

ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION
FIRE AND RESCUE TRAINING INSTITUTE

2023

OVERVIEW

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Harry Ward

Director

On behalf of our dedicated faculty and staff, I am pleased to present to you the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Annual Report of the Fire and Rescue Training Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

I am truly humbled to have been hired as the new Director of the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI). I am honored and will strive to continue to build upon the foundation that my predecessors have built for the last 91 years. I want to thank the faculty and staff for keeping MU

FRTI moving forward and maintaining the quality of the training over the last two years. I also want to express our appreciation to our training partners, host agencies, and you, our students, for your continued support of the Institute and our mission. Enabled by these partnerships and our students' desire to learn and acquire new skills, the Institute provided training to 9,825 fire and emergency service first responders during FY23. Through 536 classes, the Institute provided training for personnel representing all 114 Missouri counties.

Our simulation course has been upgraded and is one of the most technologically advanced courses we currently have. Virtual Reality (VR) has proven to be highly effective in firefighter training evolutions. It provides a safe and controlled environment for trainees to practice their skills, experience realistic emergency scenarios, and develop critical decision-making abilities. This training will prepare firefighters and officers to be better equipped to help the communities they serve. Watch for it in your area in FY24!

Everyday thousands of Missourians are aided by fire and emergency responders who have received training through the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute. Our students, in their career or volunteer roles as firefighters and emergency responders, are directly providing life saving measures and conserving property from fire and other disasters. Still, after 91 years playing a prominent role in firefighter training, MU FRTI is proud to continue providing exceptional training and education to our state's emergency responders. Through the knowledge and skills, they learn in our courses, they truly are saving lives. That is why we believe that the Institute's motto, "we save lives," is as applicable today as it has always been.

Please feel free to contact the Institute if you have questions.

Harry Ward
Director
Fire and Rescue Training Institute
University of Missouri Extension



The mission of the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute is to plan, develop, deliver, and administer state-of-the-art continuing professional education courses which meet the comprehensive training needs of fire and rescue personnel and other emergency managers and responders utilizing the most efficient and effective means possible, thereby enabling them to better protect lives and property within their communities.

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REPORT SYNOPSIS

MU FRTI's continuing education directive is to provide training and education that meets the needs of Missouri's fire and emergency response personnel so that they can better protect lives and property within their communities. In fulfilling this mission, MU FRTI has a direct impact on the well-being and protection of Missouri's estimated 21,000 firefighters and the six million citizens they serve.

Funding of the Institute comes from several sources. In FY23, the Institute has self-generated 100% of its operational budget by means of federal, state, and local grants, contracts, and fees.

The Institute conducted 536 classes with a total enrollment of 9,825 students for fiscal year 2023. The training received by these students translated to 101,936 student instructional hours, or 340 FTE's (Full Time Equivalents). Using MU FRTI's field extension program, the Institute reached students in all the 114 Missouri counties. In addition, the Institute had student enrollments from 24 other states, and the District of Columbia. MU FRTI delivered 70% of all training at the local level in 77 of the 114 counties in Missouri and in 24 other states. Every hour of instruction received, and every emergency first responder trained translates directly into safer firefighters and safer communities.

To ensure the quality and assurance of the Institute's programs, it undergoes third-party review from several sources. Through these reviews, the Institute can provide professional continuing education credit for students. In addition, MU FRTI conducts end-of-course evaluations to monitor quality control. In FY23 the Institute received a 3.4 overall customer approval rating out of a possible 4.0. This rating could be considered as a B+ average if translated into a letter grade. In another measurement of quality assurance, the Institute saw the student pass rate in courses that require an exam of 90% success rate with an average passing score of 93%.

A continued focus for FY23 was with online learning that helps us provide valuable training that would otherwise be unavailable. Online learning is a way to reach students who would otherwise have difficulty with travel and schedules to attend training. These classes trade a significant portion of travel and classroom time for the convenience of structured, interactive online learning and remote instructor support. In FY23 the Institute offered 41 online classes to 930 students for a total of 14,775 student instructional hours.

MU FRTI is committed to the training and education of fire and emergency responders, and we are pleased to provide this Fiscal Year 2023 annual report.



