



# AFTOA Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

WWW.AFTOA.CA

FALL 2019

## Announcing our 2020 conference

We are excited to announce that the 2nd Annual AFTOA Training Conference will be held next September in Grande Prairie. AFTOA First Vice President Dan Verdun is heading the 2020 organizing committee and is seeking members to step up and assist with the logistics of planning another successful event. He can be reached via email at: [dverdun@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:dverdun@countygp.ab.ca) or by phone at: 780-567-5591.



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## 2019 AGM set for Lethbridge

The 2019 AFTOA AGM and election of two executive positions is slated for **Friday, October 18 at 1630 hrs at the Coast Lethbridge Hotel & Conference Centre (526 Mayor Magrath Dr. S., Lethbridge).**

Under AFTOA bylaws, the President and Second Vice-President are elected in the odd numbered year. Each term is for two years.

To be eligible for nomination, nominees must meet the following two criteria:

- Registered regular member of the AFTOA;

- Submission of a nomination form to [contact@aftoa.ca](mailto:contact@aftoa.ca).

Nominations are also being sought for an associate representative. Completed nomination forms may be emailed to [contact@aftoa.ca](mailto:contact@aftoa.ca).

Resolutions for the AGM are to be submitted in editable electronic format to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee (Ed Mello at [chf182@gmail.com](mailto:chf182@gmail.com)) prior to the AGM.

Nomination forms and submission guidelines are available on the AFTOA website at [AFTOA.ca](http://AFTOA.ca).

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# President's Message

As we all are back into the swing of things as the fall hits, we're preparing for a busy fall and upcoming year at the AFTOA. We are looking forward to being at the trade show for the upcoming Alberta Fire Training Conference in Lethbridge on October 16-19, where we will also be holding our annual general meeting. We appreciate being able to participate at this conference and the conference committee supporting us by fitting our AGM into a busy schedule. We will be working on developing a 3-year strategic plan as we continue to grow our membership and support you as the province's training officers.

We also want to reflect on the successes we've had over the last several months. We



**Nolan Jespersen**

*Deputy Fire Chief*

*Stony Plain Fire Dept.*

have established regular meeting intervals with both the AFCA, Public Safety Division, and Office of the Fire Commissioner to discuss training delivery within Alberta and communicate the need of our members.

Communication is the key to success and we are excited to be working to help improve communications focused towards training officers. We also made changes to our bylaws to improve voting on elections, bylaws, and resolutions allowing online

voting. This helps improve the ability for each member department to have their say in what occurs with the association and accommodates those departments that are unable to attend meetings.



## Fire Dynamics in Red Deer



We also are excited to have held our inaugural conference in Olds and Red Deer. This was a great event that would not have been possible without the support of our hosts Olds Fire Department and City of Red Deer Emergency Services.

We do not want to forget mentioning the Ottawa Fire Services support of this event and our major sponsor Trans Canada, as well as numerous other supporters. This also took countless hours from several volunteers in our association and truly made the event a success. We saw FKTP (From Knowledge To Practice) Fire Dynamics delivered with the most current and up-to-date resources relating to fire science and tactics. We also were privileged to host Aaron Fields and Nozzle Forward, reinforcing how the basics can never stop being improved on, and added additional tools to our tool box.

We have also started updating our website to improve access to information and will be working on some initiatives to help support training officers in the future. We look for your



input and feedback at upcoming zone meetings to help develop any initiatives where we can support training officers either in the field or via the website. We also strongly encourage our members to contact their zone and division representatives with any questions or concerns as they are the foundation to our association.

We are looking forward to an exciting couple months as we begin conference planning and continue to develop and grow our association. We have several great initiatives coming forward and these are only possible through people stepping forward to help out. These only occur based on the hard work of volunteers and we are looking for more help on committees or through other opportunities, which will be on our website. We hope if you have the time and ability to, that you are able to help out.

We want to thank you all for your support of the association, your input towards our operation, and keeping us moving ahead as we take on new challenges in 2020.

