



Registration Information

Executive Chief Officer
Virtual Conference

presented by the
South Carolina Fire Academy

Friday and Saturday
February 26-27, 2021





Dear Chief,

Our team at the South Carolina Fire Academy is excited to bring you the Executive Chief Officer *Virtual* Conference for 2021.

In 2020, we had over 140 members of our state's fire service attend. In 2021, due to social distancing restrictions, we are unable to meet in person for this event. However, to share their knowledge and experience, we are providing you with the best speakers and fire service professionals from across the country. Additionally, we will share updates on our division and partner associations.

We've worked hard to ensure the learning opportunities offered during this two-day event exceed your expectations. We are proud to offer this on our virtual platform at no cost to our state's fire service. We will include plenty of breaks. So, sit back, relax, log on, and learn!



Sincerely,

Dennis K. Ray
Academy Superintendent

Registration for this event is via the Fire Portal:

8019-21-001

<https://fire.llr.sc.gov/Portal/Registration/registration.aspx?crsidnt=69631>

Registration Deadline: Friday, Feb. 12, 2021

Conference Agenda



Friday, February 26

9:00 a.m.	Welcome	Emily Farr Jonathan Jones Dennis Ray	
	The Myth of Culture Change in the Fire Service: Looking into the Soul of a Fire Department	John Butler	
	<i>Break</i>		
	South Carolina Fire Academy Update	Dennis Ray	
	Wildland-Urban Fire: Basics and Community Resilience	Daniel Gorham	
	<i>Break</i>		
	Fire Marshal's Office Update	Nathan Ellis	
	Your Fire Department Data: Where Can You Find It and How Can You Use It?	Frank Blackley Todd Tuttle	
	<i>Break</i>		
	Partner Association Update		
	Chester Polymer Fire: Command Emphasis from an Emergency Management Perspective	Ben Grant	
	4:30 p.m.	Wrap Up	Dennis Ray

Saturday, February 27

9:00 a.m.	Welcome	Dennis Ray
	My Transition to Fire Chief: Tips for Up and Coming Leaders	Trisha Wolford
	Emergency Response Task Force Update	Ken Kerber
	<i>Break</i>	
	Partner Association Update	
	Must Have Policies and Practices for Every Fire Department	Bradley Pinsky
	<i>Break</i>	
	Palmetto IST Presentation	Jonathan Jones
	<i>Break</i>	
	Major Incident Case Study	
4:30 p.m.	Wrap Up	Dennis Ray



Course and Speaker Information

The Myth of Culture Change in the Fire Service-Looking into the Soul of a Fire Department: There are many fire service speakers who talk about how to change the culture in fire departments. But, culture is something you get, not something you create. Culture is a window into the soul of a fire department. It is the result of the day-to-day written and unwritten practices, rules, SOPs and SOGs, and systems that make up the fire department. Culture can't be imported, exported, copied, or even translated. Culture is how people behave when you put them into a certain system. Change the system, and you'll get a different culture. But you can't change the culture without first changing the system and that is harder than most people realize.



JOHN BUTLER has been the Fairfax County (VA) Fire and Rescue Department Fire Chief since 2018. He formerly served as the first internal fire chief for Howard County (MD) Department of Fire and Rescue Services and was the first chief to have held every rank within that department. He is an active paramedic and holds a graduate degree from Johns Hopkins University, and certificates from the Johns Hopkins Public Safety Leadership Program, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program, and the IAFC Fire Service Executive Development Institute. Chief Butler co-chairs the International Association of Fire Chiefs Diversity Executive Leadership Program, holds the Chief Fire Officer designation awarded from the Center of Public Safety Excellence, is a member of the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors, and sits on the Northern Virginia Fire and Rescue Leadership Development Institute Advisory Board. He is a Marine Corps veteran with 20 years of active and reserve service, including two combat tours.



Wildland-Urban Fire, Basics and Community Resilience: Wildland-Urban interface fire disasters are not limited to the western states. The 2009 Highway 31 Fire in Horry County is a well-known example of the potential destruction from vegetation/forest fires. This session will provide an introduction to wildland/vegetation fire behavior and how they impact the built-environment, i.e. ignite structures. Fire is inevitable, but disaster is not. We will discuss science-based construction and community best practices to incorporate wildfire resiliency.

DANIEL GORHAM leads a team at the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety dedicated to better understanding the wildfire hazard and how we can make communities more resilient. Through innovative tests at the IBHS Research Center and post-fire field observations, Dan and IBHS are in pursuit of finding better ways to build, prepare, and help communities reduce their risks. He brings a wealth of fire-science knowledge to IBHS that originated by being the Research Project Manager for the Fire Protection Research Foundation in Quincy, Massachusetts. He has also spent time with the National Fire Protection Association, and was a guest researcher at the U.S. Forest Service Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. Dan earned a master's and bachelor's degree in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland College Park. In addition, his experience as a firefighter/EMT helps guide IBHS research on what is important for communities experiencing fire risks.

Your Fire Department Data-Where Can You Find It and How Can You Use It?

Fire departments collect data ranging from incidents, training, or inspections but do you really know why? This presentation will discuss why the collection of data is important and how to use it to improve your decision-making skills. There will be examples of how to use analysis tools to easily review your data daily.



