



101ST FIRE SCHOOL

JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

MEADOWS EVENT CENTER AT PRAIRIE MEADOWS
1 PRAIRIE MEADOWS DR.
ALTOONA, IA 50009

101ST STATE FIRE SCHOOL

The Fire Service Training Bureau is delighted to carry on the tradition of training Iowa's firefighters through the Annual Statewide Fire School 101. We are confident you will find a variety of classes tailored to your training needs. This year, you'll encounter several exciting **NEW** courses, hands-on training sessions, and options that provide EMS continuing education hours. Courses will be available in the following formats: 1.5-hour, 3-hour, 6-hour, and 12-hour sessions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EVENT INFORMATION	3
REGISTRATION DETAILS	4
THINGS TO LOOK FOR	5
TWO-DAY COURSES	6
SATURDAY COURSES	6
SUNDAY COURSES	8

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

6:45am – 8:00am	Registration
7:00am – 5:00pm	Vendors
8:00am – 10:00am	Opening Ceremony
10:30am – 12:00pm	Classes
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Classes
2:40pm – 4:10pm	Classes
4:00pm – 6:00pm	Visit vendors & instructors
4:30pm – 8:30pm	Certification testing

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

8:00am – 8:45am	Registration
8:00am – 5:00pm	Vendors
9:00am – 12:00pm	Classes
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Classes
5:00pm	Close of Fire School 101



CONTACTS

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EVENT INFO

LOCATION AND PARKING

Meadows Event Center at Prairie Meadows Casino and Hotel

1 Prairie Meadows Dr, Altoona, IA 50009

FIRE SCHOOL VENDORS

will be present Saturday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. showcasing their new products, services, fire apparatus, and other exciting products.

LODGING

Reservations for lodging should be made with the hotel directly. **CLICK HERE** for a list of hotels in the Altoona area or contact Visit Altoona at 515-967-5136.

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**.

CONFIRMATIONS

Event confirmations will be emailed starting January 2, 2026. If you have not received a confirmation by January 16, 2026, please contact Don Minks at 515-727-3424 or minks@dps.state.ia.us.

A fire school information packet will be attached to the confirmation email and will also be available on the **FSTB WEBSITE**.

WRITTEN (ELECTRONIC) CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

There will be a written (electronic) exam administered for all certification levels on Saturday starting at 4:30 p.m. To register for this opportunity, please follow the link below and select the January 31st Fire School option. There is a \$50 fee per certification level separate from the fees paid for Fire School. **REGISTER HERE**.

AGE DISCLAIMER:

Individuals under the age of 16 may not participate in the Annual State Fire School. Those that are 16 and 17 years of age may participate only in lecture classes if accompanied by a registered adult department member. The adult department member must submit a written statement of responsibility to be approved by the Fire Service Training Bureau.

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.

CODE OF CONDUCT:

When attending out-of-town educational programs or other fire service events, your behavior should be professional at all times. No matter where you go, the FD license plate, blue light, window decal, or Maltese cross on your jacket or shirt signifies your membership in a reputable and proud profession. Your actions not only represent you personally but also reflect on your fire department and the entire fire service community. The public expects us to conduct ourselves with integrity and professionalism both on and off the emergency scene.

NOTICE OF NON DISCRIMINATION:

The Fire Service Training Bureau is committed to providing equal opportunity and does not discriminate based on race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam Era veteran.

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 or the Fire Service Training Bureau regarding your participation, 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 101st 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.

REGISTRATION

Exciting news as we continue to enhance and modernize the Bureau! In early 2026, we will transition to the Acadis Software Suite for all testing, scheduling, certification records, training history, and curriculum management. This move represents a major step toward streamlining the Bureau's training and record keeping systems, improving operational efficiency for Iowa's fire service.

To support this transition, each firefighter statewide will need to create their own account on the Fire Service Training Bureau Acadis (Vector Solution) platform. This will help ensure accountability, organization, and easy access to certifications and contact information.

Fire Service Training Bureau Management Analyst 3 Hailie Mathews will be available throughout the weekend to assist you with setting up your ACADIS account.

JOIN THE 101ST FIRE SCHOOL!

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION: \$100

TWO-DAY REGISTRATION: \$150

Registration deadline is January 5, 2026, at 12 p.m. Registration forms and payment or acceptable billing information must be received by **January 16, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** All registered participants will be billed regardless of attendance.

Please complete and submit the online Registration Form for the 101st Fire School.

- Registrations will be processed in the order they are received.
- Please pay attention to the 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!

