

Workshop Sessions

USAR Operations at the World Trade Center – The First Five Days

Captain Michael Clarke

MATF-01, The First Five Days - This breakout session will provide an inside look into the initial operations conducted by the Massachusetts Urban Search and Rescue Task Force while deployed to the World Trade Center terrorists attacks September 11, 2001. MATF-01 was the first federal USAR Task Force to arrive in New York City. Topics to be discussed will be interagency operations, some of the unprecedented challenges faced by rescue squad personnel as well as some of the numerous lessons learned from this horrific event. The presentation will be conducted from the perspective of Rescue Squad member Michael Clarke, a member of the Task Force since 1996.

Building Construction for Fire Investigations

Robert F. Duval

This program covers aspects of building construction and how the construction affected several recent significant fires. This program will not focus on origin and cause but how building construction features impacted the outcome of the fire.

Responding to Utility Emergencies

Mike Callan

Responding to Utility Emergencies is a street smart approach to handling electrical and natural gas emergencies. This program will discuss the properties of electricity and natural gas, the elements of their distribution systems, and safe response techniques to utility emergencies.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Deputy Chief Wayne Bindas (Ret.)

State and local organizations must adopt NIMS to receive Federal preparedness assistance (through grants, contracts, and other activities) beginning October 1, 2004. This program will discuss a system that provides a consistent nationwide approach for incident management

Down and Dirty Basics of Fire Investigation

Senior Fire Investigator Stewart Jacobs

This workshop will present an overview of the Company Officer's responsibility in Initial Fire Investigation. Items to be covered include scene security, preservation of evidence, and types of arson evidence that the CO should be aware of.

Back to Basics

Chief Charles Hall

Firefighter Ted Cocco

The Back to Basics course is for new or veteran line firefighters who wish to review basic firefighting techniques and theories. It will cover safety issues relating to Rapid Intervention Teams and will touch on size-up, ladder work, initial attack, and hoseline selection and placement.

Forcible Entry

Firefighter Ed Burwell

Lieutenant Dan Keenan

You are assigned to force entry...All eyes are on You! Whether operating at a single family residence or a heavily secured "Downtown" business, the days of shouldering the door are over. This workshop will discuss some of the most effective and proven forcible entry techniques. Topics will include size-up, conventional methods, thru-the-lock, and power tools as they are applied to different types of locks and situations.

Public Information Officer for the Fire Service

John Beatty

John Beatty the Public Information Officer (PIO) for Maine Fire Training and Education will discuss the benefits of the PIO in the fire service. What are the duties of the Fire Department PIO? What messages do we want to convey to our communities and how can the PIO best deliver these valuable fire and life safety principles to those most at risk.

John who has worked extensively with the immigrant and refugee community of Portland, Maine will also inform us on how to present an effective public relations campaign for fire safety to this high risk audience.

Fire and Life Safety Education on a Shoestring

John Beatty

As with most Fire and Life Safety Education programs monies budgeted for these activities are minimal at the most. John Beatty retired Fire and Life Safety Educator III from the Portland, Maine Fire Department and present Fire and Life Safety Education Coordinator for Maine Fire Training and Education will discuss how to maximize the resources of your community to best serve those most at risk to fire or life safety issues.

Ellington Connecticut Ammonia Incident – Lessons Learned

Chief Mike Varney

Captain Rob Levandoski

On October 14, 2003 at 1:28am, the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to a local business for a reported ammonia release. First responding personnel on-scene reported a noticeable ammonia odor with a large cloud being discharged from the manufacturing plant.

This session will provide an example of how regional response planning and cooperation brought together local, private sector, and state and federal resources to meet the challenge faced by this dangerous hazardous materials release in a residential section of a rural Connecticut community.

Bomb Threats and Explosive Incidents

Lieutenant Brian J. Heavren

This program will discuss the role and responsibility of a bomb squad when responding to an emergency event, levels of training, basic explosive recognition, observed trends, and future potential threats.

