

2021 Virginia Fire and Rescue Conference

Speaker Biographies

Jason Abitz

Jason Abitz is a Captain with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue assigned to fire station 17 in Centreville, Virginia. Jason has 18 years experience in the fire service holding various assignments during his career in both Operations and Training. Jason is Program developer and lead instructor for the departments Officer Development Training Unit. Jason is a FDIC HOTs instructor and speaker at Fire-Rescue International and VA Fire-Rescue Conferences.

John Applewhite

John has worked in the Public Safety field for more than 41 years beginning his career as a recruit firefighter in Norfolk, Virginia serving in several positions up to and including assistant fire chief. As Assistant Chief, he managed several bureaus, which included training, operations, logistics and Chief Fire Marshal. After retirement, John spent six years with the Eastern Virginia Medical School Police Department as an executive leader, serving as commanding officer of the Investigations Unit, Emergency Management Office and Fire and Life Safety of the campus. John currently works for the Newport News Fire Department, Fire Investigations Bureau conducting fire investigations and working to develop the city's first full time Environmental Crimes Unit.

During his career with Norfolk, he served as the Chief Fire Marshal for the city and was part a task force designed to study the major impacts of Environmental Issues on the city. During that time, the task force developed the first multi-agency Environmental Crimes Task Force in Virginia, which was responsible for investigating and prosecuting environmental or hazardous materials violations within the city. John has more than 20 years working in the field of Environmental Crimes investigations, conducting education and research in the area of impacts from Environmental Crimes. He is an adjunct Instructor for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and recently began delivering the Environment Crimes Investigator program for VDFP. John's education includes an Associated Degree in Fire Science and more than 200 course offerings in fire and law enforcement training, in addition to 60 courses from the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

Jeff Bailey

Jeff is a retired Chief of Training for Spotsylvania County, Virginia. Jeff holds an Associate's and Bachelor's Degree. He is also a past volunteer Fire Chief.

Joe Bailey

Joe retired after 32 years. Joe also retired as a first sergeant with the United States Army Reserves. He has been a Virginia adjunct fire instructor since 1977 and taught fire science at

the Germanna Community College. Joe holds an associate's degree from Northern Virginia Community College and a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech.

Joseph Barakey

Joe Barakey is a 20 – year veteran of the Virginia Beach Fire Department, where he has worked as the Captain of Training in charge of the recruit academies for the last two years. He previously was assigned as a Captain of Engine 9, Engine 2, and Rescue 1. While assigned to Rescue 1 he was a hazmat specialist. He has a bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

Michael Barakey

Michael Barakey (EFO, CFO) is the Fire Chief for Suffolk Fire and Rescue in Suffolk, Virginia. Chief Barakey is a National Registered Paramedic and a Taskforce Leader for VA-TF2 USAR Team. He graduated from Old Dominion University in 2002 with a Masters of Public Administration and is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program (NFA), and has a Career Studies Certificate in EMS. He is also a contributor to Fire Engineering magazine.

Ian Bennett

Ian Bennett is the National Local Assistance State Team (LAST) Coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In addition, Ian coordinates the Taking Care of Our Own program and the Unformed Outreach Programs. He has been associated with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation since 2001 serving as a member of the planning section of the Command staff assembled to manage the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend held each October at the National Fire Academy. Ian retired as the Fire Chief for the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia after 33 years in the fire service, serving departments in Virginia, Colorado and Alabama. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from James Madison University and completed the Executive Fire Officer program through the National Fire Academy.

Rick Best

Rick Best is a nationally recognized leader in firefighter health and safety. He has more than 20 years of experience in fire service training, program development, and public speaking, and currently serves as the Everyone Goes Home Advocate Program Manager for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In that role, Rick oversees a system of more than 156 advocates who serve as volunteer trainers delivering programs throughout the United States to develop instructors for the NFFF's Courage to Be Safe, Leadership, Accountability, Culture, and Knowledge (LACK), and other courses. He currently serves as the Fire Programs Manager for Hocking College, an accredited public community college in Nelsonville, Ohio.

Rick began his career as a volunteer firefighter and worked his way into a full-time position for the City of Westerville (OH) Division of Fire. He retired from Westerville in 2019. A certified Fire Training Officer II, he spent 15 years on staff at the Ohio Fire Academy, a division of the State Fire Marshal's Office. Rick has been an invited presenter at Firehouse Expo, Firehouse World,

and FRI, and multiple state, local, and regional fire service events, and is a member of the NFPA 1001-1002-1003-1005 and NFPA 1041 Technical Committees.