BILLING AND REFUND POLICY

- For security purposes, please call Kendra Slings to make a payment by credit card at 515-727-3430.
- Individuals may register by mailing a check, money order, purchase order, or a letter of billing authorization (include a hard copy for billing purposes, including phone and address), to: Annual State Fire School Fire Service Training Bureau Building 3536 (B-59) 7105 NW 70th Ave Johnston, IA 50131-1824
- Organizations may be billed for fees. (If fees are to be billed, the registration form should be accompanied by a purchase order or an authorization letter signed by the organization administrator on official letterhead.)
- Registrations canceled in writing by January 5, 2026, will be eligible for full refund. No refunds will be provided after this date. 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.

REGISTER NOW

QUESTIONS?

For questions regarding Fire School, please contact:

Don Minks Phone: 515-727-3424

Email: minks@dps.state.ia.us

Fire Service Training Bureau

THINGS TO LOOK FOR

EMS FORMAL CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

Watch for this icon when selecting your classes:



Iowa Department of Emergency and Trauma Services has designated Formal EMS Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) to the following 2026 Annual Fire School classes:

350

Expect the Unexpected:
Guide for Fire/EMS When
Responding to Violent Calls

357

Home Oxygen Therapy
(H.O.T.) Fires:
Stopping
the Epidemic

360

Build Better Hands-On
Training:
Coaching, Planning, and
Maximizing Your Time

363

Responding to
Trauma on the Farm

367

Human Trafficking
Awareness

368

Electric Vehicle Safety
for First Responders

369

Leading Change: Lessons
for any Organization

374

WATER RESCUE

378

Anhydrous Ammonia Safety
& Emergency Response

380

Ice Rescue

THE FOLLOWING CLASSES INVOLVE HANDS-ON TRAINING

Watch for this icon when selecting your classes:



362

Respectful Entry-
Alternative Ways of
Getting In

376

Become a More Effective
Rescuer: Positive Search &
Rescue Training

377

Side X Side and
Wildland Fire Safety

378

Anhydrous Ammonia
Safety & Emergency
Response

380

Ice Rescue

349 OPENING CEREMONY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CORLEY MOORE

SATURDAY 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



Corley Moore is a nationally recognized speaker and instructor specializing in the topics of leadership and culture. Author of the books; *Challenge Your Leadership* and *The 9L's: Keys to Building a High-Performance Culture*, co-author of *You, Me, and Our Broken Tools*, and developer of the #1 best-selling book - *The Book of Search*. He's the founder of *Firehouse Vigilance* and its mission: the "Never Ending Fight Against Complacency" and host of *The Weekly Scrap*, a firefighter podcast where fire service leaders come on to discuss improving the culture of the modern fire service. He is the creator of the V50, the Vigilant Creed, and the VIGILANTES—an ever-growing community with members in all 50 states and seven countries.

Corley served with the Moore Fire Department since 1997, recently retired as Battalion Chief where he led the Green Shift, a collection of outstanding firefighters who made him look good every day.

TWO-DAY COURSES	
TWO-DAY	386 NFA (F0610) - Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer Saturday 10:30 AM – 4:30pm & Sunday 9:00 AM – 4:00pm NEW Addresses operational roles, safety concerns, and strategies for structural company officers responding to Wildland Urban Interface incidents, building on foundational wildland firefighting knowledge.
	387 NFA (F0761) - New Fire Chief: Administrative Issues Saturday 10:30 AM – 4:30pm & Sunday 9:00 AM – 4:00pm NEW Covers administrative, managerial, and leadership skills for new or recently appointed fire chiefs, as well as department leaders aspiring to chief positions.
SATURDAY COURSES	
10:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.	379 - Reading Buildings Before Reading Smoke Instructor: Scott McFarland This course teaches a four-step method to assess residential and commercial buildings for fire location and structural integrity. Fire officers and first responders will enhance decision-making skills, identify strengths and weaknesses in buildings, and apply strategies for containment and fireground control.
	381 - Fire Investigation Instructor: Wayne Brosam Designed for first responders and fire officers, this session covers basic fire investigation responsibilities, State Fire Marshal policies, fire pattern analysis, causes of fires including electrical failures and explosions, and includes case studies featuring arson and homicide investigations.
	384 - The Culture Forge Instructor: Corley Moore NEW An interactive workshop focused on developing organizational values, trust, and team cohesion. Participants engage in exercises to build esprit de corps and leave with practical strategies to strengthen their department's culture.
	350 - Expect the Unexpected: Guide for Fire/EMS When Responding to Violent Calls Instructor: Dane Yaw NEW * Violent situations are increasingly common for Fire and EMS crews. This session teaches strategies to spot potential dangers from the initial call to clearing the scene. Using “fireground” size-up concepts, attendees will learn to read the scene, interpret body language, apply de-escalation techniques, and respond to worst-case scenarios like hostage or assault situations. Participants will gain practical skills to avoid, defuse, and respond to violence in the field.
10:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.	351 - Why We Train Instructor: Jerry Wiser NEW Through the true story of Kris Wiser's heart attack, this course explores the respondent's perspective, both during critical incidents and in dealing with post-event mental health challenges. The session connects her experience to two Life Safety Initiatives, highlighting why training is vital not just for skills, but for saving lives—including our own.
	352 - What Is a Job Performance Requirement and Why Is It Important? Instructor: Gary Howard NEW An overview of Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) as defined by NFPA Standards, covering their development and critical role in certification and accreditation programs.
	353 - Why Meaningful Practice and Pre-planning Matter Instructor: Dr. Robert Krause NEW This session emphasizes purposeful training and pre-planning in fire districts. Drawing lessons from military, aviation, and professional sports, participants will see examples of both successful and failed training efforts. The course is designed for all firefighter levels, officers, and chiefs, highlighting how preparation can prevent catastrophic outcomes.

