









WELCOME

On behalf of the instructors and staff at the Connecticut Fire Academy, it is a pleasure to invite you to the 2026 Winter Fire School. This annual event highlights some of the finest fire service instructors in Connecticut and celebrates the Academy's commitment to delivering top-tier training to our fire service community.

This year, we are proud to partner with the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association (CFDIA) for a series of programs being delivered on Thursday. In addition, join us Thursday evening for our keynote program, featuring a national fire service leader, Sean Gray Captain from Cobb County, Georgia (GA) who will present his nationally recognized leadership program, Walking the Wire.

This special four-day event offers a wide range of courses for every rank and level—from new firefighters to chief officers—continuing our tradition of providing high-quality, meaningful training. Our dedicated staff and instructors bring extensive experience and expertise to ensure each session meets the evolving needs of Connecticut's fire service.

Join us for this exceptional training experience as we celebrate excellence in fire service education and our shared dedication to advancing the profession. We look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 Winter Fire School.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Norwood

P.J. Norwood
Director of Training









CFA Online Acadis Portal Account Creation

If you have not previously set up an account your first step will be to create an account which provides portal access which is necessary to register for classes, print certificates or download your transcript.

If you already have an account skip to the next page

Create an Account:

Note: The Acadis portal is best used in CHROME. Using Microsoft Edge requires the browser to be fully updated. If using a web-filtering product you must add ACADIS to your products safe list

- 1. Go to https://cfa.acadisonline.com/AcadisViewer/Login.aspx
- 2. Turn off the pop-up blocker
- 3. Click on **WebForms** on the right-hand side of the page
- 4. Click on Request a CFA User Portal Account
- 5. Fill out the form, then click **Submit** in the lower right corner of the page
- 6. You will receive an email indicating that your submission has been received
- 7. Please allow two business days while our staff reviews and processes your request

*Note: You cannot register for a class until your User Portal Account has been approved!

- 8. Watch for another email with the link you will need to access your new Acadis Portal account
- 9. Once you receive your account you will be able to register for classes

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you experience any issues, please email: cfa-support@ct.gov

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CFA Online Acadis Course Registration

Register for Courses:

- 1. Sign into your ACADIS Portal account
- 2. Under "Training and Events" click on "Available Training"
- 3. You will now be on the Registration page and see ALL available training
- 4. Click on the "Filters" tab on the right top of the page
- 5. In the next window that opens, click on the pull down for the field labeled "**Program Category**"
- 6. In the window that opens, scroll through the list, and choose **Training**
- 7. Then use, the program "General" to see the courses in the program
- 8. Click **Apply** for the results
- 9. Locate the class you would like to register for and click on the "Register" tab
- 10. Fill out all the Prerequisites and choose **This requirement has been met or exceeded** and click **Save**.
- 11. Click on the blue "Submit Request" to finish your registration

IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you experience any issues, please email: cfa-support@ct.gov





KEYNOTE PROGRAM Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

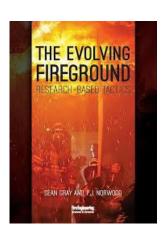
Walking the Wire- Developing Company Officers

Instructor: Sean Gray

Description: Walking the Wire between the Firehouse Kitchen Table and Fire Headquarters for a Company Officer can be a delicate balancing act for anyone in the fire service. Becoming a Company Officer is an integral piece in many firefighter's career paths. This course will discuss lessons learned from the Fireground to leadership and administrative tasks. A perspective of both successes and failures will be shared. This interactive video-based course will provide the student with insight on how to build a winning team and WIN on both the fireground and within your organization.

Instructor Bio: Captain Sean Gray, Cobb County, Georgia (GA) Fire Department has 31 years of public service. Sean has been a member of multiple technical panels involving fire safety research and is an appointed member of the UL FSRI Advisory Board. He has coauthored the book The Evolving Fireground (Fire Engineering) and speaks nationally on research-based tactics. Additionally, Sean is an NFPA committee member for Fundamentals of Fire Control Within a Structure Utilizing Fire Dynamics (NFPA 1700), Fire Hose (NFPA 1961-1965), Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health (NFPA 1500), and Fire Service Training (NFPA 1400). Sean also teaches Hands on Live Fire Search & Fire Attack along with a classroom lecture titled Attack from the Burned Side at FDIC, where he talks about how the modern fireground is evolving more than ever before, and with the use of research to enhance our procedures, how we can utilize different tasks and tactics to extinguish fires from all angles and how to apply evidence-based tactics to achieve a safer, smarter, and more efficient fireground.













Thursday Course Schedule

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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CFA and CFDIA Social Event	
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CT Fire Academy Winter Fire School Notes

Student Information and Reminders:

- **Parking:** Park only in the designated spaces at the rear of the Academy or in the gravel lot adjacent to the fireground.
- **Protective Equipment:** Do not bring personal protective equipment (PPE) into the Academy building.
- Class Locations: Daily class locations will be posted on the status boards in the Academy lobby.
- Refreshments: Coffee and Danish will be available each morning.
- Lunch: Lunch is not provided unless otherwise noted in your class details.
- Class Withdrawals: If you need to withdraw from a class, log into the Acadis Portal, navigate to your class, and cancel your registration.
- Refund Policy: Cancellations must be completed at least seven (7) days prior to the start of the program to receive a full refund.





Documenting Training, Certifications & Staffing for NFPA & ISO Compliance

Instructor: Jon Chalk, CEO, Firehouse247

Description: Documentation isn't just a paperwork exercise—it directly impacts ISO ratings, liability exposure, and your department's credibility. This course focuses on how modern recordkeeping practices and digital tools enhance efficiency, defensibility, and performance across all levels of the organization.

Topics Covered: Why Documentation Matters: Understanding how accurate, verifiable documentation affects NFPA and ISO standards, liability, and audit success.

How Modern RMS Software Is Solving the Problem: Learn how today's cloud-based Records Management Systems simplify compliance through centralized data, automated reminders, dashboards, and integrated reporting aligned with NFPA 1001, 1021, 1500, 1521, and ISO PPC standards.

Best Practices for Implementation: Standardize workflows, move from spreadsheets to secure systems, conduct internal audits, and train personnel for accurate, consistent data entry.

Instructor Bio: Jon Chalk is Founder and CEO of Firehouse247. Jon is a 20-year veteran of the fire service, currently serving as Lieutenant/Paramedic for the Franklin, MA Fire Department. Jon holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Loughborough University (UK) and a master's degree in public administration from Anna Maria College.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.







Left Brain/Right Brain: Key Points for Trainers

Instructor: Chip Darius

Description: Information out here and has to somehow get in there and turn into skills and memories how the process works. Make sure your trainees use both sides of the brain.

Instructor Bio: 45 years public safety experience, from EMT to Fire Commissioner. Master's Degree in Human Communication. Owner and principal consultant, Safety Priority Consultants, LLC.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.







Learn How to Learn

Instructor: Dr. William Perez

Description: This presentation explores how the human brain learns, stores, and retrieves information and how you can use that knowledge to become a more effective learner. Students will discover the science behind memory formation, including how attention, emotion, and repetition influence long-term retention. Through activities and proven techniques, participants will practice strategies such as visualization, chunking, spaced repetition, and association to improve memory and recall.

By the end of the presentation, students will understand how memory works and develop a personalized approach to studying, problem-solving, and lifelong learning. Whether you are preparing for exams, professional certifications, or simply want to sharpen your mind, this class will help you unlock the full potential of your memory.