FRANK BLACKLEY recently retired as an Assistant Chief from the Wilmington, NC Fire Department after 35 years of service. He was previously Fire Marshal during which time he served two terms as president of the NC Fire Marshals Association. He was assigned as the Operations Chief for three years prior to his last position over Support Services where he supervised the training, fire and life safety, logistics, fleet maintenance divisions, and managed the department's annual budget. In recent years he has taught nationally for Vision 20/20 and is one of their technical advisors for Community Risk Reduction. He is an adjunct instructor at the National Fire Academy and assisted in development of a class on community risk reduction at the station level. He was heavily involved with the department's accreditation process and understands the need for accurate data. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer's Program and earned a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Urban and Regional Planning from UNC Wilmington.



TODD TUTTLE is a Battalion Chief with the Greensboro Fire Department. He began his career with the department in 1991 and currently manages the department's Planning Division and Performance & Accountability Group. This Group collects, researches, and analyzes data that supports the department's mission and vision, and facilitates the department's accountability and self-assessment process. This section is responsible for fire incident records management, fire data analysis, staffing applications, GIS analysis, performance measurements, hazard and risk assessment, strategic planning, and standards of coverage for deployment of resources.

My Transition to Fire Chief-Tips for Up and Coming Leaders: After 10 years as a career firefighter, paramedic, and lieutenant in Anne Arundel County Fire Department, Chief Trish Wolford decided to learn what kind of leader she wanted to be and what type of leader she was going to become.

"I took three years away from my department and served in different ranks of other fire departments," Chief Wolford said. "It was all with the hopes that, one day, I could come back home to hopefully be the Fire Chief of Anne Arundel County. That goal happened Feb. 28, 2019. I'll share with you my transition to Fire Chief and all the things I learned about walking (or sprinting) the road less traveled and doing things differently than most in my position."



TRISHA WOLFORD is the Fire Chief of the Anne Arundel County Fire Department in Maryland, one of the largest combination fire departments in the country. Chief Wolford is the 12th fire chief in the 54-year history of the department. The county is 580 square miles, covered by 31 fire stations, which serve a population of almost 600,000. She is responsible for 917 career firefighters, approximately 600 operational volunteer firefighters, 28 fire communications operators, and 56 civilian support staff. Hired by the Anne Arundel County Fire Department in 2006, Chief Wolford operated as a firefighter/paramedic until her assignment to the Fire Marshal's Office in 2011. She spent seven months training at the Anne Arundel County Police Academy and

was sworn in as a law enforcement officer in 2012. She was then assigned to the Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit where she promoted to Lieutenant in 2014. With her law enforcement and paramedic background, Chief Wolford was a part of the Anne Arundel County Tactical Medic SWAT program for four years, providing medical attention to the Anne Arundel County Police Quick Response Team. In late 2015, she accepted the position of Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal with the Bozeman Fire Department in Montana. She was responsible for administrative services, public education, code enforcement, fire investigation, fire inspections, company inspections, and city fire marshal duties. In 2017, Chief Wolford joined the Spokane Fire Department as the Assistant Fire Chief overseeing full operations of the department. She directly supervised Deputy Chiefs managing Operations, Training, Support Services, Human Resources, and the Fire Marshal Division. On Jan. 28, 2016, she returned to Anne Arundel County to fulfill her dream of becoming fire chief in her home department. Chief Wolford received her bachelor's degree from Shepherd University in West Virginia and a Master's Degree in Management and Organizational Leadership from Western Governor's University. She received her Paramedic certification from Anne Arundel Community College (2009) and continues to be a nationally registered paramedic. She is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy and of the IAFC's Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI). She also holds a CFO and CFM designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). Chief Wolford is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs Human Relations Committee, Chair of the Professional Development Committee, and the National Fire Academy Liaison for the EFO Section Committee.



Must Have Policies and Practices for Every Fire Department: This class reviews the top policies every fire department must have to prevent liability, firefighter injuries, and public embarrassment. The suggested policies are derived from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommendations and case studies on poor outcomes in fire departments that lacked sufficient policies. Attendees will learn how to create vital policies to protect their personnel and the department and how to conduct a risk analysis of their operations to determine if there are policies they must implement immediately.

BRADLEY PINSKY is an attorney representing more than 500 fire departments and emergency service entities throughout New York. He served as the Chief of the Manlius (NY) Fire Department. He is one of the four attorneys hosting "Fire Service Court Radio" on fireengineering.com. He lectures frequently throughout the nation on legal, management, and leadership topics important to emergency service organizations. He is the recipient of a number of national and local awards, including the IAFC's Training Officer of the Year Award.

Chester Polymer Fire: Command Emphasis from an Emergency Management Perspective: This case study will focus on the Chester Polymer Fire that occurred in August 2020 in Chester County, South Carolina.

BEN GRANT is a third generation firefighter, starting his service career at a young age while tagging along with his father in Chester County. In 2008, after attaining an associate degree, Ben joined the Rock Hill Fire Department where he is currently Captain on Engine 4. He also works part-time for Chester County Emergency Management as a planner and Chester Fire Department as a training officer.