SATURDAY COURSES (CONT.)

10:30 A.M. – 12 P.M.	355 - 11 Wicked Fire Problems About to Happen to the Fire Service
	<p>Instructor: Ray Reynolds</p> <p>NEW From mobile fueling to tall wood buildings, active shooters, hydrogen plants, and new community risks, this session highlights emerging challenges for the fire service. Participants will gain insight into trends affecting their communities and strategies to prepare for the next wave of incidents.</p>
	359 - Thermal Imaging Basics
1 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.	<p>Instructor: David Malo</p> <p>NEW This course introduces firefighters and officers to thermal imaging cameras (TICs), covering technology, capabilities, limitations, and tactical applications in fireground and rescue scenarios. Participants will learn proper usage, image interpretation, and common pitfalls.</p>
	358 - Incident Reporting with NERIS in Image Trend
	<p>Instructor: Tomme Tysdal</p> <p>NEW Overview of what NERIS is, how to access NERIS information, and entering data into the state's Image Trend system.</p>
1 P.M. – 4 P.M.	354 - Your First Three Lines
	<p>Instructor: Dr. Robert Krause</p> <p>NEW Strategic and tactical approaches for placing attack lines at structure fires. Participants will explore line placement for single-family homes, multi-family dwellings, strip malls, commercial buildings, and storage facilities. Video and image examples help build decision-making confidence for first-day back scenarios.</p>
	357 - Home Oxygen Therapy (H.O.T.) Fires: Stopping the Epidemic
1 P.M. – 4 P.M.	<p>Instructor: Ray Reynolds</p> <p>NEW * Home oxygen therapy fires are the third highest risk facing the fire service, with fatalities occurring every four days. This session reviews the dangers, the likelihood of rescues involving burn survivors, and how departments can prepare. Attendees will learn about thermal fuse technology, prevention strategies, and the clinical impact on survivors once they reach a burn center.</p>
	A358-2 - Incident Reporting with NERIS in Image Trend
	<p>Instructor: Tomme Tysdal</p> <p>NEW Overview of what NERIS is, how to access NERIS information, and entering data into the state's Image Trend system.</p>
1 P.M. – 4 P.M.	362 - Respectful Entry - Alternative Ways of Getting In
	<p>Instructor: Jason Kling</p> <p> Focuses on non-destructive entry methods to access structures safely and respectfully, reducing property damage while maintaining high service standards. Hands-on exercises include through-the-lock skills for residential and commercial doors.</p>
	382 - Courage Under Fire Leadership: 25 Timeless Leadership Nuggets
1 P.M. – 4 P.M.	<p>Instructor: Steve Prziborowski</p> <p>NEW Shares 25 actionable leadership principles applicable at any level in the fire service, with lessons for both professional and personal life.</p>
	383 - Flash Point: Forge a Winning Team Culture
	<p>Instructor: Frank Viscuso</p> <p>NEW Participants learn to foster high-performing team culture using practical, real-world strategies that enhance morale, cohesion, and trust.</p>
1 P.M. – 4 P.M.	373 - Solid Start: Anchors That Shape Rope Rescue Outcomes
	<p>Instructor: Jacob Eslick</p> <p>NEW Covers essential anchor points for rope rescue systems. Participants explore natural and improvised anchors, gear evaluation, and scene awareness to make safe, reliable anchor decisions.</p>

SATURDAY COURSES (CONT.)

1 P.M. – 4 P.M.

374 - Water Rescue

NEW
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Instructor: Bryan Getner

For agencies needing a formalized water rescue team, this course covers rescuer safety, self-rescue techniques, hazard assessment, pre-planning, and size-up. Meets NFPA 1006 and 1670 standards.

375 - Catching Your Stride as a Leader

NEW

Instructor: John TeKippe

A leadership-focused course emphasizing personal and professional growth, ethical leadership, integrity, accountability, and creating positive organizational outcomes.

2:40 P.M. – 4:10 P.M.