OUTREACH

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY

MU FRTI programming is open to all qualified fire and emergency first responders, as well as others in the emergency response community, on an equal opportunity basis. In FY23 MU FRTI conducted 70% of our courses at local departments or agencies. With most of the state's fire service considered volunteer or part-paid, this local access and flexibility assures training opportunities for all firefighters and emergency responders. MU FRTI is known for "bringing training to the student," which includes the transport of specialized fire training props and equipment to training locations throughout Missouri, as well as to other states. MU FRTI has a fleet of 16 training support and equipment trailers that range from small cargo trailers to semi-tractor trailers.

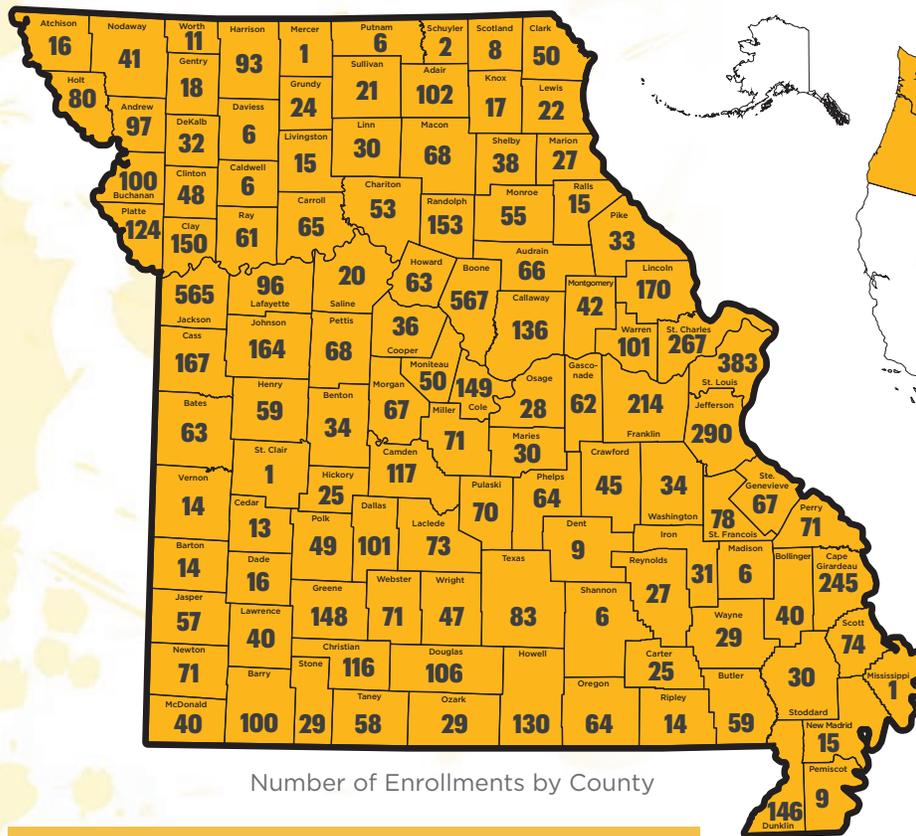
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Courses	536
Agencies	821
Enrollments	9,825
Hours	101,936

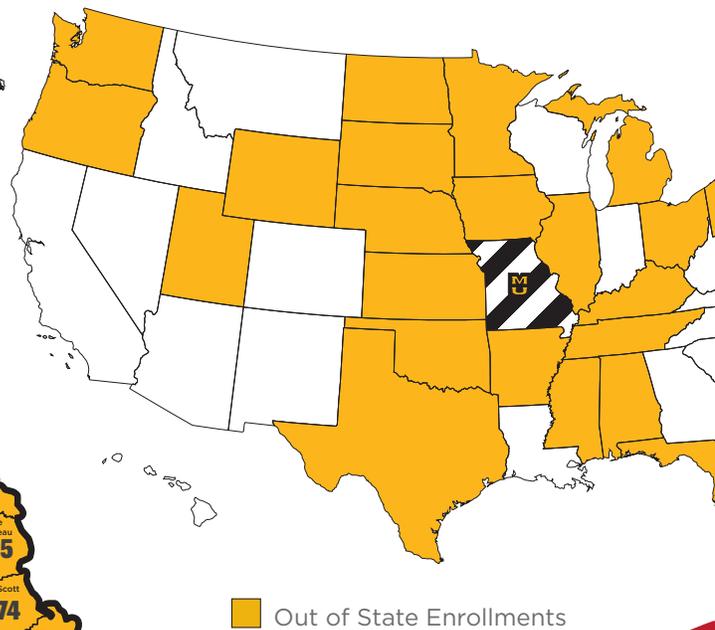
AREAS SERVED

Missouri Counties	114
United States	25

Including the District of Columbia



Number of Enrollments by County



ECONOMIC IMPACT

MU FRTI gratefully acknowledges the funding opportunities provided by our state and private partners. This on-going relationship assures the continued success and financial health of the Institute.

