



# FULLY INVOLVED

The official newsletter of the Alberta Fire Training Officers Association

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WWW.AFTOA.CA

SPRING 2022

## AFTOA forging ahead

*Pandemic slowed us down, but we're committed to providing value to our members*

**T**he AFTOA, like all our respective agencies, has tried to remain relevant and active for the membership of Alberta. Like all of us, we have suffered due to the pandemic and even though that has become the go-to excuse, it has posed many limitations to what we've been able to support or provide. I personally have not been able to commit the time required of this position related to the needs of my service.

This said, we still managed to work successfully with partners and member agencies to provide some excellent training opportunities in 2021.

- **April 18** – Training for Failure: Understanding why first responder training must change (with Dr. Richard Gasaway);

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### President's Message



**Chief Dan Verdun, AFTOA President**

## President's Message (continued)

*(Continued from front page)*

**April 29** – Grassland Fire Behaviour (with Kelsy Gibos);

**Oct. 9** – Recognition Primed: Cues and Patterns for the Training Officer (with Phil Jose).

These training opportunities were well attended and well received for the value they provided, and we thank those organizations that made these offerings available.

As you are aware, the conference committee continued to work with the possibility of an in-person conference, until we reluctantly followed suit of many other associations and postponed the event scheduled for September in Grande Prairie. We are hopeful and continue to plan for a live event in GP for 2022 and look to our membership for support in making this happen.

We focused on our strategic plan of fostering and maintaining relationships with partner agencies such as the BCFTOA, AFCA, and Municipal Affairs, and specifically the Public Safety Branch (PS) (Certification and Compliance).

While we did start making some positive steps with Public Safety, their internal

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changes have made consistent communications an issue. We worked with Dean Clark and were starting to form an open forum that should have led to our mandate of being a conduit for information from their office. Unfortunately, Dean was seconded into AEMA, and we have gone back to forming the relationship required to meet our goals. We are happy to provide that Dean's role has been filled by Myles Tabin and we have started introductions and have had some positive initial discussions and hope to get back on track.

On a positive note, we were engaged to work with PS to vet the most recent changes to the NFPA 1041 program, and they asked for subject

matter experts from our members to provide input into proposed changes in the program, which we gladly did. This, again through uncontrollable internal change, has been tabled as IFSAC and Pro Board made additional accreditation adjustments.

We will continue to work with Public Safety and share incoming information with our membership.

I want to thank our executive, and zone reps for what they've done to support our association and Cary Castagna, our communications expert, for his work on our media platforms, membership management and website. Finally, I want to thank our members for their patience and continued support.

The executive and the representatives of our various zones continue to support the AFTOA as we feel we can and will provide value to our members through networking, opportunities, and expertise to support and educate the people in our organizations that train our people to keep them safe.

Respectively submitted,

**Dan Verdun ECFO IAAT-FIT  
President AFTOA**

## 2022 AFTOA Conference



*Just a few scenes from our 2019 conference. Work is beginning on this year's event. Please consider joining our conference committee.*

# Plans in place for fall

Following a two-year hiatus forced by the pandemic, the Alberta Fire Training Officers Association Conference is tentatively scheduled to return in 2022!

Work is in the early stages, but we are aiming for mid- to late September. The conference is slated to be hosted by the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service.

### **Committee Members Required**

With our target month fast approaching, we are calling on AFTOA members to step up and join our 2022 Conference Committee to assist in several key areas, including securing and confirming:

- Speakers/presenters
- H.O.T. training
- Vendors;
- Sponsorship, and;
- On-site locations.

Without help in these integral roles, the conference will be in jeopardy of not happening.

To join the committee, please contact Chief Byron Fraser, of Lethbridge County Fire Services, at your earliest convenience via email at: [byronfraserfire@gmail.com](mailto:byronfraserfire@gmail.com) or by phone at 403-795-0194.

## AFTOA Membership and Roles

# Late fees waived for '22

The AFTOA endeavours to help connect, develop, and support fire training officers and instructors so they may best provide training for their organization and its members.

Through our membership services, we strive to:

- Make available technical information, resources and guidance with the goal of improving education province-wide.
- Promote, inform and advise on uniform training practices for the fire service.
- Encourage the development of consistent fire service performance standards.
- Study, advise or advocate on areas of

mutual interest to the fire service, particularly in the field of training.

