



BC Fire Training Officers Association

HOT Weekend and Conference Course Descriptions and Facilitator Bios

**May 10 - May 16
Penticton, BC**

2025



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FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTOR 1

**Friday Evening, May 9, Saturday, May 10,
and Sunday, May 11 (2.5 days)**

Accredited

Course Description:

This FSI-I course, provided by FireWorks Training and Consulting Inc., is intended to meet the requirements of the NFPA 1041 Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications (2019), Chapter 4; where the assessment processes (written exam and practical evaluations) are provided/conducted by the College of the Rockies (COTR) for Pro Board Accredited Certification.

Upon successful completion of this assessment process, each candidate will receive the COTR Fire Services Instructor I Certificate with Pro Board Certification.

The 2.6-day course will provide the participants with the knowledge, skills, and ability required to effectively develop and deliver instruction on a specific subject matter/topic, given the course materials and assignment, such that the needs of students and objectives of the lesson are achieved.

Participants will deliver their instruction from a provided/prepared lesson plan; or a lesson plan they have adapted; or a suitable lesson outline they have developed, for the given subject matter; along with the administration, implementation, and use of required oral, written, and/or performance testing/evaluation processes, and the associated reporting and recording of these test results.

For the purposes of this course, to be provided in conjunction with the BCFTOA Conference in May of 2025 in Penticton, the instructional time typically required will be reduced somewhat to 1.6 days (~ 12 hrs.) so as to conduct the course and evaluations over 2.6 days (Fri. evening, Sat. & Sun.) during the HOT weekend of the TO conference. To achieve this timeline, the expectation is that all participants will have the required student manual, and will have read the associated FSI-I chapters, as well as have selected a subject matter/topic for delivery, and assembled all required course props/equipment/teaching aids required for their chosen subject, other than those that are expected to be available in the provided classroom.

Instructor Bio:

Joanna Piros

Joanna has taught media and community relations as a function of Emergency Incident Management, as well as Fire Service Instructor, for many years and in many departments. She has been a speaker at the Ontario Fire Chiefs Conference, the BC Training Officers Conferences, and at the FDIC-West in Los Angeles. She is a popular and respected coach and trainer in the field of public speaking and presentation skills, and strategic communications, relying on her background in radio, television and print news.

John Macdonald

John has been a member of the fire service for 31 years. His few years as a volunteer/paid-on-call firefighter, followed by 25 years with the City of Coquitlam Fire Rescue where he served as a firefighter, Company Officer, and Training Captain, retiring as the Assistant Chief of Training. He then moved into the Deputy Chief of Operations role with the Port Coquitlam Fire and Emergency Services where he continued to be a primary contributor to the fire service.

Being very passionate about training and education, John has been a member of the FireWorks team for about 10 years, assisting with a variety of fire services programs. He enjoys working with other departments sharing his many years of knowledge and experience helping firefighters, fire officers, and chief officers enhance and develop their skills so as to better achieve their goals and those of their departments.

Student Requirements:

Student Manual – IFSTA Fire and Emergency Services Instructor (9th Edition)

FSI-I Chapters 1 – 10

Timelines: (2.6 days)

Friday Evening & Saturday – Instruction (~11.5 hrs).

Sunday – Exam & Evaluation (~7.5 hrs); written exam and individual presentation evaluations.



OFC TEAM LEADER

**Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11
(2 days) - Accredited**

Course Description:

The Team Leader course is adapted to the specific needs of the Department that receives the training. The course includes elements of leadership, supervision, and emergency scene management. Depending on your level of service (Interior or Exterior), the course will teach students how to be a team leader at an emergency scene as well as establish command and develop an incident action plan if they are leading the first arriving apparatus.

The overall objective of this program is to provide Volunteer and Paid-On-Call Firefighters and Fire Officers with the skills required to perform their roles as Team Leaders. The focus of this program will be to provide course participants with competencies to fulfil their duties and provide for a safe working environment for all personnel under their direction within the policies and procedures of their local jurisdiction. These competencies will be congruent with the NFPA 1021 Fire Officer competencies and NFPA 1500 safety and risk management competencies for Team Leader as identified in the British Columbia Structural Firefighter Minimum Training Standards. This program is designed around the competencies for both Interior and Exterior Level Team Leader. Evaluations will be based on the specific level of service provided to their community by individual participant. Exterior Firefighters will be evaluated to Exterior Team Leader competencies and Interior Firefighters will be evaluated based in Interior Team Leader competencies.

Instructor Bio for Rob Clausen:

Rob Clausen has over 40 years of experience in the fire service. I served in the Township of Langley for 33 years. I started as a POC firefighter and then became a full-time chief officer managing POC fire halls for 16 years. After that, I was Chief Training Officer for the Department for 8 years as we changed from a large POC department (7 fire halls) to a large composite department. I retired from active duty in 2016, but have been teaching extensively in both FCO and JIBC programs ever since.