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

## Forensic & Technical Photography Seminar, Acheson, Oct. 3-4, 2019

Parkland County Fire Services hosts Global Forensics in the delivery of a two-day seminar on Forensic and Technical Photography. This course will be suitable for municipal fire investigators, law enforcement, and anyone conducting investigations as a part of professional duties.

## ISFSI Live Fire Credential: Fixed Facility, Lac Ste. Anne County, Oct. 11-13, 2019

The ISFSI Live Fire Fixed Facility Instructor Credential Program is a unique blend of distance learning and an intense three-day hands-on academy. The course focuses on the responsibilities of instructors charged with important safety duties as live fire instructors.

## Alberta Fire Training Conference, Lethbridge, Oct. 18-19, 2019

The Alberta Fire Training Conference is proud to bring together the best speakers and industry professionals to share their knowledge and experience within the fire service. The sessions will expand your knowledge and provide practical and intellectual insight into emergency services. H.O.T. training offered prior to the conference (Oct. 16-17) gives you hands-on experience with a real-life fire fighting scenario, while the trade show offers a glimpse at the wide range of technologies and services available for you to bring to your team.

## Protecting our Professionals Conference, Rocky Mountain House, Nov. 1-3, 2019

The Protecting our Professionals Conference was established in 2017 with the focus on cancer prevention in the fire service by maximizing training dollars to enhance our safety and leadership skills.

The high calibre of presenters at this conference will discuss topics that are at the forefront of fire service protection, highlighting our values of accountability, integrity, and quality of service.

## Situational Awareness Matters presentation, County of Grande Prairie, Nov. 23, 2019

The County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service is proud to host retired fire chief and situational awareness expert Dr. Rich Gasaway and his presentation "Flawed Situational Awareness: The stealth killer of first responders". This program shares the powerful findings of Dr. Gasaway's extensive research on issues related to first responder decision making and flawed situational awareness. This event is free to attend with lunch and refreshments sponsored by the Peace Regional Fire Chiefs (PRFC).

**For further details, see the event posters at the end of this newsletter.**

**To keep up-to-date on upcoming training opportunities and conferences, visit the AFTOA events page at: [bit.ly/AFTOAEvents](http://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](mailto:contact@aftoa.ca)

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

# PSD Accreditation and Certification

The Alberta Fire Training Officers Association provides the following updated information to its members based on meetings with the Alberta Public Safety Division:

- **Site Inspections**



- For any department that is completing site inspections for certification purposes the following is required when selecting a site inspector:
  - \* NFPA 1041 Level 2
  - \* Has the applicable NFPA certification for the standard to be tested
  - \* Does not work for the municipality or department requiring the site inspection.
- Ensure you have any documents related to the training site/area for the applicable standards such as:
  - \* Site diagrams
  - \* Engineered certificates (live fire facilities, 1006 high angle with engineered anchors, etc.)
  - \* Hazard Assessments
  - \* Environmental approvals, documents (fluids drained from vehicles for VE training, applicable hazmat scenarios, etc.).

- **NFPA Standard changes**

- NFPA 1001 is transitioning to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition in 2020 with validations tentatively scheduled for fall of 2020.
- Training officers are encouraged to consider the changes prior to, review the updated NFPA 1001 2019 standards on the NFPA website and the IFSTA essentials 7<sup>th</sup> edition textbook available through the AFCA bookstore.
- NFPA 1041 Level 1 and Level 2 validations scheduled for fall of 2020.

- **Acquiring IFSAC/Pro board proof of seals or proof of certification and courses**

- Personnel will receive notification from Accreditation & Certification office once certificates are generated. This notification will include instructions for how to log into the new system and to access their records.
- System is still being adjusted and records updated.
- Departments are not able to access student records.

## Notice of Meeting

The Central Zone is scheduled to host its fall meeting on November 16, 2019, in St. Paul. Watch the AFTOA website for further details.

# Protecting Firefighters From Traffic at Roadway Incidents



By Edward J. Mello, IAAI-FIT, IAAI-CI

All too often we hear about a firefighter working at a roadway incident being struck by a passing vehicle.