Topics include:

- How the brain encodes, stores, and retrieves information
- Common barriers to learning and how to overcome them
- Effective memory techniques (mnemonics, visualization, and storytelling)
- Strategies to improve focus, recall speed, and long-term retention
- Building a customized learning and review system

Instructor Bio: Dr. William Perez is a respected fire service executive, educator, and scholar with nearly four decades in emergency medical services, fire operations, and higher education. Beginning as a Bridgeport paramedic in 1987, he joined the East Hartford Fire Department in 1993, retiring as Assistant Chief after 25 years. He later served as Fire Chief at the University of Connecticut, retiring in 2025, and was inducted into the Connecticut Firefighters Association Hall of Fame in 2023. A lifelong educator, Dr. Perez has taught at Connecticut State Community College—Capital for over 30 years and the National Fire Academy, shaping future fire service leaders.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.





NERIS: Using Data to Lead Your FD

Instructor: Tom Jenkins

Description: With the rollout of the National Emergency Response Information System, learn about what current and future insights the data and analytics can provide your department and how that might be harnessed to power your organization to success

Instructor Bio: Tom Jenkins is a Research Manager with UL's Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) and Senior Advisor to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). He served 26 years as a career firefighter, including 15 years as Fire Chief in Rogers, Arkansas. He holds degrees from Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. A former IAFC President, he has served on multiple NFPA committees and national advisory councils. Chief Jenkins continues to contribute to advancing fire service research, leadership, and public safety through his work with FSRI and NERIS.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.







Don't Lose Your Cool:

Managing Problem Students Without Losing Control

Instructor: Rommie Duckworth

Description: Every instructor has met them—the Know-it-All on the drill ground, the Rambler in the classroom, the Worrier before every burn, or the one who quietly stirs the crew. One disruptive firefighter or recruit doesn't have to derail your entire training program. This engaging, reality-based session explores where these behaviors come from and how instructors sometimes (without realizing it) add fuel to the fire. Through a mix of lecture, interaction, and humor drawn from real fire service experience, Chief Rom Duckworth walks through how to separate difficult students from difficult behaviors, handle disruptions as they happen, and build a learning environment that prevents problems before they ignite. You'll leave with practical, field-tested tools to maintain control, reinforce professionalism, and keep your training company focused on learning and performance.

Instructor Bio: Chief Rommie Duckworth is a career fire officer, educator, and author with over thirty years of service focused on advancing the fire service through professional development. He serves as Chief of the Ridgefield (CT) Fire Department and as an adjunct instructor for both the Connecticut Fire Academy and the National Fire Academy. A National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer graduate with a master's in public administration, he has contributed to several Jones & Bartlett Learning publications and serves on the Fire Engineering and FDIC advisory boards, promoting experience-based instruction for today's fire service leaders.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





Group Dynamics: Groups and Subgroups in Training

Instructor: Chip Darius

Description: Every group of 3 or more will subdivide. Takeaways to help recognize and manage the shifting priorities and alliances before, during, and after training.

Instructor Bio: 45 years public safety experience, from EMT to Fire Commissioner. Master's Degree in Human Communication. Owner and principal consultant, Safety Priority Consultants, LLC.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026 Class Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.







The Art of Teaching

Instructor: Brian Petrucelli

Description: This program focuses on actionable teaching techniques, catering specifically to the unique, high-stakes nature of fire and EMS training.

Instructor Bio: Brian M. Petrucelli, FO-III, FSI-III, EMS-I, has 33 years of public service experience. Brian is a current Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, CT EMS Instructor, EMT, nationally registered EMT, 911 Dispatcher, and State of CT Telecommunicator Instructor. Brian is actively engaged in teaching ventures that include the Middlesex County Fire School, 911 dispatcher training, initial EMR/EMT classes, continuing EMS education courses, PEPP instructor, CPR & First-aid instructor. Brian currently works as an Assistant Fire Chief for the Meriden, CT Fire Department, and a dispatcher for the Cromwell Fire District. Brian is currently enrolled in a degree program at Columbia Southern University.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15. 2026

Class Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





Building Better Fire Dynamics Instructors: Strategies for Effective Training

Instructor: Megan Maloney

Description: This interactive session is designed to empower fire service educators with the tools and techniques needed to effectively teach fire dynamics using the latest research and educational tools from FSRI. Come ready to share, learn, and grow as an instructor.

Instructor Bio: Meghan Maloney is the Manager of the Education and Training Team at UL Research Institutes" Fire Safety Research Institute. In this role, she leads a team of dedicated professionals in designing and developing fire service training grounded in the latest fire research. She holds a master's degree in education with a concentration in curriculum and instruction from the University of Maryland. Before joining FSRI, she spent 7 years as a middle school science teacher, where she taught and developed curriculum for a variety of science and engineering classes.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.







Debriefing for Real-World Learning: It's Not Just for Simulations Anymore

Instructor: Rommie Duckworth

Description: We've all heard that "experience is the best teacher," yet we've all worked with someone who's had plenty of experience but learned very little from it. The truth is, learning doesn't come from experience alone—it comes from structured reflection. This session gives fire and EMS instructors, officers, and training leaders the tools to turn every call, drill, and incident review into a powerful learning opportunity. Participants will learn practical debriefing methods and adaptable formats—such as the modified Plus-Delta model—that work whether you're running a quick kitchen-table talk after a company drill or leading a formal after-action review. These tools are essential for building stronger crews, improving operational performance, and reinforcing a culture of continuous learning across the organization.

Instructor Bio: Chief Rommie Duckworth is a career fire officer, educator, and author with more than thirty years of service dedicated to advancing the fire service through practical, professional development. He serves as Chief of the Ridgefield (CT) Fire Department and has long been an adjunct instructor for both the Connecticut Fire Academy and the National Fire Academy. A graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program and holder of a master's degree in public administration, Chief Duckworth contributed to Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator Handbook and contributed to Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills (Jones & Bartlett Learning). As a member of the Fire Engineering and FDIC advisory boards, he continues to champion meaningful, experience-based instruction that empowers today's fire service educators and leaders.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.





Evaluating Your Probie –

Adapting the Connecticut Fire Academy's Recruit Firefighter Skill Proficiency Criteria to the Firehouse

Instructor: Brian Hurst

Description: This course provides company officers and training personnel with a practical framework for evaluating probationary firefighters based on the proven methods of the Connecticut Fire Academy's Recruit Firefighter Program. Participants will explore how CFA's skill proficiency criteria, grounded in Bloom's Taxonomy, can be adapted to measure real-world performance in both career and volunteer fire departments. The session emphasizes fairness, consistency, and documentation, integrating affective (behavioral), cognitive (knowledge), and psychomotor (skills) domains into daily mentorship and evaluation. Participants will learn to:

Apply a structured, 0–5 proficiency rating system in real-world firehouse training. Identify key evaluation criteria: skill proficiency, work capacity, teamwork, communication, and initiative.

Document performance accurately for accountability and growth.

Deliver constructive feedback and remediation to support development.

Build a department culture of continuous learning and professional excellence.

Instructor Bio: Brian H. Hurst has 34 years of fire service experience as a member of the Watertown (CT) Fire Department. He served 25 years with the Manchester (CT) Fire Department before retiring in 2022 as a Battalion Chief/Shift Commander. He also has over 25 years of experience as a Fire Instructor, starting at the Wolcott Regional Fire School in 1999 and Connecticut Fire Academy, since 2001 where he is currently the Program Manager of the Recruit Firefighter Program and Firefighter related training.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.







60 Educator Tips in 60 Minutes:

Fast, Focused, and Fireground-Tested

Instructor: Rommie Duckworth

Description: When you have only got an hour to teach but a lifetime of lessons to share, every minute counts, in this rapid-fire, no-fluff session, fire and EMS instructors will walk away with sixty proven, immediately usable tips to improve how they plan, deliver, and evaluate training. Drawing on decades of experience in fire and EMS education, leadership, and operations, Chief Rom Duckworth distills what works on the drill ground, in the classroom, and during the real calls that shape our profession. From building high-impact lessons and tackling test anxiety to sharpening hands-on skills instruction and keeping every student engaged, this session gives you practical tools to strengthen your next class, recruit academy, or company drill. Audience participation guides the focus, ensuring the tips hit home with what instructors face every day.