JIBC LIVE FIRE 1

**Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11
(2 days)**

Course Description:

This course provides you with the opportunity to learn and practice hands-on firefighting skills. Learn how to perform direct, indirect and combination attacks, and perform various methods for operating a large hand-line. Gain experience locating and suppressing concealed fires, extinguishing vehicle fires, and extinguishing outdoor trash fires in both a dumpster and open field. Gain additional experience shutting off building utilities and controlling electric utility systems .



2018 BCFTOA Annual Conference in Sooke, BC

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER TRAIN THE TRAINER (WWF1 TTT)

Saturday, May 10 AND Sunday, May 11
(2-days)

Course Description:

This course is designed to train local trainers and instructors on how to teach the wildland firefighter level 1 training course to members of their fire departments. Successful applicants of the train-the-trainer program will be qualified to teach the WFF1 course in-house.

The WFF1 course that trainers will be certified to teach is designed for firefighters with structural firefighting experience to apply their skills to the special circumstances of wildland firefighting. The WSPP-WFF 1 course itself replaces the S-100 basic fire suppression and safety and S-185 fire entrapment avoidance courses for structural firefighters operating in a wildland environment. The WFF-1 course is a prerequisite for the WSPP-115 structure protection course that trains structural firefighters and contract crews to be able to deploy on Structure Protection Crews (SPC's)

Student to bring: Nomex, Work boots, gloves, ear protection, eye protection, hard hat//
Notebook & Pen



JIBC AERIAL STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

**Saturday, May 10 AND Sunday, May 11
(2-days Accredited)**

Course Description:

Through classroom instruction, demonstrations and hands-on training, this exciting course is designed to equip officers and operators with tactical and strategic knowledge relating to the use of aerial apparatus. The when, why, where and how will be explored through the following list of topics:

Positioning; Safety considerations; Communications; Water supply priorities; Strategies and tactics; Rescue operations and Elevated master stream operations. An inter-active mix of classroom discussion, video, tabletop challenge scenarios, along with practical water supply, elevated master stream & rescue exercises will ensure that participants leave with ?tactical tools in their tool box? for use at major incidents. This course is a must have for officers and operators of aerial apparatus. Prerequisite: Applicable class drivers licence (class 1, 3 or 5), with air brake endorsement.

ROPE RESCUE

**Saturday, May 10 OR Sunday, May 11
(1 day)**

Course Description:

NFPA 1006-Low to Steep Rope Rescue -1 day/8 hours This course introduces students to embankment rescue and provides the foundation skills for students who would like to move into the rope rescue world. This course is designed to meet the job performance requirements found in NFPA 1006 Chapter 5, 2021 Edition. The course includes: NFPA Standards Ropes (knots, bends and hitches) Equipment familiarization Anchoring and rigging systems Patient packaging Simple mechanical advantage systems Low to steep embankment rescue scenarios The course consists of both classroom and field instruction. Students will be given a letter of participation in Rope Rescue Awareness and Low to Steep. This course is in conformance with NFPA 1006 & 1670 and meets and exceeds all WorkSafeBC Standards for Steep Slope Rescue

Instructor Bio for John Dennis:

John Dennis is one of three owners of Dynamic Rescue and serves on its board of directors. John is Dynamic Rescues Chief of Operations and is responsible for all the company's training and standby operations, He also heads Dynamics consulting division and plays a key role in the continued development of strategic relationships, ensuring flexibility in response to an increasingly demanding marketplace. Prior to Dynamic Rescue, John was the Assistant Chief of Operations for Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services and was responsible for the management of over 135 Firefighters each day. One of his roles included acting as Task Force Leader/Operations Chief for Canada Task Force #1. John sits on NFPA 1006, 2500, and NFPA 350 (pending).



SHORE BASED WATER RESCUE

**Saturday, May 10 OR Sunday, May 11
(1 day)**

Course Description:

Introduction to NFPA 1006-Open Water -1 day/8 hours

This course introduces students to water rescue and provides the foundation skills for students who would like to move into the swift and open water rescue world. This course is designed to meet the job performance requirements found in NFPA 1006 Chapter 17, 2021 Edition.

The course includes:

NFPA Standards

Team positions and incident management

Equipment familiarization-PFD's, Throw Bags, Dry Suits, Rescue Craft

Risk assessment and site evaluations

Rescue preplanning and management

Shore based Rescue & Throw Bags

Open water Patient/Boat retrieval

The course consists of both classroom and field instruction.

Students will be given a letter of participation in Open Water Rescue Awareness . This course is in conformance with NFPA 1006 & 1670 and meets and exceeds all WorkSafeBC Standards for Water Rescue.