Rick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration and a master's degree in Strategic & Organizational Leadership from Neumann University. He is the 2020 recipient of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing his significant contributions to the health and safety of America's firefighters.

Rob Blasetti

Rob Blasetti is currently a Firefighter/Paramedic at Fairfax County Fire Department and a member of VA-TF1/USA-1 Urban Search and Rescue Team. Before moving to Virginia, Rob worked for the City of Cape Coral Fire Department in Florida, where he held the rank of Battalion Chief. Rob is one of the presenters for the National Olympics Committee's Leadership Training and H.O.T Instructor at FDIC.

Wendy Bowman

Captain Bowman has been involved in emergency services for almost 40 years at all levels. 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. Her passion for taking care of her emergency services family is evident when she speaks.

Michael Brashear

Michael Brashear started in the fire service as a Los Angeles County Fire Explorer and a paramedic in San Bernardino CA. He made the move from west to east coast and worked for Roanoke County as a Paramedic Firefighter. He currently is the Battalion Chief of Training for the Virginia Beach Fire Department and the Safety Component Leader for VATF-2. He holds a bachelor's degree in Management and Leadership.

Keith Brower

Keith is retired as the System Chief for the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System. He has been a residential sprinkler system advocate for his entire career and recently installed a system in his home.

Sam Burnette

Sam currently serves as the Emergency Services Coordinator and Mass Casualty Incident Program Manager for the Virginia Office of EMS. Prior to joining the Office of EMS in 2017, Mr. Burnette held various positions at the Virginia Department of Fire Programs to include Fire/Emergency Services Liaison at the Virginia Fusion Center; Division Chief of Technical Rescue, and the Division 5 Training Chief.

Wally Burris

Wally retired with 35 years of service. He was as a captain for the City of Fairfax (VA) and spent seven years serving as a volunteer firefighter prior to his employment. Wally has been a Virginia

adjunct fire instructor since 1980. Wally holds an associate's degree from Northern Virginia Community College and a bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.

John Burruss

John Burruss a 40-year veteran of the fire service and currently serves on the Driver/Aerial Operator Course Development Committee for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. John has substantial experience in fire apparatus operations with a strong background in modern aerial operations course delivery. John holds a Master of Science Degree in Occupational Safety and Health.

Rich Cantarella

Rich Cantarella is assigned to Tower 424 in Fairfax County. Rich's last assigned was Truck 422 and has been working on Truck Companies for the last 12 years. Rich instructs at various conferences around the country and specialists in the art of forcible entry.

Nick Caputo

A 32 year fire service veteran, Nick served as an assistant fire chief in Henrico County and deputy fire chief in Spotsylvania County. He has a BS and MPA from VCU. Nick served as program manager for the VFCA's past SAFER grants and currently manages the VFCA's 2019/21 SAFER grant. In retirement, Nick provides grant writing, consultation and facilitator functions to non-profit and public safety agencies.

Spencer Cheatham

Spencer Cheatham is a past fire chief and president of the West Point Vol. Fire Dept. He served as an interim and battalion chief in a career capacity with New Kent Fire-Rescue and currently works as a program manager for the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He still enjoys pulling duty one night a week as a firefighter/EMT with West Point, the community he has served for the past 25 years.

Burton Clark

Dr. Burton A. Clark, EFO has been in the fire service for 50 years, including the District of Columbia and Prince George's County Fire Departments and the National Fire Academy. He serves on the Board of Advisors for the Fire Service Psychology Association and the Board of Governors for the John M. Moschella Fire Service Research Grant Trust. Dr. Clark is a Technical Expert Reviewer for the NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention program and a dissertation advisor at various universities. He is the author of "I Can't Save You, But I'll Die Trying. The American Fire Culture." www.americanfireculture.com

Dustin Clay

Dustin Clay is a 16 year veteran of the fire service. He is currently working in the City of Manassas assigned to Tower 1. Dustin is an avid student of the fire service and is a fire instructor for many disciplines in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

David T. Clemson

David Clemson is a Senior Forensic Auditor with ATF, assisting the Washington Field Division since 2001. During that time, he has provided financial analysis for numerous criminal investigations involving Arson-for-Profit, Car Bombings, Cigarette Diversion/Smuggling, Firearms and Drug Trafficking, and Illegal Liquor Distribution. Some of the notable awards for his financial assistance include recipient of the 2015 ATF Distinguished Service Medal; 2012 ATF Outstanding Professional Employee of the Year; OCDETF National Award for Outstanding Asset Forfeiture Case; Unites States Attorney of the District of Columbia Law Enforcement Award for Meritorious Service; the United States Attorney of the Eastern District of Virginia Law Enforcement Public Service Award; and, the United States Attorney of the Western District of Virginia Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Financial Analysis. Mr. Clemson is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, and Certified Fraud Examiner. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Virginia Society of CPA's and Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

In addition, Mr. Clemson served as the Chief of Accounting Policy within ATF Headquarters, where he provided oversight to the preparation of the Bureau's annual audited financial statements and Accountability Report, as well as serving as the Bureau audit liaison. He also has experience in public accounting and as a Senior Auditor with the Department of the Navy. Mr. Clemson earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from James Madison University.