Keynote General Sessions

A Live Fire Training Death, New York State's Response

Thomas J. Wutz,

Shortly after the events of September 11, 2001, a 19 year old male year joined the Laridsville, New York Fire Department and on September 25 he attend what would be both his first and last fire training session. A fire set in an acquired structure caused the firefighters death and resulted in the criminal conviction of a fire chief who ran the training session.

Chief Wutz's program will review the circumstances of the incident, the requirements of NFPA 1403 and the New York State, Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control's response to this tragedy.

Historic Fires in Places of Assembly

Robert F. Duval

This program will review several tragic fires in places of assembly and compare common factors in each incident, such as the aftermath of the Station nightclub fire,. The second portion of the presentation will review code and legislative changes made after February 2003.

The Media: Friend or Foe?

Don Bliss

What kind of relationship do you have with your local news organizations? Do they help you get *your* message to the public, or do you feel like they never get the story right?

Don Bliss, retired NH State Fire Marshal, and Cissy Taylor of the Manchester (NH) Union Leader will offer proven strategies for establishing a working alliance with print, radio and television news organizations. From formal press releases to live interviews at fire scenes, you will become more "media savvy" and learn how to make the press a full partner in your public education efforts.

Hazardous Materials Operations “Plus”

Mike Callan

In the world of WMD and Terrorism, the response to hazardous materials incidents is changing. Our responders' skills, levels of response and instrumentation are more sophisticated. This requires first responders to “push the envelope” beyond Operations level and, in today's world, become Operations “Plus”.

Our Presenters

Robert F. Duval

Bob Duval is the New England Regional Manager and Senior Fire Investigator for the National Fire Protection Association. 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. The investigation of these incidents includes documenting the emergency services response, the structure(s) involved as well as the events leading up to and following the incident. Robert has conducted investigations into several recent incidents including: fire fighter fatalities in Albert City, Iowa; Lake Worth, Texas; Marks, Mississippi; New York City, New York; Phoenix, Arizona; Keokuk, Iowa; a cruise ship fire in Miami, Florida; a grain elevator explosion in Kansas and a bulk retail warehouse in Phoenix, Arizona, among others.

Deputy Chief Wayne Bindas

Wayne Bindas is a retired Deputy Chief of the Hartford, Connecticut Fire Department. Wayne is a long time adjunct faculty member of the National Fire Academy and has presented an extensive number of programs across the country. Chief Bindas is also a long time adjunct faculty member of the Connecticut Fire Academy.

Senior Fire Investigator Stewart Jacobs

Stewart Jacobs, CFI – Senior Fire Investigator. Stewart has over 25 years in fire service and law enforcement and over 20 years in the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office conducting fire and explosion investigations and the criminal investigations that follow. Stewart is also court qualified in most of Maine's courts at the District, Superior, and Federal level.

Lieutenant Dan Keenan

Three year lieutenant on the Springfield Fire Department assigned to the rescue company. Adjunct instructor with the MA Fire Academy for 11 years. Adjunct instructor with the Connecticut fire Academy for 7 years. Rescue Specialist with MA Task Force One which was assigned to the 9/11 incident for eight days performing rescue and recovery.

Firefighter Ed Burwell

Firefighter with the New York City Fire Department assigned to Ladder 28 in Harlem. Adjunct Instructor with the Connecticut Fire Academy where he helped develop the Firefighter Survival and Rapid Intervention Programs.

Chief Charles Hall

Charles Hall is currently Chief of the West Warwick, Rhode Island Fire Department. An over 25 year veteran of the fire service, he is formerly the Director of the Rhode Island Fire Academy and Assistant Chief of the Cranston, Rhode Island Fire Department.

