



100th Annual
State Fire School
January 25-26, 2025



Prairie Meadows Event Center ▪ 1 Prairie Meadows Dr, Altoona

Location and Parking



Meadows Event Center at Prairie Meadows Casino and Hotel
1 Prairie Meadows Dr, Altoona, IA 50009



The Fire Service Training Bureau is pleased to continue the tradition of training Iowa's firefighters at the **100th Annual State Fire School**. We are sure that you will find a selection of classes that will meet your training needs. You will see a number of exciting NEW classes, hands-on classes, and some that offer EMS continuing education hours. We will be offering courses in the following formats: 90 minute, 3 and 6-Hour Classes.

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FSTB History

In **1923**, a group of firefighters came to what was formerly known as Iowa State College and asked for educational assistance to improve their firefighting and fire prevention skills. In 1925, the college's response was the "First Annual Iowa State Fire School." That event marked the beginning of state-level fire service education and training in the United States.

This first state fire school, titled "First Short Course for Firemen" (**1925**) provided four days of training. Topics included fire prevention, firefighting, and first aid. The program was developed by the fire service, under the supervision of the Engineering Extension Department of Iowa State College.



Over the years, the Fire Service Extension changed names to become the Fire Service Institute, a component of Iowa State University-Extension. The annual fire schools continued to grow, and the Institute began offering many basic and advanced fire service training programs.

In **1966**, a legislative appropriation of approximately \$100,000 was made to build a facility called the Iowa Firemanship Building on the Iowa State University campus to help

centralize and conduct the business of providing firefighter training and research along with training grounds to host said training.

In **2000**, at the request of several state fire service organizations, legislation was drafted to remove the Fire Service Institute from Iowa State University and relocate it within the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of State Fire Marshal. Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack signed House File 2492, and the transfer of the Institute's responsibilities occurred on July 1, 2000. The "Institute" was dissolved, and the Fire Service Training Bureau was created within the Division of State Fire Marshal.

While the overall responsibility and budget were transferred immediately to the Division of State Fire Marshal in Des Moines, Iowa, the physical location of the Bureau continued in the Firemanship Building on the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa. The Bureau's accounting and procurement practices and employment of part-time field staff instructors were also still coordinated through Iowa State University.

Proponents of the legislation believed transferring the responsibility of statewide fire service training to the Division of State Fire Marshal would give the new Bureau a higher priority for increased funding needed to ensure quality training and education. Iowa State University Extension also supported the move, stating "they wanted what was best for the fire service and the citizens of Iowa."

In November of **2018**, field staff instructors of the Bureau were transferred from being

employed by Iowa State University to being employees of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of State Fire Marshal. The titles of these positions changed from "FSTB Field Staff" to "Training Specialist 1s."

The Fire Service Training Bureau continues to advance in its practices. In June of **2019**, the first successful computer-based certification testing opportunity occurred in Missouri Valley, Iowa. This type of testing is increasing in frequency as the Bureau's IT capacity increases.

The Bureau searched for more current and updated facilities and more extensive training grounds to accommodate the growing training needs of Iowa's fire and other emergency services. Since 1966, fire service training has significantly expanded well beyond just learning to fight fires. Training must now incorporate responding to vehicle incidents, hazardous materials, technical rescue, EMS, agricultural, industrial, and many other incidents. The Bureau strives to be current and comprehensive in its training and to help support and be a primary resource to Iowa's fire service.

On the afternoon of May 5, **2020**, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed and fully executed by the Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Iowa National Guard to relocate the Fire Service Training Bureau to Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa, beginning July 1, 2020. This move to Camp Dodge reflects a growing partnership between DPS and the Iowa National Guard. In addition to occupying newer facilities, FSTB will also have larger training grounds with the ability to expand upon our current fire and rescue training offerings.

The facilities within which we occupy is the current fire station, building 59 – a 9, 239 square-foot facility that previously served as the Iowa National Guard's fire station. The space, design,

and layout of this facility is ideal for the Bureau's current and future training needs. In addition to having access to many classrooms, the Iowa National Guard has also provided dedicated training grounds just west of the firing ranges suitable for live-fire training, storage of mobile training props, and additional space to expand.

Today, the Fire Service Training Bureau's core functions include promoting safety in all aspects of fire and emergency service training and response, and to coordinate training ranging from basic skills to more advanced specialized topics. The Bureau is also responsible for hosting and coordinating the Annual State Fire School, which trains approximately 700 firefighters, annually. On average, the Fire Service Training Bureau educates and trains approximately 12,000 students annually and supports local training efforts with deployment of various training props/ adjuncts, including a five-story training tower that is currently being built at Camp Dodge.



The Bureau offers professional certification through a program accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) to provide national certification in various firefighting specialties. It also acts as a statewide point of contact and coordination for federal fire programs.

Schedule

Saturday, January 25

6:45 AM	Registration Opens
7:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Vendors
8:00 – 10:00 AM	Opening Ceremony and Keynote
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Classes
10:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Classes
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Classes
1:00 – 4:00 PM	Classes
2:40 – 4:10 PM	Classes
4:30 – 6:00 PM	Vendor Time
4:30 – 8:30 PM	Certification Testing

Sunday, January 26

8:00 AM	Registration Opens
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Vendors
9:00 – 10:30 AM	Classes
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Classes
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Classes
10:40 AM – 12:00 PM	Classes
12:00 – 12:50 PM	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Classes
1:00 – 4:00 PM	Classes
2:40 – 4:10 PM	Classes

FSTB Staff

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EMS Formal Continuing Education Hours (CEHs)

Iowa Bureau of Emergency Medical & Trauma Services has designated Formal EMS Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) to the following 2025, 100th Annual Fire School classes:

- **326 The Zone of ISICS Interoperability Communication & Your Radio** (3 Hrs. Operations)
- **335 Industrial & Ag Machinery Rescue** (3 Trauma, and 3 Operation Hrs.)

