



AFTOA Newsletter

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

WWW.AFTOA.CA

WINTER 2020

Leading the charge

We're proud of our accomplishments in 2019 and we're excited for a challenging year ahead

On behalf of the team at the AFTOA, we hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas break and is having a great start to the new year. As we look back on 2019, we want to ensure we reflect on what we accomplished and lessons learned so we can better serve our membership and the fire service as a whole.

We held a major milestone event, our inaugural training officers conference, which was possible through the support of several sponsors such as Trans Canada and Draeger, and our hosts, Red Deer Emergency Services and the Olds Fire Department. We had numerous volunteers step forward to make this event a success and we had great feedback on the sessions hosted. We also identified areas from participants for growth and to set the stage for our 2020 conference being hosted by the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Services **September 10-12**.

President's Message



Nolan Jespersen

Captain

Fort Saskatchewan Fire Dept.

The AFTOA also solidified communications with the Public Safety Division and the AFCA to begin working towards a better communication stream and bridging efforts to support the

fire service. We now have a quarterly meeting schedule with both groups that will take effect this year to allow more feedback and input into areas affecting training and to streamline addressing the needs of fire service training officers. We also were able to coordinate a survey relating to the FSTP grant that will be provided to the AFCA for review and input. This will aid in taking recommendations forward on a more focused basis and in a coordinated effort from the AFCA. The report will be provided to the AFCA for review before the end of our first quarter in 2020 and will be available for AFTOA members to review.

Our professional development committee is working with the conference committee on several educational and informative sessions to better serve the needs of training officers. These range from basic entry-level training officer development to aid new

President's Message (continued)

training officers or those interested in entering the role with their department, to more advanced sessions for chief training officers to help better understand managing a training division.

We saw an increase in memberships with our association and this helped increase our network within the province.

With all the success, there are still many areas for improvement and growth. At the inception of the association, our emphasis was on being a grassroots association and supporting departments, primarily those that require more resources and support at the volunteer level. We have not fully succeeded meeting the needs of those departments and are prioritizing this for 2020. We have looked into how to better establish supports based on



feedback from several chiefs and training officers, and our strategic plan focuses on this.

Making zone meetings matter and have value to those attending is a priority as well as exploring options for a resource-sharing platform that is accessible to our membership.

While all of these initiatives have value and are extremely important, we remember and recognize that much of the work done on behalf of the association is done on volunteer time. This is only

possible through the dedication of the people in our organization, the support of each of our fire chiefs and our member departments.

With that, our main focus is to have several key objectives move forward and look at continued growth in 2020 to support our membership. Working with our executive, zone reps, and the AFCA, and communicating better with the PSD will only enhance our capabilities and improve the effectiveness of the association in our mission.

Looking at what we accomplished over the last year, we are proud and excited for another challenging year ahead. We are hoping to have several key initiatives laid out in our strategic plan and to work with departments to lead the charge supporting training officers in 2020 and beyond.

Strategic Plan Summary

The 2020-2022 Strategic plan lays a clear path for AFTOA priorities over the next three years. This plan has been developed in consultation with the AFCA, Accreditation and Certification branch, and, most importantly, feedback from our membership. The final document will be available on our website under the members only section in early spring.

Item 1: Workflows and Partnerships

This area of the strategic plan identifies how we operate and communicate with other agencies and associations. The primary focus of this is improved and consistent workflows between the AFTOA, AFCA and Accreditation and Certification branch, and our membership. It is important to note that this allows more coordinated feedback, review and input from those impacted by training related matters. This also helps predict and plan for better communication ahead of changes with regards to accreditation and certification programs. The targeted completion date for this project

Strategic Plan Summary (continued)

is the spring of 2020 and the workflow will be viewable under the members only section on our site.

Item 2: Zone Activities

The importance of supporting training officers at a zone level is critical and this has been a challenge over the last two years for the AFTOA. Based on feedback and looking at the unique challenges faced, which differ by zone, the AFTOA is re-structuring zone focus to put more emphasis on holding either workshops or train-the-trainer sessions to bring value to the zones. This project has a targeted completion date of fall 2020 with a final report being presented to the board from the three zone reps and the 2nd VP on progress. We also are looking at specific zones and divisions, as they need a framework to be flexible and meet membership needs.

Item 3: Training and educational conference

This item is focused around building more structure and formalization to our conference committee and the processes involved. This also allows for more long-range planning to occur so we can be prepared and able to coordinate with other organizations as needed and ensure a balanced approach to educational opportunities in the conference setting. This will be completed for the spring of 2021.