Instructor Bio: Chief Rommie Duckworth is a career fire officer, educator, and author with over thirty years of service focused on advancing the fire service through professional development. He serves as Chief of the Ridgefield (CT) Fire Department and as an adjunct instructor for both the Connecticut Fire Academy and the National Fire Academy. A National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer graduate with a master's in public administration, he has contributed to several Jones & Bartlett Learning publications and serves on the Fire Engineering and FDIC advisory boards, promoting experience-based instruction for today's fire service leaders.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.





<u>DISC Personality Profiling for Fire and EMS Instructors: How to Understand, Appreciate,</u>
and Adapt to Different Behavioral Styles

Instructor: Zach Matthews

Description: DISC is a widely used and validated tool that measures four key behavioral styles: Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, and Conscientiousness. By taking a DISC assessment, individuals can discover their own personality profile and learn how it affects their leadership, communication, and personal growth. In this course, you will learn how to use DISC personality profiling as a skill to enhance your role and performance as a fire and EMS instructor.

Instructor Bio: Zach Mathews is an experienced speaker, international trainer, and executive coach with over twenty-eight years in public safety. He serves as Planning Section Chief for the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy, coordinating statewide executive leadership training including the Indiana Fire Chief's Academy. As a John Maxwell-certified coach and DISC behavioral analyst and experienced interrogator, Zach has led over 100 fire executive leadership courses training thousands of fire service leaders. He leverages his experience training organizations like Google, Armanino Consulting, Indiana Supreme Court, and Century 21 Real Estate to deliver high-energy leadership programs worldwide.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 25, 2026

Class Hours: 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.







Walking the Wire- Developing Company Officers

KEYNOTE PROGRAM

Instructor: Sean Gray

Description: Walking the Wire between the Firehouse Kitchen Table and Fire Headquarters for a Company Officer can be a delicate balancing act for anyone in the fire service. Becoming a Company Officer is an integral piece in many firefighter's career paths. This course will discuss lessons learned from the Fireground to leadership and administrative tasks. A perspective of both successes and failures will be shared. This interactive video-based course will provide the student with insight on how to build a winning team and WIN on both the fireground and within your organization.

Instructor Bio: Sean Gray Department: Cobb County Fire Department Title/rank: Captain Years of public service: 31 Sean has been a member of multiple technical panels involving fire safety research and is an appointed member of the UL FSRI Advisory Board. He has coauthored the book The Evolving Fireground (Fire Engineering) and speaks nationally on research-based tactics. Additionally, Sean is an NFPA committee member for Fundamentals of Fire Control Within a Structure Utilizing Fire Dynamics (NFPA 1700), Fire Hose (NFPA 1961-1965), Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health (NFPA 1500), and Fire Service Training (NFPA 1400). Sean also teaches Hands on Live Fire Search & Fire Attack along with a classroom lecture titled Attack from the Burned Side at FDIC, where he talks about how the modern fireground is evolving more than ever before, and with the use of research to enhance our procedures, how we can utilize different tasks and tactics to extinguish fires from all angles and how to apply evidence-based tactics to achieve a safer, smarter, and more efficient fireground.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Thursday January 15, 2026

Class Hours: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.







Attack from the BURNED Side

Instructor: Sean Gray

Description: Attack from the BURNED Side- There are many different tactics for attacking structure fires. For years the fire service has been preaching to Attack from the Unburned Side. This isn't always the best tactic. The New Age fire ground is evolving more than ever before and with the use of science to enhance our procedures this class will show different tasks and tactics that can be used to extinguish fires that originate on the Exterior and extend into the Attic. Using case studies paired with practical experience this class will examine this particular fallacy along with others that have led to firefighters being injured and killed across the country from these types of fires. This class is against the grain of traditional firefighting, and has an innovative approach at fighting the fires that we face today.

Instructor Bio: Sean Gray Department: Cobb County Fire Department Title/rank: Captain Years of public service: 32 Sean has been a member of multiple technical panels involving fire safety research and is an appointed member of the UL FSRI Advisory Board. He has coauthored the book The Evolving Fireground (Fire Engineering) and speaks nationally on research-based tactics. Additionally, Sean is an NFPA committee member for Fundamentals of Fire Control Within a Structure Utilizing Fire Dynamics (NFPA 1700), Fire Hose (NFPA 1961-1965), Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health (NFPA 1500), and Fire Service Training (NFPA 1400). Sean also teaches Hands on Live Fire Search & Fire Attack along with a classroom lecture titled Attack from the Burned Side at FDIC, where he talks about how the modern fireground is evolving more than ever before, and with the use of research to enhance our procedures, how we can utilize different tasks and tactics to extinguish fires from all angles and how to apply evidence-based tactics to achieve a safer, smarter, and more efficient fireground.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.







Paving the Way, Leading and Teaching with Passion

Instructor: Mark Waters

Description: This presentation focuses on preparing fire officers and instructors with leading and teaching in today's fire service. The program includes basic leadership skills, expectations, and strategies to overcome today's challenges while doing it with passion.

Instructor Bio: Deputy Chief Mark Waters has dedicated more than 35 years to the fire service, serving in volunteer, combination, and career departments. Rising through the ranks of the City of New London Fire Department over the last 29 years, he now serves as Deputy Fire Chief, bringing decades of operational leadership, administration, and public safety expertise. In addition to his municipal leadership, Chief Waters has contributed to the Connecticut Fire Academy for over 26 years, where he currently oversees curriculum development and administration for the Fire Officer programs, as well as the Incident Safety Officer, Health and Safety Officer, and Strategy & Tactics courses. His instructional leadership has helped shape the professional development of countless fire officers across Connecticut.

Class Date: Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.





Workforce Development in today's 2026 Connecticut Fire and EMS Service

Instructor: Joe Danao

Description: The fire and EMS services in Connecticut and across the nation continue to face a workforce development crisis. The crisis is evident in the title of a recent story authored by Gabriele Holtermann, something must give. FDNY ambulance response times rise for the fourth year, union blames staffing. The crisis extends to fire departments as described in an article by Christian Hauser, WKRC, titled federal aid to help Tri-State fire department as crisis looms.

This class will build on the success of its original offering at the 2024 and 2025 Winter School by providing an update to all levels of EMS and Fire personnel on current trends in workforce development efforts across national, state, and local levels. This class will look at successful workforce development models in fire/EMS based and other organizations. The class will also provide interactive participation in facilitated discussion among attendees, who will be encouraged to share lessons learned and applied in their departments.

Instructor Bio: Retired Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, Member of Conn. Artificial Intelligence Working Group, Agency Open Data, and Workforce Development Committees, CFA instructor, NVFC Safer Workgroup Recruitment and Retention Committee Member, NVFC Presentation Reviewer, 42 years active FF/EMS service, Chair of DEMHS Region #4 ESF#8 (Public Health), President Eastern CT EMS Council, Inc, Former Deputy Chief - Fire/EMS/Rescue, 33-year military office retired 2015, Combat deployment to Afghanistan 2010 awarded a Bronze Star Medal. Numerous homeland security, firefighter, emergency medical, and hazardous materials certifications. Four college degrees, including two master's degrees in fire science and taxation.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.





Hands-on Mechanical Advantage for the Fire Service

Instructor: Daniel Matthews

Description: Hands-on practical rigging basics of 3:1, 4:1, and 5:1 mechanical advantage system. As well as, rigging for basic compounded Fire Service 2-System compounded mechanical advantage systems

This workshop will reinforce and provide the opportunity for Hands-on Training in the common and current methods to build and operate common Fire Service Rope Operation systems to include incorporating progress capture within them.