Watch for this icon when selecting your classes → 

Hands-On Training (H.O.T.)

The following classes involve hands-on training (H.O.T.):

- **324 Smooth vs Fog**
- **334 Advanced Ventilation & Attack (PPV/PPA)**
- **335 Industrial & Ag Machinery Rescue**
- **337 The Resilient Firefighter – Safety & Survival**
- **338 Victim-Focused Search – Upholding the Oath**

Watch for this icon when selecting your classes → 

Opening Ceremony & Keynote

300 | **Saturday 8:00 - 10:00 AM**

Keynote: Dr. David Griffin

Dr. David Griffin is the Assistant Chief of Administration in Charleston, South Carolina. He was the operator of the first due engine on June 18, 2007, when nine of his fellow firefighters perished. He has come through the ranks in Operations in every uniformed position from Firefighter to Assistant Chief during his 19-year career in Charleston. He has a bachelor's degree in education from The Citadel, a master's degree in Executive Fire Service Leadership, and a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership and Development. He is the author of the bestseller *In Honor of The Charleston 9: A Study of Change Following Tragedy*, among three other books. Dr. Griffin is also an international speaker and instructor, a certified Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and Chief Training Officer (CTO) with The Center for Public Safety Excellence, an IFSAC/Pro Board-certified Fire Officer IV, a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program (EFO) from the National Fire Academy, a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Executive Education program: Senior Executives in State and Local Government, a graduate of the Psychology of Leadership program from Cornell University's Samuel Curtis Johnson College of Business, a graduate of Yale University's School of Management Values Based Leadership program, and a graduate of the Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI) through the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). He is the owner of On a Mission Inspirational Speaking at drdavidgriffin.com where he has worked with over 1200 organizations in 46 states, 3 countries, and with over 500,000 attendees.



90-Minute Classes

NEW

301 When the Smoke Clears

Saturday
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Adam Hilgenberg, Firefighter, Waukee Fire Department

Let's step into the realm of mental health awareness as we navigate the intricacies of the human mind, shedding light on the silent struggles many face. Join the conversation on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a battle often fought in the shadows. Discover the power of Peer Support groups, where understanding hearts converge to share stories, provide solace, and foster a sense of community.

In this journey, we emphasize the importance of proactive mental health check-ins – a compass for self-awareness and well-being. Let's break the stigma surrounding mental health and create a space where open dialogue thrives. Together, let us build a world where empathy reigns, support abounds, and mental health is not just a conversation but a collective commitment to a brighter, healthier future.

NEW

302 Being an Effective Leader in the Fire Service

Saturday
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

*Jerry Eslick DC WDM (Ret.), PRI, and FSTB TS-1 and
Lance Routson, Deputy Chief, Altoona Fire Department*

302-2 Sunday
10:40 AM - 12:00 PM

This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to leadership by focusing on what it means to be a good leader. Emphasis in the course is on the practice of leadership. The course will examine topics such as: understanding leadership; recognizing leadership traits; engaging people's strengths; understanding philosophy and styles; attending to tasks and relationships; developing leadership skills; creating a vision; establishing a constructive climate; listening to out-group members; handling conflict; addressing ethics in leadership and overcoming obstacles. Students will assess their leadership traits and skills to improve their own leadership performance.

NEW

303 Basement Fires

Saturday
1:00 - 2:30 PM

Jerry Eslick DC WDM (Ret.), PRI, and FSTB TS-1

Basement fires of today are not the same as years past. We are hearing more and more about firefighters falling through floors early in an incident. First-arriving units are making the front door, as they have been taught, to search for fire and victims, then end up in a sub-level inferno. Basement fires are dangerous and challenging. We will provide some guidance to keep you and your team safe.

NEW

304 C6 Zero Explosion Before, During and After

Saturday
1:00 - 2:30 PM

*Josh Humphrey, Iowa County Emergency Manager
and Rob Rotter, Iowa County Sheriff*

304-2 Sunday
10:40 AM - 12:00 PM

Cover the before, during and after of the C6 Zero event. Discuss the events leading up to, the day of, and days following a large multi county response to a factory explosion.

NEW

305 Portable Fire Extinguishers for the Public

Saturday
2:40 - 4:10 PM

Scott Jennings, FSTB TS-1

This course is intended to teach the Firefighters fire extinguisher use, placement, and maintenance to civilians. Giving the civilians the confidence to use an extinguisher in fire prevention. Providing Firefighters, the basics to teach extinguisher usage to civilians.

NEW

306 Historic District Fire Sprinkler Retrofit Case Study

Saturday
2:40 - 4:10 PM

Mike Whitsell, WDM Fire Marshal DC and FSTB TS-1

306-2 Sunday
9:00 - 10:30 AM

Changes of use can greatly affect economic development projects in existing buildings by increasing costs due to fire sprinkler and fire alarm requirements. This is especially true in historic buildings and/or districts. The city of West Des Moines, Iowa has a 6 square block historic district that for years experienced little to no revitalization due to fire code requirements for use changes. The city proactively formed a team that applied for grants, worked with business owners, and created legal easements inside buildings to install shared fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems that stretched all, or part of city blocks to help revitalize an area of our city that was seeing increased vacancies and little growth. As a result of these efforts, 3 grants were awarded, and this case study will give specific details of our successes and hopefully help motivate other jurisdictions to think out of the box and do something similar.

