**2020 Presenter Bios**

**Captain Jason Abitz (Captain Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department):** Jason is a Captain assigned to Engine 17 in Fairfax County, VA. Jason has 17 years’ experience in the fire service holding various assignments throughout his career in both operations and training. Jason is a lead instructor and program developer for the department’s Officer Development program responsible for training over 400 officers and 1100 future officers.  Jason is also an FDIC HOTS instructor with Drilling at the Speed of Flashover.

**Battalion Chief Justin Adams (Chesterfield, VA Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services):** Justin has been a career firefighter with Chesterfield (VA) Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services since 2004 and was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief in 2018. Justin is currently serves as the northern battalion chief of emergency operations on "C" shift. Justin holds a bachelor’s degree in fire administration and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in public administration. Justin is a graduate of the Virginia Fire Officers Academy, and is a certified Instructor III. Justin started his public safety career at 16 as a volunteer in both Emporia and Jarratt, Virginia. He aspires to lead and influence people not only in public safety, but in life as well.

**Lieutenant Marc Aloan (Columbia County Fire Rescue):** Marc Aloan is a Lieutenant with Columbia County Fire Rescue and creator of The Fire Inside. He has been a member of the fire service for 16 years, both volunteer and career, and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He holds a B.S. in Fire Protection Administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

**Captain Rob Backer (Thornton Fire Department):** Rob Backer is a 17-year veteran of the fire service and currently serves as the Captain of Engine 76 for Thornton Fire Department in Thornton, Colorado. He is the owner and lead instructor of First Due Intelligence llc, delivering The Art of Reading Smoke and The Art of the First Due nationally for Dave Dodson. He has written several articles for Fire Engineering and Black Helmet Brotherhood on reading smoke and the principles of effective size-ups and Incident Action Plans. Rob can be contacted at [robbacker.fdi@gmail.com](mailto:robbacker.fdi@gmail.com).

**Division Chief Dereck Baker (Virginia Department of Fire Programs):** Dereck Baker is a Division Chief for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs serving the Northern Virginia area of the Commonwealth. Prior to joining VDFP, Dereck worked as Director of Emergency Services with 1-800-boardup while serving also in Northern Virginia. Dereck has over thirty-one years of Fire Service experience while working for the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department. While with Fairfax County, Dereck retired in 2012 as a Deputy Chief and had served in the Fire Marshal’s Office, Operations, Human Resources, and Recruitment. Dereck also attained the certification of Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, and Certified Fire & Explosives Investigator. Dereck has an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science Administration from Northern Virginia Community College, Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Science Degree from the University of Maryland, and a Master’s Degree in Leadership from Grand Canyon University. Dereck is married with two children Michelle and Dereck Jr.

**Fire Chief Michael Barakey (Suffolk Department of Fire & Rescue):** Michael J. Barakey (NREMT-P, CFO, EFO, MPA) has been in the fire service since 1993 where he serves as the Fire Chief for the Suffolk (VA) Department of Fire & Rescue. Mike has operated at and commanded many major incidents locally and throughout the country and world. Barakey is a Task Force Leader for VA-TF2, with numerous deployments. Barakey is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and a neonatal/pediatric critical care paramedic for the CHKD in Norfolk, Virginia. Mike holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program (2009); is a peer assessor for the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and is designated as Chief Fire Officer (CFO). Mike regularly contributes to Fire Engineering Magazine, and published his first book in 2018 titled Critical Decision Making, Point-to-Point Leadership in Fire and Emergency Services (by Pennwell Publishing.)

**Captain Wendy Bowman (Dulles Airport EMS Supervisor):** Captain Bowman has been involved in emergency services for almost 40 years at all levels. She is currently assigned as an EMS Supervisor at Dulles Airport. She is a firefighter, national registry and Virginia paramedic, Fire Instructor II and Fire Officer III. She has been involved in Critical Incident Stress Management/Peer Support for many years and currently serves on her department's Peer Support Team. Her passion for taking care of her emergency services family is evident when she speaks. She looks forward to sharing her experiences and knowledge with others in order to ensure all public safety personnel are able to get the help they need and reduce the number of suicides.

**Chief John Buckman (Director of Government & Regional Outreach for IamResponding):** Chief John M. Buckman III served 35 years as fire chief for the German Township (Ind.) Volunteer Fire Department. He served as director of the fire and public safety academy for the Indiana State Fire Marshal Office, retiring in from January 2004 until April 2018. He is most proud of the title pawpaw and loves spending lots of time with his grandkids. He is the Director of Government and Regional Outreach for IamResponding. He is a past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a co-founder of the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section. In 1996, Fire Chief Magazine named Chief Buckman Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. He is an accomplished photographer. He is the owner of Wildfire Productions and is a sought after keynote speaker. He has presented education programs in each of the 50 states, each province in Canada, Beijing, China and the Dominican Republic.