MU FRTI self-generated 100% of its operational budget in FY23 through fees, contracts, and grants. The Institute continues to practice good stewardship in maintaining low administrative costs, directing resources to instruction, and effectively utilizing subsidy funds to make training as accessible as possible to Missouri's fire and emergency responders. This effort enables responders to be better prepared to perform their duties and has made an immeasurable difference in the protection of lives of citizens and communities.

FUNDING SOURCES

Fees, Tuition and Other	42%
State Agency Contracts	26%
MODOT ARFF	28%
Regional and Local Contracts	4%

42%



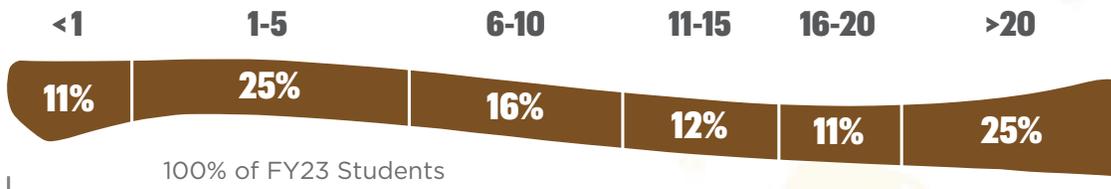
STUDENT COMPOSITION

MU FRTI programming is open to all fire and emergency responders on an equal opportunity basis. Our student composition represents the emergency response community across the state and nation. Demonstrating the ever-present need to learn in the fire service, demographics indicate that the Institute's students represent a range of experience across their service life.

STUDENTS BY ORGANIZATION

Fire Service.....	89%
EMS.....	4%
Law Enforcement.....	1%
State/Federal Government	1%
Emergency Management.....	1%
Other.....	3%

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



Social Media	336,094 Reached
Website.....	80,796 Pageviews
eNewsletters	205,900 Engagements
Total.....	622,790 Outreach

STUDENTS BY STATUS

Career 58%

Volunteer 42%

MU FRTI employs a variety of methods to communicate with firefighters and emergency responders to provide them with up-to-date information related to their needs. In FY23 we maintained ten Facebook pages, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and our integrated Extension website. We also communicated valued information through nearly 100 campaigns in our email newsletter. We want to invite those that haven't subscribed to our Email Newsletter and our YouTube channel. Also following us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram. You can also find us on our website mufrti.org.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

To judge the effectiveness and to assist in quality control of MU FRTI programming, a course evaluation is completed by each student for all courses. The evaluation allows the student to provide feedback in six dimensions: course, visual materials, activities, printed materials, instructor(s), and classroom. A numerical rating scale is used to tabulate responses on a scale of 0 to 4 which corresponds to a standard letter grade of "F" to "A". MU FRTI's overall customer satisfaction rating for FY23 of 3.4, or a B+ average.

Rating System: 0 to 4.0	FY 23	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19
Course	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3
Instructor	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.5
Classroom	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3
Outside Activities	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3
Visual Materials	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.3
Printed Materials	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.3
Overall	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3



3.4 out of **4** for Fiscal Year 2023

ENGAGEMENT

AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING

Courses: 85
Enrollments: 1,394
Hours: 10,264

The Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) program provides specialized fire training for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificated airports in the FAA central region and throughout the nation. In FY23 the ARFF program operated in 12 states. The program utilizes a Mobile Aircraft Fire Training (MAFT) simulator to provide realistic, effective fire and rescue training on-site at airport locations and allows to firefighters to Train as They'll Fight. The MAFT was funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and is operated by MU FRTI. The program supports commercial service airports which are required to provide initial and annual recurring ARFF training for their airport firefighters.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Courses: 6
Enrollments: 40
Hours: 18,228

MU FRTI is one of the largest providers in Missouri for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) continuing professional education and is recognized by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services as an Accredited Training Entity. These programs provide current EMTs and paramedics an opportunity to not only learn specialized topics, but also earn CEU's. MU FRTI also partners with University of Missouri Health Care - Emergency Medical Services Education (UMHC EMS) which conducts pre-hospital EMS professional education for Basic and Advanced Life Support. This education includes the initial training for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Paramedics.