NEW

307 Construction Site Fires; Is Your Department Prepared?

Saturday
1:00 - 2:30 PM

Mike Whitsell, WDM Fire Marshal DC and FSTB TS-1

This class will provide detailed information on several large construction site fires from across the nation, including one that occurred in West Des Moines, Iowa, in April 2020. I will discuss how fire safety requirements from Chapter 33 of the International Fire Code can help prepare construction sites in your cities/jurisdictions. Lessons learned from all of these fires, including the one within our jurisdiction will be focused on including the economic impact of the fires. This course applies to both career and volunteer departments and pre incident planning will also be covered.

NEW

308 Firefighting PPE Contamination Mechanism and Decontamination Approach

Saturday
2:40 - 4:10 PM

Rui Li, Research Assistant Professor, ISU

308-2 Sunday
9:00 - 10:30 AM

This presentation will include the research findings from previous and ongoing projects on firefighting PPE contamination level and mechanism study and decontamination methods and efficiency study. Exposure levels to fire ground contaminants and carcinogens for firefighters will be discussed. The types and concentrations of toxic chemicals found on firefighting PPE before and after decontamination approach will be discussed. Various cleaning efficiency using different cleaning methods of PPE will be discussed and key contributing factors identified. Best practice of effective PPE cleaning will be discussed.

NEW

309 Stretching Long Apartments and Leader Line Operations

Saturday
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Ty Wheeler, Rogue Training

Maximum 24 seats

Apartments are becoming the norm in both suburban cities and rural towns. These large structures create difficulties in deploying handlines for firefighting operations. When stretching in larger buildings, how effective are we at stretching past our preconnected handlines? This class will address apartment fire tactics and provide a solution for fire attack operations. In addition, the students will learn and discuss leader line operations as a means for a highly adaptable fire attack line. This class is not just focused on urban areas; high-density housing is now seen in smaller towns across Iowa and the Midwest. Cities erected these structures as a means of affordable housing for their residents and as an effort to keep these towns growing. Often, these apartments are not equipped with standpipes to aid in fire suppression efforts. So, what is the plan? Enter the Leader Line. This highly adaptable hose line operation addresses fire attacks in apartment buildings and any large structure or long-distance hose deployments.

NEW

310 Water Delivery for Large Fires

Saturday
1:00 - 2:30 PM

Maximum 24 seats

Ty Wheeler, Rogue Training

Supplying adequate water is the only avenue to combat large fires. To do this, engineers must understand the hydraulic concepts of water movement. This course will focus on water delivery from the source to the end of the nozzle for large fires and will dispel some myths around pump operations, which hinder our ability to move large volumes of water. Students will learn how to maximize water sources to provide the most water, determine water availability, discuss hose size and layout, review master stream devices and capabilities, and discuss parallel pumping operations. In addition, students will be presented with engine design and equipment, which will aid in water movement.

NEW

311 Managing Risk with the Vulnerability Assessment Program

Saturday
2:40 - 4:10 PM

David Wiklanski, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), has developed an online Vulnerability Assessment Tool that will provide fire departments with a systematic process to evaluate risk and ultimately reduce the threat of firefighter injuries and deaths.

At the end of the assessment, users have a customized report identifying areas of vulnerability linked to firefighter injuries and deaths. Each report contains suggestions for risk reduction strategies specific to identified vulnerabilities and provides pertinent industry standards and guidelines to address the identified concerns.

Fire departments can then use this analysis to develop operational and strategic plans to implement the risk reduction recommendations necessary to minimize or eliminate predictable causes of line-of-duty injuries and deaths.

NEW

312 The Quick Six

Saturday
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Devon Sadler, DM FD Captain

312-2 Sunday
9:00 - 10:30 AM

The fire scene depends on mentally and physically equipped firefighters to make fast, accurate decisions in the first few seconds of a structure fire upon arrival. The size-up is a critical component of initial scene operations. This class will focus on the first few seconds of the size-up; organizing your initial senses into a meaningful flowchart which can be used by all levels of rank and experience to better equip the firefighter for more safe and effective decision-making.

NEW

313 Could You Rescue You? Your Personal Mission Statement

Saturday
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

*Marc Bashoor, Fire Chief (Ret.), Highlands County Florida and Executive Editor
firerescue1.com*

The presentation defines the essence and realities of “public trust” and will examine instances where firefighters and fire departments have both failed and succeeded to establish, maintain, and exude the “public’s trust”. Participants will examine operational, administrative, on duty, and off duty instances where the lack of mission-focus had negative impacts.

Using multiple management and leadership principles, attendees will be provided with the tools to examine their own focus, and to work towards establishing their OWN personal mission statement. Students will be introduced to the Personal Success Tetrahedron, which will not only help them focus on a mission statement, but will also help their performance in any number of functional situations they may find themselves in.

Through a brief examination of multiple mayday incidents and on-scene mishaps, participants will be tasked to use the mission principles, in both metaphorically and physicality being able to answer the question, Could YOU Rescue YOU?