Item 4: Trade memberships

This was voted on and approved at the 2019 AGM and the AFTOA is opening the trade membership categories. Development of operational guidelines, working relationships and a trade members framework are set with a completion date of the fall of 2020 for the 2021 registration cycles.

Item 5: AFTOA Web Systems

This will re-evaluate the use and options available for the AFTOA website as well as some clean-up of current processes related to website use, member registration and our other electronic systems. This will ensure we are efficient and have a process and services in place to improve things like the registration process, department registration and possible access to resource sharing of materials for instructors. Target completion of this review and improvement of our systems is the fall of 2020 to align with the 2021 registration cycle and improve what's offered to our membership.

Item 6: Online Store

It was identified that a store would support advertising and support of the AFTOA as well as offer merchandise to anyone interested in purchasing. This would be electronic and available at AFTOA events. The target completion for this project is winter of 2020/2021.

Item 7: Instructor resource tool kits.

It was identified in consultation with our members to have some clarity on a best practice when hosting or offering training. With several changes in standards and expectations, site requirements and materials being required, to name a few, the need for a clear best practices guideline would be beneficial to instructors. This initiative will pilot tool kits for instructors with the goal of eliminating some confusion around what is required when hosting certified training. The intent is to have a best practices guideline that is optional for use and available through the AFTOA. Consultation with other agencies such as Accreditation and Certification and the AFCA, as well as members, would occur as part of the project. This project is targeted for an initial review of pilot documents in the spring of 2021 with review of its merits, and final project completion in the spring of 2022.



AFTOA Opportunities

Instructor Best Practices Tool Kit

This project aligns with the AFTOA strategic plan and would provide instructional supports for certified training delivery. It would aid in requirements for logistical needs, instructor reference documents, safety considerations, student-to-instructor ratios and estimated timelines for delivery would be topics for discussion and review. As stated, it would be a best practice document and departments utilizing the tool would be able to adjust and modify it as they saw fit. If there is value and success, it would include other programs in the future.

We are looking for people to sit on the pilot for “Instructor Best Practices” for the following three standards:

- NFPA 1006 Vehicle Rescue 1
- NFPA 1002 Chapter 4 Driver
- NFPA 1002 Chapter 5 Pumper

This team will consist of the following:

- 1 NFPA standard validation team member
- 1 AFTOA representative
- 1 Zone Representative from north, south and central.

Anyone sitting on the team must hold certification to the standard, have delivered the program in its entirety, and be a certified NFPA 1041 Level 1. The anticipated time frame for review and development of a draft document for review and comment by the AFTOA membership, AFCA, and Accreditation certification division is six months. As stated, this is a guideline and not being pushed as a mandatory requirement but only as a best practice to help guide and support instructors in training coordination and delivery.

It is estimated anyone sitting on a specific standard group would require approximately 16 hours over the six months and would be asked to present in their zone on the tool kit at a future zone meeting/training day.

Open Positions

Nominations are now being accepted for 2nd Vice President, in addition to SW division and NE division reps.

Any expenses incurred related to these positions (such as travel, hotel, meals, etc.) are covered by the AFTOA.

Please see our website at aftoa.ca for the position summary and nomination forms.



Upcoming Training Opportunities

The Heartbeat of Leadership Retreat, Waskesiu Lake, Sask., March 27-29, 2020

The Waskesiu Fire Department invites you to join a network of effective leaders. The Heartbeat of Leadership Retreat is a gathering for fire service individuals who want to become more effective team members by expanding leadership knowledge and skills.

Construction Under Fire, Spruce Grove, April 4, 2020

Evaluate some of the most common myths relating to the performance of building construction materials and systems under fire conditions. Outside sources like the Internet and social media make it possible to access and share much information; unfortunately, many myths and much incorrect information come along with it.

Aaron Fields Nozzle Forward, Lethbridge, May 19-20, 2020

Aaron Fields is once again running his Nozzle Forward program at Lethbridge Fire and Emergency Services. Nozzle Forward has been and remains one of the most popular training sessions in North America.

BCFTOA Conference, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, B.C., May 23-28, 2020

The BCFTOA is excited to be hosting its annual conference, featuring hands-on-training May 23-24 and educational sessions May 25-28.