Instructor Bio: Instructor Matthews comes to us with an adv. Bachelor's in both Fire Management and Emergency Management, over 28 years of experience in the fire service, and over 17 years of military experience with the United States Marine Corps. Since becoming a firefighter and now a career Fire Lieutenant he has not only strived and continued his own education and training to build upon his knowledge, skills, and abilities, but has also continued to use his ability to help others by teaching and instructing others throughout the CT Fire Service not only in basic firefighting techniques, but also in many of the Technical Rescue Disciplines and Fields.

Class Date: Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Course Fee: \$25.00

Personal Protective Equipment - Gloves, Helmet, and Eye Protection.





Media and Content Creation for the Fire Service

Instructor: Matt Troy

Description: If a picture is worth a thousand words, then motion pictures can offer endless opportunities to reach new audiences with important messaging. The fire service can benefit uniquely from incorporating media into a variety of applications that benefit the overall mission, and it can be done so affordably using everyday tools found around the firehouse. This presentation on media in the fire service touches on both the ability to bolster community risk reduction efforts, while also inspiring new approaches to training and messaging within your own firehouse.

Instructor Bio: Matthew Troy is a filmmaker-firefighter whose credits range from indie films to Animal Planet's "The Puppy Bowl." Matthew now teaches as an Assistant Arts Professor at NYU's Film School (his alma mater). He has served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT since 2004 starting with the Hebron FD (his hometown) and now the Bethel Fire Department. His 2018 recruitment campaign PSA "See You Out There" for the Connecticut fire service won a regional Emmy award. Matthew enjoys teaching new generations of filmmakers, both at NYU, and across the fire service with a commitment to media-influenced community risk reduction.

Class Date: Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





Command Under Fire:

Leading Through the 13 Most Lethal Fireground Situations

Instructor: James York

Description: This course examines the 13 most dynamic and deadly challenges incident commanders face on the fireground. Drawing on decades of operational command experience, including basement fires, hoarding conditions, and vacant structures, the instructor connects each challenge to firefighter line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) and key lessons learned. Participants will explore how human performance the moral, mental, and physical qualities of leaders shapes decision-making during these high-risk incidents. The session introduces Recognition-Primed Decision Making (RPDM), a proven model for making rapid, effective choices in high-stakes, time-compressed environments. By the end of this course, participants will be able to identify early warning signs of the most dangerous fireground scenarios, apply RPDM principles to improve decision-making, and evaluate how leadership traits and human performance influence command outcomes. Anyone riding the front seat or preparing to assume command will leave with practical insights to improve decision-making and leadership.

Instructor Bio: James York is a 27-year fire service veteran currently serving as a Deputy Fire Chief with the Hartford Fire Department assigned as a Tour Commander. He is also the fire marshal in his home town and serves as an adjunct instructor at the CT Fire Academy. James is enrolled in the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program and holds a M.S. in Fire Science from the Univ. of New Haven and a M.P.A. from Uconn. He continues to participate in FSRI's Fire Dynamics Instructor Development Program.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.





From LeaderShip to Leader of ShipS

Instructor: Joe Danao

Description: This LeaderShip to Leader of ShipS class will focus on life lessons used to lead at all organizational levels, with a view to those successful traits that help attendees reach their full leadership potential. Everyone has the potential to lead organizations. For those leaders already in leadership positions, this class will light up new perspectives and up-to-date leadership pathways. The ability to learn how to lead organizations is a long road of progressive, deliberate choices. These choices require dedication, motivation, a positive mentality, seeing failure and weakness not as obstacles but opportunities to grow, learning from self and others, and holding true to the highest values and beliefs. Many FF and EMS personnel can become leaders of ships. With adopted life lessons, FF and EMS personnel can acquire or improve on their skills to be successful leaders of ships.

Instructor Bio: Retired Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, Member of Conn. Artificial Intelligence Working Group, Agency Open Data, and Workforce Development Committees, CFA instructor, NVFC Safer Workgroup Recruitment and Retention Committee Member, NVFC Presentation Reviewer, 42 years active FF/EMS service, Chair of DEMHS Region #4 ESF#8 (Public Health), President Eastern CT EMS Council, Inc, Former Deputy Chief - Fire/EMS/Rescue, 33-year military office retired 2015, Combat deployment to Afghanistan 2010 awarded a Bronze Star Medal. Numerous homeland security, firefighter, emergency medical, and hazardous materials certifications. Four college degrees, including two master's degrees in fire science and taxation.

Class Date: Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.





Investigating the Arson Fire

Instructor: Kyle Faucher

Description: This course provides the fire investigator with the accepted methods and procedures to conduct a proper fire investigation in accordance with NFPA 921, with a focus on intentionally set fires. The program will address concerns and challenges when investigating incendiary fires, including those involving injuries and fatalities. This course emphasizes the utilization of resources at the investigator's disposal, in addition to highlighting the importance of a team-based, systematic approach to the fire investigation. The course stresses the need for a working relationship between the fire investigator, law enforcement, and prosecutor for a successful outcome. Investigating the Arson Fire includes several case studies with lessons learned and tips for the fire investigator to use in the field.

Instructor Bio: Kyle Faucher joined the Connecticut State Police in 2020 and currently serves in the Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit. Since 2022, he has also been an Accelerant Detection K9 Handler. Before becoming a trooper, Kyle worked as a Fire Investigative Specialist with Travelers Insurance. He holds bachelor's degrees in Fire/Arson Investigation and Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven. Kyle is a Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI), Fire Investigation Technician (IAAI-FIT), and Certified Fire & Explosion Investigator (NAFI-CFEI). He serves on the IAAI Connecticut Chapter Board and as Vice President of the Litchfield County Fire Marshals Association.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Friday January 16, 2025

Class Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.







Level Up Your Firefighting Knowledge

Instructor: Megan Maloney

Description: Get ready to level up your firefighting knowledge with the Fire Safety Academy (FSA) FSRI's free training content library and learning management system. Join this session to learn about how the FSA is designed to meet the needs of firefighters including features like group learning, the resource library, evidence-based content including topics such as firefighting tactics, health, lithium-ion batteries and more, and how to implement the knowledge you gain.

Instructor Bio: Meghan Maloney is the Manager of the Education and Training Team at UL Research Institutes" Fire Safety Research Institute. In this role, she leads a team of dedicated professionals in designing and developing fire service training grounded in the latest fire research. She holds a master's degree in education with a concentration in curriculum and instruction from the University of Maryland. Before joining FSRI, she spent 7 years as a middle school science teacher, where she taught and developed curriculum for a variety of science and engineering classes.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.







You Can Read Smoke

But

Can You Read Your People?

Instructor: Zach Mathews

Description: Effective fire service leadership demands more than technical skill. It requires the ability to read people as proficiently as you read smoke. This session arms frontline firefighters, chief and company officers with advanced communication and situational awareness techniques, distilled from over twenty years of investigative and interrogation experience in high-stakes environments.

Attendees will master the art of interpreting nonverbal, paraverbal, and verbal cues gaining the ability to read the needs, emotions, and intentions of both their teams and the public. You will learn to build rapid rapport, defuse conflict, and recognize early indicators of aggression or concealed threats, empowering you to lead with empathy and authority even under extreme pressure.

Whether on the fireground or in daily interactions, these field-tested skills specifically tailored for the fire service will elevate your command presence, foster team cohesion, and enhance operational effectiveness. Join the ranks of leaders from top organizations such as Google, Century 21 Real Estate, Sentry Electrical Group Inc., Indianapolis Airport Authority, Indiana Supreme Court, Armanino Advisory LLC and Danau Girang Field Centre (Borneo) who have leveraged the proven techniques in this course.