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Attendees will be able to use the principles presented to establish their own personal mission statement for use in both the personal and professional lives. Attendees will be presented with the Personal Success Tetrahedron and tasked to consider their own preparedness to rescue themselves and/or their organizations from a myriad of situations. Putting the Tetrahedron into action will give attendees the real-world tools they need to not only survive but to thrive in the 21st century fire department. Attendees will examine various operational, administrative, on-duty, and off-duty situations and will be tasked to offer success strategies they would use to avoid or recover from such situations.

NEW

314 Culture in the Firehouse; Are We Fostering a Welcoming Environment?

Saturday
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Doug DeBest, Chief Training Officer, St. Joseph Township Fire Department

314-2 Sunday
10:40 AM - 12:00 PM

The course will dive into the cognitive areas around the environment we work in, namely the "Firehouse." Throughout the presentation the class will participate in discussions and be able to share some of the best practices and outside the box ideas on how to improve the culture within our own fire departments. Firefighter always talk about the brotherhood / sisterhood of the fire service, but what does that really mean and how do we as leaders encourage that type of environment with our members. During the presentation, the actions of this type of culture will be discussed and a deep dive into how we as leaders can facilitate this type of experience for our members. The Firehouse is a sacred place for many; people say it is full of tradition and pride, but sometimes it is not as welcoming for new members as we think it is as current members. Our perspectives are different as members, and we need to realize this and make strides to be open and welcoming to our potential new members of our department. Leaders must take the time to say, "Thank you." A quick "Thank you" can mean so much to our members, as it recognizes their efforts. Member retention is critical, especially within the volunteer fire service. Leadership must ensure that our members feel appreciated and valued, otherwise they will begin to

(continued)

reprioritize their time commitment and dedication to the department. Finally, the presentation will finish with a discussion around the best practices of how we, as leaders can demonstrate our appreciation for our members. This will include examples of how departments recognize their members for all of their efforts and achievements with the department. Time will be saved for attendee questions and discussion at the end of the presentation.

NEW

315 Leadership & Critical Decision Making Under Stress

**Saturday
1:00 - 2:30 PM**

Robert Krause, Battalion Chief, Toledo Fire and Rescue

The focus of this presentation addresses leadership for firefighters that make decisions under stress and empowers them to perform better when critical decisions need to be made in time compressed environments. The relevance of this presentation is that poor decision-making under stressful conditions can lead to firefighter injuries, possibly firefighter deaths and certainly excessive property losses. History has demonstrated poorly trained critical decision-makers fail in the moment when they are needed the most. The presentation is delivered using slides filled with photographs and videos providing the attendee a multi-media experience and has been constructed in such a fashion as to not be considered "death by power point." The program is based on the science of decision-making under stress and informs attendees how they can develop better leadership qualities within their organizations. The result of this session provides the attendee with usable nuggets of information they can quickly implement into their careers and better prepare them to make decisions and improve their leadership skills needed for the men and women they work with.

This presentation is very interactive and is delivered in a lecture / discussion format. Videos, audio tracts and information grounded in facts and data is delivered to the attendee during a lively and entertaining session. The foundation of this program is to develop leadership skills while at the same time aiding the attendee in making better decisions while under the tremendous stress of a critical emergency. This program includes discussion on the psychological effects of stress on the firefighter and offers techniques to refocus commanders when stress levels elevate.

NEW

316 What is Killing Firefighters? Preventing Future Fatalities by Learning from the Past

Saturday
2:40 - 4:10 PM

Robert Krause, Battalion Chief, Toledo Fire and Rescue

This program is directed at firefighters with 10 minutes on the job up to the silver-haired veterans. Focusing on the research of firefighter fatalities from 1998 through 2017, this session identifies how volunteer firefighters died as a result of traumatic fire ground deaths. Dr. Krause brings together his research of firefighter's last moments, describing in detail how they perished in service to their communities. Armed with the knowledge of how these men and women died, modifications to training programs, standard operating policies and procedures and fire ground leadership development can be implemented. Combining research and actual fire ground scenarios, attendees will be afforded the opportunity to learn first-hand what mistakes were made on numerous emergency scenes. This understanding will aid the firefighter, fire officer and fire chief to develop solutions to prevent similar tragedies in the future. Attendees will leave the session with nuggets of usable, digestible information they can immediately apply on their next emergency scene and within their respective fire departments.

Firefighters around the country continue to perish at an alarming rate. Despite improvements in protective clothing, improved building designs and general firefighting training, firefighter deaths remain relatively consistent from year to year. Research based upon a study of 149 fatal fireground incidents involving volunteer firefighters, totaling 176 deaths, identifies seven broad categories in-which firefighters perished. This session identifies those seven categories, breaks down the data, identifies common themes in each of the fatalities and provides realistic methods to aid in the prevention of similar tragedies in the future. Understanding how firefighters have died in the past can inform, educate, and prepare fire crews from repeating similar mistakes and suffering the same tragic result. The research data clearly shows that fatal events that occurred in 1998 are continuing to occur today despite numerous firefighting improvements. So, what's missing? This course works to help attendees learn the lessons written in the blood of our fellow firefighters. Learning lessons from our past can benefit those still serving their communities and better prepare them not to make similar mistakes that took the lives of those that came before them.

3-Hour Classes

NEW

317 The Professional Firefighter

Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Greg Neville, Fire Chief, Odebolt FD

Being a professional fire fighter has nothing to do with getting a paycheck. Nothing to do with volunteer or career, it is the mindset of the department or individual.

