

University of Missouri Extension



Fire and Rescue Training Institute

MISSOURI EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR CONFERENCE

REGISTER NOW
mufrti.org



Lake of the Ozarks

November 6-8



ABOUT

The Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference prepares and presents training programs for emergency services personnel and public fire educators. Instructors and other supervisory personnel will find this conference valuable in planning for the training needs of their organizations. Whether you are just starting or have been involved with training for many years, this conference will benefit you.



Camden on the Lake Resort, Spa, and Yacht Club



PRECONFERENCE

During the preconference, instructors have the opportunity to attend a blended learning class, instructor update or a traditional train-the-trainer. These deliveries are chosen with the intent to elevate the knowledge and skills of instructors.

Blended Learning

Online blended learning classes trade a significant portion of travel and classroom time for the convenience of structured, interactive online learning, including remote instructor support. Participants are required to attend the class with a laptop on **November 6, 2026**. The remainder of the instructor-led class is completed online.

Train-the-Trainer

Train-the-Trainer classes are reserved for instructors certified by the Missouri Division of Fire Safety. If you are not affiliated with a Missouri fire department, this requirement may be waived.

Participants will receive the curriculum and training to deliver the selected course as a MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute Registered Program. Contact MU FRTI for delivery requirements. Participants Will Receive:

1. An instructor guide
2. Digital media to support the course

CONFERENCE

The conference consists of a general session with keynote speakers and is followed by instructor workshops. The goal of these presentations is to prepare and broaden the training abilities of all emergency service professionals that attend.

General Session

A general session kicks off the conference. The *Instructor of the Year* award will be presented to an outstanding MU FRTI adjunct instructor. In addition, you will hear program updates from the Missouri Division of Fire Safety and MU FRTI.

KEYNOTE

During the general session, a nationally recognized speaker will present topics that relate to and inform emergency service professionals.

WORKSHOPS

Attend in-depth presentations on subjects that are designed to inform and expand your abilities as an instructor.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

The Missouri Division of Fire Safety has approved continuing education credits for most of the preconference classes and all of the conference workshops.

LOCATION

Camden on the Lake Resort, Spa, and Yacht Club will be the host location for the conference. A special lodging rate of **\$131** will be available to participants when you mention you are attending the MU FRTI Instructor Conference. All rooms feature kitchenettes with refrigerators and stove-tops; pillow-top beds; and private balconies. Internet access is complimentary.

To make reservations contact the hotel at 573-365-5620 or 888-365-5620. Use Group Code **FRTI1026** to receive the group rate. Reservations made after **October 1, 2026**, are subject to availability. You may also reserve rooms online at camdenonthelake.com.

Camden on the Lake Resort
2359 Bittersweet Road
Lake Ozark, MO 65049



LODGING

\$131 Deluxe King or Two Doubles

Online Booking

1. Go to: camdenonthelake.com
2. Click: *Book Now*
3. Click: *Add Group / Promo Code*
4. Enter: **FRTI1026** / *Group Attendee*
5. Click: *Add and Select & Go*
6. Continue check-out process

TUITION

Participants can attend a preconference class, two conference workshops, or all three days. Tuition fees include all student materials, breakfast, and lunch on each full day.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations received before **October 19, 2026**, are fully refundable. No refunds will be made after that date. All cancellations must be made in writing.

FEES

\$280 Conference Workshops

PRECONFERENCE • NOVEMBER 6

\$270 Train-the-Trainer

\$400 Blended Learning

PRECONFERENCE

BLENDED LEARNING

Fire Service Instructor I

BRUCE **BJORGE**, Director, The OG Society

START TIME: November 6, 8:00 am **POST:** 40 hours

END TIME: November 6, 5:00 pm **COST:** \$400

This course addresses *NFPA 1020, Standard for Fire Instructor Professional Qualifications*, Chapter 4, 2025 edition competencies at the fire service instructor I level. This course focuses on the presentation skills needed by new instructors delivering prepared lesson plans. Students will cover lesson plan preparation, presentation skills, using audiovisual equipment, identifying lesson objectives, questions, tests, and evaluation instruments.