**Lieutenant David Bullard (Columbia County Fire Rescue):** David is a 21 year member of the fire service and currently serves as a Lieutenant and coassigned to the Training Division with the Columbia County Fire Rescue (Ga.) and a Firefighter with Grovetown (Ga) DPS. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia State Firefighter's Association, National Volunteer Fire Council State Director, Georgia Pipeline Emergency Response Initiave Board of Directors, NFPA’s Working Group on Flammable Refrigerants, and was Secretary of IFSTA's Pumping Apparatus Driver Operator 3rd Edition Curriculum Committee, contributor to the “Training Officer’s Desk Reference”. As an active instructor for the Georgia Fire Academy with Firefighter Basics, David is constantly engaged with teaching live fire, leadership, HAZMAT, and Firefighter Survival/RIT classes. Involvements within the NVFC include a member of the Health, Safety, and Training Committee, HAZMAT Committee, and Conference Committee.

**HTR Instructor John Burruss (Virginia Department of Fire Programs):** John Burruss is a 40-year veteran of the fire service, and recently retired as the training officer for the Charlottesville Fire Department. He is currently a heavy and technical rescue instructor with the VA Department of Fire Programs. He also spent 30 years as a volunteer with the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad where he was the Deputy Chief of Special Operations. John has substantial experience in fire, emergency medical, and rescue services with a strong background in instructional development and course delivery. John is also been certified at Level 8/9R through WreckMaster. His teaching credentials include presentations at the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Instructor Conference, New Jersey Vehicle Extrication School, Nebraska Vehicle Extrication School, and Andy Frederick’s Training Days. John holds a Master of Science Degree in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University and a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science from the University of Maryland.

**Nick Caputo:** Nick spent 32 years in the fire service in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Before retiring in 2010, Nick was assistant fire chief in Henrico County (VA) and deputy fire chief in Spotsylvania County (VA). He received a bachelor’s degree in safety and risk administration and a master’s in public administration, both from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) and was a designated Chief Fire Officer (CFO). Nick served on the executive board of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA) and as the professional development committee chair for over 20 years. Nick has served as the program manager for the VFCA’s last three SAFER grants and is currently serving as the program manager for the VFCA’s 2019/21 SAFER grant. He is active in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) where he served as the plans chief for the NFFF Memorial Weekend and as an instructor. In retirement, Nick provides grant writing, consultation and facilitator functions to non-profit and public safety agencies.

**Captain Michael Carter (Virginia Beach Fire Department**): Michael Carter has been involved in the public safety community for the past 19 years. He has served in a number of volunteer and career positions to include fire and EMS operations, administration, system progression, development, accreditation review, instruction and incident command development. Mike started his career in 1998 as a volunteer with Virginia Beach Fire Department, and then transitioned to a career firefighter/paramedic. In 2007, Mike was selected to serve as the Chief of Fire and EMS for Currituck County, North Carolina and then in 2010 was appointed as the Assistant Fire Chief of Operations/Emergency Manager for Stafford County, Virginia. In January 2013, he returned home to Virginia Beach Fire Department where he started all over again as a rookie before working his way back through the ranks and currently is a Fire Captain/Paramedic assigned to Town Center, one of the busiest engine companies in the city. Additionally, he been involved at the local and regional level with EMS progression and development to include working as a Regional EMS Coordinator for Tidewater Emergency Medical Services Council, Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System, an adjunct instructor for Tidewater Community College and a Critical Care Transport Paramedic for the Children's Hospital of King's Daughters. Captain Carter also serves as a Medical Specialist for FEMA’s Urban Search and Rescue – Virginia Task Force 2. Mike holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Old Dominion University; is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program; is a designated Chief EMS Officer, and both a Virginia and Nationally Registered Paramedic.

**Deputy Chief Vance Cooper (Virginia Beach):** Vance Cooper is the Deputy Chief of Operations with the Virginia Beach Fire Department.   He has served since 1990 and been assigned to most every aspect of the fire service. He’s professionally credentialed through the Center for Public Safety in Excellence, an Executive Fire Officer through the National Fire Academy, holds a Masters in Public Administration from Old Dominion University and an Executive Certificate in State and Local Government from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.  Chief Cooper serves as the Division 5 Vice President for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association. His biggest contributions come from collaborating with others on emergency responses as well as training, financial and legal matters.  Vance is most fond of the times he shares with the men and women of the VBFD.

**Fire Chief Jay Cullinan (Spotsylvania County):** Chief Jay Cullinan began his fire service career at the age of 16 in 1992, serving as a volunteer in Goochland County, where he continues to serve to this day. Hired as a firefighter by Spotsylvania County in 1996, he has progressed through the ranks and was appointed to the position of Fire Chief in April of 2017. Chief Cullinan is a Nationally Registered Paramedic, a graduate of the NFA’s Executive Fire Officer Program, has been designated as a Chief Fire Officer through the Center for Public Safety Excellence’s Commission on Professional Credentialing, and is a graduate of the IAFC’s Fire Service Executive Development Institute. He has earned a bachelor’s degree in Fire Science and a master’s degree in Management and Leadership. Chief Cullinan is also a past president of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Cullinan is a published writer and avid speaker on topics such as fire service leadership, organizational management, and customer service excellence.