The reasons why firefighters are injured by passing vehicles at roadway incidents are numerous. Legislation acknowledges that drivers are distracted. Research suggests that over 60% of drivers passing an emergency incident take cell phone pictures as they pass, and nearly 100% of them take their eyes off the road to view the scene. Some drivers are simply in a hurry and choose not to slow down. Then there are the “D” drivers — the ones who are drowsy, drugged, drunk, distracted, disgruntled, or just plain disrespectful when it comes to emergency scenes. The question is: how do we protect firefighters from drivers passing roadway incidents?

There are traffic laws and regulations intended to protect our crews; unfortunately, these laws and regulations are hard to enforce and are often ignored.

The best protection is training firefighters to work in compliance with laws and standards designed to ensure their safety when working at emergency incidents where there is roadway traffic. These laws and standards include:

*NFPA 1091, Standard for Traffic Incident Management Personnel*, requires that firefighters be able to size-up and recognize hazardous situations, properly position vehicles to protect responders, provide access for additional emergency vehicles, establish advance warning, and utilize approved PPE;

## Trainer's Corner (continued)

*NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness*, states that: "Each department shall establish, implement, and enforce standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding emergency operations involving traffic";

The *Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act* states that employers have an obligation to ensure that all workers are adequately trained to protect their health and safety. As the Act pertains to firefighters working on or near roadways, Section 194, Vehicle Traffic Control, requires that workers be protected from traffic hazards by the use of administrative or engineering controls and highly visible apparel; and

Alberta's *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Guide for Firefighting* also addresses required training. It can be found at <https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/fex003>.

There are three essential elements for improving firefighter safety at roadway incidents: planning, training, and equipment.

1. **Planning.** Fire departments should have a Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Plan that details the procedures and equipment to be used when responding to roadway incidents. This plan can be used as a training lesson plan which outlines how to establish Temporary Traffic Control Zones to create "traffic calming" areas. These areas prepare drivers for the emergency situation they will be entering. Temporary Traffic Control Zones provide for:

- \* **Blocking:** The first step in creating a safe working zone is proper vehicle placement. Vehicles placed in a "fend off" (on an angle to the lanes of traffic in a "block to the right" or "block to the left") position should be used to protect the incident site and illuminate the work area.
- \* **Visibility:** Personnel must wear appropriate PPE. Standard NFPA 1901-compliant firefighter PPE is not considered adequate. Alberta OHS requires that additional visibility should be provided with CSA Standard Z96-15 high-visibility safety vests. However, NFPA 1500 states that these vests are not to be worn when "exposed to fire, heat, flame, or hazardous materials where NFPA-compliant turnout gear is more appropriate." Also, any bright light that shines in the direction of passing drivers makes it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for them to see emergency personnel. Therefore, it is advisable that headlights are turned off and high-powered warning lights be dimmed and/or turned off.
- \* **Advance Warning:** Provide advance warning to approaching traffic. Advance warning should advise drivers that there is an emergency incident ahead and that they need to slow down. Advance warning needs to indicate where drivers should and should not drive. This can be accomplished by the use of warning lights and signs, traffic cones, and flag persons. Flag persons should monitor and direct approaching traffic from all directions and be able to activate an emergency signal if a motorist fails to comply with traffic control directions.



2. **Training.** The most important step is training. It is essential that **all** personnel understand:

- \* The high level of danger that they are exposed to when operating in or near moving vehicle traffic;
- \* The need to operate within a protected environment at any roadway incident; and
- \* The measures they should take to ensure a safe working area.

## Trainer's Corner (continued)

Roadway safety training should provide a clear understanding of the need for and methods of providing advance warning to motorists of roadway incidents. Because any moving vehicle is a threat to their safety, responders should learn how to establish a safe working zone and the means of protecting themselves and other crewmembers.