Robert Cobb

Deputy Chief Cobb retired after 35 years with the Jersey City FD. During his tenure, he held the positions of Chief of Training and Chief of Operations. He has had numerous articles published in fire service journals and magazines. After retiring, Chief Cobb accepted a position with ISO overseeing ISO's key mitigation programs in municipal fire protection and building-code enforcement and adoption.

Michael Crabtree

Michael is a 13 year firefighter with the Richmond Fire Department. He spent 2 years prior with Spotsylvania County Fire. Currently a Lieutenant assigned to Truck 5 on the cities Southside and part of the Water Rescue Team. He was previously assigned to Rescue 2 and Truck 3 on the cities Northside and assigned to the Technical Rescue Team. Michael is the co – founder of Mutiny training, a State Adjunct instructor, and a developer and instructor for the Regional Truck School.

Marcus Croft

Marcus Croft is a Master Firefighter for the City of Virginia Beach. He has spent time assigned to an Engine company, Heavy Rescue, Hazardous Materials Team and is a member of Virginia Task Force 2. He is currently assigned to the Training Division as the Lead Instructor for the Virginia Beach Fire Academy.

Julien Crolet

Currently a Fire Protection Specialist for Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Service's (FBFES) Training and Occupational Safety Branch, Julien Crolet has engaged in a wide variety of experiences within 14 years in the fire service. Julien is a national registry paramedic and certified from the International Board of Specialty Certification as a FP-C and CCP-C. He currently serves as the accreditation manager for FBFES and served as a Co-Lead of the investigation team for the confined space close call incident.

Marc Davidson

Marc is a 35 year public servant with over 8 years in the Marine Corps and 27 in fire and rescue. He served as a volunteer in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Maryland and is a 25 year veteran of Fairfax County. He teaches regionally and nationally on leadership and tactical fieldcraft and coordinates multiple training opportunities for aspiring and incumbent officers.

David Dennison

David is the Director of Risk Management for McNeil and Company (ESIP) and serves as the executive director of the National FARMEDIC Training Program. Dave has over 30 years in the fire service with the Cortlandville (NY) Fire Department and has served as Fire Chief and Fire Commissioner. Dave has presented classes and keynotes at several state, regional and national shows and conventions.

Brad Dougherty

Captain Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services. A twenty-four year student of the fire service, and has served in varying types of Fire and EMS organizations as both a career and volunteer member. Brad writes for different trade journals and serves the Commonwealth of Virginia as an Instructor, specializing in the fire officer and rapid intervention curriculums.

Bobby Drake

Bobby Drake is a nationally recognized speaker on leadership, training, and officer development. His career focus has been in operations and training and he is currently serving as a Lieutenant overseeing recruit training. Outside of the classroom Bobby has been a part of multiple assessment center evaluations and is a role player for the Virginia Fire Officer Academy.

Chris Eudailey

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 is a certified emergency manager, chief fire officer 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.

Randolph Feltner

Randolph Feltner is a 20 year veteran of the fire service and is currently a Battalion Chief for Naval District Washington Fire and Emergency Services. He holds a MS in Emergency Services Management. He is also a survivor of a Cardiac Arrest / Heart Attack on duty and has turned near tragedy into a tool to help firefighters change their attitude towards their personal health.

Jim Forgo

Chief Jim Forgo began his career in 1982 as a member of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. He worked his way up through the ranks to his current position as the Deputy Chief of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue System. He served in many capacities throughout his career to include Training, Personnel, Health and Safety, Communications, Logistics, Fleet and Facilities, and Administration.

Chief Forgo has served on many committees throughout the region and state. He is an active member of the Virginia LAST team and serves in both the Chief Officer and Honor Guard role. Chief Forgo is active with the NFFF and is assisting with the IC to IC Program. He has instructed at Firehouse Expo and the Virginia Fire Chiefs Conference. Chief Forgo has assisted several departments with their LODD process to include investigation and peer review. Chief Forgo earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and is a Certified Public Manager. He has earned many awards including being named as Firefighter of the Year for his department.

