

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION



FIRE AND RESCUE TRAINING INSTITUTE



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE DIRECTOR

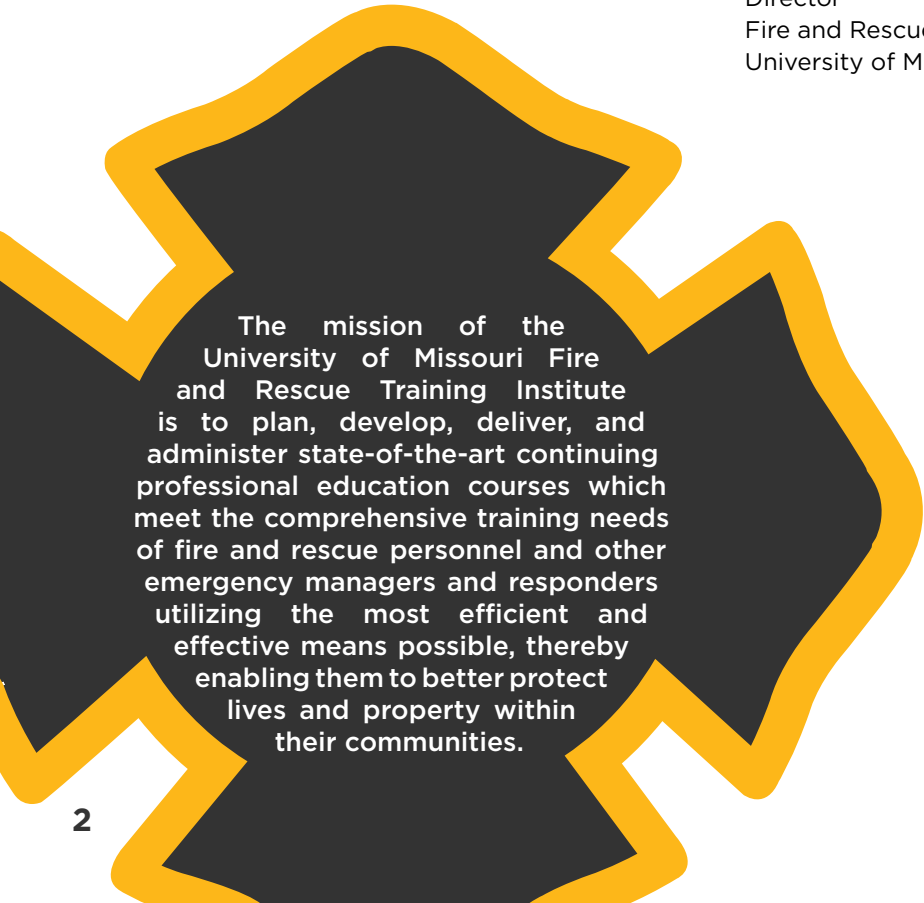
On behalf of our dedicated faculty and staff, I am pleased to present to you the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Annual Report of the Fire and Rescue Training Institute at the University of Missouri-Columbia. This report will highlight the various activities and accomplishments of this past year.

As we complete our ninety third year, we provide 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 10,105 fire and emergency service first responders during FY25. Through 596 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 93 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.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW2
OUTREACH 4
ENGAGEMENT 6
HIGHLIGHTS..... 8

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 FY25, the Institute has self-generated 100% of its operational budget by means of federal, state, and local grants, contracts, and fees.

The Institute conducted 596 classes with a total enrollment of 10,105 students (5,000 shy of filling the Mizzou Arena) for the fiscal year 2025. The training received by these students translates to 105,712 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. 783 different agencies participated in MU FRTI's programs.

MU FRTI delivered 73% of all training at the local level in 84 of the 114 counties in Missouri and in 11 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 FY25 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 FY25 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 FY25 the Institute offered 36 online classes to 659 students. The total student instructional hours for the online learning students were 9,872.

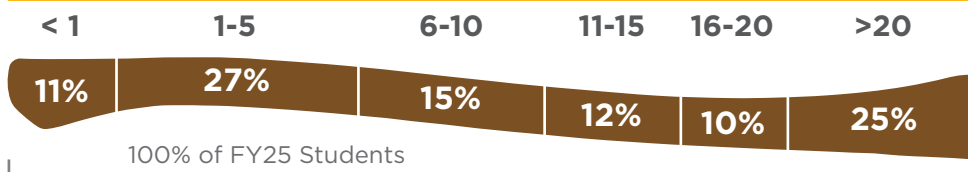
MU FRTI is committed to the training and education of fire and emergency responders, and we are pleased to provide this Fiscal Year 2025 annual report.