NEW

318 What Can You Really Do with Limited First Crew?

Sunday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Greg Neville, Fire Chief, Odebolt FD

Tools and knowledge to make the most out of your 3-4 person first on scene. Keeping our crew safe and doing the best job for our customers, until help arrives.

NEW

319 Managing Large Scale Incidents for the Small-Town Officer and Building Your Box Alarm System

Sunday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Glenn Schlessor, Fire Chief, Storm Lake

This presentation is geared towards the fire officer (lieutenant, captain, Chief officer, or senior firefighter) who may find themselves responsible for incident command in their community. Many of these officers may only face a large-scale fire incident once or twice in a career. This course will focus on how to help them be successful at mitigating the incident safely, deploying resources and other tactical and administrative goals and objectives during and after the operational period. This will cover actual incidents and lessons learned in resource management, deployment and the importance of collaboration and pre-incident planning.

The second half, building your box alarm system will focus on creating a box alarm mutual aid system in your county. The course covers the box alarm component of the MABAS system discussing what it is, how it works and how to make your box cards and how to implement the box alarm system in your county and improve response capabilities.

320 Keep Your Fire Apparatus Running with a Preventative Maintenance Plan & Service NFPA 1911

Sunday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Travis Woodbeck, Fire Chief of Huxley and Service Manager, Reliant Fire Apparatus

Preventive maintenance is regular maintenance to ensure that your apparatus continues to run, preventing it from suffering a major problem down the line that would cause it to break down. You may tell yourself that you don't need a preventive maintenance plan because you usually catch problems with your apparatus when they come up. However, correcting problems as they come up can be more expensive in the long run, and often the problem at hand could have been stopped with preventive maintenance. This class is a review of "what" needs to be maintained and "when" on Fire Apparatus. This class will cover: Chassis, Pumps, Foam Systems and Generators. We will also discuss the most common issues found during Pump Service Testing and how to prevent them.

NEW

321 Electrical Hazards for First Responders

Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Scott Meinecke, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

This program is intended for those that may find themselves responding to emergencies involving powerlines and electrical distribution systems. It will provide a basic understanding of how electrical systems work and the devices used to keep the power flowing. It will cover what to do in the event an emergency scene involves the lines. Not knowing what to do can result in a tragedy! Open discussion and scenarios will be used to apply the knowledge as well as a "live" demonstration of the power of high voltage electricity.

322 From Fire to Courtroom – Documenting and Testifying

Sunday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tiffany Meredith, Asst. Story County Attorney

Teaching and training individuals how to document a fire in a way that could be used for future prosecution and understanding what testimony as a witness would be like. Help train and identify the importance of documenting a fire scene by firefighters, where to look, how to document, and understand the importance of what they are observing for potential future testimony in a criminal trial. The training would also demonstrate what courtroom testimony would look like, how the actions on scene are relevant at trial, and the importance of documentation to prove a criminal act.

NEW

323 Big Fire Big Water Are You Prepared?

Sunday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Scott Kuester, FSTB TS-1; Scott Thompson, Asst. Chief, Gilmore City; and Fire Department Consultants

Pre-planning is important of every aspect of firefighting. This class will provide information on pre-planning for large fires whether in rural areas or urban areas. It will help you decide equipment needs, alternative water sources, setting up water shuttle, fill and dump sites and providing basic hydraulic calculations.

- Pre-Plan needed GPM for large structures in their area.
- Pre-Plan alternative water sources.
- Determine needed water supply.
- Selection of different supply lines and appliances.
- Plan different hose layouts.
- Distribute water from supply lines.
- Setup water fill site.
- Setup water shuttle routes.

324 Smooth vs Fog

Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

**This will be at the
Altoona Fire Dept.**

Lance Routson, Deputy Chief, Altoona Fire Department

In this class, class participants will discuss current research on fire streams and nozzles. We will discuss smooth bore and combination nozzles...and participants can decide which style they prefer! This class will start in the classroom at Altoona Fire Station #25, and then move to the new Altoona Fire Department Training Center, home to the newly designed UL Hose Mechanics prop. Here, participants will have the chance to utilize smooth bore and combination nozzles and practice proper water stream application and hose handling techniques.

Special Logistic Requirements: All class participants will need to bring their own set of personal protective equipment, to include coat, trousers, boots, helmet, gloves, hood, SCBA, & spare SCBA bottle.

NEW

325 Creative Fire Training for Your Department

Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Doug Kolkman, FSTB TS-1

This presentation will cover the roles of the training officer within their fire department. Different training evolutions will be shared to give the training officer ideas. And resources that training officers can use to assist in planning for departmental training.

NEW



326 The Zone of ISICS – Interoperability Communications and Your Radio (with demonstrations)

Sunday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

*Haley Nichols, Iowa Statewide Interoperability Coordinator;
Scott Richardson; Shawn Page; and Curtis "Wally" Walser*

- Understand the capabilities of the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System and Define Interoperability.
- Explain the difference in how a conventional radio system and a trunked radio system utilizes frequencies.
- Understand the benefits of joining ISICS no matter your current radio platform or network.
- Understand when a trunked system would not be the best-case scenario for fire service radio use.
- Understand the equipment requirements for the P25 7/800 ISICS platform.