FIELD EXTENSION

Courses: 207
Enrollments: 3,846
Hours: 49,006

The Field Extension Program is responsible for a wide variety of fire and emergency response training courses, delivered through a field extension statewide network. The state is divided into nine geographic regions corresponding with the Missouri State Highway Patrol regions with an identified Regional Training Coordinator. These field coordinators provide a ready resource to enable fire departments at the local level to access and schedule needed training. Instruction is provided through MU FRTI's adjunct instructional cadre based throughout each region. Courses within this program focus on Chief and Company Officer, Driver Operator, Instructor, NIMS, Suppression and Firefighter Safety.

FIRE SCHOOLS: WINTER / SUMMER

Courses:
Enrollments:
Hours:

159 / 21
2,354 / 160
9,968 / 2,336

MU FRTI continues to provide state fire schools to meet the training needs of Missouri's fire and emergency responders. There are two annual fire schools offered each year that attract emergency responders from across Missouri, and throughout the central United States.

Winter Fire School (WFS) is held each February. The event offers a diverse variety of classes to choose from in a weekend format and includes live webcast opportunities for selected classes. Winter Fire School utilizes experts in State of Missouri. We also brought in 29 instructors from 19 states. The Midwest's largest Equipment Exposition associates with WFS and provides an excellent opportunity for learning and networking. The FY23 Winter Fire School celebrated 42 consecutive years, which is one of the few fire schools of its kind in the nation and the longest running.

Summer Fire School (SFS) traces its history back to the origin of FRTI in 1933. This annual event offers both classroom-oriented and hands-on courses ranging in length from 1-5 days. Summer Fire School continues to provide a unique opportunity, using state-of-the-art equipment, to advance the practical skills of emergency service professionals, and deliver training that is not always available or affordable through other programs.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Courses: 31
Enrollments: 391
Hours: 3,292

The Hazardous Materials Program provides hazardous materials and environmental emergency response training to both the public and private sectors. The public-sector emergency responder training program concentrates on offering training necessary for the safe response of fire fighters, law enforcement personnel, and EMS providers to hazardous materials emergencies. Private sector training for business and industry concentrates on OSHA requirements.

INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS

Courses: 5
Enrollments: 79
Hours: 1,772

The Industrial and Business Safety Program provides training to industrial fire brigade members as well as emergency response teams. The courses are intended to provide these responders with the tools to handle incipient fire emergencies to structural fire response, confined space and high angle rescue, and hazardous materials incidents. These programs are tailored to meet the needs of the client by incorporating industry emergency response plans and operational procedures in the development of the individualized training programs.



INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE

Courses: 12
Enrollments: 433
Hours: 2,900

The MU FRTI Instructor Conference is designed for those individuals preparing and presenting training programs for fire and emergency response personnel. The conference is recognized nationally as a “true” instructor training program, with its only focus on instructor professional development. Instructors and other supervisory personnel reported this conference was valuable in planning for the training needs of their organizations. The conference provides up to 20 hours continuing education credits by the Missouri Division of Fire Safety for re-certification of various levels.

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Courses: 73
Enrollments: 1,062
Hours: 16,592

The Technical Rescue Program provides the requisite knowledge and skills necessary to fire and emergency responders to ensure that they safely and efficiently respond to and mitigate incidents requiring technical expertise. The Institute offers many classes that employ the use of tools and skills that exceed those normally reserved for firefighting and emergency medical services. These disciplines are classified as technical rescue follow the disciplines outlined in the NFPA Standard, 1006: *Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications*.

TESTING AND EVALUATION

Courses: 3
Enrollments: 63
Hours: 488

The Testing and Evaluation Program provides practical assessment and evaluation resources for clients in the fire service and education. Primary services focus certification testing and evaluation. This service provides qualified evaluators and requisite equipment to meet requirements of the Missouri Division of Fire Safety for state certification.

We would like to thank Jim Weaver for his years of service as our Technical Rescue Specialist. We want to wish Jim well as he begins a new chapter in his life. We are happy to announce that Mike Mccord is our new Technical Rescue Specialist Mike Mccord. Mike comes to us with years of experience in special operations.

HIGHLIGHTS

ONLINE LEARNING

Courses	41
Enrollments	936
Hours.....	13,019

The Institute offers three types of online learning: Instructor-led; Instructor-monitored; and self-study. The first two types are commonly referred to as Blended Learning; which is an education program that combines online digital media with traditional classroom methods. It allows for more flexibility in schedules and the costs associated with the class are reduced. Each blended class trades a significant portion of travel and classroom time for the convenience of structured, interactive online learning and remote instructor support.