2022 BCFTOA Annual Conference -
Salmon Arm, BC



STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE FOR THE FIRST DUE TRUCK

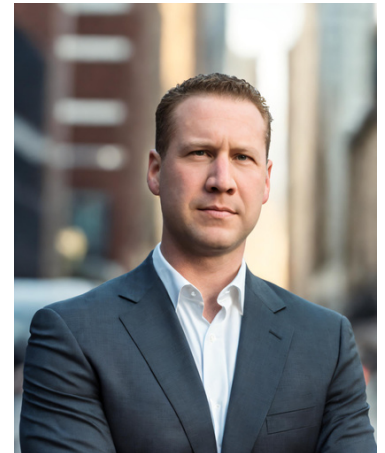
Saturday, May 10 OR Sunday, May 11
(1 day)

Course Description:

This 8-hour course will provide students with an introduction to structural collapse operations for the fire service. This course is tailored to initial response to minor structural collapse incidents such as a vehicle into a building. This course includes collapse theory including load path determination, calculating weights, and shoring considerations. Students will learn the construction and placement of initial spot shoring using timbers and initial shoring techniques utilizing Paratech pneumatic struts. This course meets Structural Collapse Awareness per NFPA 1006 2021 ed. Students will receive a certificate for Structural Collapse Awareness.

Instructor Bio for Eric Grootendorst:

Eric spent 17 years with Vancouver Fire Rescue Services with much of this time spent on Vancouver's east side with the special operations team. Eric was a rescue technician with Canada Task Force 1 heavy urban search and rescue, and eventually led the team as the Captain of Operations for 5 years. Eric is the Director and lead instructor for Progressive Fire Solutions Ltd, a training and consulting company that provides training in heavy rescue disciplines such as structural collapse, trench rescue, and incident management. Eric has taught collapse rescue and coordination across Canada, and has worked with organizations including fire departments, the Canadian Armed Forces, Public Safety Canada, the United Nations, and private industry. Eric contributes regularly to several NFPA standards and sits on the technical committee for 2500, 1400, and 1402. Eric now has the privilege of serving as the Assistant Chief of Training and Safety for the City of Kelowna.



KNOW YOUR FLOW

**Saturday, May 10 OR Sunday, May 11
(1 day)**

Course Description:

"Know Your Flow" - Elkhart Brass. In this class, students will learn the principles and governing laws of fluid dynamics and how they apply within our modern fire environment. We will cover the principles behind conducting hose and nozzle studies within organizations and the methods of confirming effective flow. Topics to be focused on will be: setting up for flow testing, measuring nozzle pressure, interpreting flow data, friction loss in plumbing and hose, nozzle and stream evaluation, measuring nozzle reaction, the use of inline gauges, hose line diameters and corresponding capability, master streams and much more. This class will not only teach students the theory behind an effective operating attack package but also allow them to engage in the process of skill acquisition.

Instructor Bio for Colby Dodd:

I started in the Fire Service in Whatcom County Fire District 5. In the County, I was able to rise to the rank of Captain before being offered a job on the Canadian side of the border. Once I achieved a job in the career fire service, a mentor of mine pushed me to attend a Nozzle Forward class with Aaron Fields. With the experiences that followed shortly thereafter, my view of the fire service changed forever. I became committed to leaving the fire service better than I found it. I started my travels across North America in search of the industry's best practices. Over the next several years, I was able to develop several programs and felt confident to start helping my own and other organizations in BC. I then went on to start my company, Northern Hands-on Training, while simultaneously starting my journey with the Elkhart Brass team as their BC representative. Training Experience: Assisted several training cadres with teaching members of the fire service Northern Hands-on Training - 2 classes in 2023, 11 classes in 2024, with 15 classes booked for 2025 Elkhart Brass and Biernat Fire Instructor PGFRS Hose Management Instructor Training Division Instructor more training experience available upon request.



MASTERING CONFINED SPACE RESCUE

Saturday, May 10 OR Sunday, May 11
(1 day)

Course Description:

This one-day Mastering Confined Space workshop is designed to refine the art of extricating a patient from a vertically accessed confined space environment. Topics will include the use of an Artificial High Directional (AHD) (such as an Arizona Vortex, Eyolf Pythagoras, or an SMC Terradaptor, as typical equilateral tripods). Techniques covered will include responder safety around the vicinity of the confined space, travel restraint systems, and rescue site organization. The primary focus will be on removing a patient from within a confined space. The patient may be packaged in a harness, litter, or half-spinal device. Various raising methods with insufficient overhead clearance. The objective at the end of the workshop is to give participants the confidence and skills necessary to securely and efficiently extricate patients from vertical confined spaces.

Personal Equipment:

- Helmet
- Gloves
- Environmentally suitable clothing, this will be an outdoors class
- Water
- Notebook
- You may use your own suitable harness

Harnesses and rescue equipment will be provided.

Going “on rope” is not a requirement for participation in this workshop.

