

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION
FIRE AND RESCUE TRAINING INSTITUTE



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 2024 (FY24) Annual Report of the Fire and Rescue Training Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia. This report will highlight the various activities and accomplishments of this past year.

As we complete our ninety second year providing quality programs to the Missouri fire service. 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 over 10,583 fire and emergency service first responders during FY24. Through 644 classes, the Institute provided training for personnel representing all 114 Missouri counties.

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 92 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



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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.

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 FY24, the Institute has self-generated 100% of its operational budget by means of federal, state, local grants, contracts, and fees.

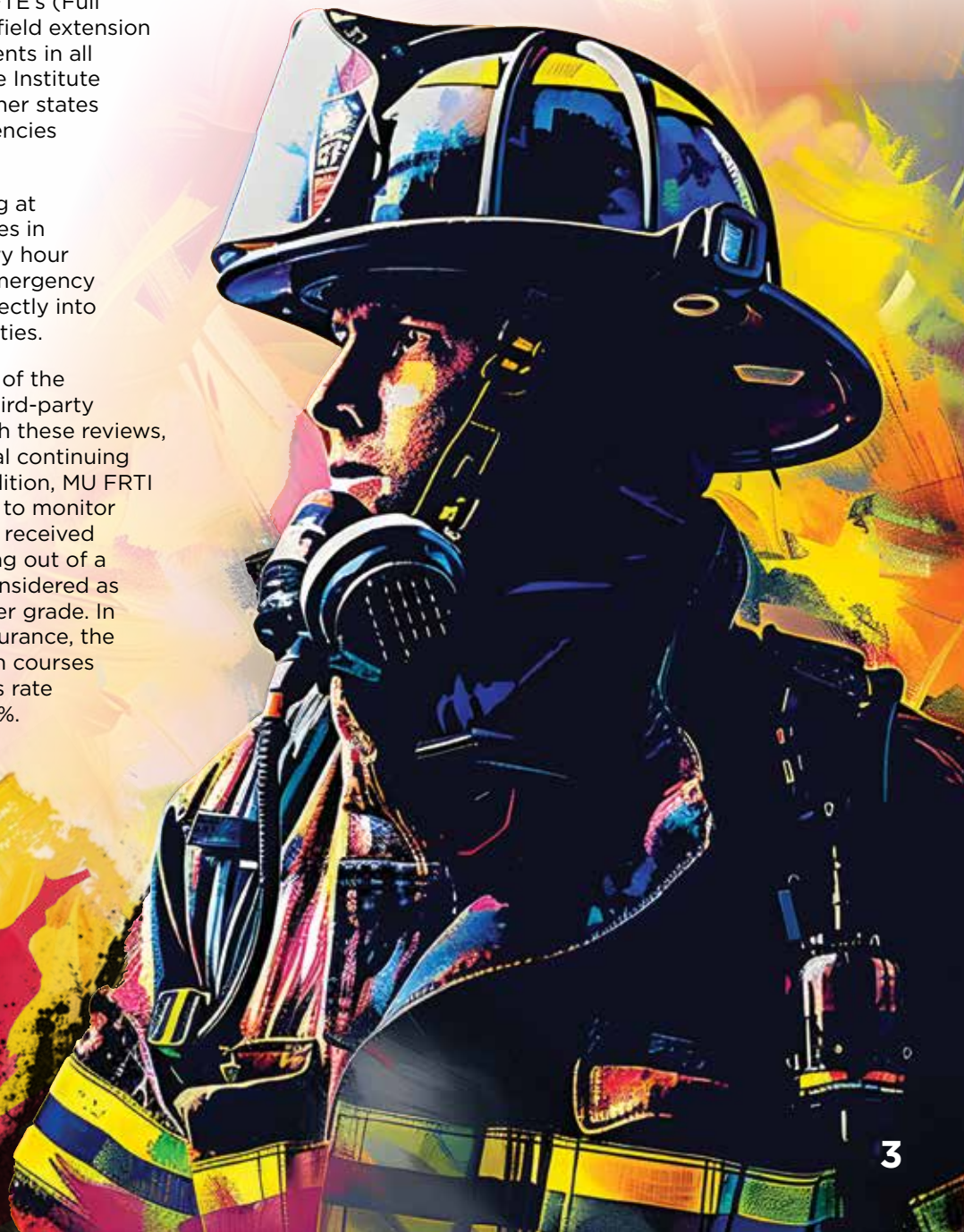
The Institute conducted 588 classes with a total enrollment of 10,583 students (5,000 shy of filling the Mizzou Arena) for the fiscal year 2024. The training received by these students translates to 101,756 student instructional hours, or 339 FTE's (Full Time Equivalents). Using MU FRTI's field extension program, the Institute reached students in all 114 Missouri counties. In addition, the Institute had student enrollments from 20 other states and 1 from Canada. 831 different agencies participated in MU FRTI's programs.