Taylor Goodman

Taylor Goodman is a captain with Henrico County Fire and an active member at the Huguenot Volunteer Fire Department in Powhatan County. His background in rural water supply; fire apparatus specification and design; and advanced pump training has lead to his role as an instructor for The Water Thieves and the Department of Fire Programs, as well as a contract instructor for various fire departments.

Samantha Green

Samantha is currently a Captain with Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services and has served in that capacity for 3 years, with 11 total dedicated years to the US Army Installation. She has also been a volunteer at Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company for 17 years.

Rick Gurba

Rick is a Paramedic with more than 35 years of experience and an Education Specialist for VFIS. His responsibilities include education and training presentations, managing the ResponderHelp.com ESO search engine and providing subject matter expertise in mergers and consolidations, emergency service technology, EMS, non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) and mobile integrated healthcare.

Brian Hallahan

Brian Hallahan has been a career firefighter in Northern Virginia for the last 7 years, riding on both the truck and engine companies. Brian has been a field training instructor in his

department for the last 6 years. He assists with, and has taught, search, forcible entry, ladders and hoseline management classes. In his free time, he frequently takes classes to improve his own skills and knowledge to pass on and improve the firefighting craft.

Jonathan Hinson

Chief Jonathan Hinson is a Battalion Chief with the Chesapeake Fire Department spending the majority of his 17-year career on the department's foam firefighting team. Chief Hinson instructs regularly on foam firefighting topics including being selected to present at FDIC 2020. Chief Hinson is an adjunct instructor for VDFP and Chief of the Newsoms Vol. Fire Dept. in Southampton County, VA.

Jason Irby

Jason is a 24-year veteran of the fire service, began as a volunteer in 1996, joined Spotsylvania Fire and Rescue in 2001, and is currently the Deputy Fire Chief of Support Services. He has a Fire Science Certificate from Germanna, and an AAS of Fire Science from Tidewater. Jason is an Adjunct Instructor for the VA Department of Fire Programs and the National Honor Guard Academy.

Jamieson Jewett

Jamieson Jewett is a Lieutenant with the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department. He has worked for Manassas for 9 years and has been a member of the fire service 12 years. He is currently assigned to Fire Station 1 in Old Town Manassas.

Dave Jolly

Chief Jolly currently serves as the Director of Quality Assurance for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. As part of his responsibilities, he oversees the IFSAC and Pro Board Accreditation of the agency. Chief Jolly has held many positions within the agency and is a long-time trainer. He is an active member of his hometown fire department where he serves as a Chief Officer.

Michael Kaliher

Michael J. Kaliher is a Master Firefighter for the City of Virginia Beach Fire Department. He is currently assigned to the Training Academy where he serves as the Special Operations Training officer. Mike spent close to 20 years on the VBFD Technical Rescue Team as well as the Tidewater Regional Technical Rescue Team. Mike is part of the FEMA USAR Team, Virginia Task Force 2 as a Rescue Team Manager and a Heavy Equipment Rigging Specialist. He also is a State Adjunct HTR Instructor as well as a Water Rescue Instructor.

Travis Karicofe

Travis Karicofe is the EMS Officer for the City of Harrisonburg Fire Department, with 25+ years of experience in Fire-EMS, flight medicine and tactical EMS. He teaches multiple fire and EMS disciplines throughout Virginia and has led numerous national lectures and training programs. His experience is a combination of operational and administrative functions in an all-hazards fire department.

Amanda Kennedy

Amanda Kennedy currently serves as the curriculum development program manager for the VDFP. 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.

Micah Kiger

Micah Joel Kiger is a Career Deputy Chief with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue - Virginia. Chief Kiger has an Associate's Degree in Fire Science and is currently obtaining his Bachelor's Degree in Fire Administration. Micah has been a career firefighter for 20 years and has been fortunate to hold multiple positions and assignments with the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue System.

Carlton King

Carlton is a 23-year veteran of the fire service, currently serving as a firefighter with the Richmond Fire Department. Prior to Richmond, Carlton spent 20 years with Henrico Fire, leaving as an operations Captain, serving in both engine and truck companies. In addition to many years of working in career departments, he has spent several years volunteering in both Virginia and Maryland. As a teacher, his passion lies in bringing simple, reliable, and repeatable fireground solutions to both engine and truck operations. Carlton is an energetic instructor and passionate firefighter, who lives by the motto; "firefighter is a trade, firemanship is an art."