Instructor Bio for Kevin Ristau:

Kevin Ristau is the Chief Instructor for Ronin Safety & Rescue Inc., which is a leading provider of Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue services and training in Canada. Ronin provides Rope Rescue, Tower Rescue, and Confined Space Rescue Instruction to NFPA and WSBC/CSABC THARRP standards. Ronin is also an EMCR Wildland SAR Rope Rescue Provider. Kevin has been an instructor in Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Fall Protection, and Search and Rescue since Ronin’s inception over fifteen years ago. He has regularly attended and presented at the International Technical Rescue Symposium.

Kevin is a Captain in the Surrey Fire Service, assigned to the Technical Rescue Team where he has been an instructor since 2009. Surrey Fire Services TRT responds to High Angle, Confined Space, Trench, and Water incidents. Previously he was a member of the Hazardous Materials Response Team and a Hazmat instructor, including taking part in the Canadian Advanced CBRNE program. Kevin also volunteers with Coquitlam Search and Rescue, where he serves as a Rope Rescue Team Leader, Organized Avalanche Response Team Leader, Swiftwater Rescue Technician, and Helicopter Longline and Hoist Technician.



WATER MAPPING

Saturday, May 10 OR Sunday, May 11
(1 day)

Course Description:

This course focuses on advanced science backed suppression, utilizing a water mapping prop built straight from the Fire Safety Research Institute blueprints (formerly UL). This hands on training will provide firefighters immediate physical and visual feedback on the effectiveness of hose streams during many fire attack methods, including exterior, soffit, interior and final extinguishment. Learners will leave with an understanding of the effect of hose stream mechanics on air entrainment and suppression with both a smooth bore and combination nozzle.

Instructor Bio for Chris Bridgeman:

Chris comes with a wealth of experience in the fire service and a passion for training, having gone through the ranks from Firefighter to his current position of Chief Training Officer of Whitehorse Fire Department. Spending the majority of his career in the Okanagan has allowed Chris to contribute to provincial wildfire response, providing structure protection and as a Task Force Leader. Chris also trains a variety of First Responders through his own Fire and EMS training business, highlighted by having taught and certified medical responders for twenty-five plus fire departments in BC. Chris believes in fun and engaging training, built to empower firefighters to “train until you can’t get it wrong”, while still having a work life balance.



COGNITIVE PRIMING AND RAPID ASSESSMENT

Tuesday AM OR Wednesday Afternoon
(Two half days)

Course Description:

Rapid Assessment of a Residential Structure The fire ground is a dynamic and ever changing environment, where the decision making process is constantly influenced by variables in and out of the control of personnel on scene. An Incident Commander and his/her firefighters need as much information as possible, as soon as possible when arriving on scene in order to make the most appropriate tactical decisions to protect life, property and environment. This is where learning and utilizing a systematic, repeatable process for making rapid assessments of residential structures, prior to entry, will help coordinate IC and crew efforts, leading to a more effective and efficient fireground. This course will utilize three short, actionable cues to help fire ground personnel make a rapid assessment of the probable layout of a residential structure. By doing so, the IC and firefighters will have a similar understanding of how buildings are designed to move and contain people throughout the building. We will also highlight commonalities between fire behaviour and that of residents, allowing for a better understanding of how each moves through time and space in a structure the arriving crews have quite possibly never seen until the day of an emergency. We will utilize statistics on victim rescues and firefighter mayday reports to draw conclusions on where we are most likely to find victims, what conditions we may find them in and which arriving crew assignments have the best strategic opportunities based on arrival observations and conditions. Finally, we will emphasize the importance of repeatable systems, deliberate practice and how our brains develop actions plans when under duress.

Instructor Bio for Gareth Lockhart:

Gareth Lockhart is a 15 year career firefighter and acting officer for a medium sized Lower Mainland municipality. He is a member of his department's Fire Ground Operations Committee, specializing in Hose Management, Water Application and Fire Behavior. He has designed and contributed to numerous department operational guidelines, skills sheets and lesson plans. The theme of these contributions is to create foreground ready firefighters who can grow into risk tolerant officers that utilize aggressive strategies and tactics born from deliberate practice, based on modern fire service training and educational resources. Gareth was also spent over a decade as a Rescue Technician, Instructor and Consultant in private industry. He has an educational background consisting of a Graduate Diploma in Disaster and Emergency Management, Fire Officer 2 Certificate and Certificate in Local Government Leadership.



STANDPIPE OPERATIONS

Tuesday AM OR Tuesday PM
(Two half days)

Course Description:

This Engine Company High-Rise Standpipe Operations training program will provide attendees with factual, experience-based Engine Company Standpipe Operations Equipment and Procedures. This will include the essential appliances, equipment, and tools necessary for effective and successful standpipe operations. Coupled with the appropriate equipment, attendees will be given a solid foundation of operational procedures that can be utilized for their fire attack operations in high-rise and other standpipe equipped buildings.