Better navigate your own radio -- if you currently have ISICS programmed in but are not comfortable with its use. The statewide interoperable communications system: history, capabilities, governance structure, how to join, current members, how to operate and interoperate. Case Study(s) of the system with inter-disciplinary example. Explanation of some misconceptions of the ISICS platform. Explanation of the P25 digital trunking radio system. Equipment demonstration, question, and answer session - students are encouraged to bring their radio equipment (portable radios and scanners) to discuss programming and feature sets with subject matter experts and Communication Unit personnel who will be on hand to discuss intricacies and nuances that come with radio programming and with a trunking radio network. If your radio is currently programmed with ISICS but you don't currently utilize it much, we can help maneuver through the zones to determine the layout and discuss radio navigation.

NEW

340 Respectful Entry – Alternative Ways of Entry

Sunday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Maximum 18 seats

Ty Wheeler, Rogue Training

As the fire service has grown, the job is much more than just responding to fires. Our duties have expanded to areas such as alarm investigations, medical assists, and so much more. Often, when these incidents occur, our only avenue of entry is conventional Forcible Entry. This destructive means to entry causes additional stress and cost for the citizens. This workshop will equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate through various types of doors and locking mechanisms to ensure a respectful entry and reduce the damage to the property, all while still providing the highest service to our community. Students will get hands-on experience with through-the-lock skills on residential and commercial doors and the unique ability to utilize these new skills with various props. This comprehensive class aims to enhance firefighters' capabilities in accessing buildings and other structures swiftly and safely during emergent and non-emergent responses.

327 Water Shuttle Operations – It's More Than Just Moving Water!

Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Keith Stoeber, Sioux Rapids Fire Dept. and FSTB TS-1

There is a lot more that goes in to moving water in tender shuttle operations. This class will go into detail on how to move water in the most efficient manner. Learn what equipment is needed to utilize dry hydrants and static water supplies as well as the whole process to be successful and better prepared.

NEW

328 Top Side Ventilation

Sunday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Maximum 24 seats

Alex Headley, Johnston Grimes Fire Department

The environment in which we fight fires has changed. Products of combustion are more toxic and are produced at a higher rate than ever before. The toxic smoke occupies space within structures and negatively impacts firefighters and fire victims. Our ability to find and suppress fire and search the building is hindered by the presence of smoke. Roof ventilation has been demonized for years due to hazards associated with its operation. In this class, students will gain insight into roof construction, the benefits of ventilation, and tactics of vertical ventilation. This class will review the difference between residential and commercial ventilation tactics and tools. In addition, this class will also review saw anatomy and operations, where students will get hands-on experience disassembling/assembling, maintaining, and cleaning saws to be placed back in service following use.

NEW

329 Resiliency is the Why

Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Dr. David Griffin, Asst. Chief, Charleston, South Carolina

During this workshop, David will discuss the signs and symptoms of post-traumatic stress, acute stress disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder from research and from his own personal experience. Then we will discuss and practice self-help tools that can be utilized in the firehouse for self-support and for peer support. These tools and techniques have been used for over a hundred years to combat stress and require no funding. It only requires a willingness to learn and take the information back to your department members to help save those who save others.

NEW

330 That's The Way We've Always Done It

Sunday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Dr. David Griffin, Asst. Chief, Charleston, South Carolina

It's all too common that we hear the phrase, "That's the way we've always done it". Unfortunately, in our profession, this can lead to deadly consequences. Why do we continue to make this statement? How does it affect our decision making and open-mindedness to progress? These two important questions will be focused upon with examples from a line-of-duty death incident in Charleston, SC on June 18, 2007, as well as research from firefighters who have fallen prey to this statement. Furthermore, steps will be given to overcome this deadly phrase for all levels of rank. We all have said this in our life. It doesn't make us bad people; it makes us human beings. However, we must still identify and understand methods to overcome this phrase, so it does not lead to irreversible consequences.

331 Jump Seat Leadership

Saturday
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Joshua Chase, Captain, Norfolk, VA

We cannot continue to let the fire service suffer due to lack of leadership. Jump seat leadership focuses on training and educating personnel in the fire service to lead at the informal level. We cover basic principles of leadership and focus primarily on individuals who do not hold a leadership position, rather we equip and prepare the men and women in the fire service to lead in whatever position they hold. From the apparatus bay floor to the office door, we are changing the fire service through strengthening informal leadership.

6-Hour Classes

NEW

332 Single Company Response Tactics

Sunday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Maximum 24 seats

Doug Kolkman and Al McCune, FSTB TS-1's

This course is designed to help you improve the outcome of incidents by teaching the basics of firefighting strategy and tactics. The single company response has natural limitations, however there are many things that we can do on the fireground with limited resources that will significantly improve the outcomes of incidents.

HOT 333 Pump Operations 101

Sunday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Maximum 20 seats

Dan Hoy, Capt., Oskaloosa FD, PRI Staff

This course is designed to develop firefighters understanding of mechanical principles of fire pumps and their controls, principles of water and water systems, intake and discharge hydraulics, fire stream production, care and maintenance of pumper apparatus, and troubleshooting. **No PPE required.**

NEW

HOT 334 Advance Ventilation & Attack (PPV/PPA)

Sunday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Maximum 20 seats

PRI Staff

Positive pressure ventilation (PPV) was first used in the fire service to ventilate structures after the fire was knocked down. Positive Pressure Attack (PPA) takes PPV a step further to achieve effective ventilation during fire attack. It is another tactic if, properly used, can make life better for firefighters and those we are sworn to protect. As with any fire ground operation, PPA requires training and education to be performed safely and effectively. This class is dedicated to providing information and resources about the use of positive pressure on the fire ground. It is a work in progress, that will evolve and grow.