MU FRTI delivered 70% of all training at the local level in 77 of the 114 counties in Missouri and in 20 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 FY24 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 FY24 was online learning. Online learning helps us provide valuable training that would otherwise been 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 FY24 the Institute offered 79 online classes to 932 students. The total student instructional hours for the online learning students were 8,884.

MU FRTI is committed to the training and education of fire and emergency responders, and we are pleased to provide this Fiscal Year 2024 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 FY24 MU FRTI conducted most 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.

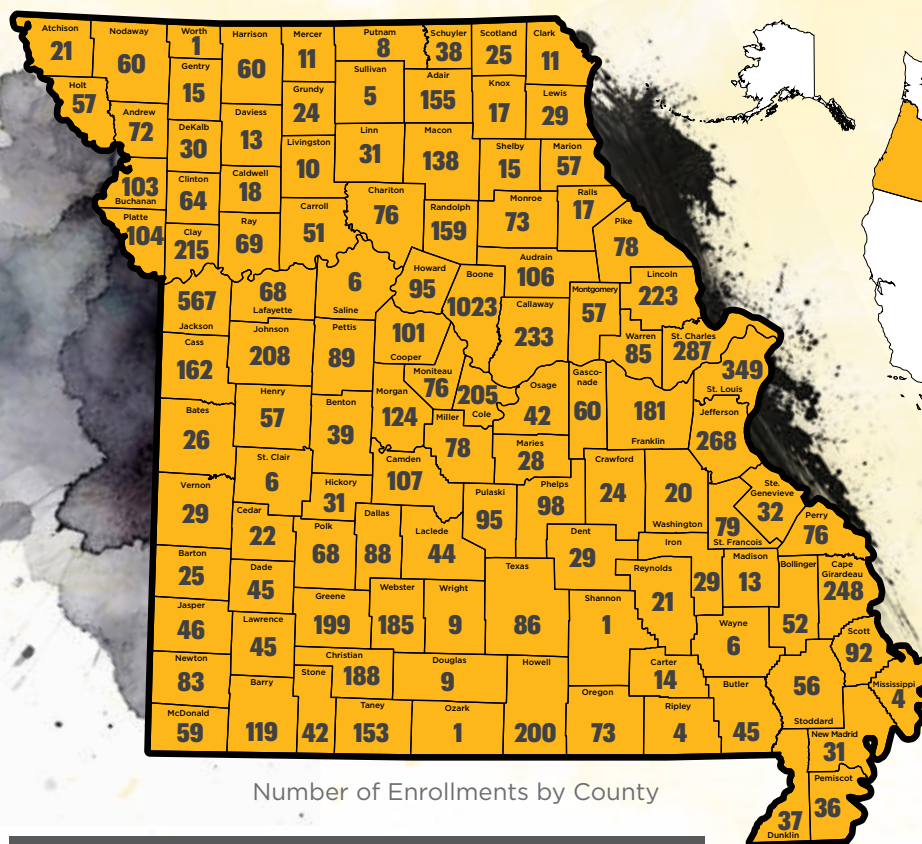
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Courses offered	644
Agencies served	831
Student completions	10,470
Student instructional hours	101,756

AREAS SERVED

Missouri Counties	114
United States	20

Including the District of Columbia



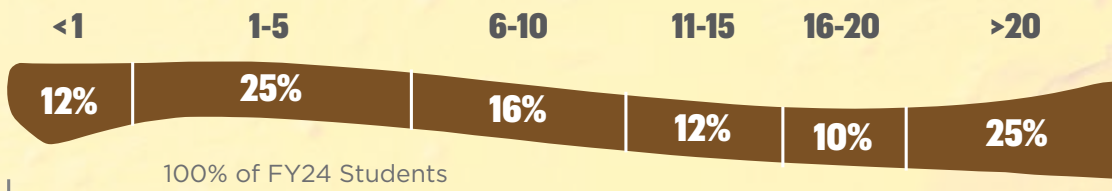
STUDENT COMPOSITION

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.....	88%
EMS.....	6%
Law Enforcement.....	2%
State/Federal Government	1%
Emergency Management.....	2%
Other.....	1%

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



Social Media	207,823	Reached
Website	43,267	Pageviews
eNewsletters	124,091	Engagements
Total.....	375,181	Outreach

STUDENTS BY STATUS

Career 59%

Volunteer 41%

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 FY24 of 3.4, or a B+ average.