**Captain Marc Davidson (Fairfax County**): Marc is a thirty-four year public servant with eight in the Marine Corps and twenty-six in fire and rescue. He served as a volunteer in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Maryland and is a twenty-four year veteran of Fairfax County. He has eighteen years on the line in busy houses as a firefighter, engine and truck driver and truck officer, four years in Basic and two years in Officer Development Training. Marc teaches for his department and the region on leadership and tactical skills, is an adjunct instructor in Virginia and coordinates multiple training opportunities for aspiring and incumbent officers throughout Northern Virginia. He is part of the founding team of the Northern Virginia Fire & Rescue Leadership Institute, presents nationally including at FDIC, Firehouse and FRI and has published several articles on officer development. The culmination of his time in public service is the understanding that in any environment, effective training is what leads to effective outcomes.

**Lieutenant Bobby Drake: (Hanover Fire EMS):** Bobby Drake is nationally recognized speaker on leadership, training, and officer development. He has over 15 years of experience both, career and volunteer, serving in operations and training positions. He is currently serving as the Lieutenant of Training and Safety and has had command of six recruit schools with Hanover Fire-EMS in Hanover, VA. He holds a B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health, actively participates as a role player and evaluator for assessment centers, and is both a graduate and staff member of the Virginia Fire Officers Academy “Safety through Leadership” program.

**Chief R. Christian Eudailey ( ret):** Chris has been in public safety for over four decades. Chris retired as the fire chief of Spotsylvania County (VA) in January 2014 after serving there for almost 25 years. Chris is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the Executive Fire Officer Program. He was granted Lifetime Designation as a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) upon his retirement. He also is a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and holds numerous state certifications. He has also served as the past president of the Virginia Emergency Management Association and the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association. Chris currently serves as the CEO/president of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Foundation and as the executive director of the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association. Chris also currently serves as a volunteer with Chesterfield Fire and EMS.

**Firefighter Michelle Fayed: (Miami-Fire Rescue):** Michelle Fayed is a firefighter/paramedic and 16-year veteran of Miami-Fire Rescue (MDFR). After over a decade as a wife and caregiver of her husband, an Army veteran diagnosed with PTSD her extensive knowledge and lived experience continues to motivate her to be an outspoken advocate for mental wellness. This also led to her invitation to be a Content Developer of the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Fire/EMS specialty module and a National Trainer for MHFA. In 2017, Michelle was called upon by the National Council for Behavioral Health to advocate for support and funding of mental health awareness education at Congressional Staff Briefings in Washington, D.C. She has spoken about the topic of mental health and PTSD in emergency services nationally including at the National Association of State Fire Marshal’s Annual Conference, the Orlando Fire Conference, FDIC International, National Professional Development Summit, Virginia Fire Rescue Conference and Behind the Shield Podcast.

**Captain Randolph Feltner: (Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services):** Randy Feltneris a Captain with Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services and a Past Fire Chief with the Colonial Beach Vol. Fire Department. He has served as a volunteer firefighter for 20 years and 16 years as a career firefighter with the Department of the Navy. He is a graduate of the VFOA (2017) and the VCOA (2018). Randy has earned 3 degrees relative to the fire service to include an Associates in Fire Science (Keiser University), Bachelors in Fire Service Administration (Columbia Southern University), and Masters in Emergency Services Management (Columbia Southern University). Randy is a survivor of Sudden Cardiac Arrest while on duty in October of 2018. The on duty crew saved my life that day. Since that day he has started working on a program to change the Attitude towards Health and Fitness in the Fire Service.

**Lieutenant Joseph Ficarelli: (FDNY):** Joseph is an 11 year veteran with FDNY. During his first nine years he was assigned to L61, eventually moving to E63, both in the Bronx. This past summer however, he was promoted to Lieutenant and reassigned to the third division in midtown Manhattan. He was recently assigned to Engine 40 on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Joseph has taught at FDIC and various conferences across the country and co-host a podcast on Fire Engineering "Generation Engine"

**Captain Jared Goff: (Fairfax County Fire & Rescue):** Jared Goff is a full-time dad and husband. He is also a Captain II with the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department in Northern Virginia and is assigned to the Fire & Hazardous Materials Investigations Section. Captain Goff has over 20 years’ experience including 10 years exclusively in leadership, command, and field training. Jared was previously assigned as the regional Fire-EMS-Health Intelligence Liaison in a local fusion center and was responsible for the collection, analysis, development, and dissemination of intelligence and collaboration with Northern Virginia and National Capital Region stakeholders. Jared earned his second Master’s degree from the Naval Postgraduate School – Center for Homeland Defense and Security where he conducted original research into the challenges that our nation’s first responders face when preparing for a Complex Coordinated Attack. In 2013, he earned a Master of Arts in Diplomacy with a concentration in International Terrorism at Norwich University.

**Captain Taylor Goodman: (Henrico County Division of Fire):** Taylor Goodman has a combined 45 years of fire service experience in the volunteer and career fire service. He’s been a member of the Huguenot Volunteer Fire Department since 1994, where he was a chief officer for 12 years; he’s worked for the Henrico County Division of Fire since 2000, where he serves as a station captain. Since 1999, he’s served and lead fire apparatus committees in both of his departments, having researched and specified multiple engines, ladder towers, heavy rescues, and ambulances from various manufacturers. He’s an active driver/pump operator instructor and is a WreckMaster certified tow operator. Taylor’s interest is giving members of the fire service the information they need to design, budget, and specify fire apparatus and EMS vehicles appropriate to their community’s unique demands.