Instructor Bio for Dave McGrail:

Dave McGrail is a 41-year fire service veteran, having served with the Aurora, CO Fire Department from 1982 - 1987, and the Denver Fire Department (DFD) from 1987 - 2023. Dave was assigned to some of the busiest fire companies and fire districts within the DFD. From Nozzleman to Incident Commander, Dave responded to and operated at thousands of fires and emergency incidents, including high-rise fires, plane crashes, technical rescues, and all of the other daily incidents that occur in a big city. Dave earned fifteen meritorious commendations for his actions at various incidents on the DFD. Dave retired from the DFD in 2023, but continues to provide educational programs and hands on training to firefighters all across the American Fire Service, and Internationally. Dave is the author of the popular text book "Firefighting Operations in High-Rise and Standpipe Equipped Buildings", published by Pennwell, Fire Engineering Books, 2007. Dave has earned several College Degrees, including two Associate of Applied Science Degrees in Fire Science Technology, two Bachelor of Science Degrees, one in Human Resource Management, and one in Fire Service / Public Administration.



LITHIUM BATTERIES

Tuesday AM OR Tuesday PM
(Two half days)

Course Description:

If your fire department hasn't yet responded to a lithium-ion battery fire, it will. The evolving NFPA 855 standard is a tool fire departments need to understand why lithium-ion batteries burn, how to respond, and, most importantly, how to be safe.

Takeaways:

1. Causes of lithium-ion fires
2. Best practices for fire departments dealing with lithium-ion
3. Recommended municipal strategies for energy storage / lithium-ion

Instructor Bio for Laura King:

Laura King is NFPA's regional director for Canada.

Laura promotes and supports the use of NFPA tools and resources, including NFPA codes and standards, training, certification, and public education initiatives such as Fire Prevention Week, the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, and Wildfire Community Preparedness Day.

Laura joined NFPA in 2017 as public education representative and has worked with fire departments, associations, and First Nations groups from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland, and in the northern territories, to develop community risk reduction programs, build fire-prevention and life-safety education strategies, and create and disseminate consistent and accurate messaging.

Laura was editor of Fire Fighting in Canada and Canadian Firefighter magazines for 10 years before moving to NFPA in 2017; she was a reporter and editor for more than 20 years for newspapers and magazines across Canada and the United States.

Laura is a certified fire- and life-safety educator and holds several other certifications; Laura has degrees in journalism, political science, and public administration.

Laura is a proud Cape Bretoner, has lived and worked in Halifax, Ottawa, Edmonton and the Greater Toronto Area, and loves travelling throughout British Columbia!



FIRE DYNAMICS FOR THE MODERN FIREFIGHTER

Tuesday PM OR Wednesday PM
(Two half days)

Course Description:

This lecture looks to bring the science to the streets. We look to bridge the gap between firefighters personal experience and the science of fire. We hope to bring context to firefighters previous experiences and help them share their experiences from a scientific foundation. The lecture will have small skill stations and be interactive.

Instructor Bio for Brandon Moberg:

Brandon Moberg has been a career firefighter with 18 years of service stretching over three departments in the Lower Mainland. He is currently a Live Fire instructor with the District of North Vancouver Fire Rescue as well as a Live Fire Instructor with Dynamic Resucue's Training Resurrected cadre. Brandon is a passionate instructor always looking for opportunities to share perspective. He has always been keen to help develop a scientific understanding to aid in the decision making process, limiting the variables to make sound tactical decisions and determine expected outcomes.



PROVINCIAL TRAINING APPROACH

Tuesday AM OR Wednesday AM
(Two half days)

Course Description:

Please join the Fire & Safety Division (FSD) in this informative presentation on how best to maximize and stretch your training dollars scheduling ProBoard & IFSAC accredited and certified training for your department members. The presentation focuses on our “provincial approach” strategy in delivering professional training throughout all BCFTOA Zones.

The following topics will be covered:

- Vision Statement
- Overview of Fire & Safety Division
- Partnerships & Provider Agreements
- Burn Building Recognition & Sign Off Process to deliver FSD courses.
- Cost Savings-Tuition vs Contract Training- (cohorts)
- JIBC Instructor cadre (local instructors per zone)
- Mobile Live Fire Trailer and the delivery of firefighting training

At the end of the session, participants will be better informed on the ways to access JIBC training while knowing how best to maximize the training budget for their department.

PEER SUPPORT FOR THE FIRE COMPANY

Tuesday AM
(One half day)

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide fire service leaders and personnel with a clear and actionable roadmap for addressing mental health challenges within their organizations. Participants will learn how to evaluate their current mental health support structures and develop tailored strategies to promote wellness, resilience, and recovery among their teams.

