to class for this course. (ie. tablet, laptop computer)*



## **“The First Due Truck”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 5 pm**  
**\*This is a hands-on course\***

#### **Course Description:**

Every fire department in the United States has different policies and procedures when it comes to their basic truck operations. In this course we will cover those basics, this will include search tactics, forcible entry basics, and ladder throws. This class will show how we can improve our tactics to better civilian outcomes. This will be a hybrid course with both lecture and HOT. This will include a physical search of a plywood structure, forcible entry with a full set of irons, and ladder basics with 14' and 16' straight ladders and, 24' and 28' extension ladders. In forcible entry and ladder throws we will cover both single- and two-man techniques. At the end of this course we hope you feel more confident in your truck tactics.

**\*Please bring your own PPE, if you do not have proper attire you will not be able to participate!\***

#### **Instructor: Nicholas Kieta & Cortney Brooks**

Nicholas Kieta has a decade-plus of experience within the fire service. He works for the City of South Bend, Indiana, and is currently assigned to Truck 1. Nick has had a passion as a student and instructor for the entirety of his career. He currently holds a training position as an Academy Coordinator at the South Bend Fire Department and an instructor with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Duty Pride Tradition Training.

Cortney Brooks has been in the fire service for the past 10 years coming on as a cadet member in high school, to currently being full-time on the South Bend Fire Department for the last 7 years. Cortney has a true passion for truck work and is currently the driver for Truck 1 at South Bend. Cortney believes in everything truck from ladders, to ventilation, to a good primary search. Cortney is currently the lead truck ops training coordinator at South bend, a basic instructor at IFSI, a instructor for Duty Pride Tradition training, a instructor for Task force 1 training, and also works part time at Clay Fire.

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

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



## Train-the-Trainer Course Announcement

### 2026 Winter Fire School

The National TIM Responder Training Program was developed by responders for responders, and was designed to promote consistent training of all responders to achieve the three objectives of the TIM National Unified Goal (NUG):

- Responder Safety
- Safe, Quick Clearance
- Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Communications

The Train-the-Trainer (TtT) course is intended to provide participants (i.e., trainers) with the knowledge and materials necessary for them to conduct TIM training for responders in their area or state. The TtT includes classroom training and hands-on activities.

### Participant expectations:

- Prior instructional and TIM experience
- Commitment to providing training to other TIM responders in your area
- Commitment to submitting your training records via FHWA TIM contact

The target audience for this course is all TIM disciplines, including Communications, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire/Rescue, Law Enforcement, Towing and Recovery, and Transportation/Public Works.

**After completion of this course you will be able to instruct TIMs courses**



**Details for the upcoming TIM TtT course are as follows:**

**Date:** Sunday Feb. 1, 2026

**Time:** 8:00am-4:00pm

**Location:** MADE @ Plainfield

**Address:** 1610 Reeves Rd., Plainfield IN, 46168

**Registration:** <https://on.in.gov/february-1-plainfield-TIM-Train-the-trainer>

**Class Requirement:** 4-Hour TIM

**For questions, contact us at:** [indianatim@indot.in.gov](mailto:indianatim@indot.in.gov)

This training has been endorsed by the following national associations: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), American Public Works Association (APWA), Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association (CVVFA), Division of State Associations of Chiefs of Police (SACOP), Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Intelligent Transportation Society (ITS) of America, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA), National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA), National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA), and Transportation Research Board (TRB).



# Working with the Media: A Course for Rural First Responders AWR-209



## DATE & LOCATION

February 01, 2026 | 0800 - 1700 EST |  
MADE 1610 Reeves Road Plainfield, IN 46168

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of AWR-209 is to provide rural first responders with the skills needed to effectively communicate with the public through the media. This course helps to prepare rural first responders who may be tasked with assuming the role of Public Information Officer, with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to interact with the media before, during and after a crisis. Whether it be roadside at the scene of an incident, or on camera conveying instructions to the public in a crisis, this class will teach responders what to say, how to say it, both effectively and professionally.