Protective Clothing Required: Participants must furnish approved helmet, turnout gear or coveralls, eye protection, gloves, and boots for this class.

NEW

335 Industrial & Ag Machinery Rescue

Saturday
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Maximum 20 seats

PRI Staff

NFPA Standard 1670, Tools & Special Equipment, Crush Injury/Crush Syndrome & Rescue Operations will all be discussed at length. Course includes approximately three hours of lecture and three hours of hands-on training. Whether a random suicide jumper or construction worker impaled sharp object, farmers or construction workers trapped in heavy machinery on job or farm site. The pizza makers arm caught in the dough mixer, the restaurant worker with a hand in the meat grinder - it's technical rescue -it's specialized rescue and it's happening in every response area throughout the country. Machinery with moving conveyors, gear driven equipment simple- to- complex, responders will need to practice the techniques of disassembly, cutting, and lifting/spreading.

Protective Clothing Required: Participants must furnish approved helmet, turnout gear or coveralls, eye protection, gloves, and boots for this class.

336 Reading Buildings Before Reading Smoke

Sunday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Maximum 24 Seats

Scott McFarland, Deputy Chief of Training, WDM FD, PRI FSTB TS-1

This class is designed to provide detailed training and exercises to improve the effectiveness of first arriving officers and firefighters with a simple four-step method at residential and commercial buildings to assist in fire location and verifying building integrity. This class will also provide incident commanders an excellent opportunity to enhance your decision-making skills in determining the primary factors of strength, weakness, collapse hazards, new construction features, and evaluating the fire behavior effects on building structures. Would it be great when you arrive on the scene of a structure fire to be able to know how much fire you have, the layout of the building, and where to draw your line in the sand to contain the fire?

337 The Resilient Firefighter – Safety and Survival

Saturday
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Maximum 24 seats

**This will be at the
Urbandale Training
Tower**

Ty Wheeler, Rogue Training

With RIT only being successful six percent of the time. Rogue's Truck Company Ops Safety and Survival helps you understand that no one is coming to save you. It is on us as firefighters to get ourselves out. Safety and Survival explores the realities of Project MAYDAY and Project Impact. Students will practice safety and survival skills as well as search and forcible entry. Students will then be placed in critical situations where they will be forced to make lifesaving decisions.

Special Logistic Requirements: All class participants will need to bring their own set of personal protective equipment, to include coat, trousers, boots, helmet, gloves, hood, SCBA, & spare SCBA bottle.

NEW

338 Victim-Focused Search – Upholding the Oath

Sunday
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Maximum 24 seats

**This will be at the
Urbandale Training
Tower**

Ty Wheeler, Rogue Training

The primary mission of every fire department is life preservation. In this class, student will learn modern search technique, victim drags and victim removals in an effort to uphold the oath and the mission of the fire service. Student will discuss rescue data, fireground decision-making, search tactics such as split, oriented, and defensive search. In addition, students will also review VES/ window-based search, victim removal from ladders. This class is designed to challenge each firefighter's search skills in a dynamic environment. This course is everything search! VICTIM-VICTIM-VICTIM.

Special Logistic Requirements: All class participants will need to bring their own set of personal protective equipment, to include coat, trousers, boots, helmet, gloves, hood, SCBA, & spare SCBA bottle.

NEW

339 Courage Under Fire Leadership

Saturday
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Steve Prziborowski, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department; Instructor, Fire Technology Program Coordinator, Chabot College; and Owner, Code 3 Fire Training

Do you have what it takes to be a great fire service professional of any rank in the year 2025 and more importantly beyond? Situations anyone in the fire service (firefighter up to fire chief) may face today can have severe consequences to the positive image of the fire service, their career, or the careers of those they lead or follow, not to mention the outcome of the incident we respond to. Those in formal leadership positions (company officer and chief officer), have never had a more challenging time to have to demonstrate leadership abilities, while balancing the needs of the public and their personnel. If you are an officer, and you want to be everyone's buddy, or never want to be "that person" when it comes to being the designated adult, then this session may not be for you. However, if you're willing to be the follower and leader you took the oath for when accepting the position (even as a firefighter and engineer), you will find some value to the information being discussed.

Some may say we have a leadership crisis in today's fire service, not to mention the World. I feel we also have a followership crisis. For an agency, organization, or fire department to be successful, leadership and followership are both required. As a fire service professional and especially as a leader in today's fire service, one must possess "Courage Under Fire" as a leader and continuously aspire to be the best you can be! Current topics affecting the fire service, events that have occurred to the fire service (good and not-so-good), as well as personal lessons learned (some the hard way), will be shared and discussed in a positive and productive manner. Attendees will be exposed to and can leave with numerous tips for leadership success!

NEW

341 Step Up & Lead

Saturday
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Frank Viscuso, Deputy Chief (Ret.), Town of Kearny, New Jersey

This is an interactive leadership and culture development program for leaders, future officers, and current officers at all levels. Course content includes:

- Leadership Skills
- Mentoring and Succession Planning
- Critiquing others (How to do it right)
- Effective Delegating (Dividing tasks multiplies your chances of success)
- Preventing Freelancing (top 5 causes and how to avoid them)
- Dealing with subordinate Issues (How to identify insubordination and handle difficult people)
- Conflict Resolution (The three ways most people deal with conflict – and two are wrong)
- Post Incident Analysis (How to do it and why it is important)
- Building Morale (8 tips to increase morale)
- Team Building exercises
- Why teams fail
- How to build Trust



Promoting Excellence in Fire Service Education and Training!