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.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



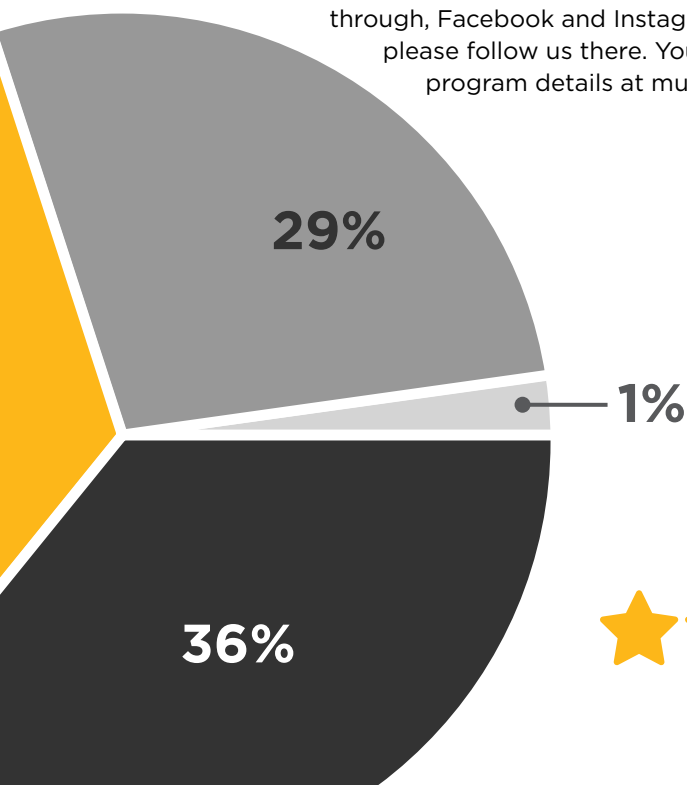
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



Social Media **166,073** Reached
 Website **44,084** Pageviews
 Total **210,157** Outreach

We employ a variety of methods to communicate with firefighters and emergency responders to provide them with up-to-date information related to their needs. In FY25 we were active on ten Facebook groups and pages, Instagram, YouTube, and deliver current program information through the MU Extension website.

We regularly communicate valued information through, Facebook and Instagram, please follow us there. You can find program details at mufrti.org.



STUDENTS BY ORGANIZATION

Fire Service **92%**
 EMS **4%**
 Law Enforcement **1%**
 State/Federal Government **1%**
 Emergency Management **1%**
 Other **1%**

STUDENTS BY STATUS

Career 62%

Volunteer 38%

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 FY25 of 3.4, or a B+ average.

Rating System: 0 to 4.0	FY 25	FY 24	FY 23	FY 22	FY 21
Course	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3
Instructor	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5
Classroom	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3
Outside Activities	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3
Visual Materials	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3
Printed Materials	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3
Overall	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3



3.4 out of **4** for Fiscal Year 2025

AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING

Courses: 103
Enrollments: 1,942
Hours: 15,224

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 FY25 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.

FIRE SCHOOLS: WINTER / SUMMER

Courses: 145 / 31
Enrollments: 2,247 / 381
Hours: 10,134 / 6,112

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 FY25 Winter Fire School celebrated 44 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.

FIELD EXTENSION

Courses: 226
Enrollments: 3,555
Hours: 43,668

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.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Courses: 48
Enrollments: 474
Hours: 4,162

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: 6
Enrollments: 90
Hours: 1,540

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.

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Courses: 69
Enrollments: 925
Hours: 20,084

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*.



INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE

Courses: 13
Enrollments: 378
Hours: 2,484

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.

TESTING AND EVALUATION

Courses: 3
Enrollments: 73
Hours: 576

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.



ONLINE LEARNING

Courses	36
Enrollments	709
Hours.....	9,872

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 24 years with the Missouri Association of Fire Chiefs and the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts with this Program. In FY25, the program graduated twenty seven 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 FY25, 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 63 active participants.

FY25 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 FY25, 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 118
Enrollments 2,015
Hours..... 26,940



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.