**Lauren Hartman (Loudoun County):** Lauren Hartman serves as an EMS Training Officer with Loudoun County - Combined Fire Rescue System, a large combination fire department in the Northern VA region.  She oversees training programs for both volunteer and career members, ranging from initial training programs through continuing education.  Lauren’s passion for teaching is matched by her passion for providing quality care to the patients she encounters as both an active 911 volunteer Paramedic, and critical care provider with a busy regional inter-facility program.

**Fire Chief David W. Hutcheson (VBFD):** Fire Chief David Hutcheson is a 30-year veteran of the Virginia Beach Fire Department (VBFD). He was humbled to be chosen as the Department’s 5th Fire Chief on June 8th, 2017. Chief Hutcheson is very involved and respected at the local, state, regional, and federal level. He is an original member of Virginia Task Force 2 Urban Search & Rescue Team (VA-TF2) and is currently the Sponsoring Agency Chief for the Team. Serving as a member of VA-TF2 has put Chief Hutcheson in many complex disaster situations including the Oklahoma City bombing, numerous hurricane deployments, and the Haiti earthquake. His passion to serve coupled with his compassion for humanity is evident in all that he does. Chief Hutcheson is completing his Masters of Homeland Security from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Post Graduate School. He is also a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. Chief Hutcheson is a member of multiple professional organizations including the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association where he serves on the Executive Board as the Second Vice President and also co-chairs the annual Fire and Rescue Conference. Chief Hutcheson has been a long term volunteer for the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team (NEST) and is now a member of their Executive Board.

**Amanda Kennedy**: With more than a decade of experience in training and development, Amanda Kennedy currently serves as the curriculum development program manager for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. As the curriculum development program manager, she combines her passions for Adult learning methodology and online course development to create tailored learner focused outcomes.  She has a bachelor's degree in communications from Radford University and holds many professional post graduate certificates in instructional design, training, workforce development and technology.  Amanda is honored to help lift Fire Programs into a new era of training and development.

**Educational Specialist Russell Kough: (VFIS):** Russ Kough is an Education Specialist for VFIS. Before coming on-board full time he was working as The Florida Consultant for VFIS since 2015 and has an extensive background in the Fire/EMS service. Russ has over forty years of service in the fire service, starting as a volunteer firefighter in CT at the age of 16 and earned his way to the rank of Lieutenant before moving to Sarasota, Florida at the age of 25. Russ became a career FF with Sarasota County FD in 1986 and has worked his way from Firefighter to Lieutenant to Training Captain. He retired from Sarasota County FD, in 2016 with 30 years. The last 13 years, Russ was a Captain of Training. Russ has been an instructed for Sarasota Technical College Fire Science program since 2000. Russ has become a Florida State Fire Instructor, a BLS Instructor, a National TIMs Train the Trainer Instructor, a Certified FL Live Training Instructor, and a National ISO Train the Trainer Instructor, among other certifications.

**Chief Todd Leduc: (Broward County Fire Rescue Service):** Chief Todd LeDuc, MS, CFO, FIFirE is a 29 year plus veteran of the Broward County, FL Fire Rescue service and Executive Assistant Fire Chief. He has served on the Board of Directors for over a Decade of the IAFC Safety, Health & Survival Section and is currently Section Secretary. He serves as a peer reviewer for both agency accreditation and professional designation. He is a co-author of the IAFC Healthcare Providers Guide to Firefighter Physicals and serves on the advisory board of the NFFF First Responder Center of Excellence. He has been recognized for leadership by the IAFC, IAFF and CPSE. He is the Editor of Surviving the Fire Serviced published by Penn Well. He is an internationally sought after speaker and by published frequently for Fire Engineering.

**Deputy Chief Todd Lupton (Manassas Fire and Rescue):** Chief Todd Lupton has over 25 plus years of Fire and Rescue experience. He started his fire and rescue career as a volunteer in Warren County at Fortsmouth VFD. After a couple of years at Fortsmouth VFD, Todd went to Front Royal VFD and he continues as a volunteer there today. He is currently the Deputy Fire & Rescue Chief in the City of Manassas. During his career he has served as a Firefighter, Fire Medic, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief and also served several times as an Interim Fire Chief. Prior to the City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department he worked for Warren County and the City of Manassas Park. He is also an Adjunct Instructor with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

Chief Lupton holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Service Administration from Waldorf College and an Associate’s Degree in EMS Technology from Northern Virginia Community College. Chief Lupton has achieved the Designation of Chief Fire Officer and Chief EMS Officer through The Commission on Professional Credentialing. He is currently certified as a Fire Officer IV and a National Registered Paramedic.

**Chief Mark Light: (Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Ret.):** Mark W. Light retired after serving 42 years in multiple leadership roles in public safety. He was the chief executive officer and executive director of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) for over 12 years, and served for 6 years as the Deputy Executive Director. IAFC is located in Fairfax, Virginia and represents 12,000 fire chiefs, chief officers, and fire service leaders. He was responsible for the overall day to day management and leadership of the organization in conjunction with an 18-member board of directors. The IAFC is a non-profit organization with a budget of approximately $21 million dollars, and a staff of 76 people. Prior to his service at the IAFC, he served as the Fire Chief in Henrico County, Virginia, and as a Deputy Chief in Roanoke County, Virginia. Light holds a Masters of Public Administration from Virginia Tech. He is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy, completed a fire service Fellowship at Harvard University at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and he completed the Executive Leaders Program at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California. He has been designated as a Certified Association Executive (CAE) by the American Society of Association Executives.