- Act as a liaison on training matters with other associations, in keeping with the best interest of the province and the regions served.

### Join the AFTOA

We are continuing to accept membership renewals/registrations for 2022 through our website at [aftoa.ca](http://aftoa.ca). Late fees have been waived for the year. To those who have already renewed for this year, thank you for your continued support.

## Executive, zone & division reps set

With the exception of a vacancy in the Southwest Division Rep role, the AFTOA executive, and zone and division reps are set for the remainder of their terms. They are as follows:

- **President:** Dan Verdun, County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Services
- **1st Vice President:** Byron Fraser, Lethbridge County Fire Services
- **2nd Vice President:** Nolan Jespersen, Fort Saskatchewan Fire Department
- **Treasurer:** Bryan Hall, County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Services
- **Secretary:** Amy West, Taber Fire Department
- **North Zone Rep:** Mike Shykora, County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Services
- **Northwest Division Rep:** Brian Kroes, Central Peace Regional Fire Service
- **Northeast Division Rep:** John McDermott, Lesser Slave Regional Fire Service
- **Central Zone Rep:** Corey Schram, St. Albert Fire Services
- **Central West Division Rep:** Alex Plant, Wetaskiwin Fire Department
- **Central East Division Rep:** Henry Thomson, St. Paul Fire Department
- **South Zone Rep:** Casey West, Picture Butte & District Emergency Service
- **Southwest Division Rep:** Vacant
- **Southeast Division Rep:** Mark Matheson, Lethbridge Fire & Emergency Services
- **Associate Rep:** Ryan Hicks, Canadian Natural Resources Limited

For contact information for any of these individuals, please visit: [aftoa.ca/contact](http://aftoa.ca/contact). Nominations are still being accepted for the position of Southwest Division Rep. Please see our website at [aftoa.ca](http://aftoa.ca) for the position summary and nomination form.



# Upcoming Training Opportunities

## **Northern H.E.A.T., Peace River, May 4-7, 2022**

The annual Northern Alberta Fire Conference and Training Symposium is back this year, and it includes live fire training and hands-on practical training.

## **Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Rescue Symposium, Bow Island, May 13-15, 2022**

The Alberta Vehicle Extrication Association (AVEA), Penn State College and the Bow Island Fire Department are pleased to announce that they will be co-hosting the 2022 Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Rescue Symposium.

## **BCFTOA Conference, Salmon Arm, B.C., May 14-19, 2022**

The BCFTOA is excited to be hosting its annual conference, featuring hands-on-training May 14-15 and educational sessions May 16-19.

## **Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Rescue Symposium, St. Paul, May 27-29, 2022**

The Alberta Vehicle Extrication Association (AVEA), St. Paul Fire Department and Penn State College are pleased to announce that they will be co-hosting the 2022 Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Rescue Symposium.

## **Aaron Fields Nozzle Forward, Lethbridge, May 28-29, 2022**

Lethbridge Fire and Emergency Services is proud to once again host Aaron Fields and his training cadre for the Nozzle Forward program. This is one of the most sought-after fire training programs in North America for over 10 years and only the second time it's been through Alberta.

## **AFCA Conference and Trade Show, Red Deer, May 29-31, 2022**

The Alberta Fire Chiefs Association is hosting its 74th Annual Conference and Trade Show at the Cambridge Red Deer Hotel & Conference Centre.

## **Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Rescue Symposium, Olds, June 3-5, 2022**

The Alberta Vehicle Extrication Association (AVEA) and Penn State College are pleased to announce that they will be co-hosting the 2022 Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Rescue Symposium.

## **Advanced Heavy Rescue Symposium, Olds, June 18-19, 2022**

The Alberta Vehicle Extrication Association is proud to partner with the Olds Fire Department Training Centre in Olds for the Advanced Heavy Rescue Symposium.

*To keep up-to-date on upcoming training opportunities and conferences, visit the AFTOA events page on our website at: [bit.ly/AFTOAEvents](https://bit.ly/AFTOAEvents).*

## **AFTOA Mission Statement**

*To support Alberta's municipal, provincial, and federal fire service training officers and instructors by communicating consistent educational information across the province to achieve the required standards for fire and rescue service delivery, and enhance the safety of firefighters and the communities served.*

## **AFTOA CONTACT INFO**

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