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Courses 5
Enrollments 75
Hours..... 1,632



The Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) is the responsible state agency to help Missourians prepare for, and 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 474
Hours..... 5,912



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 *The Lithium-Ion Revolution*.

PIPELINE ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

Courses 30
Enrollments 701
Hours..... 1,176



MU FRTI and the Pipeline Association of Missouri (PAM) has continued its partnership in FY25 to provide programs designed to meet the training and educational needs of Missouri emergency responders to aid in meeting state mandated training requirements, as well as enhance the service capability of both partners.

MO EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

Courses 36
Enrollments 350
Hours..... 3,032



The Missouri Emergency Response Commission's (MERC) mission is to protect public health and the environment by assisting communities with chemical incident prevention, preparedness, response and recovery and by receiving, processing and reporting on chemical information received under community right-to-know laws.

STATE FARM

Courses 15
Enrollments ... 241
Hours..... 1,944



In 2025, 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*, *Emergency Vehicle Driver Training* and *Electric Vehicle Safety for First Responders*.

FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

MU FRTI presented the 2024-2025 *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 Roger Meyers.

Roger served on his hometown fire department since 1982. He became an MU FRTI instructor in 2007 and has helped not only with instruction, but with curriculum development, and assists other area departments in planning and training. Roger loves to teach new people the wonders of extrication, medical care and driving. The Institute is proud of his dedicated service as a member of the MU FRTI Instructional Cadre.



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 FY25 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.

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 enables 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



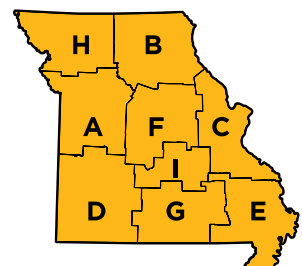
Kara Wehmeyer

Region F



Mark Arnold

Region G



MFA VOLUNTEER FIRE GRANT

The MFA Volunteer Fire Grant focuses on addressing the needs of the fire service who will benefit the most. While no fire department has all the funding necessary, rural fire departments often struggle the most. Depending on the availability of funds, the goal is to award grants to at least one recipient in each of the nine Fire Mutual Aid Regions in Missouri. The MFA Volunteer Fire Grant is dedicated to providing funds that will benefit the fire service in Missouri.



MFA Incorporated has a long history of fulfilling donation requests made by fire departments across Missouri. They have generously provided many fire departments with equipment and funding in the past. MU FRTI is happy to help MFA Incorporated by providing administrative oversight of this grant program. The grant process opens in October each year.

2024 GRANT AWARDEES

Alton Volunteer Fire Department
Baring Volunteer Fire Department
Brixey & Rockbridge Fire Department
Bucklin Volunteer Fire Department
Buffalo Rural Fire Department
Callao Fire Protection District
Caufield Membership Fire Department
Cedar Creek Fire Protection District
DeKalb Fire Protection District
Dixon Rural Fire Protection District
East Lynn Gunn City Fire Protection District
Fairfax Fire Protection District
Long Lane Volunteer Fire Department
Louisiana Fire Department
Martinsburg Fire Protection District
Montauk Rural Fire Department
Osborn Fire Protection District
Portageville Fire Department
Qulin Fire Protection District
Shelby Community Fire Department
Slater Volunteer Fire Department
Tunas Fire Department
Tuscumbia Fire Protection District
Tyrone Rural Volunteer Fire Department
Urbana Rural Fire Department
Urich Volunteer Fire Department
Washburn Volunteer Fire Department
Zell Volunteer 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.

- Alex Air Apparatus LLC
- Boles Fire Protection District
- Boone County Fire Protection District
- Brock Grain Systems
- Cole County Fire Protection District
- Columbia Fire Department
- Engine House Training
- Fire Fighters Association of Missouri (FFAM)
- I-70 Towing
- IFSTA
- 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 Department of Conservation
- 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)
- O'Byrne Fire Ground Training
- Pipeline Association of Missouri (PAM)
- Pleiadian Systems, Inc
- Safety Training & Consultation International
- Springfield Fire Department
- State Farm Insurance
- St. Louis Fire Department
- University of Missouri Extension
- Valley TEMS

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 2025 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

Fire and Rescue Training Institute
2800 Maguire Boulevard C1
Columbia, MO 65211-8200

800-869-3476 • 573-882-4735
Email: frti@missouri.edu

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