**Dr. Candice McDonald: (Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association):** Dr. McDonald has served her community for over a decade as a volunteer firefighter/EMT. She is a director with the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association, trustee with Women in Fire, member of the FDIC Advisory Board and serves the NVFC as a Fire Corps State Advocate. Dr. Candice McDonald works for NASA in the Office of Protective Services as a special agent, physical security specialist and contracting officer representative. Prior to working at NASA, she was the program coordinator for the Research Center for Educational Technology at Kent State University. Before joining Kent State, she spent six years working for the State of Ohio in marketing. Prior to that, she spent ten years as a mental health case manager/drug and alcohol counselor. Dr. McDonald holds a Doctor of Business Administration with a specialty in homeland security, a master’s in organizational leadership, a bachelor’s in organizational management and an associate’s in human services.

**Michael McDonald, EMS Training Officer:** Michael has almost 3 decades of experience in both Healthcare and the Fire Service communities. His diverse roles as a Provider, Educator, mentor, and community leader provide the background for his unique, thought provoking perspective on a variety of topics of interest for the modern fire service.

**Captain Jack McGovern: (Fredericksburg Fire Department):** Jack McGovern has been in the Fire Service for over 27 years. He joined the OWL Volunteer Fire Department in 1991 and received his Life Membership in 2013. Jack has worked for the Fredericksburg Fire Department since 2000 where he is currently assigned as a Captain on Engine 2. He is also a Contract Employee with the Ogle International Airport in Guyana, South America since 2005. Since 2014, Jack has worked with Project Kill the Flashover (KTF) to conduct and learn from research in the area of Fire Behavior and was recently designated as a Craftsman in the organization. He has been able to bring his knowledge and research from the classroom to the street for personnel to do their jobs better. Jack has been published in Fire Engineering, and continues to conduct research in the area of Fire Behavior and Tactics. He is a Fire Officer IV and Instructor II, and he graduated from Old Dominion University in 1998. He lives in Spotsylvania County with his wife, Jessica and their Dog, Bubba.

**Deputy Fire Chief Timothy McKay: (Chesterfield County Fire and EMS):** A 28-year veteran of the fire service, Chief McKay currently serves as the Deputy Fire Chief of Emergency Operations for Chesterfield County Fire and EMS. Prior to his current position, he served as an Assistant Chief and shift commander in Operations, the Director of EMS, an operational battalion chief, and he spent a number several years in the Training Division in various capacities in addition to numerous assignments in the field. He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Hampden-Sydney College, a master’s degree in public leadership from Virginia State University and is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy. He is also a life member and Chief Emeritus of the Farmville Fire Department and is a life member of the Prince Edward Vol. Rescue Squad.

**Battalion Chief Kerwin McNamara: (Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department):** Kerwin A. McNamara is a Battalion Chief with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in Virginia. McNamara manages the Fire and Hazardous Materials Investigative Services Section in the Fire Marshal’s Office. Under his leadership, the closure rate for incendiary fires increased to 40 percent. McNamara has spent more than 39 years in the fire service and has worked in Pennsylvania, California, and Virginia. McNamara currently serves as the 2nd Vice President of the Virginia Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

**Jeff McPhearson, Regional EMS Liaison; FireFighter / Paramedic; NAEMT Affiliate Faculty - TCCC/TECC/PHTLS: (Southside Regional Medical Center, Petersburg, VA**)**:** National Registered Paramedic with over 30 years as a prehospital provider. Mr. McPhearson started his career at Southside Virginia Emergency Crew at the age of 15. Jeff is currently working as the Regional EMS Liaison at Southside Regional Medical Center - Level III Trauma Center in Petersburg, VA. He has been associated with volunteer and career departments within the last 30 years and currently works part time at Prince George Fire and EMS as a FireFighter/Paramedic in Prince George, VA. Jeff is an Education Coordinator for the VAOEMS and holds Faculty positions in both NAEMT and AHA; Jeff assists teaching with both the Fire & EMS Academy with Prince George Fire & EMS and is also an Adjunct Faculty with Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Jeff has extensive knowledge teaching both TCCC and TECC to both the Military and Civilian sector.

**Dave Morales (Henrico Division of Fire):** Dave is the Information Technology Manager for the Henrico County (VA) Division of Fire. He attended the College of William & Mary, earning a Bachelors degree in Government, and Western Governors University, where he earned a Masters of Business Administration and Information Technology Management. Dave has extensive information technology leadership, project management, web development, training and telecommunications experience extending over a fifteen-year career. Prior to joining Henrico County and working in support of Public Safety, Dave held positions in higher education and workforce training with the Virginia Community College System. Possessing a passion for innovation, Dave strives to guide successful organizational change and technological improvement.