Unfortunately, there is very little traffic control training available in Alberta, and the training which is available is limited and very expensive. However, there is an excellent source of free on-line traffic control training available from the Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI) (<https://learning.respondersafety.com>). ERSI's on-line tested courses cover all facets of traffic control and roadway operations safety. Modules include subjects such as:

- \* Advance Warning,
- \* Blocking Procedures at Roadway Incidents,
- \* Recommended Practices for Traffic Incident Management SOPs,
- \* Roadway Incident Safety Training Guidance for Fire Officers,
- \* Safe Fire Service Traffic Control Practices,
- \* Special Circumstances: Safe Operations for Vehicle Fires,
- \* The First 15 Minutes at Roadway Incidents,
- \* Traffic Incident Management: Incident Command & Management,
- \* Traffic Incident Management on Rural Roads, and
- \* Understanding NFPA 1091.

Each module takes about two hours to complete, not including the module test. Upon successful completion of the module test, ERSI provides a Certificate of Completion of the tested training program, as well as educational credit hours.

A few of the modules are U.S.-specific, but the majority of the modules apply to firefighters everywhere. Some modules are designed more for fire officers, but all of the modules are appropriate for every member of a fire department from the newest recruit to the chief. A good place to start is with ERSI's *Understanding [NFPA 1091](#)*, followed by *The First 15 Minutes at Roadway Incidents* and *Safe Fire Service Traffic Control Practices*.

ERSI's on-line training is not only free but it also provides documentation of completed courses and is available to everyone at any time. So, when the tones go off while you are in the middle of a module, you simply resume where you left off, whenever you can.

Other training materials and information can be found by searching the internet for "traffic control safety." This leads to free information from various sources which can be used to develop training plans, for example:

- \* *Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety* from the Federal Emergency Management Administration ([https://www.usfa.fema.gov/operations/ops\\_vehicle.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/operations/ops_vehicle.html)); and
- \* *Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety in the Emergency Services* from the US Fire Administration (<https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/initiative-research/best-practices-for-emergency-vehicle-and-roadway-operations-safety-in-the-emergency-services>).

## Trainer's Corner (continued)



Fire officers should also look at *Company Officer's Health & Safety Responsibilities*, a free training module from the Fire Hero Learning Network (<https://www.fireherolearningnetwork.com>).

**3. Equipment.** Providing firefighters with and requiring them to wear highly reflective vests is essential. Even though there are reflective strips on turnout gear, they do not meet the visibility requirements of the *Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act*. Other essential traffic control devices include the use of vehicles for blocking, advance warning signs, stop/slow paddles, traffic cones, and flashlights. ERSI's training modules provide great detail in the how, when, and where to use traffic control devices.

Training our firefighters to safely manage roadway incidents is the most reliable way to prevent firefighter death and injury. Fire departments should develop and implement a Traffic Incident Management Plan or SOP/SOG and strongly encourage their members to take the free training available from ERSI.

The documentation from ERSI for completion of tested training affords an additional benefit to fire chiefs, providing proof that firefighters have been properly trained.

If you know of other roadway safety training or other measures that can help keep our firefighters safe, please let us know.

**It is up to us to ensure that everyone goes home safely.**





PARKLAND COUNTY FIRE SERVICES

# TRAINING NOTICE

## Forensic & Technical Photography Seminar

October 3 & 4, 2019

Parkland County Fire Services is excited to host Global Forensics in the delivery of a two day seminar on Forensic and Technical Photography. This course will be suitable for municipal fire investigators, law enforcement, and anyone conducting investigations as a part of professional duties.

### Course Description:

Attendees will receive instruction in the critical elements of photography as they relate to the forensic and technical field. This program emphasizes the techniques used to accurately capture digital images which will be used for comparative or analytical purposes such as criminal and civil investigations and collision reconstruction. This program addresses various options including Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) cameras, Point and Shoot cameras, and other optics commonly used in the technical and forensics community. This program also addresses the proper use and placement of scales to ensure the resulting images are useful for comparative purposes.

Attendees are presented a range of options for capturing images to be used for investigative purposes, even in low or poor light conditions. Attendees will be able to compare various options side by side. Attendees are given the opportunity to use their own equipment, so they may achieve the best possible results using the equipment already on hand. This program will provide the attendees with the skills and knowledge to accurately capture images and handle the resulting images in a manner which insures the integrity of the original images are preserved.