The Fire Service Training Bureau is an entity within the State Fire Marshal Division of the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

Registration

Registration Fees

In 1925, the inaugural state fire school, known as the "First Short Course for Firemen," offered a comprehensive four-day training program. It covered essential subjects such as fire prevention, firefighting techniques, and first aid. This pioneering initiative was developed by the fire service in collaboration with Iowa State College's Engineering Extension Department.

To commemorate its centennial, the Fire Service Training Bureau (FSTB) is pleased to announce a special registration fee reduction, dropping from \$175 to \$100.

Registrations deadline is January 3, 2025, at noon.

Registration forms and payment or acceptable billing information, must be received by January 16, 2025, at 3:00 PM. All registered participants will be billed regardless of attendance.

Questions

For questions regarding Fire School, contact the Fire Service Training Bureau.



Phone: 515-727-3424



Email: minks@dps.state.ia.us

To Register


Please complete and submit the [online Registration Form](#).

- Registrations will be processed in the order they are received.
- Please pay attention to day and times for each class.
- Registrations will NOT be taken over the phone, but please call us if you need assistance or if you have any questions: 515-727-3424.
- For security purposes, please call with credit card information.
- NO Fax registrations will be accepted.


NOTE: No walk-in registrations or changes to class schedules will be allowed at fire school. Be sure to REGISTER EARLY!



Fire Service Training Bureau

 Building 3536 (B-59)
7105 NW 70th Avenue
Johnston, IA 50131-1824

 515-727-3424

 Iowa FSTB on [Facebook](#)
and [Instagram](#)

General Information

Billing and Refund Policy

Once individuals have registered on-line, they can mail a check or money order to the address below. For security purposes please call Hailie Mathews at 515-727-3449 to make credit card payments.

Annual State Fire School
Fire Service Training Bureau
Building 3536 (B-59)
7105 NW 70th Avenue
Johnston, IA 50131-1824

Registrations canceled in writing by January 3, 2024, will receive a full refund. NO refunds will be issued after January 4, 2025.

Substitutions may be made at any time. If the participant does not attend, and fails to cancel by the cancellation deadline, the fire department will be billed for the entire registration.

Confirmations

Event confirmations will be emailed starting January 3, 2025. If you have not received a confirmation by January 17, 2025, please contact Don Minks at 515-727-3424 or email at minks@dps.state.ia.us.

A fire school information packet will be attached to the confirmation email, and will also be available on our [website](#).

Fire School Vendors

Vendors will be present Saturday 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM, with vendor time from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM. and Sunday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM this year showcasing their new products, services, fire apparatus, and other exciting products.

Lodging

Reservations for lodging should be made with the hotel directly. The Prairie Meadows room block rate is \$159 plus taxes. [Click here](#) for a list of hotels in the Altoona area or contact Altoona at 515-967-5136.

Lunch

Lunch will be on your own both Saturday and Sunday. We are allowing 1 hour for lunch. For dining opportunities at Prairie Meadows [click here](#). For dining opportunities in the Altoona area [click here](#).

Inclement Weather Policy

The Fire Service Training Bureau recognizes that the safety of our participants is critical. In the event of inclement weather, we will leave a message explaining the status of the Annual State Fire School on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IowaFSTB/, as well as a voice message at: 515-727-3424. If you are unable to attend because of the weather, please notify us through email at minks@dps.state.ia.us.

General Information

Americans With Disabilities

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Fire Service Training Bureau at 515-727-3424. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Fire Service Training Bureau does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, disability or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era.

Health Warning

Certain programs presented require significant physical exertion and stamina. Persons with heart, respiratory, or other physical conditions that may be aggravated by this type of exertion, or that may hinder their participation, should not participate in said programs. Please consult your physician regarding your participation, or the Fire Service Training Bureau concerning physical requirements of a particular course.

Liability Waiver and Release

The Fire Service Training Bureau will provide instruction in the courses the participant selects under the supervision of competent instructors. Some of the courses involve hands-on training that may subject participants to risk of injury. In

consideration of being permitted to enroll in such courses, the participant acknowledges that he/she is aware of the risks associated with participation in such courses and is voluntarily agreeing to assume such risks. The 99th Annual State Fire School (except as provided under Chapter 669 of the Code of Iowa, relating to tort claims), shall not be held liable for damages or injuries to students or persons participating in the school. Participants are advised to purchase individual insurance if their employer does not provide insurance coverage for injuries.

Code of Conduct

Your conduct while attending out of town educational programs or other fire service events should be no different than it would be at home in front of your families. Wherever you travel, the FD license plate, the blue light, the window decal, the Maltese cross on your jacket or shirt identifies you as a member of an honorable and proud profession. Your actions reflect not only upon you as an individual, but upon your fire department and the fire service as a whole. The public expects our actions to be above reproach on and off the emergency scene.

COVID-19 Policy

We will be following the COVID-19 guidelines of Prairie Meadows.

Written (Electronic) Certification Examination

There will be a written (electronic) exam administered for all certification levels on Saturday afternoon starting at 4:30 p.m. To register for this opportunity, please follow the below link and select the January 25, 2025, Fire School option. There is a \$50 fee per certification level separate from the fees paid for Fire School. Use the [Certification Exam Registration Form](#) to register.