Topics covered:

- Gap analysis and organization snapshot
- CISM versus Peer Support
- WorkSafe CIR
- Peer Support Program Development
- Mental health training options
- Resources and clinician network

Instructor Bio Steve Farina:

Steve began his firefighting journey in 1992 as a paid-on-call firefighter with the Township of Langley Fire Department. In 1997, he transitioned to a full-time role with Coquitlam Fire Rescue. After steadily advancing through the ranks, he was promoted to Captain in 2015 and currently serves in the Fire Suppression Division on Engine 1.

Steve has been deeply involved in union leadership, serving as the OHS rep on the Union Executive of IAFF Local 1782 (Coquitlam Firefighters) from 2005 to 2023. In 2016, he was elected Vice President of the BC Professional Fire Fighter Association (BCPFFA) and, in 2023, became the Executive Vice President. In these roles, he represents 56 IAFF Affiliate Locals and more than 4,500 professional firefighters across British Columbia.

His dedication extends to health and safety initiatives. Steve is the vice chair of the BCPFFA's Health and Safety Committee and Mental Health Committee. He is also a member of Coquitlam Fire Rescue's Critical Incident Stress and Peer Support teams. Passionate about mental health advocacy, Steve has travelled across British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick to train healthcare professionals on fire service culture. Additionally, he represents the BCPFFA on BC's First Responder Mental Health Steering Committee, chaired by WorkSafeBC



AMMONIA AWARENESS FOR THE FIRST DUE

Tuesday AM OR Tuesday PM
(Two half days)

Course Description:

Anhydrous Ammonia is one of the world's most versatile chemicals being used as a fertilizer, refrigerant, a fuel and in many manufacturing processes. The chemical and physical properties of Anhydrous Ammonia can make for a challenging Hazardous Materials response for all first responders involved in the incident. This lecture-based course will discuss: Chemical and Physical Properties of Anhydrous Ammonia, Response Considerations for Fixed Facility and Railway Transportation Incidents & Case Study of Recent Incidents.

Instructor Bio for Evan Foley Nucor:

Evan Foley earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of the Fraser Valley. In 2013, he embarked on a career with an emergency hazmat services team, gaining valuable experience in responding to industry related incidents involving all nine classes of Dangerous Goods across North America.

In January 2023, Evan took on the role of Emergency Management and Hazmat Officer for British Columbia at Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) railway providing expertise and emergency response for CPKC and external agencies during incidents involving Dangerous Goods, training contractor partners and First Responders on rail safety and rail emergency response, and managing corporate initiatives related to risk management.

His passion for educating First Responders stems from his unique combination of a chemistry background and extensive Dangerous Goods response experience, allowing him to merge scientific knowledge with practical, experience-based strategies and tactics. Additionally, since late 2023, Evan has been serving as a Paid-Call Firefighter with the Township of Langley Fire Department alongside his full-time position at CPKC.

Evan Foley earned his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of the Fraser Valley. In 2013, he embarked on a career with an emergency hazmat services team, gaining valuable experience in responding to industry related incidents involving all nine classes of Dangerous Goods across North America.

In January 2023, Evan took on the role of Emergency Management and Hazmat Officer for British Columbia at Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) railway providing expertise and emergency response for CPKC and external agencies during incidents involving Dangerous Goods, training contractor partners and First Responders on rail safety and rail emergency response, and managing corporate initiatives related to risk management.

His passion for educating First Responders stems from his unique combination of a chemistry background and extensive Dangerous Goods response experience, allowing him to merge scientific knowledge with practical, experience-based strategies and tactics. Additionally, since late 2023, Evan has been serving as a Paid-Call Firefighter with the Township of Langley Fire Department alongside his full-time position at CPKC.



THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

Tuesday AM OR Wednesday AM
(Two half days)

Course Description:

This course picks up where most departments leave off, the initial training typically provided on the thermal imaging camera is how to turn it on, what the buttons do and how to change the battery.

The use of this amazing piece of equipment requires much more training than that. We will show why it is more important than ever to be well trained in the use of your camera and why it should be with you every time you put your SCBA on.

In this course we will look at the different types of cameras, the features and NFPA compliancy requirements. Then we dive into the actual use of the camera for its intended tactical use. This course will look at using the TIC during the 360 as well as for fire attack and search. We will look at the way to interpret the image and understand both the capabilities and the limitations. Ways the camera should be used and ways to prevent some of the common mistakes that operators make when using this tool.

We will offer some suggestions for training with your crew and training mistakes that should be avoided.

Instructor Bio Greg Smith:

Greg is a career firefighter with over 24 years of dedicated service in Vancouver, British Columbia. As a fire officer for the past 8 years and a fire service instructor for 15 years, Greg has become a respected leader in fireground operations, firefighter training, and the integration of modern fire science into tactical practices.

Greg serves as one of the Lead Instructors for Vancouver's Fire Officer Program and has also been an instructor at the Justice Institute of British Columbia for 15 years, focusing on live fire training and NFPA 1001 programs. Additionally, Greg is a certified ICS Canada Instructor, further enhancing his ability to deliver comprehensive and effective training on incident command systems.