Firefighter Ted Cocco

Ted Cocco is a 23-year member of the Providence, Rhode Island Fire Department who served in one of the city's busiest ladder and engine companies for 10 years. Ted has served in the department's Training Division as a Training Officer for 13 years developing and delivering training programs to the department's 500 members.

Michael Callan

Mike Callan is a 33-year veteran of the fire service and is a former Captain with the Wallingford, Connecticut Fire Department. In 2001 he was selected as the California Hazardous Materials Instructor of the Year. He is the author of the new Street Smart Haz Mat Response by Red Hat Publications. In 1989, at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC), he was selected from among 7000 municipal and private sector instructors as the International Society of Fire Instructors' George D. Post Instructor of the Year. Mr. Callan is the developer of the popular Propane Emergencies Training Facilitator's Guide and Powerpoint programs used extensively by the US Fire Service. He is co-author and lead instructor for many other nationally recognized programs and training materials. He is director of his own business – Callan and Company. Mr. Callan conducts Chemical Response training around the country for industrial and municipal haz mat teams.

Don Bliss

Donald P. Bliss is the Director of the National Infrastructure Institute's Center for Infrastructure Expertise. Bliss served as the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal from August 1992 until November 2003. As state fire marshal, Bliss oversaw fire investigations and the enforcement of the state's fire and building codes. In the wake of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Bliss took over responsibility for New Hampshire's emergency management and homeland security efforts.

From 1980 to 1983, Bliss served as the director of the University of Connecticut Fire Department and as fire marshal for the University of Connecticut system. From 1983 to 1992, Bliss served as the fire chief in Salem, New Hampshire. From 1989 to 1992, he served as both fire chief and the town's emergency management director.. Bliss began his career with the Durham-UNH Fire Department in 1970, rising from call firefighter to fire marshal/deputy chief.

Bliss received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of New Hampshire in 1973 and a Master's of public administration, also from the University of New Hampshire, in 1979. He has completed numerous courses at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Brian Heavren

Lieutenant Brian J. Heavren is a fifteen year veteran of the Hartford Police Department. Lieutenant Heavren is currently the Commander of the Hartford Police Department Bomb Squad and the Hartford Police Academy. Lieutenant Heavren has been a volunteer firefighter for approximately 20 years in Connecticut and Maryland. Lieutenant Heavren holds a B.S. Degree in Emergency Health Services Administration from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

John Beatty

John Beatty is a retired Fire and Life Safety Educator III/ PIO for the Portland, Maine Fire Department and present Fire and Life Safety Education Coordinator/PIO for Maine Fire Training and Education. John is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine with a degree in Secondary Education and has attended the National Fire Academy and Emergency Management Institute.

John has affected the Immigrant and Refugee community of Portland and the state of Maine by presenting fire and life safety in new and innovative ways. John, as well as Saint Joseph College of Maine and the Multilingual center from the Portland, Maine School Department, have created a film in twelve different languages to reduce the risk of fire to this community.

Thomas J. Wutz

As Chief of the Fire Services Bureau of the New York Department of State, Mr. Wutz supervises and manages the Bureau's 18 full-time Fire Protection Specialist and 230 part time instructors; develops and delivers fire training outreach programs, training policies and procedures serving 1850 fire departments (career and volunteer), with 24,000 students annually. In addition, provides program management for the New York State Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan: provides on-scene technical assistance on issues concerning fire protection, disaster response and fire department training and management.

Retired as fire chief for the 109th Military Airlift Group, United States Air Force/Air National Guard with 31 years total service and served as a volunteer firefighter in various departments for 35 years.

Michael Varney

Chief of the Ellington CT Volunteer Fire Department with over 20 years of emergency services experience. Michael is an adjunct faculty member of the Connecticut Fire Academy, President of the CT Fire Chief's Association and member of the Governor's Domestic Preparedness Senior Steering Council.

Rob Levandoski

Captain with the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department with over 20 years experience. Robert is a CSP and an active hazardous materials instructor with the Connecticut Fire Academy.