Kevin Kuntz

Mr. Kuntz is ISO's Chief Engineer and leads their technical teams. He serves on 11 NFPA committees including 1585, 1700, 1710 and 1901. Kevin has over 45 years of volunteer fire service experience serving as Department Chief, North Brunswick (NJ) FD and currently is a structural firefighter with the Gettysburg (PA) FD. He has a civil engineering degree (structural design) from Tulane, is a licensed professional engineer (fire protection), and a certified fire protection specialist.

Chris LaHart

Battalion Chief Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services, USAF veteran with twenty plus years of progressive failing forward. Leading with the simple philosophy of, "*Leave it better than you found it. That goes for the mission, the people, and the equipment.*" Member of the Virginia Fire Chief Association, and past Vice President with the International Association of Firefighters.

Edward Landgrover

Captain Landgrover started his fire service career in 1991 with the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department before accepting a position as a career Firefighter with the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. Hired in 1999 with the Virginia Beach Fire Department, he currently serves as a Captain in the Fire Training Bureau. His duties include incumbent training for the 500 men and women of the VBFD, company in-service, career progression training, and specialized training for the 8 Ladder companies and 2 Heavy

Rescues. Captain Landgrover also serves as a Rescue Team Manager with Virginia Task Force 2.

Greg Leitz

Greg Leitz is a Division Chief with Spotsylvania County and a Life Member of Lake of the Woods Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company.

Brian Lewis

Brian Lewis originally started his firefighting career in the suburbs of Akron, Ohio. After 3 years he began working in Richmond in 2010 being assigned to Quint 12, Truck 1, Rescue 1 and currently Truck 5. There he is part of the City's water rescue team and Ladder Company sharing the house with Engine 13. Brian is a cofounder of Mutiny Fire Training and an instructor for Richmond's Regional Truck School. In his time with the RFD he has attended and taught various classes in Virginia and around the country.

Mark Light

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.

Darren Lucas

Darren is a firefighter with nearly 19 years of experience. For the past 2 years he has served in the City of Richmond, assigned to Truck 3. Prior to Richmond, he served for 15 years in Henrico Fire. During his time in Henrico, he worked at Stations 10, 22, 9, and 12. He has been assigned to both engine companies and truck companies. He was also a volunteer firefighter in Maryland for 2 years. Darren is dedicated to the training of others, serving as an Instructor for the Henrico Fire Basic Truck Company School, and the Richmond City Regional School.

Bill MacKay

Bill has more than 40-years of fire-rescue experience beginning as a volunteer in his hometown. Following a 26-year career in Fairfax County, Bill was appointed the Fire Chief for the City of Niagara Falls, New York. Family matters brought him back to Virginia and in 2010 Bill was

appointed the Fire-Rescue Chief for Goochland County, Virginia. Since June of 2019, Bill has served as the Chief of Training and Operations for the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Bill is an adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy and is a Designated Chief Fire Officer through the Center for Excellence.

Jason Martin

Jason Martin is a Lieutenant assigned to Engine 73-Special Operations for the Iona McGregor Fire District in Ft. Myers, Florida. Jason served as a Rescue Manager for FLTF-6 Urban Search and Rescue Team. He has been an instructor for over 12 years and currently the Fire/EMT program manager at the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy. Jason serves as H.O.T instructor at FDIC, Orlando Fire Conference and Ft. Lauderdale Fire Conference.

Bobby Matthews

Bobby Matthews is a Captain with Norfolk Fire Rescue. He has been previously assigned to both rescue companies and busy ladder companies within the city for the last 26 years. Bobby is currently assigned to Engine Company 7 on the west side in a busy urban area. For the past 12 years, Bobby has been a HazMat component leader with FEMA USAR VATF2 and teaches locally and internationally in different facets of the job. A local and regional instructor, Bobby has been teaching engine and ladder company operations with other like minded team members often.

Jack McGovern

Jack McGovern has been active in the Fire Service since 1991, and currently serves as the Captain of Engine 2 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He has worked with Project Kill the Flashover (KTF) since 2014, and received his Craftsman Designation in 2018 after completing the Fire Behavior University and Live-Fire Field Experiment. In 2018, he also received his Level 1 Thermographer Certification.

Tim McKay

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 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.

Aaron McKissick

Aaron has worked in Health and Wellness for over 10 years and with first responders for over 7 years. He obtained a Master's in Exercise Physiology from California University of Pennsylvania and is a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. Aaron currently oversees the Strength and Conditioning for the Virginia Beach Fire Academy.