Upon completion of the class, attendees will be able to accurately record digital images of evidence and scenes. This includes impression evidence such as tool marks, footwear and tire marks. Techniques are presented to aid the photographer in dealing with problematic scenes low light conditions. Maintaining the integrity of the digital media is emphasized throughout the class.

1. What is Forensics
2. Digital Imagery & the Law/Credibility in Court
3. Camera Basics – (systems, camera functions, exposure)
4. Forensic Photography – (SWGIT, file formats, metadata, depth of field, scales and markers, the cardinal rules)
5. Documenting the Scene – (why document, the 5 methods)
6. Lighting Techniques - (using light to your advantage)
7. Low Light & Night Photography
8. Types of Scenes – (collision, accident, fire, explosion, criminal)
9. Photographic Imagery Analysis
10. Impression Evidence – (tools, tires, footwear, lighting)
11. Equipment Needs – (maximizing your effectiveness, elevations, tripods)
12. Macro Photography – (accessories, lighting, telling the story with images)

### Course Date/Time:

Thursday October 3	13:00 - 21:00	*Dinner Included
Friday October 4	08:30 – 16:00	*Lunch Included

### Course Cost:

\$425.00 per attendee, includes meals and refreshments.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT**

Sean Cunningham, Chief Fire Marshal  
[sean.cunningham@parklandcounty.com](mailto:sean.cunningham@parklandcounty.com)

780-968-8888 Ext. 8106





# LIVE FIRE CREDENTIAL: FIXED FACILITY



The ISFSI Live Fire Fixed Facility Instructor Credential Program is a unique blend of distance learning and an intense three-day hands-on academy.

The course focuses on the responsibilities of instructors charged with important safety duties as live fire instructors. This course is based on the NFPA 1403 Standard on Live Fire Training. Students will complete an extensive on-line course prior to the hands-on portion and will be challenged by a series of written and practical examinations to earn this three-year credential.

## Program Highlights:

- Instructor responsibilities in operations of permanent gas fired and Class A combustible fueled live fire training structures
- Creating and implementing a sample pre-burn plan
- Emergency planning and operations
- Working with students in live fire conditions
- Review of current industry research involving live fire conditions
- Application of duties to ignition officer, safety officer, and instructor-in-charge

**October 11-13, 2019**

**ISFSI Member Pricing: \$555**

**Non-Member Pricing: \$595**

*(includes a 1 year ISFSI membership)*



**Hosted by:**

**Lac Ste Anne County Fire Services**

2317 TWP Rd 545, Lac Ste Anne County, AB T0E 1V0

Student Pre-requisites:

AHJ Credentialed Firefighter II & Instructor I  
Minimum of one year as an instructor

**Register Online:**

**<https://www.isfsi.org/e/in/eid=134>**

*Full payment is due prior to start of class. Late registrations are subject to a 15% increase. No refunds for cancellations will be given after thirty (30) days prior to the start date of the class. ISFSI is willing to transfer registration to another Live Fire Instructor Credential class within nine (9) months of the original registered class.*

For additional information contact: Suzanne Campbell  
[suzanne.campbell@isfsi.org](mailto:suzanne.campbell@isfsi.org) 800-435-0005 Ext 21  
14001 C Saint Germain Drive, Suite 128  
Centreville, VA 20121

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**ALBERTA  
FIRE  
TRAINING  
CONFERENCE**

TEACHING TODAY:  
SHARING  
TOMORROW

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# JOIN US

## ABOUT US

The Alberta Fire Training Conference brings modern training information to firefighters across the region through educational seminars and hands-on training, as well as hosts a wide variety of service related vendors at the walk through Trade Show.

**H.O.T. Training: October 16th & 17th, 2019**  
**Conference Dates: October 18th & 19th, 2019**

**Location: The Coast Hotel, Lethbridge**

## HOT TRAINING

Come join us at our 2019 conference Hands on Training. We have a very exciting line up of events this year. The committee has switched things up a little bit to include vehicle extrication!

