

WICHITA HOT 2023

LECTURES

The Lassale Bank Fire

Jim Clark; Chicago Fire (Retired)

LaSalle Bank fire was one of the most notable high-rise fires in US history. Truck #28, along with other on-the-scene companies, received unit citations for over 187 saved occupants. Captain Jim-E gives a unique inside look at lesson learned and how it relates to high-rise firefighting and adapting to unusual conditions.

On Fire: The Psychology and Physiology of the Fireground

Eric Haskins; City of Nampa (Idaho)

On Fire: The Psychology and Physiology of the Fireground is a class about Stress and how it can negatively impact your performance on the Fireground. Inspired by the work of Col. Dave Grossman, Chief Eric Nurnberg, and many others, On Fire has been adapted for the fire service to break down the psychology and physiology of the fireground and how perceived “threats” can lead to disastrous outcomes in fireground performance. A look into the science of stress, along with real life experiences and heart rate data will give the student an awareness to the “side effects” of stress and equip them with the skills and techniques needed to mitigate their stress response and perform at their highest when lives on the line.

The Seniorman (Informal Leadership of the Firehouse)

Jess Rodzinka; Charlottesville Fire

In a firehouse there is formal leadership: Fire Chief; Battalion Chief; Captain; Lieutenant. However, there is the informal leadership in the firehouse, the Seniorman. This class we will discuss how to be the Seniorman. Whether you have 2 years or 20, this class will talk about being the informal leader in the firehouse, at the kitchen table or even out for an evening with the Brothers and Sisters.

Reading the Building: Building FACTS and the Size-up on Today's Fireground

Christopher Naum; Command Institute, Center for Fireground Leadership

Today's buildings and occupancies continue to present unique challenges to command and operating companies during combat structural fire engagement. Building and occupancy profiling, identifying occupancy risk versus occupancy type, construction methods, features, systems and components require new skill sets in reading the building and implementing predictive occupancy profiling for today's firefighters, company and command officers for effective and efficient fireground operations. Incorporating the Buildingsonfire FACTS concept for First-Arriving Construction, Tactics and Safety, this program provides an overview of the methodology and process to increase operational effectiveness and ensure critical building factors are identified, assessment and monitored throughout the incident. Focus on Residential and small Commercial occupancies.

Through Tragedy Comes Change; A Firefighter's Blueprint

Kim Fitzsimmons

This class is an exploration and examination of historical fires that have laid a foundation of information, a blueprint, our Fire Service Blueprint. The information is there for all of us to see, and the goal of this class is to learn how to use that information like a blueprint and then build the fire service in a direction of continuous improvement. Through pictures, video, and eyewitness accounts, we will identify the importance of past tragedies; the tragedies that led to changes in tactics and strategies, changes in firefighter safety, and changes in life safety. We'll look at how these tragedies are possible within every district, whether large or small, and how the Blueprint is relevant to every member. The main goal of the class is to spark your intellectual curiosity to; study the Blueprint, research our changes, and learn the lessons.

The Hazards of Knee Walls

Jonathan Hall; Saint Paul Fire Department

The majority of structural fires occur in one- and two-family dwellings. Often, these fires occur in structures that contain occupiable half-stories constructed with knee walls. Building construction containing knee walls can be found in every community from urban to rural, in older legacy homes, as well as in modern pre-manufactured truss homes. Fires involving the knee wall void spaces present incredible challenges to responding firefighters and have resulted in numerous Mayday transmissions. Knee walls can conceal tremendous amounts of fire or combustible gases that are waiting for the proper mixture to ignite. As soon as members open up the knee walls, extreme fire conditions can erupt with little to no warning. Attendees will learn the severe hazards that knee walls present, how to recognize them early in the operation, and how to apply tactics to safely mitigate incidents involving them.

"The Kitchen Table"- A Fire Service Center Point

Daniel Nelms; Nelms Fire Company

There are many old school traditions to keep alive in the fire house. One of the most important is the KITCHEN TABLE. This is the place where we break bread with fellow firefighters, solve the department's problems, have coffee, tell the best stories, and sometimes shed a tear or two. We also have all had our fair share of conflict at the kitchen table. When you are a family, that is what happens. Join us as we utilize this powerful training tool and gather around the "Kitchen Table". At the fire house table, there's no titles or rank. This is an opportunity to sit down and have a conversation, and not just a lecture. We will have a room full of older members to bring experience to the table, and new members to bring enthusiasm and education. We will discuss strategy and tactics, staffing issues, LODD's, and so much more. Whether you're a "Ghetto Fireman" or part of the "Redneck Regime", there's something for you in this class. Come have a cup of coffee, a glass of southern sweet tea, a Diet Mt. Dew, or whatever your beverage of choice is, and some much-needed fellowship.

A Tale of Two Cities, Ladder Company Operations

Daniel MacAuley; Boston Fire Department / Matthew Paglione; FDNY

Two major northeast with different truck cultures but the same common goals. This class will introduce you to the do's and don'ts of ladder company operations. From pre-planning and size up to forcible entry and opening up, we will discuss various obstacles that we've encountered and some tricks to defeat them. Other topics will include optimizing crew sizes to better complete the multitude of tasks on the fireground such as search and laddering. Our goal is to build confidence in your ability to perform quick and thorough truck company operations will on the fireground.

Assessment and Management of a Downed Firefighter

Eric Budd; Ocean Pines Fire

This class focuses on the assessment and management of a downed firefighter. Topics will include initial assessment, managing air emergencies, packaging the firefighter, removal from the structure, gear removal and firefighter CPR.

Overwhelmed to Overcoming - Managing First Alarm Overload

Trey Nelms; Nashville FD/Pleasant View VFD

In the emergency service, we often respond to a variety of incidents. Some of these situations push us to our limit upon arrival. What do you do when you are overwhelmed by the situation? In this class, we will review a variety of issues that first alarm companies can encounter on arrival or at an escalating incident. On scene video footage will put you into the action where preparation, decision making, determination, and solid firemanship make the difference. Firsthand accounts and information from each situation will enhance learning and give attendees more tools for their toolbox.

Hose and Holes an Incident Command Prospective

John Turner; Derby Fire Department

Perspective of an incident commander, challenging ingrained philosophies of command at structure fires. What activities should be occurring at the command post? What should the IC be thinking? Command philosophies from an urban, suburban, and rural environment. Command philosophies from a single-family occupancy, apartment, and building.

The Mayday Mental Make-Up

Cody Brdicko; Omaha Fire and Rescue

This lecture will cover RIT operations backed by real world data. Gone are the days of standing in the front yard being reactive to a dynamic environment. Today's real-world data suggests everyone on the fireground is the RIT team making it crucial every firefighter has the knowledge and skills to save our own including oneself. 89% of successful rescues of a down firefighter come from within the structure so tactics on how to work as a team from both the inside and outside of the structure to conduct a successful rescue will be discussed. This lecture will focus on firefighter survival based upon the relationship between stress and performance, and that there is an optimal level of stress corresponding to an optimal level of performance. We will discuss how to control stress levels with the most important tool we can utilize on the fireground, our breathing. This lecture will discuss the effects of high stress; low frequency events and how these events affect our strategic decision-making process. Human performance and situational awareness in a dynamic environment will be discussed to better prepare you for the most important mission we could ever be tasked with, saving one of our own!