This course fosters a Whole Community approach to media relations and encourages participation among law enforcement, emergency management, EMS, fire service, governmental/administrative personnel, local appointed and elected officials, and public health personnel, as well as other community stakeholders who may be tasked with the role of PIO for their organization. The Whole Community approach reinforces the benefits of cross-discipline collaboration in advance planning for event security.

**For full information and to register, search "20260201" on Acadis Portal**

<https://on.in.gov/AWR-209Plainfield>

*This is a dual registration course. Students will need to register with RDPC.*

<https://on.in.gov/AWR-209PlainfieldRDPC>



# **“Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

### **Course Description:**

This 2-day course demonstrates to students nationally recognized principles that, when used appropriately, can lead to community risk-reduction programs that can measure success in local communities. This course will give students the opportunity to explore programs from communities across the United States that have been showcased at Vision 20/20 symposiums. These programs demonstrate what nationally recognized organizations identify as examples of “best practices” in community risk reduction.

### **Instructor Bio:**

NFA Adjunct Instructor TBD

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-best-practices-community-risk-reduction>





# **“Decision Making for Initial Company Operations”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

### **Course Description:**

This two-day course is designed to develop the decision-making skills needed by Company Officers (COs) 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: Patrick Harper**

Battalion Chief Patrick Harper has served in the fire service for 29 years, beginning as a volunteer and progressing through combination and career fire departments.

Chief Harper has studied leadership, mental management the incident command systems across the globe. This has shaped his experience and approach to firefighting and emergency response management.

Chief Harper is a member of Indianapolis Firefighter's Local 416 and works with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Academy and the Federation of European Fire Officers (FEU) Officer Development Program. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management, along with associate degrees in Fire Science and Organizational Leadership.

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-decision-making-initial-company-ops>







# **“Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

### **Course Description:**

The primary target audience is fire and emergency service personnel in positions of authority.

#### **Full Description**

The purpose of this two-day course is to provide knowledge and skills for having difficult conversations to exercise leadership in addressing adaptive challenges. The goal of this course is for the participant to identify and apply skills for having difficult conversations as they relate to exercising leadership when addressing adaptive challenges.

The primary target audience is fire and emergency service personnel in positions of authority (executive level officers) who have an opportunity to exercise leadership.

### **Instructor:**

NFA Adjunct Instructor TBD

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-exercising-leadership-diffucult-conversations>





## **“Fire Chiefs: Challenging Issues”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

#### **Course Description:**

This two-day course is designed to develop the managerial, administrative and leadership skills necessary for the first time fire chief and chief officer who desire a leadership position in their department. This course addresses critical knowledge and skills pertaining to the responsibilities of a fire chief, including such topics as local politics and the role of the chief officer, liability and risk management, and resources and items of knowledge needed to become a first time leader in a new position in his or her agency.

#### **Instructor:**

NFA Adjunct Instructor TBD

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-fire-chiefs-challenging-issues>







## **“Fire Investigations: Fire as a Weapon ”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

#### **Course Description:**

This course was developed to aid first responders in understanding and recognizing how fire can be used as a weapon against people and/or property. This course should also help first responders and investigators understand why a person would choose to use fire as a weapon, as well as creating awareness of the types of information fire investigators may need from fire and emergency services personnel.

**\*This course meets Indiana IAC requirements for Fire Investigator CE Hours\***

#### **Instructor:**

NFA Adjunct Instructor TBD

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**SOLD OUT**

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-fire-investigations-fire-as-weapon>



**National  
Fire  
Academy**



# **“Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

### **Course Description:**

This 2-day course is designed to provide fire officers with an understanding of command operations at structural collapse incidents.

Students completing this course will be able to:

Describe the aspects of a structural collapse.

Explain basic command procedures and Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structure.

Identify various resource levels, types and capabilities used for structural collapse incidents.

Identify critical factors and issues that affect scene management.

Describe all unique operational considerations used at a structural collapse incident.