We have planned elements of advanced extrication on motor vehicles, big rig extrication, and also plan on having a portion on agricultural equipment! We are very excited to offer these variations on extrication. We are hoping to see you all in Lethbridge on October 16-17 and our conference to follow Friday and Saturday. Mark it on your calendars for this exciting training opportunity!

**ABFIRETRAINING.ORG**



# KEYNOTES

## KEYNOTE 1:

### JASON HOEVELMANN: FIRE CHIEF



We are pleased to welcome Chief Jason Hoevelmann to the 2019 Conference for his full day session on "First Due Tactical Decision Making." This class focuses on all aspects of decision making for the company officer and acting officer. Pulling up to any incident offers a great deal of unknowns, even when we equip ourselves as best we can. This class offers ways to be as prepared as possible for being that first due company and officer.

This class will discuss the decision-making process and how to avoid biases in our decision making. Understanding our first due response area and conducting good recon before a fire ever happens. In addition, we will cover the following and more:

- Size up, building construction and codes
- Drilling with purpose and urgency
- Intimacy with our equipment and team
- Smart and effective tactics and deployment
- Our role on special incidents
- And more.....



**ABFIRETRAINING.ORG**



# KEYNOTES



## KEYNOTE 2:

### STEVEN ORUSA: FIRE CHIEF

Of the countless people who take on various leadership roles, how many encounter resistances to their attempts to lead or even hostility, jealousy or unfriendliness. How many find the transition to leader challenging to say the least? If, being a leader turns out to be a bad experience it is almost always because of the leader's own ineffectiveness. Public safety operations attract special people, let's talk about how to lead them effectively. The purpose of this presentation is to show you what special skills and methods you must learn to use today's "model" of effective leadership.

A 34-year public safety veteran, Steven Orusa is the Fire Chief for the Fishers Department of Fire and Emergency Services. He has a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement Administration and his graduate work is in Human Resource Management. Chief Orusa has served as a technical review consultant for NIOSH Line of Duty Death (LODD) Investigations. He is a published author and is a frequently invited speaker on public safety leadership and development techniques.

# AND MORE

## SESSIONS

The 2019 Alberta Fire Training Conference Committee has a number of speakers on a wide variety of topics lined up. We are pleased to bring speakers from a wide range of disciplines to help teach modern practices and tips for today's fire services.

Our sessions fill up fast, so make sure you're watching our website for the full schedule to be released soon!

## TRADESHOW

Don't forget to join us in the main ballroom on Friday and Saturday for our tradeshow. You don't want to miss the latest tools of the trade and the opportunity to speak with vendors that can help bring even more expertise to your service.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Details on the Coast Hotel's booking rate for the AFTC will be placed on our website closer to the Conference. Don't miss out, we're looking forward to welcoming you!



[ABFIRETRAINING.ORG](http://ABFIRETRAINING.ORG)





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READY TO  
JOIN US?

[www.abfiretraining.org](http://www.abfiretraining.org)

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**2019**

**3rd Annual Protecting Our Professionals Conference**

Rocky Mountain House, AB

November 1-3, 2019



**Agenda**

**November 1**

- 08:00 - 17:00**      **IAFF Fire Ground Survival (Hands on Training Session)**  
Location: TBD
- 19:00 - 22:00**      **Cancer Prevention / Awareness, Dr. Kenneth R .Kunz**  
Location: Lou Soppit Community Centre, RMH

**November 2**

- 08:00 - 10:00**      **Directions of Leadership in the Fire Service**  
Los Angeles Fire Department, Captain Craig Paulsen /  
Ret. Captain Chuck Ruddell
- 10:15 - 12:00**      **Mentoring in the Fire Service**  
Los Angeles Fire Department, Captain Andy Ruiz
- 13:00 - 15:00**      **Topic TBD**  
Dr. Duncan Shields / Steve Farina
- 15:00 - 17:00**      **Topic TBD**  
Ret. Los Angeles Fire Department, Chief Joe Castro