Karen McQuaid

Karen McQuaid is a career Volunteer Manager with Fire-EMS and an active volunteer in Fire and EMS along with other community organizations. Her experience and education in public safety human resource management and program development, in addition to her initiative and energy, has provided successful results in her work with volunteer retention and recruitment.

Gerry Maitico

Gerry R. Maitico has served over 21 years in public safety with the past 11 years as the Fire Marshal for Front Royal/Warren County, Virginia with a focus on fire and explosion origin and cause investigations. Gerry has performed over 300 fire incident origin and cause investigations and has completed various related training programs. He has served as an instructor in various topics of fire and explosion investigations and code enforcement related trainings and is recognized as a subject matter expert by the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy. Gerry has testified in the juvenile and domestic, circuit, and general district courts of the Commonwealth. Gerry has testified as an expert witness in fire incident origin and cause investigations.

Bryan Miller

As a paramedic and instructor, Bryan has worked and taught throughout Virginia & North Carolina. After completing his Bachelor's degree in critical care in Roanoke, he moved to Richmond for additional undergraduate education. He is currently working part-time as a critical care paramedic for Richmond Ambulance Authority while serving as the OEMS Regional Educator for the Richmond metro area.

John Miller

John is currently the Director of Fire and Emergency Management for Virginia Department of Forestry. He has been in state forestry for his entire career of 31 years, the last 20 of which he has served as the VDOF's State Fire Chief. John is a nationally qualified Type 2 Incident Commander and has filled IMT roles on 28 different national level all-hazards incidents in 18 states. He has a Bachelors of Science degree in Forestry from Virginia Tech.

Cedric Patterson

Assistant Chief Patterson, a native of Houston, TX, graduated in 2005 from Park University with a Bachelor of Science Degree (Cum Laude) in Organizational Management. He graduated from the University of Houston-Victoria with a Master of Business Administration Degree in Strategic Management of Organizations in 2011. In 2016, Chief Patterson completed the Fire Service Chief Executive Officer course at Texas A&M's Mays Business School. He also completed Professional Military Education as a Department of the Air Force Civilian, through both the Squadron Officer School (2016) and Air Command and Staff College (2018). Chief Patterson is currently assigned to Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Fire & Emergency Services, District 3, where he manages day to day firefighting operations for five Military Installations, including Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Annex, Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, and Joint Expeditionary Base Fort Story. Previously, he was assigned to Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) – Lackland Air Force Base as the Assistant Chief of Operations.

Steve Prziborowski

Steve Prziborowski currently serves as a Deputy Chief for the Santa Clara County (CA) Fire Department. Steve was awarded the 2020 Ronny Jack Coleman Leadership Legacy Award by CPSE and was the 2008 California Fire Instructor of the year. Steve is a regular speaker at fire service events across the country and has published 3 career development books with at least 3 more in the works. For more info, go to his website www.code3firetraining.com

Carl Ray

Carl has been a career firefighter/medic for the last 12 years, with the privilege of working for Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services for the last two and a half.

Jack Reekes

Jack Reekes is a Lieutenant with Chesterfield Fire Department. He has been in the fire service for 25 years and has been assigned to Truck 3 for the past 12 years.

Derek Robinson

Derek Robinson was appointed Fire Chief of Madison Township, Ohio in October of 2019. He oversees a staff of 50 employees, and is responsible for the departments' strategic planning, budget and finance, staff development, community fire risk management, community education, and marketing. The department operates out of three stations, providing fire, rescue, and EMS services to a jurisdiction that serves approximately 23,500 residents, and includes the cities of Canal Winchester and Groveport.

Chief Robinson grew up in Westerville, Ohio and previously spent more than 20 years as a firefighter, paramedic, lieutenant, and deputy chief in the Central Ohio area. He earned an associate degree from Columbus State Community College and a bachelor's degree from Ohio Christian University. Chief Robinson is currently a State of Ohio certified firefighter, paramedic, fire inspector, and fire instructor. He serves on multiple committees and advisory boards focusing on first responder safety, wellness, and health.

Chief Robinson resides in Westerville with his wife Amy and their two children.

Jess Rodzinka

Jess Rodzinka is a 27 year veteran of the fire service, paid and volunteer. Jess is currently assigned to Truck Company 9 at the Charlottesville Fire Department in Virginia. Jess has previously worked at Staunton Fire and Rescue where he was assigned to Truck Company 1. Jess is an Instructor IV for the Commonwealth of Virginia and a Virginia Executive Fire Officer.