Describe all response operations phases associated with a structural collapse incident.

Describe the technical rescue expertise and equipment required for safe operations and effective incident management.

Students attending should understand and be able to apply the ICS concept.

### **Instructor:**

NFA Adjunct Instructor TBD

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-incident-command-structural-collapse>





## **“Incident Safety Officer”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

#### **Course Description:**

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.

#### **Instructor: Chris Crail**

Chris Crail is currently the Fire Chief of the Portage Fire Department in Portage, Indiana. Chris has served the citizens of Portage for 23 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.

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-incident-safety-officer>





# **“Supervising Emergency Medical Services”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

### **Course Description:**

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.

Course topics and activities include:

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

**SOLD OUT**

### **Instructor:**

NFA Adjunct Instructor TBD

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-supervising-emergency-medical-services>



**National  
Fire  
Academy**



# **“Training Operations in Small Departments”**

## **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2026, 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

### **Course Description:**

This two-day course is designed to provide students with some basic tools and skills to coordinate training in a small fire/EMS organization. A training function in a smaller department typically may include conducting training drills and coordinating training with a nearby larger city or state training function. 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 the legal issues affecting the training function, including an understanding of a standard of care and the impact of Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Protection Association 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.

### **Instructor: Mike Parks & Jim Miller**

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).

### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-training-operations-small-departments>





## **“Youth Firesetter Intervention”**

### **2026 Winter Fire School**

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**Dates: January 31st – February 1st, 2025 8 am – 4 pm**  
**\*This is a 2-day course! Both days will need to be attended!\***

#### **Course Description:**

This two-day course is based on requirements of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1035, Standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist and Youth Firesetter Program Manager Professional Qualifications. This course provides students with a broad understanding of the knowledge, skills and abilities that the Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist should have as requirements of NFPA Standard 1035 pertaining to youth firesetting. This course is for the practitioner who provides services at the program delivery level. It replaces Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention - Le

**\*This course meets Indiana IAC requirements for Fire Investigator CE Hours\***

#### **Instructor:**

NFA Adjunct Instructor TBD

#### **Location:**

MADE@ Plainfield  
1610 Reeves Road  
Plainfield Indiana 46168

**Registration Link:** <https://on.in.gov/january-31-plainfield-youth-firesetter-intervention>







## LODGING INFORMATION

Staybridge Suited/Holiday Inn Express  
6295 Cambridge Way, Plainfield, IN 46168  
\$110 Per Night  
Cutoff date: January 23rd, 2026  
Link: <https://on.in.gov/staybridge-suites-winter-fire-school>  
Mention "ATT" when making reservation.

Hampton Inn  
2244 Perry Rd, Plainfield, IN 46168  
\$124 Per Night  
Cutoff date: January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026  
(317)839-9993  
Mention "Fire & Safety Academy" when making reservations.







SpringHill Suited by Marriott  
6014 Gateway Dr, Plainfield, IN 46168  
\$109 Per Night  
Cutoff Date: January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
Link: <https://on.in.gov/springhill-winter-fire-school>

Crown Plaza Indianapolis Airport  
2501 S High School Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46241  
\$114 Per Night  
Cutoff Date: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Link: <https://on.in.gov/crown-plaza-winter-fire-school>

Courtyard by Marriott  
450 Marketplace Mile, Plainfield, IN 46168  
\$139  
Cutoff Date: January 23rd, 2026  
(317)839-0400  
Mention "Fire & Safety Academy" when making reservations.



## DISCLAIMER INFORMATION

-  All lodging is 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 Winter Fire School.
-  By registering on Acadis for any Winter Fire Schools course you are consenting that your image may be used, without limitations on print publications, online publications, websites and on social media.
-  It is each student's responsibility to use good judgement 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.
-  It is the student's responsibility to bring appropriate PPE if taking a hands-on course. If the student does not have PPE they will not be permitted to participate in the course. (This includes safety glasses)
-  The MADE @ Plainfield is an Alcohol and Tobacco free campus.