This is a blended delivery course. Participants will meet in person on the first day to receive login instructions. The remainder will be instructor-led online over seven weeks. Students must bring a laptop with internet access to class.

Fire Service Instructor II

MIKE **NOVAK**, Division Chief, Retired

START TIME: November 6, 8:00 am **POST:** 40 hours

END TIME: November 6, 5:00 pm **COST:** \$400

PREREQUISITE: *Fire & Emergency Services Instructor I*

This course addresses *NFPA 1020, Standard for Fire Instructor Professional Qualifications*, Chapter 5, 2025 edition competencies at the fire service instructor II level. At the conclusion of this class students should be able to develop individual lesson plans for a specific topic including learning objectives, instructional aids and evaluation instruments, ability to schedule training sessions based on the overall training plan of their organization and how to supervise and coordinate the activities of other instructors. Students will be required to complete a class project within the scheduled progression of this course.

This is a blended delivery course. Participants will meet in person on the first day to receive login instructions. The remainder will be instructor-led online over twelve weeks. Students must bring a laptop with internet access to class.

NOVEMBER 6

CLASSROOM ONLY

Fire Service Instructor III

Thursday-Sunday

MIKE **ARNHART**, Chief (Retired)

OLAN **MORELAN**, Assistant Chief, Springfield Fire Department

START TIME: November 5, 1:00 pm

END TIME: November 8, 5:00 pm

PREREQUISITE: *Fire Service Instructor II*

COST: \$400

This course addresses *NFPA 1020, Standard for Fire & Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications*, Chapter 6, 2025 edition competencies at the fire & emergency services instructor III level. At the conclusion of this class, students should be able to develop comprehensive training programs, curricula, and courses for use of single or multiple organizations, conduct organizational needs analysis; design record keeping and scheduling systems; and develop training goals and implementation strategies. Students will be required to complete class task book.

Students must bring a laptop with internet access to class.

8-HOUR

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

Fire Department Medical First Responder

ROGER **MEYERS**, Assistant Chief, Concordia Fire Protection District

BEN **WOLVERTON**, Captain, Macon Fire Department

COST: \$270

START TIME: November 6, 8:00 am

END TIME: November 6, 5:00 pm

PREREQUISITE: MO DFS certified *Fire Service Instructor I* or Bureau of EMS Instructor Missouri State Certified EMT, 3 yrs experience in emergency medical care

This train-the-trainer prepares instructor candidates to present the medical first responder course. The course is based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's *First Responder: National Standard Curriculum*. It will prepare future instructors to teach the skills stations required in the course plus provide a quick overview of the lesson plan and methodology used. A review of administering the required MU FRTI paperwork is included.

Battery Energy Storage System Incidents: Awareness for the Fire Service

NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES INSTRUCTOR

COST: \$270

START TIME: November 6, 8:00 am

END TIME: November 6, 5:00 pm

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are rapidly being deployed across the United States to support grid reliability and renewable energy integration. These systems introduce unique fireground hazards that differ from traditional incidents. This course provides fire service personnel with essential awareness of BESS technology, associated risks, and recommended response considerations. The focus is on firefighter safety, situational awareness, and defensive decision-making.

AGENDA

PRECONFERENCE

Thursday 5

1:00 pm *Fire Service Instructor III*
Class Begins

Friday 6

6:30 am Breakfast Buffet
Registration Check-in
8:00 am **Preconference** Begins
Noon Lunch
1:00 pm Courses Resume
5:00 pm **Preconference** Ends

CONFERENCE

Saturday 7

6:30 am Breakfast Buffet
Registration Check-in
8:00 am **General Session**

- Keynote
— Asst. Chief Justin Bailey
- Division of Fire Safety Update
- MU FRTI Update
- MU FRTI Instructor Awards

Noon Lunch
1:00 pm **Workshops** Begin
5:00 pm **Workshops** End

Sunday 8

6:30 am Breakfast Buffet
8:00 am **Workshops** Resume
Noon **Workshops** End
5:00 pm *Fire Service Instructor III*
Class Ends

KEYNOTE

JUSTIN BAILEY

Assistant Fire Chief,
Knoxville (TN) Fire
Department with 27
years of experience
in fire service training
program development
and education.