Joanne Rund

Joanne began her career in 1987 in Howard County Maryland; appointed Fire Chief of Baltimore County Fire Department in Maryland (BACOFD) in July 2019. Baltimore County has a population of 800,000 and a combination department of nearly two thousand career and volunteer operational firefighters. As the department's first permanently appointed female Chief,

Joanne manages a staff of uniform and civilian employees. She has served in a leadership role for 26 of her 32 years of service. Joanne holds numerous certifications in the field of health and safety, and is a level 4 certified command officer. In 2009 Joanne began working with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and in 2014 she was named Region the III Advocate Coordinator and remains actively on their instructor roster, passionately working toward reducing line of duty deaths throughout our nation. In 2006, Joanne was elected to serve her first term as a Director At Large with the Safety Health and Survival Section where she continues to serve. In 2019 Joanne was appointed to serve on NFPA 1500 advisory committee and also graduated the prestigious International Association of Fire Chief's Fire Service Executive Development Institute Program. Additionally, in 2019 Joanne was selected to serve on the National Fallen Fire Fighters Board of Directors.

Michael Scott

ATF Senior Special Agent, Certified Explosive Specialist (CES)/Certified Fire Investigator (CFI); Current post of duty Norfolk, Virginia. I have been an ATF Special Agent since 1999. He has been a CES since 2007. The duties for this position include the following: investigating all types of explosions in their jurisdiction; conducting explosives recovery and disposal operations; assisting industry operations investigators.

Since 2012, he has been a Certified Fire Investigator. The duties for this position include investigating violent crimes of arson and arson-for-profit, conducting fire scene examinations, making origin and cause determinations, providing expert testimony, assisting other special agents and prosecutors with investigations and conducting training for ATF agents and other federal, state and local fire investigators.

Jeff Senter

Jeff Senter, has eighteen (18) years of collective experience in Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement and is a Lieutenant with the Newport News Fire Marshal's Office. His career started with the Newington, Connecticut Fire Department where he was a Firefighter/EMT-I and ultimately returned to the Hampton Roads area where he served with the Hampton Division of Fire/Rescue. In 2006, Jeff was hired by the Newport News Police Department where he served in various capacities throughout the organization, including Uniform Patrol Division, General Investigations Division, the Major Crimes Division, and the Tactical Operations Unit (SWAT). The bulk of his career (nine years) was spent assigned to the Major Crimes Division where he was promoted to Master Police Detective and was responsible for investigating serious and complex crimes of violence, including: homicide, robbery, sexual assault, abduction, aggravated assault, computer facilitated crimes against children, and a host of other major incidents throughout the City of Newport News. Jeff also spent five (5) years with the Department's Tactical Operations Unit (SWAT) and was an adjunct instructor at the Basic Law Enforcement Academy. In 2017, Jeff returned to the fire service and accepted a position as an Assistant Fire Marshal with the Newport News Fire Department. Jeff is primarily responsible for conducting origin and cause investigations as well as criminal investigations of fires and explosions within the City of Newport News, Virginia.

Jeff Simpson

Jeff Simpson, a 37-year fire veteran, is a past chief of Salisbury (MD) Fire Department and current District Chief of Hanover (VA) Fire EMS. Simpson lectures nationally including for the IAFC on handling emergencies involving FF survival, industrial emergencies and has taught FDIC HOT and conference sessions. Simpson is a 2006 Governor's Award Finalist for Excellence in the Virginia Fire Service.

Jonah Smith

Jonah Smith grew up in Richmond, VA where his exposure to the fire service began in the Church Hill area of the RVA with some of the best firefighters in the city. Jonah attended the University of South Carolina for both a Bachelors and Masters and started with the Columbia Fire Department in 2003. After a few years, Jonah pursued a career with the Charlotte, NC Fire Department where he began in 2005. He is currently the Captain on Engine 20 in the city's south side. Additionally, since the day he received his certifications in 2003, he has volunteered with departments including the Lexington County FD and Columbia Fire Department. Currently he serves as a Shift Safety Captain with Charlotte FD and an Assistant Chief at the Pleasant Valley Fire Department in South Carolina. Jonah is a 6 time FDIC instructor and has presented at numerous conferences and is a contributor to the Fire Engineering Books and Video Series. He is married with 2 children.

Andy Soccodato

Andy has served in the fire service for the past 14 years. He works for the Charlottesville Fire Department, where he is a firefighter, driver/pump and aerial operator. He is the owner and lead instructor for The Water Thieves, LLC, which specializes in teaching driver/pumper operator courses.