**Deputy Chief John K. Murphy (JD, PA-C,MS,EFO):** Johnretired as a Deputy Fire Chief after 32 years of career fire department service, is a practicing attorney with a focus is on employment practices liability, Fire and EMS training safety, employment policy and practices, forensic evaluation on fire and EMS operations, internal investigations, subject matter expert in pre-hospital EMS and Fire Operations and consulting on risk management for private and public entities. He is a Physician’s Assistant and has been a practicing physicians’ assistant since 1977 with a focus in urgent, emergency, pre-hospital medical care and occupational medicine. He was a US Navy Corpsman. Murphy is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program and his past fire and emergency medical experience has been as a Paramedic/Firefighter; Paramedic Program Director, Chief Fire Officer, Chief of Training, Emergency Operations Chief, Health and Safety Officer and Fire Chief. Mr. Murphy is a distance learning instructor for the University of Florida Fire & Emergencies program

**Minh Nguyen (Delaware):**

**Assistant Chief Tim O’Connor: (Delaware):** Tim O’Connor is an Assistant Chief in a combination company in Delaware. He has been in the fire service for 14 years and has held various positions during that time. He is employed as a Firefighter/EMT in a combination department. He is an instructor at the State Fire School and holds an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science.

**Master Firefighter Daniel Owens: (City of Richmond Fire Department):** Daniel “Danny” Owens is a Master Firefighter for the City of Richmond, Va. started his fire service career in 1998 as a member of the Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Department where he held numerous operational leadership roles, he is also a Life Member. Danny became a career Firefighter in Stafford County, VA in 2003. In 2004 Danny was hired by the City of Richmond, VA and is currently assigned to Engine Company 10/Rescue Company 2 and the Technical Rescue Team. He is a Virginia State certified Fire Officer IV, Instructor II, Technical Rescue Technician, and has a Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University. Also he is a 2015 Graduate of the VFOA and has been on staff since 2016, was the Curriculum Section Chief in 2018 and 2019 and is currently the Operations Section Chief for 2020. Danny also currently is employed at a local central VA amusement park as a Safety technician since2009.

**Tim Perkins (VA Office of EMS):** Tim has been involved in EMS for 30 years, starting as a junior member of a Fire/EMS agency in Central New York. He is a graduate of the Emergency Health Systems program of the University of Maryland - Baltimore County. Tim has worked in several different EMS systems in the eastern US, on local, regional, and state levels, including his current position as Manager of the division of Community Health and Technical Resources (CHaTR) with the Virginia Department of Health, Office of EMS in Glen Allen, VA. Tim has served on the editorial advisory board of EMS World, and hosted an EMS podcast known as The EMS Squadcast. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride and the National EMS Memorial Service.

**Battalion Chief Jason Probst: (Virginia Beach Fire Department):** Chief Probst is an operational Battalion Chief with the Virginia Beach Fire Department. Throughout his career he has served in both the Operations and Training Divisions and has an extensive background in Technical Rescue. Jason currently holds positions as a Virginia Department of Fire Programs Adjunct Instructor covering Heavy & Tactical Rescue, the Officer series, EVOC, and FF 1&2 and serves as the Co-Chair of the Confined Space Rescue and Vehicle Rescue committees. He currently holds the position of Rescue Squad Officer and Lead Structural Collapse Specialist Instructor for the FEMA VATF-2 US&R team. Additionally he travels across the United States teaching specialized rescue classes concentrating in Heavy Vehicle Technician, Structural Collapse Specialist, Paratech University, and many other disciplines as well as Leadership Development for both Spec Rescue International and the Blue Collar Training Network.

**Deputy Chief Steve Prziborowski: (Santa Clara County Fire Department):** Steve Prziborowski has over 27 years of fire service experience, currently serving as a Deputy Chief for the Santa Clara County (CA) Fire Department & is an instructor for the Chabot College (CA) Fire Technology Program. Steve was the 2008 California Fire Instructor of the year, is an Executive Board Member for the California Fire Chiefs Association and is a Former President of the Northern California Training Officers Association. Steve is a regular speaker and presenter at fire service events and conferences across the country, having presented over 400 sessions, courses & webinars in 25 states, at multiple colleges, fire departments, events and conferences. He has authored and contributed to over 200 articles, podcasts, videos, blogs and books in the leading fire service publications & has published three career development books: “Reach for the Firefighter Badge,” “The Future Firefighter’s Preparation Guide,” and “How to Excel at Fire Department Promotional Exams!”

**Captain Jesse Quinalty: (San Bernardino County Fire Department):** Jesse Quinalty is the owner of Red Helmet Training in Southern California which houses four classrooms and a command training center. He specializes in Company Officer Training as well as table top and digital fire simulations. He is a Captain with the San Bernardino County Fire Department. He has been the Incident Commander for multiple structure fires and other incidents, including city-wide flooding. He was involved in a burnover during the Sawtooth Incident and credited with saving the engine crew with his command presence. He has presented at several conferences including the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC), Firehouse World San Diego, Firehouse Expo Nashville, Fire Rescue International (FRI), Fire Shows West – Reno, and Fire Rescue South Carolina. He has authored several articles in fire service magazines and is currently writing a book. He is also the producer and host of the monthly video series “Firefighters in Fire Trucks getting Ice Cream”.

**Battalion Chief Richard Ray: (Durham Fire Department):** Richard Ray, a 27-year veteran of the fire service, has both volunteer and career experience. He is a member of the Creedmoor Vol. Fire Dept. (NC) where he is a Captain. He is also a career firefighter with the Durham Fire Dept. (NC) where he is a Battalion Chief and an adjunct instructor for the training division. He instructs on a national level and has written for Fire Engineering. He is also a member of the UL FSRI Residential Home Size-Up and Search & Rescue Operations Technical Panel.