A certified ISFSI Live Fire Instructor and two-time graduate of the UL/FSRI Fire Dynamics Boot Camp, Greg is committed to advancing evidence-based practices in fire dynamics. He also holds certifications from Western Kentucky University in Thermal Imaging Theory and Tactical Use, enabling him to teach the tactical application of this critical technology to improve firefighter safety and operational outcomes.

Greg has worked with various fire departments to modernize and enhance their training programs, consulting on the integration of cutting-edge fire science and tactics. He is a sought-after instructor and presenter, having shared his expertise at numerous fire service conferences and professional development events.

With a passion for mentorship and a commitment to excellence, Greg continues to empower firefighters and fire officers through innovative and impactful training programs, preparing the next generation of fire service leaders.



MANAGING FIREGROUND STRESS SO IT DOESN'T MANAGE YOU

Wednesday AM OR Thursday AM
(Two half days)

Course Description:

Ever felt stressed on the fireground? Most every incident involves stress. Before you can let training, education and common sense take effect, you must manage stress or it will manage you and impact others negatively both on the fireground and off it. Stress kills. After this 2hr presentation, you'll be better prepared to manage fireground stress and make improved decisions. Focus is on fire officers, but has application for all fire fighters, rookies, training officers, husbands, wives, moms and dads.

Instructor Bio Kyle Doerksen:

Embarking on my 30th year in the Fire Service, I am happy to report I'm as passionate as ever about my work. Last year, I was promoted to Chief of Training with Coquitlam Fire/Rescue. The learning curve has been steep and incredibly rewarding. I do love to teach, with one of the best parts being the learning that inevitably comes with doing so. Spent nearly 2 decades teaching/consulting/developing with the JIBC and now work with VIERA in my limited spare time. I've been operating Flashpoint Training & Consulting for 10 years - my own private company that allows me more freedom to address topics and clients of interest. In 2021 I was awarded the BCFTOA's Trainer of the Year - forever humbled. I've thoroughly enjoyed each and every one of my many BCFTOA Training Conferences and know that Penticton in 2025 will be no different. Thanks to all the organizers for their efforts.



PRESENT LIKE A PRO: CREATING DYNAMIC TEACHING AIDS FOR IMPACTFUL TRAINING

There are two separate sessions, a part one and part two.

Part 1 – Wednesday AM & Part 2 – Thursday AM

Course Description:

This workshop is designed to improve training officers' ability to create engaging and effective presentations using PowerPoint, Google Slides, and other teaching aids. The hands-on training will enhance participants' skills in developing educational content and delivering it effectively to their teams. The goal is to equip training officers with practical skills in designing and delivering effective presentations, ensuring they are better prepared to educate their teams in a clear, engaging, and impactful way. The workshop will provide a comprehensive learning experience through a combination of hands-on activities, peer feedback, and expert facilitation.

Instructor Bio for Jennifer Dawkins:

Jenn Dawkins brings extensive experience and a deep commitment to firefighter training and education to the BC Fire Training Officers Conference. She has 28 years of fire service experience beginning as a Volunteer in Maple Ridge BC and currently serving as a Captain in the Vancouver Fire Rescue Services. Jenn has worked in several portfolios within the VFRS training division, including the Officer Development Program, Heavy Rescue and the EMS division. She holds Fire Officer 3 and 4 certifications, a certificate in Emergency Management and holds Executive Chief Fire Officer (ECFO) Aspire accreditation with the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.

As a sessional instructor at the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC), Jenn teaches several Fire Officer courses, as well as Fire Service Instructor 1 and 2, sharing her expertise with firefighters across the province and Canada. Her instructional experience also extends through her work with the Canadian Red Cross, where she serves as an Instructor Trainer, leading First Responder and Emergency Medical Responder Instructor courses.

Jenn's teaching is enhanced by her experience with the Resilient Minds program, as well as her role as an international instructor for Fire Rescue International Training Association (FRITA). She also serves as President of Fire Service Women British Columbia and is a founding director of Camp Ignite, a program dedicated to inspiring young women to explore firefighting careers.

Known for her engaging and thoughtful approach, Jenn is excited to share her knowledge and insights with her peers at this year's conference, fostering a collaborative environment for all training officers.



INTERAGENCY OPERATIONS

Wednesday AM OR Wednesday PM
(Two Half Days)

Course Description:

Working proactively with your Zone on training and operations preparedness.
What the zone brings to your initial attack and extended attack incident.