FIRE SERVICE LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



The Fire Service Leadership Enhancement Program (FSLEP) is a unique professional development program designed to enhance the leadership skills of fire and rescue service executives. The goal of FSLEP is specifically to prepare fire and emergency service leaders for the opportunities and challenges they face today and in the future. MU FRTI has partnered together for 22 years in cooperation with the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs and the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts with this Program. In FY23, the program graduated twenty-six executive fire officers representing nineteen fire agencies.



FIRE OFFICER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Established in 2002, the Fire Officer Certificate Program provides a structured delivery of curriculum and academic rigor for individuals who wish to further their professional development without the time and expense of traditional college classes. This program has been developed and evaluated to ensure it provides knowledge and information regarding the responsibilities expected for current or aspiring company officers.

The program requires completion of 288 hours of instruction within three years. This certificate program exceeds the requirements of Fire Officer I and II according to NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications.

In FY23, six individuals completed the Fire Officer Certificate Program. The program has had a total of 311 student certificates issued since the program's inception in 2002. Currently the program has 59 active participants.

FY23 GRADUATES

- Gina Anderson
- Jeff Duckworth
- Aaron Guseman
- Paul Sansone
- Matthew Sleet
- Denis Tittel



HIGHLIGHTS BY FUNDING PARTNERS

MU FRTI gratefully acknowledges the funding resources provided by our state and private partners. In FY23, MU FRTI self-generated 100% of its operational budget through fees, contracts, and grants. The following provides a breakdown of our primary funding partners and the impact they have on our mission of providing training and education to Missouri fire and emergency responders.

MISSOURI DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

Courses **95**
 Enrollments **1,823**
 Hours..... **20,808**



The Missouri Division of Fire Safety (DFS) is a primary partner of MU FRTI and has provided funding support to our program for over 30 years. This partnership has enabled fire and emergency responders to receive no-cost training to better protect lives and property within their communities.

MISSOURI DOT — HIGHWAY SAFETY

Courses **32**
 Enrollments **658**
 Hours..... **6,656**



The Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) Highway Safety Grant provided funding to conduct highway safety emergency response related courses. Approved courses included: *Vehicle Rescue: Technician*; *Vehicle Fire Fighting*; *Emergency Vehicle Driver Training* and *Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders*.



Fire and Rescue Training Institute

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Courses **6**
 Enrollments **104**
 Hours..... **2,336**



The Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) is the responsible state agency to help Missourians prepare for, respond to, and recover from all emergencies. Part of that mission is training emergency responders for response to these emergencies.

PIPELINE ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

Courses **24**
 Enrollments **805**
 Hours..... **1,610**



Pipeline Association of Missouri

MU FRTI and the Pipeline Association of Missouri (PAM) has continued its partnership in FY23 to provide programs designed to meet the training and educational needs of Missouri emergency responders to aide in meeting state mandated training requirements, as well as enhance the service capability of both partners.

ST LOUIS AREA REGIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

Courses **1**
 Enrollments **22**
 Hours..... **880**



STARRS coordinates with the greater St. Louis metropolitan area and the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in efforts to improve the region's security and increase disaster preparedness through the administration and expenditure of grant funds from DHS/ FEMA Homeland Security Grant Program/Urban Areas Security Initiative, CFDA #97.067.

STATE FARM

Courses **12**
 Enrollments **163**
 Hours..... **1,912**



In 2023, the Institute was pleased to continue its partnership with State Farm to enable specific fire service training initiatives. The State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Grant provided support for emergency first responder training for response to highway emergencies. Specific courses approved for delivery were *Vehicle Rescue: Technician* and *Vehicle Firefighting*.

HIGHLIGHTS

FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR



MU FRTI presented the 2022-2023 Fire Service Instructor of the Year awards at the annual Instructor's Conference. This award is determined through a statistical process that considers the number of classes taught, instructor performance ratings, and overall course evaluation ratings. The recipient of the MU FRTI Instructor of the Year award was Assistant Chief Olan Morelan of the Springfield FD, Springfield, MO. Chief Morelan has served on his current fire department since 2002 working his way through the ranks to Assistant Fire Chief. Chief Morelan has served as an Instructor for FRTI since 2013. He also serves on the FRTI Advisory Council since 2016 and currently is the Secretary. Chief Morelan instructs and evaluates many courses for FRTI and can be counted on at any time to help. The Institute is proud of his dedicated service as a member of the MU FRTI Instructional Cadre.