**Captain Jon Rigolo: ( Virginia Beach Fire Department)**: Jon Rigolo is a Captain with the Virginia Beach Fire Department and a member of its technical rescue team with over 30 years of experience. He a Rescue Team Manager/Task Force Leader with Virginia Task Force 2 one of the 28 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams and has deployed nationwide on events of national significance. He is a technical rescue instructor for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and Spec Rescue International where he is the lead for the delivery of rope rescue, industrial rope access and water rescue training worldwide.

**Firefighter Mitchell Riley: (Virginia Beach Fire Department):** Mitchell Riley is a firefighter with the Virginia Beach Fire Department (VBFD). Firefighter Riley has spent his entire career on Engine 7 the city’s busiest company. (4,200 runs a year). He is a field training instructor who assists with live fire evolutions, and fire academy operations. Mitchell Riley has been a student at FDIC for the HOT evolutions, and classroom lessons.

**Fire & Life Safety Director Anthony Rodkey: (Countryside Fire District, Vernon Hills, IL):** Tony Rodkey, twenty seven year Firefighter/Paramedic and the Fire & Life Safety Director for past twelve years. Tony is an active Fire Investigator and Hazmat Technician. Tony has completed National Fire Academy courses to improve the Community Risk Reduction programs within Countryside Fire District, Vernon Hills, IL. Tony teaches for the Illinois Fire Chief's Association, Illinois Fire Inspector's Association and Adjunct Faculty at College of Lake County. Tony earned his Bachelor's and Master’s Degree from Illinois State University. Mr. Rodkey has received several awards, including the 2016 NFPA Rising Star, 2016 National Schools Public Relations Association Merit Award & Illinois Fire Inspector’s 2017 Fire & Life Safety Educator. Tony has been a Conference Speaker in Colorado, Illinois, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

**Division Chief Chase Sargent-Retired: (Virginia Beach Fire Department):** Chase Sargent retired as a Division Chief/Paramedic with the Virginia Beach Fire and Rescue Department in 2005 after 26.5 years of service. During his tenure he served in a variety of operational and administrative capacities including company officer, Training Captain, Operational Battalion Chief, Commanding Officer of the Special Operations Division, Homeland Security Coordinator, PIO and City- Wide Tour Commander for B shift. Chase helped found and develop the Tidewater Regional Technical Rescue Team and FEMA US&R Task Force - VATF-2 where he served as a Task Force leader and as a member of the FEMA White IST. During his assignments Chase deployed to dozens of natural disasters, the Atlanta and Salt Lake Olympics and the G-8. Chase served as the Night Operation Branch Chief at the Oklahoma City Murrah Building attack at the World Trade Center Terrorist attacks.

**Captain Jarrod Sergi: (Norfolk Fire and Rescue Department):** Jarrod Sergi is a Captain with Norfolk Fire Rescue (VA) where he is assigned to an Engine Company. He has had previous assignments as a ladder company Lieutenant and Fire Academy Coordinator. He has assisted in the development and delivery of several department wide and regional training programs that included Engine and Ladder Company operations as well as Fire Dynamics. Jarrod serves as an adjunct State Instructor for both the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the National Fire Academy focusing on MAYDAY, Strategy/Tactics and High Rise Operations. He is an instructor with Real Fire Training LLC where he provides training on many fireground topics. Prior to working for the City of Norfolk, Jarrod served in the United States Navy as a Damage Controlman and a Search and Rescue Swimmer. Jarrod is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer Program. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Science, has been featured in several fire service publications.

**Captain Jonah Smith: (Charlotte Fire Department):** Jonah Smith is a Captain with the Charlotte Fire Department and Assistant Chief of the Pleasant Valley Fire Department. Jonah has served in the fire service for 15 years. Jonah is an Adjunct Faculty Member for Rowan Cabarrus Community College and has presented at numerous conferences including FDIC. He serves as the Lead Instructor for the South Carolina State Engine School, and is a contributor to the Fire Engineering Books and Videos Collection.

**Firefighter Andy Soccodato: (Charlottesville Fire Department):** Andy has served in the fire service for the past 13 years. He works for the Charlottesville Fire Department, where he is a firefighter and driver/pump and aerial operator. In addition, Andy also volunteers for the Crozet Volunteer Fire Department. Andy’s one true fire service love is for pump and water supply operations. In 2018, he started his own business named The Water Thieves, LLC, which specializes in teaching driver/pumper operator courses.

**Battalion Chief Paul Strong: (Valley Regional Fire Authority, King County Washington):** Paul Strong entered the fire service in 1990 and is a Battalion Chief with the Valley Regional Fire Authority in King County Washington. Paul has been an educator in the public and private sectors for over 25 years. He has served as a training officer, medical program specialist, haz mat technician, and a rope/dive rescue technician. He is also an adjunct instructor for the Washington State Fire Training Academy as well as the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. Paul’s focus in education is providing energetic programs that keep the audience engaged through interactive participation and thought provoking delivery. Paul has well over two decades of delivering effectual classroom and conference programs to police, fire, and EMS personnel as well as private business leaders and industry workforce.