AFCA Conference and Trade Show, Edmonton, May 24-27, 2020

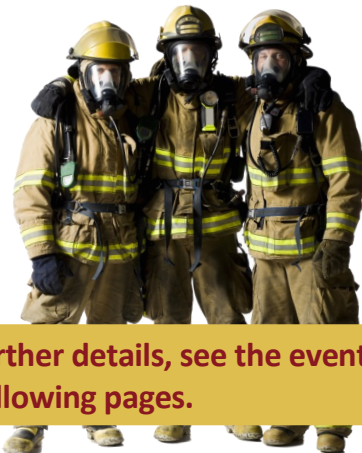
The Alberta Fire Chiefs Association is hosting its 73rd Annual Conference and Trade Show at the Edmonton EXPO Centre and Sutton Place Hotel.

Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Symposium, Olds, June 19-21, 2020

The Alberta Vehicle Extrication Association (AVEA) and Penn State College are co-hosting the 2020 Farm Extrication and Machinery Entrapment Rescue Symposium at Olds College.

AFTOA Conference and AGM, Grande Prairie, September 10-12, 2020

We are excited to announce that the 2nd Annual AFTOA Training Conference will be held in September in Grande Prairie. Stay tuned for more details.



For further details, see the event posters on the following pages.

To keep up-to-date on upcoming training opportunities and conferences, visit the AFTOA events page at: 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

Email:
contact@aftoa.ca

Mailing address:
P.O. Box 2603; Stony Plain, AB
T7Z 1Y2

The Heartbeat of Leadership Retreat

MARCH 27 - 29, 2020

THE HAWOOD INN

WASKESIU LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN

The Waskesiu Fire Department is inviting you to join a network of effective leaders. The Heartbeat of Leadership Retreat is a gathering for fire service individuals who want to become more effective team members by expanding leadership knowledge and skills.

Join internationally recognized fire service leader and Waskesiu Fire Department Chief, Les Karpluk, for this two day leadership retreat and workshop in beautiful Prince Albert National Park.

To Register: Contact Fire Chief Les Karpluk at l.karpluk@sasktel.net

Retreat fee is \$225 and includes;

- Participant Guide / Workbook
- A copy of Purpose Filled Leadership
- Presentations and workshop
- Lunch

Friday March 27, 7 - 9pm

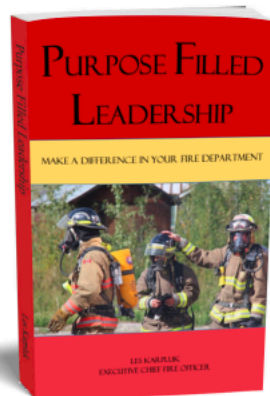
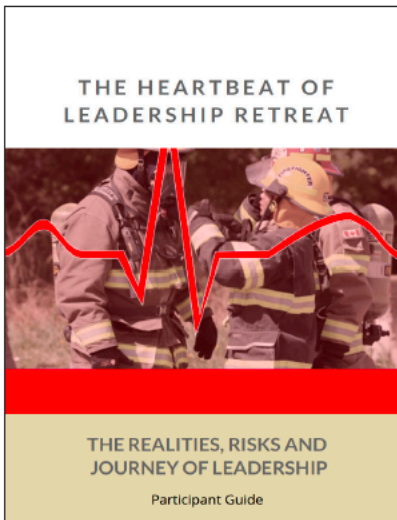
Meet and Greet

Saturday March 28, 8:30 - 4:00pm

Leadership Realities, Risks and the Journey of Leadership

Sunday March 29, 8:30 - Noon

Case Studies



Accommodations Available at;

The Hawood Inn: 1-877-441-5544

Lost Creek Resort: 1-866-663-8622

Register and Book your room Now! - Rooms blocked and special rates available until February 14, 2020
Remember to mention "The Heartbeat of Leadership Retreat" when booking your accommodations.



SPRUCE GROVE FIRE SERVICES

proudly hosts



CONSTRUCTION UNDER FIRE

A Presentation by James Johnson

Evaluate some of the most common myths relating to the performance of building construction materials and systems under fire conditions. Outside sources like the Internet and social media make it possible to access and share much information; unfortunately, many myths and much incorrect information come along with it.

REGISTRATION \$125

Spruce Grove
Protective Services Building
36, Fifth Avenue, Spruce Grove

Saturday April 4, 2020
0830 – 1630
lunch will be provided

Registration Deadline: March 28
To Register: www.ticketpro

JAMES JOHNSON

James Johnson is a firefighter in British Columbia, Canada where he is member of the Special Operations Technical Rescue Team for his department. Before becoming a career firefighter, James spent a number of years in the construction industry and completed an apprenticeship as a Red Seal Journeyman Carpenter. James is a technical committee member for NFPA 5000, 220, and 221, the International Code Council Representative for the International Association of Fire Fighters, FDIC instructor, and lectures internationally on the subject of building construction.