Rating System: 0 to 4.0	FY24	FY23	FY22	FY21	FY20
Course	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2
Instructor	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4
Classroom	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2
Outside Activities	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2
Visual Materials	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3
Printed Materials	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2
Overall	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3

3.4 out of **4** for Fiscal Year 2024

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 FY24 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 www.mufrti.org.

26%

2%

29%



ENGAGEMENT

AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING

Courses: 99
Enrollments: 1,651
Hours: 11,676

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 FY24 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.



FIELD EXTENSION

Courses: 207
Enrollments: 3,931
Hours: 49,136

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: 156 / 23
Enrollments: 2,363 / 125
Hours: 10,288 / 2,400

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 FY24 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: 36
Enrollments: 501
Hours: 5,176

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: 22
Enrollments: 415
Hours: 1,640

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: 13
Enrollments: 463
Hours: 3,324

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: 74
Enrollments: 1,023
Hours: 16,252

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: 5
Enrollments: 76
Hours: 592

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

ONLINE LEARNING

Courses	79
Enrollments	932
Hours.....	8,884

All online classes are included.

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 for 23 years with the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs and the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts with this Program. In FY24, the program graduated thirty executive fire officers representing eighteen 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 FY24, three individuals completed the Fire Officer Certificate Program. The program has had a total of 314 student certificates issued since the program's inception in 2002. Currently the program has 71 active participants.

FY24 GRADUATES

Brett Garrison

Ryan Heim

Timothy Maricle



HIGHLIGHTS BY FUNDING PARTNERS

MU FRTI gratefully acknowledges the funding resources provided by our state and private partners. In FY24, 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	113
Enrollments	2,175
Hours.....	23,528



The Missouri Division of Fire Safety (DFS) is a primary partner of MU FRTI and has provided funding support to our program for over 40 years. This partnership has enabled fire and emergency responders to receive no-cost training to better protect lives and property within their communities.

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Courses	4
Enrollments	81
Hours.....	2,312



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

MISSOURI DOT — HIGHWAY SAFETY

Courses	33
Enrollments	646
Hours.....	5,320



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*.

PIPELINE ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

Courses	30
Enrollments	809
Hours.....	1,680



MU FRTI and the Pipeline Association of Missouri (PAM) has continued its partnership in FY24 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.

STATE FARM

Courses	13
Enrollments	291
Hours.....	2,752



In 2024, 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 2023-2024 *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 Retired Fire Chief George Albert. Chief Albert began his fire career in early 1982 and became an adjunct instructor with MU FRTI in 1999. Chief Albert also served as a regional fire mutual aid coordinator, Haz Mat instructor, and has held multiple roles in the Emergency Management Community. He was the Fire Chief for the Moberly Fire Department for four years. The Institute is also 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



Kelly Davis

Region D



Bruce Parton

Region D and I



Jeremy Freeman

Region E and C



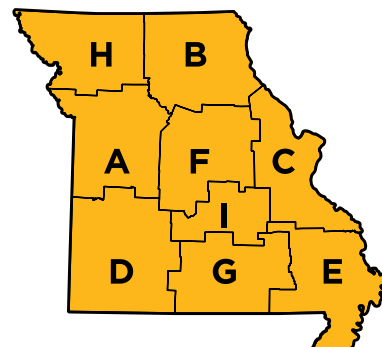
Kara Wehmeyer

Region F



Mark Arnold

Region G





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 FY24 included: Duane Compton, Chair, Region Les Crews, Vice-Chair, Region C; Olan Morelan, Secretary, Springfield Fire Department; Nathan Manley, Region A; Travis Gregory, 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.



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 Emergency Response Commission (MERC)
- 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)
- Missouri Propane Education and Research Council (MOPERC)
- 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

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 2024 Annual Report was developed and produced using self-generated revenue.

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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 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