356 - Leveraging Influence to Make Change

NEW

Instructor: Ray Reynolds

Learn step-by-step techniques to develop passion, tell your story, make partners, and leverage influence to drive change within your department or community.

A358-3 - Incident Reporting with NERIS in Image Trend

NEW

Instructor: Tomme Tysdal

Overview of what NERIS is, how to access NERIS information, and entering data into the state's Image Trend system.

SUNDAY COURSES

9 A.M. – 12 P.M.

364 - Anatomy of a Disaster: The Risks of Modern Building and Maintenance Practices for Firefighters

NEW

Instructor: Brian Freese

Examines how modern construction choices, remodel cost savings, and poor maintenance practices can create dangerous situations for both occupants and responders. Participants will analyze case studies to improve preparation and response strategies.

365 - Fire Inspections 101

NEW

Instructor: Mike Whitsell

A practical review for personnel conducting company-level inspections or newly promoted Fire Inspectors or Fire Marshals. Includes guidance on fire code reference materials and inspection procedures.

366 - Responsibilities of Command

NEW

Instructor: Dennis Reilly

Explores the traits and skills necessary to lead personnel effectively, combining lessons from the military and decades of fire service experience. Offers practical guidance for station leadership and incident command.

388 - When Buildings Change the Rules

NEW

Instructor: Anthony Avillo

Examines building construction methods and weaknesses, emphasizing fire behavior, structural integrity, and tactical considerations for all responder ranks.

369 - Leading Change: Lessons for any Organization

NEW
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Instructor: Mike Cardwell

Provides tools for implementing organizational change effectively. Includes real-world examples and practical strategies for leaders at any level.

370 - ISO PPC Classification

NEW

Instructor: Randall Downs

Covers evaluation updates and record requirements for fire department grading under ISO PPC.

385 - Emergency Response to Tornadoes and Rural Disasters

NEW

Instructor: Dirk Christian

Prepares responders for tornadoes and rural disasters. Topics include initial operations, command setup, EMS triage, search and rescue, mutual aid, and equipment requirements.

SUNDAY COURSES (CONT.)

9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

376 - Become a More Effective Rescuer: Positive Search & Rescue Training

NEW



Instructor: Jacob Eslick

Full PPE Required

High-energy, hands-on training that builds confidence and practical search & rescue skills. Participants apply VEIS techniques and engage in forward-thinking drills. Full PPE required.

377 - Side X Side and Wildland Fire Safety

NEW



Instructor: Mark Neff

Full PPE Required

Focuses on UTV and SXS operations for wildland firefighting. Covers safe driving practices, operational features, and winch system use. Full PPE required; bring your department's vehicle if possible.

378 - Anhydrous Ammonia Safety & Emergency Response

NEW



Instructor: Dan Neenan

Full PPE Required

Hands-on training on hazards and emergency response for anhydrous ammonia incidents. Uses a state-of-the-art training trailer for live evolutions. Full NFPA-compliant gear and SCBA required.

380 - Ice Rescue



Instructor: Bryan Getner

Full PPE Required

Covers classroom theory and practical ice rescue skills. Meets NFPA 1006 and 1670 standards. Full PPE required.

1 P.M. - 4 P.M.

360 - Build Better Hands-On Training: Coaching, Planning, and Maximizing Your Time

NEW



Instructor: Tom Hartshorn

Guides participants in designing high-impact, memorable hands-on training sessions. Emphasizes objective setting, coaching philosophy, and efficient use of time, people, and resources.

361 - Seconds to Success: Mastering Fireground Efficiency

NEW

Instructor: Ty Wheeler

Focuses on improving crew performance and operational efficiency. Covers size-ups, handline deployment, forcible entry, search and rescue, apparatus positioning, and water supply management.

363 - Responding to Trauma on the Farm

NEW



Instructor: Brian Freese

Farm incidents can involve anything from chemical exposures and fluid injection injuries to tractor rollovers and entanglements. This course prepares both EMS and fire personnel to respond effectively since most agricultural emergencies involve both disciplines.

367 - Human Trafficking Awareness

NEW



Instructor: Ray Fiedler

Discusses myths about trafficking, control methods, victim recognition, and case trends in Iowa and surrounding states.

368 - Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders



Instructor: Joe Zittergruen

Covers essential knowledge for identifying and handling emergencies involving electric and hybrid vehicles, including safe response practices.

371 - Large Scale Incidents for the Small Town Officer & Building Your Box Alarm System

Instructor: Glenn Schlessner

Prepares officers for command in large-scale incidents. Covers tactical management, resource deployment, pre-incident planning, and mutual aid box alarm systems.

372 - Big Fire-Big Water: are You Prepared

Instructor: Scott Kuester

Prepare students to pre-plan for fires in areas with limited water supply by developing and establishing water fill stations, water shuttle routes, and dump sites.