REGIONAL TRAINING COORDINATORS AND ADJUNCT FACULTY

To assist in the management and coordination of field extension training across the state, MU FRTI employs a Regional Training Coordinator System based on the nine Missouri State Highway Patrol regions. Regional Training Coordinators provide a ready resource to enable agencies at the local level access to MU FRTI resources and training.

Over 130 of the top professionals in the nation are members of the MU FRTI Adjunct Faculty. Most are active-

duty firefighters and officers, and their expertise and practical hands-on experience, coupled with advanced instructional training, enable them to provide the very best in emergency service instruction. The geographic dispersion of the Institute's Faculty across the state, along with their broad range of subject matter expertise, allows the Institute to utilize local instructors, working in conjunction with scheduling requirements of the host department, to make training courses as accessible as

possible. MU FRTI gratefully acknowledges the important contribution that our Regional Coordinators and Adjunct Faculty makes to the successful accomplishment of the Institute's mission. Through their work, our faculty enable first responders to perform more effectively and safely by providing quality training and education.



Robert Little

Region A and H



Roger Meyers

Region A



Charlie Peel

Region B



Aaron Bockhorst

Region C



Mike Cherry

Region C



Jeremy Freeman

Region C and E



Kelly Davis

Region D



Bruce Parton

Region D and I



Kara Wehmeyer

Region F



Mark Arnold

Region G





PARTNERSHIPS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

MU FRTI's many strategic partnerships allow the Institute to share knowledge and provide training resources throughout Missouri and beyond. We wish to recognize and thank our training partners who have consistently supported the training and education initiatives of the Institute.

- Boone County Fire Protection District
- Brock Grain Systems
- Columbia Fire Department
- Fire Fighters Association of Missouri (FFAM)
- Kansas City Fire Department
- MFA Agri Services and Charitable Foundation
- Missouri Ambulance Association
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
- Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC)
- Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts (MAFPD)
- Missouri Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS)
- Missouri Fire Alliance
- Missouri Fire Safety Education/Advisory Commission
- Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT), Highway Safety and Aeronautics Divisions
- Missouri Division of Fire Safety (DFS)
- Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- Pipeline Association of Missouri (PAM)
- Pleiadian Systems, Inc
- Springfield Fire Department
- State Farm Insurance
- St. Louis Fire Department
- University of Missouri Extension

MU FRTI ADVISORY COUNCIL

In 2016, MU Extension gave approval for MU FRTI to establish an Advisory Council for the Institute. The purpose of the Council is to provide input and guidance on strategic planning and training initiatives. This includes advice on current and emerging trends and issues in fire, rescue, and emergency response that may impact the design and delivery of training services in Missouri. Council members constitute a geographic cross-section of the fire service and other representative members. Members for FY23 included: Duane Compton, Chair, Region Les Crews, Vice-Chair, Region C; Olan Morelan, Secretary, Springfield Fire Department; Ross Dutton, Region B; Don Seymore, Region E; Paul Berardi, Region F; Mark Arnold, Region G; Bill Lamar, Region H; Sam Schneider, Region I; Grant Peters, Student; Robbie Erdel, Fire Fighters Association of Missouri; Mike Hoelscher, Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs; David Neighbors, St. Louis Fire Department; and, John Baker, Kansas City Fire Department.



The University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to the University of Missouri, MU Extension, governmental department/agencies, fire and emergency service personnel, departments, associations, organizations, and elected officials, as well as businesses and industries throughout the state for their continued support.

The 2023 Annual Report was developed and produced using self-generated revenue.

Design: Travis Johnson, Strategic Communications Associate II
Photos: MU FRTI Archives, unless otherwise acknowledged



Extension

University of Missouri

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TYPES OF TRAINING

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting
Industrial Fire and Rescue
Fire Inspection and Investigation
Fire Instructor
Fire Officer
Fire Suppression and Safety
Firefighter Testing and Evaluation
Driver/Operator
Emergency Management
Emergency Medical Services
Hazardous Materials/WMD
National Incident Management System
Technical Rescue

SERVICES

Subsidized training at no-cost
Low cost fee or tuition-based training
Student records and transcripts
State and national accreditation/recognition
Liaison with other organizations/associations
Curriculum development
Technical advising

TRAINING AVAILABILITY

Field extension, local delivery
On-campus
Registered programs
Fire schools and conferences



MUFRTI.org