Jack Sullivan

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. Although retired from active service, Jack now serves as the Director of Training for the Emergency Responder Safety Institute (www.respondersafety.com). He is a Master Instructor for the Federal Highway Traffic Incident Management and Responder Safety training program and teaches roadway incident survival strategies and tactics for Fire and EMS personnel.

Rick Talley

Rick started his fire service career as a volunteer with the Henry Volunteer Fire Department (Hanover County, VA) in the 1980s and continued his fire service passion by joining the Chesterfield Fire and EMS Department in 1984. He served Chesterfield for 35 years ultimately retiring in 2019 as an Assistant Chief. Rick's passion is mentorship and leadership training for new and experienced officers alike.

Vickie Taylor

Vickie H. Taylor, LCSW, is the Director of the Prince William County Public Safety Resilience Center, a wellness promotion/counseling unit for public safety personnel. She serves the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation as a behavioral health consultant and is a key developer and trainer for Stress First Aid for Firefighters and Emergency Medical Personnel.

Lisa DeMarco Tilley

Lisa DeMarco Tilley, LPC is a Behavioral Health Specialist with the Prince William County Public Safety Resilience Center. She has provided behavioral health services for the members of the Prince William Department of Fire and Rescue (DFR) for 10 years. In addition, Ms. Tilley serves as the behavioral health consultant for the DFR Peer Support Team. She has served as a facilitator with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) Memorial Weekend Family Day for more than 15 years. Ms. Tilley is certified as a national trainer for SFA through the Center for First Responder Excellence.

John Tippett

John Tippett is Director of Fire Service Programs for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. He joined the NFFF in April 2018. John spent 8 ½ years with the Charleston (SC) Fire Department as the department's first deputy chief of operations and one year as interim fire chief prior to joining the NFFF. His work in Charleston involved assisting with the CFD's recovery from the tragic Sofa Super Store Fire. Prior to Charleston, John worked his way through the ranks of the Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Service, achieving the rank of safety battalion chief. He continues to be an active member of the fire service through his membership with the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department in Calvert County (MD). John holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Science and a master's degree in Emergency Services Management. He has worked extensively on officer development and firefighter safety initiatives throughout his career, including introducing Crew Resource Management to the fire service and the Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System during part-time work with the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He was the 2006 recipient of the ISFSI's George D. Post Instructor of the Year Award.

Matt Tobia

Matthew Tobia is the Fire Chief with the Harrisonburg Fire Department and is a 30-year student of emergency services. He holds a BS from UMBC and is a graduate of the EFO program at the NFA. Matt has authored over 120 articles, and is the former chair of the IAFC's SHS Section. He holds the CFO credential and is a member of the Institute of Fire Engineers. Chief Tobia is active with the NFFF.

Chris Vernovai

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 9 years as a DoD Firefighter and Paramedic. Most recently, Chris was the County EMS Coordinator for Highland County, Va. overseeing the County EMS system. Chris is the EMS Systems Planner for the Virginia OEMS CHaTR Division.

Ben West

Ben West is a career fire captain with the Gallatin Fire Department in middle Tennessee, where he has served for 15 years. Ben is a third-generation firefighter; following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather and he has proudly volunteered with the Portland Fire Department for the last 18 years. Ben also works as the Deputy Advocate Manager for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Everyone Goes Home Program. He delivers several training programs for the NFFF and has presented at Firehouse Expo and FDIC, and his work has been published in Firehouse Magazine. Ben is currently completing his Fire Science degree and lives outside of Nashville with his wife Ginny and daughter Millie.

Shaun Whiteley

Shaun started his fire and emergency services career in 1997. He is currently serving as a Lieutenant with the Richmond Fire Department. Prior to being promoted, he was a firefighter assigned to Rescue Company 1 in the city's Southside. Shaun has developed several training programs that have been delivered to firefighters across the state, including Richmond Truck School. He believes great firefighters are not created in a book; they work hard, train hard, and listen to others.

Reid Wodicka

Doctor Wodicka was appointed Deputy City Manager of Lynchburg, Virginia in 2018 having most recently been the Deputy County Administrator in Bedford County, Virginia. A native of Lynchburg, Dr. Wodicka graduated from the University of North Carolina Charlotte with a PhD in Public Policy with an emphasis in Urban and Regional Development. Dr. Wodicka serves on several local Boards and Commissions.

Greg Wormser

Chief Wormser was hired by the Lynchburg Fire Department in 1995 and has been assigned to every position and rank in the fire department prior to becoming Chief in 2018. Chief Wormser is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and has 18 years experience as a Flight Paramedic. Additionally Chief Wormser holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Local Government Management.