Instructor Bio Darren Lee and Guests:

BCWS TBD – Agency Representative:

Working proactively with your Zone on training and operations preparedness.
What the zone brings to your initial attack and extended attack incident.
20 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

Kynan O'Rourke – Structure Protection Specialist and LCFD Deputy Fire Chief (Training):

Working proactively with the SPCO on training (SPU)
What an SPS brings to your incident.
20 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

Brent Watson – Taskforce Leader and WKFR Deputy Fire Chief (Operations):

Working proactively with the SPCO on training (Engine Boss & TFL)
What an TFL brings to your incident.
20 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

Chad Gatrell – Taskforce Leader and WKFR Deputy Fire Chief (Operations Support):

Hosting the incident.
Building a plan as local Operations Chief in cooperation with the BCWS.
Day Shift, Afternoon Shift, Night Shift with safety briefings.
Review Command Boards & Job Aids.
20 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.

Optional RCMP guest star to discuss evacuations:

Coordinating with your EOC.
Planning, Execution and Security.
20 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions.



TRAINING OFFICER FOR THE DEFENSE

Wednesday PM OR Thursday AM
(Two Half Days)

Course Description:

The important role of our Training Officers in ensuring sound command and control with effective strategies and tactics.

The number of lawsuits involving fire departments is dramatically increasing each year. No longer are we seen as the hardworking civil servant firefighters who are assumed to have “done their best” to manage/mitigate someone else’s bad day. It wasn’t that long ago that our efforts and actions were never questioned but today we are expected to prove that we have met or exceeded the duty of care that is expected by the public -- and their insurance companies. While the public may be reluctant to criticize us, rest assured there is no hesitation from insurers when there is money on the table.

When a community, and its fire department, is sued for essentially not doing the job well enough, the defense often rests on our actions; thus, the nature of our training and how that training provided is evidenced on the scene. Civil, and potentially criminal liability, could also affect senior officers, incident commanders and training officers.

Based on recent legal actions across Canada, this presentation will focus on how the standard of care relates to training standards and what lawyers look for when they attempt to sue, or to defend, our fireground activities.

While everyone says they understand Emergency Incident Management, this presentation will frame our Incident Action Plans (IAPs) and Command processes against a framework of their vulnerabilities. We will focus on the mandate of Training Officers and their fiduciary-like responsibilities to ensure their members are prepared to exercise and demonstrate a reasonable standard of care in managing and mitigating fire-involved structures.

Instructor Bio Wayne Humphrey:

Wayne has 46 years experience in the fire service, retired from Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services after a 31-year career serving in fire suppression as Lieutenant, Captain, and Battalion Chief. He also worked extensively with Vancouver Fire’s training division as an Instructor, Training Officer, and Division Chief.

Based on his work in both roles he has extensive experience in fire rescue emergency operations, specialty teams, training and development, facilitation, and project creation and management.

He is passionate about building superior expertise amongst the fire service as a whole and fire officers/command officers in particular; a hands-on fire and rescue practitioner, an experienced trainer and facilitator, he pursues his goals with energy and determination.

Wayne has participated in many fire service reviews and master plans for both career and volunteer/POC departments, along with those for several regional districts. In addition to these fire service reviews, he is also often retained to assist in the legal defence of numerous fire departments in regard to lawsuits filed arising out of actions taken at specific incidents; thus, gaining significant insight into the nature of the fire officer and team leaders actual actions taken on the fire ground, and the issues brought forward challenging these actions.

With this insight, and many years of experience, he has developed numerous in-house Firefighter and Fire Officer Development seminars and programs for various career and volunteer/POC fire departments throughout the province, enhancing the skills of officers and firefighters in municipal and rural areas with customized, locally delivered training and education. These seminars and programs are designed to meet the requirements of the BC Structural Firefighters Training Standard, along with those of other associated NFPA Standards, and where required, for Pro Board accredited certification processes as well.

The focus of these programs and seminars is on the understanding and application of the ICS as an effective incident management process; it’s various functions/roles, the integration of risk management, fire behaviour, strategic & tactical knowledge, along with appropriate decision-making for effective tactical operations, thus ensuring we deliver a reasonable standard of care.

In addition to the many career and POC/volunteer departments throughout BC, Wayne and his team of a dozen experienced fire officers have developed and delivered emergency incident management and strategies & tactics training.



NEW TRAINING OFFICER ORIENTATION

Wednesday PM
(One half day)

Course Description:

New training officer's orientation is designed for new training officers that has been appoint in this new role. The class coversthe expectations of the new training officer with an overview of the new BC Firefighters Training Standard, along with schedules, lesson plans, and what the BCFTOA can do to support you in that new role.



CLANDESTINE DRUG LAB AWARENESS

Wednesday PM OR Thursday AM
(Two half days)

Course Description:

The RCMP Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement And Response Unit will be covering several topics related to synthetic drug production and current trends. Including illicit cannabis oil extraction operations and associated hazards.

Instructor Bio Staff Sergeant Derek Westwick:

Staff Sergeant Derek WESTWICK has been a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police since 2004. For the past 14 years he has been with the RCMP Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement And Response Unit and is currently in charge of the RCMP CLEAR unit in British Columbia.