**November 3**

- 08:00 - 12:00**      **Modern Fire Behaviour (UC Based Studies)**  
Sean DeCrane / Peter Van Dorpe
- 13:00 - 17:00**      **Human Factors in the Wildland Fire Service (L-180)**  
Daryl Black, Grant Rinas, Lionel Crowther, Steve Debienne, Evan Stewart,  
Sheldon Mehlhaff & Kris Heemeryck

**Tickets: \$175/each + taxes (refreshments and meals included)**

**Register deadline: October 18, 2019**  
For more information, call 403-845-4444  
or email [pop2019@clearwatercounty.ca](mailto:pop2019@clearwatercounty.ca)



# TRAINING OPPORUNITY



**Saturday, November 23, 2019: 9:00am – 4:00pm**

Fire Chief (ret.) Richard B. Gasaway presenting:

## **Flawed Situational Awareness: The stealth killer of first responders**

This program shares the powerful findings of Dr. Gasaway’s extensive research on issues related to first responder decision making and flawed situational awareness. In his review of hundreds of near-miss reports, case studies, line-of-duty death reports and videos he continually found himself being frustrated because there were so many clues, indicators and signs that the incident was going to end in disaster.

Yet, for some reason, personnel operating at the incident scene – from company officers to incident commanders – could not see it coming. Or if they did see it coming, they did nothing to alter their course.

In his research to understand why first responders were (seemingly) blind and deaf to what was happening right in front of them, Dr. Gasaway uncovered and investigated over one hundred barriers that can destroy situational awareness and flaw decision making.

This program focuses on some of the most pervasive situational awareness barriers first responders will face while operating in stress-filled, dynamically-changing environments.

- Barriers to be explored and discussed will include:
  - Pre-arrival lens
  - Mission Myopia
  - Staffing issues
  - Normalization of deviance
  - Complacency
  - Overconfidence
  - Miscommunications
  - Peer and supervisor pressure
  - Overload
  - Task fixation
  - Task saturation
  - Confabulation
  - Mind shift
  - Biases
  - Human factors
  - The curse of knowledge
  - Technology
  - Command location
  - Command support
  - Mission and goal
  - Culture
  - ... and more



**Location:** Clarkson Hall  
Evergreen Park  
55051 G Twp Rd. 710  
County of Grand Prairie

**Sponsors:** The Peace Regional Fire Chiefs (Lunch)

**Host:** County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service

**Cost:** Free but there is limited seating so first come first served

**Includes:** Lunch and refreshments

**To Register:** Contact Jason Nesbitt at [jnesbitt@countygpr.ab.ca](mailto:jnesbitt@countygpr.ab.ca)

Program Host



Lunch Sponsor





## Presenter Biography



**Richard B. Gasaway** worked as a first responder in three public safety organizations including serving 22 years as a fire chief. After completing his distinguished 30-year career, Dr. Gasaway founded Situational Awareness Matters!, a consulting and teaching organization dedicated to improving how individuals, teams and organizations develop situational awareness as a foundation for improving workplace and personal safety. His company website (SAMatters.com) has been visited by more than four million people from 156 countries.

As a professional speaker and author, Dr. Gasaway has contributed to more than 400 books, book chapters and journal articles on topics related to leadership, safety, situational awareness and high consequence decision making. His best selling books, Situational Awareness Matters Volumes 1, 2 & 3, Situational Awareness for Emergency Response, and Fireground Command Decision Making, serve as essential guides for helping individuals and teams develop and maintain situational awareness while making high-stress, high-consequence decisions.

Dr. Gasaway has earned the Certified Speaking Professional designation – the highest honor awarded by the National Speakers Association. His high-energy, humor filled presentations are chocked full of valuable, actionable takeaways – as proven by his 2,500+ program and keynote address invitations throughout the United States, Canada, The United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Australia.



Dr. Gasaway is a big proponent of “Paying it forward” and gives back by serving as the Chancellor for the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) credentialing program and a peer evaluator for the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Credentialing program.