**Jack Sullivan CSP, CFPS: (Director of Training for the Emergency Responder Safety Institute):** Jack served the Paoli (PA) Fire Co. as a firefighter, Lieutenant, Asst. Chief and Deputy Chief. He also served as a volunteer firefighter in Chesterfield County, VA, and as Lt. and Safety Officer for Lionville (PA) Fire Co. Jack now serves as the Director of Training for the Emergency Responder Safety Institute (www.respondersafety.com). Jack is a member of the Safety, Health and Survival Section of the International Assoc. of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and he is a member of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA). Jack is a Master Instructor for the FHWA SHRP 2 TIM program and he is a Principal Member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Technical Committee for Traffic Incident Management Professional Qualifications that developed NFPA 1091: Standard for Traffic Incident Management Professional Qualifications (2015).

**Brian Turnage (Richmond Fire Department):** Battalion Chief Brian Turnage is a twenty-two year veteran of the Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services. He is currently serving as an operational battalion chief and the Chief of Special Operations. He has spent time on the HTR team, water rescue team, training, and administration. Brian completed his Master’s of Coaching Education and Athlete Development from Xavier University this past November. Brian has been coaching baseball in the Richmond area for the past 15 years.

**Investigator Steven Van Winkle: (Office of Professional Standards Loudoun County-Combined Fire & Rescue System):** Investigator Steven R. Van Winkle Office of Professional Standards Loudoun County-Combined Fire & Rescue System Attended University of North Carolina Chapel Hill 1970-74 Fairfax County Police: 1976-1997 Retired rank of Sergeant Patrol, Swat Team 6 years, Major Crimes Detective, Patrol Supervisor, Internal Affairs Bureau Detective Sergeant. Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office: 1997-2000: Homicide, Robbery & Juvenile Crime Victim’s Detective. Loudoun County Commonwealth’s Attorney: 2000-2005 Senior Investigator Loudoun County Administrator’s Office: 2005 Investigator/Inspector General Loudoun County Fire Rescue: 2006-Present Office of Professional Standards Investigator. \*When I arrived at LCFR in 2006, I set up the Office of Professional Standards, wrote the SOP for ADMIN Investigations; set up contracts to begin screening all LCFR employee applicants, background verifications and polygraph for FF/EMT applicants. Wrote the initial applicant screening SOP.

**Chris Vernovai (VA Office of EMS):** Chris is a NR-Paramedic that has been in EMS and Fire Services for more than 29 years, most of which has been spent in EMS leadership and management positions, including commercial, volunteer and combination volunteer and career EMS as well as the Department of Defense as a Federal Firefighter and Paramedic. Most recently, Chris was the County EMS Coordinator for Highland County, Virginia overseeing the County's EMS program. Chris had served 5 years on the State EMS Advisory Board's Workforce Development Committee and EMS Officer and Standards of Excellence Subcommittees and continues to serve on these committees as OEMS Staff. Chris has been an EMS Field Preceptor in multiple agencies in multiple states, is a Virginia Education Coordinator, CISM team member, and had served on the Executive Board of Directors with the Central Shenandoah EMS Council. Chris currently is the EMS Systems Planner for the Virginia OEMS CHaTR Division, which oversees the Regional Council program, providing Technical Assistance to EMS Agencies and municipalities in areas such as management and leadership, recruitment and retention.

**Brian Ward,** **Global Emergency Preparedness and Response Leader:** Brian has served with the one station volunteer department to one of the largest of metropolitan departments. Brian is a seasonal FDIC instructor, Fire Engineering author and monthly columnist for Fire Rescue Magazine. He authored Fire Engineering’s Training Officer’s Toolbox, Barn Boss Leadership and Managing Editor/Author for Jones and Bartlett’s Training Officer’s Desk Reference. Brian is a certified Georgia Smoke Diver with a bachelor’s degree in Fire and Safety Engineering from University of Cincinnati and a master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from Columbia Southern University.

**Erica Wood, Paramedic and Prehospital Educational Coordinator:** Currently employed as a Prehospital Educational Coordinator for the University of Virginia Prehospital Program and volunteering in Louisa County. Starting her EMS career in Massachusetts. She worked as an EMT and Rapid Response Technician in a Level 2 Trauma Hospital, then moved to Virginia in 2004. She obtained her paramedic and critical care certifications and worked critical care transport before working as a career Firefighter/Paramedic. She holds certifications of fire instructor 3 and officer 1, as well as instructing courses for the Department of Homeland Security. She have a bachelor’s degree in Fire Science and a master’s degree in Emergency Management, both from Columbia Southern University. She is the former IAFF Union President for Local 5103 in Orange County. She has lectured across the country, notably at FDIC International, South Carolina Fire-Rescue, NC EMS Expo, VA EMS Symposium and The Great Florida Fire School.

**Dr. Allen Yee (Chesterfield Fire and EMS – OMD):** Dr. Yee was trained in Emergency medicine at University at Buffalo.  Dr. Yee served as faculty at UB until relocation to Richmond.  Dr. Yee now serves as the Operational Medical Director for Chesterfield Fire and EMS, New Kent Fire, an many other agencies.  Dr. Yee also works at VCU in the emergency department and holds rank of assistant professor.