Instructor Bio: Zach Mathews is an experienced speaker, international trainer, and executive coach with over twenty-eight years in public safety. He serves as Planning Section Chief for the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy, coordinating statewide executive leadership training including the Indiana Fire Chief's Academy. As a John Maxwell-certified coach and DISC behavioral analyst and experienced interrogator, Zach has led over 100 fire executive leadership courses training thousands of fire service leaders. He leverages his experience training organizations like Google, Armanino Consulting, Indiana Supreme Court, and Century 21 Real Estate to deliver high-energy leadership programs worldwide.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Friday January 16, 2026 **Class Hours:** 10:30 a.m.to 12:30 p.m.







Assessment of EV Firefighting Techniques and the Impact on Stranded Energy

Instructor: Robert Duval

Description: The Fire Protection Research Foundation at NFPA has recently released a report on firefighting tactics on Electric Vehicles and the impact that the stranded energy in the batteries played in the outcome of the suppression operations. This program will review the findings of this research and outline ways to improve the knowledge base of EV firefighting guidance by establishing effective firefighting tactics, techniques for mitigating thermal runaway and the risk of battery reignition, and mitigation strategies for the stranded energy risk during and after an incident.

Instructor Bio: Robert has been the Fire Investigator for the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), based in Quincy, Massachusetts, since 1997. Robert is responsible for conducting investigations of technically significant incidents in order to gather, Lessons Learned from each incident to apply those lessons to improving NFPA codes and standards. Robert was named the New England Regional Manager for NFPA in 2003. Robert has served as the Chief of the Atwood Hose Fire Company in his hometown of Wauregan, CT, where he has been a member since 1981, since 2012. He has worked as an emergency services dispatcher since 1986. He has also served on the instructional staff of the Eastern CT Fire Training School for more than 20 years.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Saturday January 17, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.







Elevator Emergency Management - The Importance of the 11-Step IRPs

Instructor: Mike Dragonetti

Description: Elevator emergencies present unique risks to both occupants and first responders. This class introduces firefighters and emergency personnel to the 11-Step Initial Response Procedures (IRPs), a systematic approach to safely managing elevator incidents giving time for specialized mechanics to arrive. Participants will learn how to assess the situation, establish communication with trapped passengers, and apply proven tactics to stabilize conditions while minimizing additional hazards. Emphasis is placed on critical decision-making, coordination, and safe operational practices, including control room access, elevator location, Phase I recall, and emergency power shut-down protocols.

Through interactive discussion and scenario-based training, attendees will gain confidence in applying the IRPs, ensuring effective incident management and enhanced occupant safety during elevator rescues.

Instructor Bio: Michael A. Dragonetti served 28 years with the Stamford (CT) Fire Department, 20 of those with Rescue Co. 1. A nationally recognized instructor, he taught elevator operations at the FDNY Technical Rescue School (2002 & 2005), is a H.O.T. instructor at FDIC International, and a contributing author for Fire Engineering Magazine. He has also appeared in three seasons of Training Minutes. With a background in elevator and escalator construction, modernization, and repair, he developed an Elevator Emergency Management in 1999. He is the founder and president of Dragon Rescue Management, specializing in technical rescue training for elevator emergencies.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Saturday January 17, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.





Engaging the Troops: The Tabletop Exercise

Instructor: Bill Seward

Description: This class will focus on designing, presenting and evaluating an inexpensive, low-risk way to engage your personnel in a variety of discussion-based tabletop exercises (TTX). The focus audience will be company officers, chief officers, training officers, emergency management directors, EMS supervisors and risk managers. Participants will be provided with concepts and ideas to assist in the development of community-based scenarios for an all-hazards response. Emphasis will be placed on communication, collaboration, visibility, interactive roles, focus on realism and good time management.

Instructor Bio: William Seward, III is a 47-year member of the Connecticut fire service. He retired from the City of New Haven Department of Fire Service (30-years), serving as the Director of Training, then as the Fire Chief for the Town of North Branford Fire Department. Bill graduated from the University of New Haven with an A.S. in Fire & Occupational Safety and a B.S. in Fire Science Administration. He has coordinated Tabletop and Full-Scale Exercises for the State Emergency Response Commission as well as numerous communities and universities. He is a CT licensed paramedic and has been an Adjunct Instructor for the Connecticut Fire Academy since 1987.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Saturday January 17, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.





Understanding the Tenable space a foundation for focused Aggression

Instructor: Pete Morotto

Description: A Foundation for Focused Aggression A company officer's understanding of tenable space is often shaped by firsthand experience is gained through leading with an aggressive approach on the fireground and learning how conditions impact both firefighter safety and operational effectiveness.

This aggressive approach is the culture that many in the fire service are taught as well as learned across the country. In the fire service, we are typically driven individuals with pride and a desire to excel. However, aggressive tactics, especially when coupled with inexperience, can lead to dangerous situations. The goal of this class is to bridge this gap and cultivate "focused aggression" in firefighters. This refers to firefighters who have a solid understanding of fire behavior and building construction, allowing them to make informed, aggressive tactical decisions that prioritize both effectiveness and safety on the fireground.

Instructor Bio: To be the best, train with the best. Peter Morotto currently serves as the Training Captain for the city of Bridgeport CT fire department and leads the Recruit Program as Drill Master. He has been in the fire service for 30 years. He has had the privilege of serving on some of the busiest fire companies in the city. Peter has a passion for teaching and mentoring today's fire service; he serves as a program coordinator for the Connecticut fire academy for 20 years and is an adjunct instructor for Fairfield, Wolcott, and Litchfield County Regional fire schools, he is also a co-founder of a successful private fire training/EMS/ Strategic and consulting businesses (MissionCIT). Peter has taught numerous classes on the national circuit at varies trade show conferences both classroom and H.O.T. classes. Peter prides himself on giving back the knowledge and experience that was passed on to him from some of the best firefighters the Northeast has to offer.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Saturday January 18, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.





Stupid Meter

Instructor: Eric Munsell

Description: Have you ever used a 4-gas meter and had it do something unexpected, then say to yourself, "stupid meter"? This class will be a brief review of the common 4 gas meter and will cover some common issues with them. The class will show you how to squeeze a little more information from your stupid meter. It will also cover some simple other tools to bolster your operations level meter response. Through the use of lecture, case studies and hands-on you will become a smart user of the stupid meter!

Instructor Bio: Eric R. Munsell serves as Assistant Chief in the East Hartford Fire Department. He retired from the West Hartford Fire Department with 25 years of service. He is a founding member of the Capitol Region Hazardous Materials Response Team. He has been an adjunct instructor with the Connecticut Fire Academy for 8 years and currently assists as the hazmat program coordinator. He also instructs privately on various hazmat topics.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Saturday January 18, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





Promotional Prep

Instructor: Bill Stacy

Description: The Fire Promotion Preparation Class at the Connecticut Fire Academy is designed to help firefighters prepare for upcoming promotional examinations and assessment processes. The course covers key components of promotional testing, including written exams, oral interviews, tactical scenarios, and leadership evaluations.

Participants learn effective study strategies, test-taking techniques, and methods for developing confident, professional responses during structured oral interviews. The class also reviews relevant NFPA standards, fire officer duties, and administrative functions to ensure candidates are ready for all phases of the promotional process.

By the end of the course, students will have acquired the tools and confidence necessary to perform successfully in promotional exams and advance their careers in the fire service. Students will also have rotate through the Fire officer Simulator and participate in simulations that range from residential, commercial and limited access highways. All to help sharpen their skills in preparation for the next promotional process.

Instructor Bio: William Stacy is a dedicated fire service professional with experience in teaching, leadership, and prepping candidates for promotion. He currently serves with distinction at the CT Fire Academy, where he has developed strong training expertise. William is committed to firefighter safety, professional development, and fostering teamwork within the ranks. He has served in the fire service since 1984 and has advanced through the ranks to become an assistant chief.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Saturday January 17, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





Basic Arizona Vortex Concepts & Uses and Using Aerial ladders as High Directionals

Instructor: Jim Kenney, Chris Parietti & Brian Little

Description: This 8-hour program provides an in-depth exploration of aerial ladders and the Arizona Vortex as high-direction anchors in rope rescue operations. Combining theory, physics, and practical application, this class addresses how these tools can be effectively and safely integrated into challenging rescue scenarios.

Participants will examine the mechanics and rigging principles behind using aerial ladders as elevated anchors, supported by detailed images, diagrams, and real-world examples. Instructors—drawing on extensive experience in rope and confined space rescue as well as years of operating various ladder trucks—will guide discussions on the physics, advantages, and limitations of these systems.

The session also focuses on maximizing the use of the Arizona Vortex. It begins with a review of the user manual to establish foundational knowledge, followed by demonstrations of the three most common configurations and their practical applications. Instructors will highlight differences between the two major versions of the Vortex and discuss best-use practices for each.

Through a blend of interactive discussion, visual instruction, and hands-on demonstration, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively employ both aerial apparatus and the Arizona Vortex in rope rescue operations. This course is ideal for fire service personnel looking to strengthen their technical rescue capabilities and expand their operational options in the field.

Instructor Bio: All three instructors lead CT Fire Academy rescue Rope related programs with well over a hundred years of combined experience

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Saturday January 18, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 to 4:00 p.m. Course Fee: Classroom \$50.00

Optional - Personal Protective Equipment
Gloves, Helmet, and Eye Protection.





Truck Company Essentials

Instructors:

- Rex Morris Sr. Stamford Fire
- Rex Morris Jr. Fire Department of New York
- Ed Burwell Fire Department of New York
- Alex Hilliard Fire Department of New York
- Chris Fraser East Hartford FD
- Ryan Dunn New Britain FD
- Jim York Hartford FD
- Eric Winfrey Hartford FD
- Henry Mailhot East Hartford FD
- Hunter Barnes East Hartford FD
- Eric Demeraski East Haven FD

Description: The Winter Fire School Truck Company's Essentials Class advances students' skills with practical training in three essential truck company operations. Utilizing an acquired structure, students will gain hands-on experience in forcing real doors, cutting real roofs, and opening real walls and ceilings. Through collaboration with the Ellington Fire Marshal's Office and O&G; Construction, a school slated for demolition will serve as a class site, providing students with valuable practical experience. The skills practiced in this class are tailored for experienced firefighters, with minimal instruction focused on honing and advancing existing skills.

Instructor Bio: The Connecticut Fire Academy's Forcible Entry Cadre is made up of a highly experienced group of instructors, each bringing extensive fireground knowledge and instructional expertise. This cadre represents departments from across the state and beyond, as listed above. These instructors have spent countless hours both on the fireground and in training environments, ensuring firefighters receive the highest quality forcible entry instruction.

Location: offsite in Ellington CT. Students will receive location in registration confirmation

email

Class Date: Saturday January 17, 2025

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Course Fee: Classroom \$100.00 (includes lunch)

Prerequisite: CT State Certified Firefighter I

Personal Protective Equipment Required:

Structural firefighting gear or dual-purpose gear, both of which must be NFPA compliant.

SCBA with one spare bottle, structural gloves, helmet, and eye protection.





BESS Explosion Protection per NFPA 855 (2026):

NFPA 69 Dilution Design Optimization with CFD Modeling and

NFPA 68 Partial Volume Venting

Instructor: Burke Desautels

Description: With the rapid deployment of battery energy storage systems (BESS), particularly lithium-ion battery technologies, concerns about fire and explosion hazards have taken center stage in both the energy and safety communities. Under failure conditions, lithium-ion cells can undergo thermal runaway and release a mixture of hydrogen, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide. These gases, if not managed, can accumulate inside containers or enclosures and form explosive atmospheres. The 2026 edition of NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems, redefines requirements how explosion hazards must be addressed. These requirements reference both NFPA 69 (Explosion Prevention Systems) and NFPA 68 (Deflagration Venting) to establish clear compliance pathways

Instructor Bio: Burke Desautels is a recognized expert in explosion protection and is technical committee member of NFPA 660, NFPA 68 and NFPA 69 and actively contributes to the advancement of explosion safety standards. Burke has been designing explosion protection systems for over 30 years and brings deep applied knowledge of NFPA 68 and NFPA 69, focusing on how these standards are integrated into the new NFPA 855 (2026) requirements for BESS installations. As a leader at IEP (Industrial Explosion Protection), Burke has worked globally on explosion mitigation projects and the advancement of explosion protection safety.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Saturday January 17, 2026

Class Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.







Legal Issues for the First Responder

Instructor: Daniel Dauplaise

Description: A brief introduction to legal issues commonly faced by the company level and chief officers, along with current developments in Connecticut and Federal Law which impact emergency response.

Instructor Bio: Dan is a 20-year veteran of the volunteer fire service and practicing attorney in Connecticut. He speaks on issues related to law, policy and emergency services.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Saturday January 17, 2026 Class Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.





Realities of the Fireground

Instructor: Pete Morotto

Description: An interactive round table discussion based on time, experience and understanding the realities of the modern fireground. This discussion will bridge the gap between fireground training and how we create a realistic training environment to be successful on the fireground. We will discuss modern fireground trends and relate it to your experiences and practical application. Bring your questions and opinions!!

Instructor Bio: To be the best, train with the best! Peter Morotto currently serves as the Training Captain for the city of Bridgeport CT fire department and leads the Recruit Program as Drill Master. He has been in the fire service for 30 years. He has had the privilege of serving on some of the busiest fire companies in the city. Peter has a passion for teaching and mentoring today's fire service; he serves as a program coordinator for the Connecticut fire academy for 20 years and is an adjunct instructor for Fairfield, Wolcott, and Litchfield County Regional fire schools, he is also a co-founder of a successful private fire training/EMS/ Strategic and consulting businesses (MissionCIT). Peter has taught numerous classes on the national circuit at varies trade show conferences both classroom and H.O.T. classes. Peter prides himself on giving back the knowledge and experience that was passed on to him from some of the best firefighters the Northeast has to offer.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Saturday January 17, 2026

Class Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.





Resource Management: How the Statewide Fire Service Disaster Plan & State Response

Framework can support your incident response

Instructor: Nick Cabral and Nicole Velarde

Description: In this 90-minute class, students will gain an understanding of resource coordination under the Connecticut Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan and the Connecticut State Response Framework. Students will learn how Fire Plan Coordinators can assist their agency during large scale operations and in everyday emergencies in concert with the newly updated Disaster Response Plan & how collaboration with the State Emergency Operations Center can benefit incidents from local large incidents to large area disasters. Topics of discussion will include how to activate a Fire Plan Coordinator, why a Fire Plan Coordinator is useful, best practices for using a Fire Plan Coordinator at an incident and integrating a DEMHS Region Coordinator into the incident. This class is most beneficial to current or aspiring Fire Plan Coordinators, Department Chief Executive Officers, and Incident Commanders.

Instructor Bio's: Nicole Velardi: Nicole joined the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) in 2021 and serves as the Region 2 Emergency Management Area Coordinator, supporting 30 southcentral Connecticut municipalities in all-hazards planning, response, and recovery. She previously worked with General Dynamics – Electric Boat, the Connecticut State Police, and local emergency management. Nicole holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Arkansas State University, is an Associate Emergency Manager (IAEM), and has over a decade of volunteer fire and EMS experience

Nick Cabral: Nick is a 30-year Connecticut fire service veteran and a Lieutenant with Danbury Fire Department's TAC 1. He has served 19 years as a career firefighter and instructs at the Connecticut Fire Academy. Nick supports the State Emergency Operations Center as the ESF-4 representative and serves on the Connecticut Statewide Fire Service Disaster Response Plan Committee. He holds multiple fire and emergency management certifications, an associate degree in Business Administration, and a bachelor's in Law and Public Policy

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Saturday January 17, 2026

Class Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.









Linked - Autism Safety Project:

Building Collaboration, Communcation, Community

Instructor: Ashley McClain

Description: LINKED- Autism Safety Project is committed to building strong partnerships between the first responder and special needs communities, ensuring that everyone has access to the support and resources they need to stay safe in emergency situations. This workshop discusses why building relationships between first responders and the disability community is crucial for fostering trust and understanding. We will actively engage in discussions and shared experiences that can help bridge the gap.

We will discuss why education and resources should be used to create opportunities for interaction with first responders is essential. LINKED programming provides a mutual understanding and collaboration. Our initiatives not only improve response strategies but also empower the special needs community, ensuring they feel supported and include. Upon completion of this session, participants will have a clear and concise understanding of how to identify, connect and collaborate with individuals diagnosed with Autism as well as other disabilities.

Upon completion of this session, participants will learn proactive strategies as front line workers to confidently assess, engage and support individuals of differing abilities as well as their families in high stress and emergency situations.

Upon completion of this session, participants will know of resources that can provide communication, behavior management, assist with sensory processing sensitivities and relieve stress and aid in emotional regulation.

Instructor Bio: Ashley McClain is a passionate advocate dedicated to supporting individuals and families through education, advocacy, and community development. With a background in psychology, she committed to this work after her sons autism diagnosis. In 2023, she founded LINKED Autism Safety Project to train first responders in neurodiversity awareness and later launched Beyond the Horizon, Inc., a nonprofit offering sensory-friendly programming. Ashley also serves on the Connecticut Council for Developmental Disabilities and is a certified instructor through POST and OEMS. She lives in North Branford, CT, with her husband and two children, who inspire her mission.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Sunday January 18, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.







Officering 101

Instructor: Mark Waters

Description: This class focuses on problem solving for Fire Officer's and provides the skills needed to overcome today's challenges in the fire service. The course also provides Chief Officers with real world problems and the tools to successfully overcome them.

Instructor Bio: Deputy Chief Mark Waters has dedicated more than 35 years to the fire service, serving in volunteer, combination, and career departments. Rising through the ranks of the City of New London Fire Department over the last 29 years, he now serves as Deputy Fire Chief, bringing decades of operational leadership, administration, and public safety expertise. In addition to his municipal leadership, Chief Waters has contributed to the Connecticut Fire Academy for over 26 years, where he currently oversees curriculum development and administration for the Fire Officer programs, as well as the Incident Safety Officer, Health and Safety Officer, and Strategy & Tactics courses. His instructional leadership has helped shape the professional development of countless fire officers across Connecticut.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Sunday January 18, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.





Size up for the Nozzle Firefighter

Instructor: Eric Fischl

Description: In today's modern fire service with short staffing and fires reaching flashover quicker, the nozzle firefighter must realize engine work is more than just "open, close, and go home". This presentation will address from estimation of the stretch, line size, placement, and breaking down the push. Nothing saves more lives on the fireground than a properly placed, adequate flowing, and advancing handline to achieve forward progress. Expect a highly interactive presentation with plenty of time for questions and answers!

Instructor Bio: Eric has been active in the fire service since 2010 serving with both career, combination and volunteer fire departments. Eric currently serves as a full time firefighter with the Thompsonville Fire Dept. Eric also serves as an, adjunct fire instructor with the Connecticut Fire Academy, Mission CIT, Task Force 1, and the Lead fire instructor for the Town of Windsor and Berlin Public Schools high school firefighter programs along with serving on the Springfield Technical Community College technical advisory board for fire science and as the secretary for the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Association.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Sunday January 18, 2026 Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.





Suspicious Activity Awareness and Reporting for Fire and EMS

Instructor: Nick Bozym

Description: This class will familiarize fire and emergency medical service providers with the Connecticut Fusion Center and the Homeland Security Enterprise within the State of Connecticut. Participants will learn to identify commonly associated suspicious activities and how to effectively provide real time information from their position in the field. Often times, fire and emergency medical providers are witness to suspicious activity during the course of their duties that may otherwise be overlooked. This course will arm participants to effectively identify and report potentially suspicious and dangerous behaviors.

Instructor Bio: Nicholas Bozym serves as the Fire Intelligence Liaison Officer for the Connecticut Intelligence Center- Connecticut's Fusion Center. As a liaison to Connecticut's Fire Service, this position functions to provide accurate and timely updates regarding criminal and terrorist activities on the State, National, and Global level. As a member of Connecticut's Fire Service, Nicholas strives to fill the informational voids and bridge the gap between law enforcement and the fire service. Nicholas holds a Master's Degree in Emergency Management and attended the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Emergence Program at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Sunday January 18, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.







You CAN Make This Stuff Up:

Engaging the Imagination for Agency Preparedness

Instructor: Matt Troy

Description: Have you ever come back from a call that included a "you just can't make this stuff up" moment? While it's vital to reinforce bread-and-butter skills while considering strategy and tactics, often we need to think outside the box. It's easy to forget that sometimes imagination and unique viewpoints can solve the most unexpected challenges. In this lecture, come learn some creative techniques and alternative training ideas that draw from board games, Hollywood films/television, and other imaginative sources to challenge your firefighters to solve the most unexpected of challenges.

Instructor Bio: Matthew Troy is a filmmaker-firefighter whose credits range from indie films to Animal Planet's "The Puppy Bowl." Matthew now teaches as an Assistant Arts Professor at NYU's Film School (his alma mater). He has served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT since 2004 starting with the Hebron FD (his hometown) and now the Bethel Fire Department. His 2018 recruitment campaign PSA "See You Out There" for the Connecticut fire service won a regional Emmy award. Matthew enjoys teaching new generations of filmmakers, both at NYU, and across the fire service with a commitment to media-influenced community risk reduction.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Sunday January 18, 2026 Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.





Firefighter Cancer - What are we doing about it?

Instructor: John Field and Jeff Bond

Description: This class will focus on two steps assisting firefighters in the fight to reduce and/or eliminate the firefighter cancer epidemic. The program will identify building a culture of limiting exposure to the many carcinogens we face in firefighting today. Wearing dirty gear was always a memorial of the wars we battled. We need to change that culture and identify methods to limit our exposures. Chief/Instructor Field, a cancer survivor and 45-year veteran of the fire service, has performed research to identify some easy methods for reducing exposures without breaking the budget. A demonstration of decontamination methods will be included in the program. Another topic to be included in this program is understanding the importance of screening and how early screening saves lives. The progress of cancer screening is enhanced every day, with a plethora of screening options available. From ultrasound to blood work to full body scan and list goes on. As firefighters we require the collaboration with medical professionals knowledgeable with cancer, the causes and the reasons why firefighters are at such a high risk. Then provide the firefighters with the best options for cancer screening. Retired Physician Assistant and current firefighter Jeff Bond has working with his former colleagues to create a white paper that identifies the most effective cancer screenings available to the firefighters today. Jeff will share his findings in an effort to answer some of the questions firefighter may have when it comes to cancer screening.

Instructor Bio:

Jeff Bond - Retired Physician Assistant and current Burlington VFD Firefighter. Extensive background in studying firefighter cancer screening Has work locally, statewide and nationally with recognized medical organizations to identify the right screening for fire fighters;

John Field Fire Chief Town of Winchester 45 years in the fire service and cancer survivor Instructor for past 36 years at CFA Litchfield County Regional Fire School and CT DEMHS.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Sunday January 18, 2026

Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





Performing Better Decon

Instructor: Eric Munsell

Description: The traditional decontamination process of setting up 3 pools, requiring a water supply, and needing lots of members to run the line is less than ideal. Through the use of better tools, a better understanding of the science of hazmat and a more realistic approach to the process of decontamination, it can be a less daunting task. Come learn about the decontamination process that the regional hazmat teams have adopted and that all departments should be looking into.

Instructor Bio: Eric R. Munsell serves as Assistant Chief in the East Hartford Fire Department. He retired from the West Hartford Fire Department with 25 years of service. He is a founding member of the Capitol Region Hazardous Materials Response Team. He has been an adjunct instructor with the Connecticut Fire Academy for 8 years and currently assists as the hazmat program coordinator. He also instructs privately on various hazmat topics.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Sunday January 18, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





Tactical Thermal Imaging in Live Fire Conditions

Instructor: Adam Hansen

Ed Burwell

Description: Unlock the Full Potential of Your TIC!

The Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) is one of the most misunderstood and underutilized tools in our arsenal. Many believe it's as simple as turning it on, pointing it at something, and instantly finding the victim or fire. But that mindset couldn't be further from the truth!

Join us for a 4-hour hands-on class combining TIC instruction with Live Fire. This dynamic course is designed to deepen your understanding of TIC capabilities and limitations in real-world conditions.

Instructor Bio: Adam J. Hansen is a Battalion Chief with the Milford Fire Dept. He began his career as a volunteer in his hometown of Branford in 1999 and was hired with Milford in 2006. Hansen is a graduate of the University of New Haven; Master of Public Administration (MPA) & Bachelor of Science in Fire Science. He is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and works as an adjunct professor at the University of New Haven (Fire Science Department), an adjunct instructor with the CFA and as an instructor with Flash Fire Industries.

Ed Burwell - has been in the FDNY for over 27 years, working in busy Ladder companies, he is currently a Lieutenant in the South Bronx. Ed got his start in the career Fire service in Connecticut, with the Milford Fire Dept. and has been with the CT Fire Academy for 30+ years

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Sunday January 18, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Course Fee: Classroom \$50.00

Prerequisite: CT State Certified Firefighter I

Personal Protective Equipment Required:
Full structural firefighting gear, which is NFPA compliant, including SCBA with a spare cylinder, gloves, helmet, hood, and a water bottle.





Understanding and Preparing for a

"Public Protection Classification" Survey

Instructor: Kerry Flaherty

Description: This program provides a detailed look at the documentation process and data collection necessary to prepare for an ISO (Insurance Services Office) survey. Participants will gain a thorough understanding of the Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating schedule, including how fire department operations, training records, water supply systems, emergency communications, and community risk reduction efforts all factor into the overall score.

Instructor Bio: Field Rep for ISO/Verisk covering CT, MA, and RI. Retired Fire Chief from Naugatuck CT and currently Fire Chief in East Granby, CT Fire Department.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy

Class Date: Sunday January 18, 2026 Class Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.





What's Important Now:

Maximizing the First 15 Minutes of an Active Shooter Incident Response

Instructor: Taught by ALERRT credentialed active shooter response instructors from a diverse fire service background.

Description: Using principles from NFPA 3000, ALERRT, and national best practices from lessons learned around the country to set up fire service leaders of all levels to maximize their organization's response to an active shooter or hostile event.

Instructor Bio: This course is delivered by credentialed ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) instructors with extensive fire service experience. Each instructor brings a diverse background in emergency operations, incident command, and public safety response, blending tactical awareness with the fire service perspective. Collectively, they have responded to and trained for complex, high-stress incidents across multiple disciplines, emphasizing coordination, communication, and life-saving decision-making in the critical first 15 minutes of an active shooter event.

Class Date: Sunday January 18, 2026 **Class Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Course Fee: \$20.00





Patriot MEDEVAC Stateside Capabilities

Instructor:

- SSG Cody Ferreira, Critical Care Flight Paramedic
- SSG Charles Weinstiger, Critical Care Flight Paramedic
- 1 Pilot (TBD)
- 1 Crew Chief (TBD)

Description: Our presentation will include a detailed MEDEVAC capabilities briefing supported by a PowerPoint slide deck, followed by an equipment demonstration. We will display and discuss the various hoist and extrication platforms we employ, including the SKED, rescue seat, and jungle penetrator. Additionally, we will provide an overview of how we utilize FLIR technology to support search-and-rescue operations and enhance mission effectiveness

Instructor Bio: Instructors Bio: Patriot MEDEVAC Team - Connecticut Army National Guard

The Patriot MEDEVAC Team from the Connecticut Army National Guard brings a wealth of operational and clinical experience to the classroom, offering a rare look into the mission, capabilities, and coordination of military aeromedical evacuation within the United States.

Staff Sergeant Cody Ferreira and Staff Sergeant Charles Weinstiger, both Critical Care Flight Paramedics, serve with Patriot MEDEVAC and have extensive backgrounds in providing advanced prehospital and critical care in both civilian and military environments. Their experience includes patient transport in complex environments, flight operations, and interagency response during emergencies and large-scale incidents.

Joining them will be a U.S. Army Pilot and Crew Chief who will provide insight into flight operations, safety considerations, and the logistics behind MEDEVAC missions. Together, this team delivers a comprehensive overview of stateside MEDEVAC capabilities, bridging the gap between military and civilian emergency response operations.

Class Date: Sunday January 18, 2026 **Class Hours:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.





Why Does Everyone Hate Radiation?

Instructor: Joey Pordash

Description: When you think of radioactive emergencies, does your mind immediately think of Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, or Atomic Train? Truth is, a majority of emergencies involving radioactive substances involve construction vehicles or normal non placarded vehicles carrying low level packages. Someone smuggling a Soviet warhead onto a runaway train is a scenario only made for the movies. This class will go over radiation basics, transportation case studies, metering techniques, and ways you can make radiation les boring for your team, and keep you prepared to mitigate any incident, without evacuating 50,000 people.

Instructor Bio: Joey Pordash is a Hazardous Materials Coordinator for the Washington County Department of Public Safety in Pennsylvania, where he serves as a state-certified Radiological Officer and Instructor. Joey also holds positions as Radiological Officer for the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency Hazmat Team 900, a Battalion Chief with the Allegheny County HMRT Red Team and is with Hazmat 2 Environmental Fire Rescue Company in Lancaster County.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Sunday January 18, 2026 **Class Hours:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.







Why is Recruitment a Priority?

Instructor: Nick Wallick

Description: We will discuss ways to address your recruitment plans on a shoestring budget. There are many possibilities to recruit without major expense. You will learn how to get the message out and train your members to promote your department. Regionalization will be covered in class.

Instructor Bio: Nick Wallick began his career in polymer chemistry in 1987 with Dur-A-Flex, Inc. in East Hartford, CT, later advancing to Vice President overseeing operations, property management, and environmental health and safety. He led the company's Lean Manufacturing initiative and created Dur-A-Flex University to support internal training and development. A firefighter in Hebron since 1999, Nick served as Fire Chief for eight years before retiring in 2021. He holds certifications in Fire Instruction, Lean Manufacturing, Continuous Improvement, and Project Management. Nick teaches Hazmat/WMD 472 courses and currently serves as a Board Director for the Eastern Connecticut Fire School.

Location: Connecticut Fire Academy **Class Date:** Sunday January 18, 2026 **Class Hours:** 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.





Connecticut Fire Academy

34 Perimeter Road Windsor Locks, Connecticut 06096

Registration Questions - CFA.support@ct.gov

General Conference Questions - paul.norwood@ct.gov



We look Forward to Seeing You!