Organizational Training for the Modern Fire Environment

ERIC MERRILL, Assistant Chief, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, (AZ)

START TIME: November 7, 1:00 pm

REPEATS: November 8, 8:00 am

END TIME: November 7, 5:00 pm

REPEATS: November 8, 12:00 pm

Modern fires burn faster, produce greater heat and create more hazardous conditions than ever. Examine with us the latest Fire Safety Research Institute research and its application through *NFPA 1700: Guide for Structural Fire Fighting*. Explore evidence-based strategies for fire control, ventilation coordination, and search and rescue operations, emphasizing improving civilian survivability. Real-world case studies and tactical discussions, translate fire science into command decisions and effective fireground operations. Principle topics align with *NFPA 1400: Standard on Fire Service Training*, emphasizing competency-based training, risk management, and the integration of evidence-based practices for operational readiness. Gain practical tools to develop and implement efficient modern firefighting training programs.

Prioritizing Your Departments Training Program

JUSTIN BAILEY, Assistant Chief, Knoxville Fire Department (TN)

START TIME: November 7, 1:00 pm

REPEATS: November 8, 8:00 am

END TIME: November 7, 5:00 pm

REPEATS: November 8, 12:00 pm

Making training a priority in fire departments can be a struggle — but the consequences of not doing so can be catastrophic, from increased risk of injury and death to failing to meet the expectations of the communities departments serve. This course helps firefighters and instructors identify the training needs of themselves and their department, and shows how to make training the leading priority. Topics include organizational training needs and expectations, selecting a training officer and instructor, delivering effective training programs, challenges in delivering training programs, and personal responsibility in sustaining a healthy training environment. Leave with a clear understanding of how and why to make training a priority — both in your department and your personal lives.

From Training to Education: Building High-Performing Public Safety Teams

JOSEPH CORTEZ, Deputy Chief, University of Vanderbilt

START TIME: November 7, 1:00 pm

REPEATS: November 8, 8:00 am

END TIME: November 7, 5:00 pm

REPEATS: November 8, 12:00 pm

Public safety agencies don't fail because they lack training; they fail because they lack shared understanding. While training teaches what to do, education develops the judgment, collaboration, and leadership needed to navigate complex, multi-agency incidents. Using lessons from the civil unrest of 2020 and real-world critical incidents, this session challenges traditional training models and introduces a practical framework for building collaborative, high-performing public safety organizations. Learn to strengthen unified command, foster interagency trust, and create learning cultures that improve decision-making before, during, and after incidents. Leave with strategies to shift from compliance-driven training to education-driven excellence. Don't just respond together but think together.

Eric Merrill

Eric Merrill is the Assistant Chief for the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, where he has served since 2006. He began his fire service career as a resident firefighter in Snowmass Village, Colorado, before relocating to Arizona and developing a passion for wildland firefighting, structural firefighting, and EMS. A dedicated educator and lifelong learner, Eric has served in numerous training roles at both the local and state levels and earned his master's degree in 2023. Raised in Nebraska with a strong foundation in faith, community, and service, he remains committed to professional development and faith-based leadership. Eric and his wife are proud parents of two children, who have been an integral part of his fire service journey.



Justin Bailey

Justin Bailey is a 27-year veteran of the fire service. He currently serves as Fire Chief of the Oliver Springs (TN) Fire Department and as Assistant Fire Chief with the Knoxville (TN) Fire Department, where he has served since 2007. He began his career in 1999 as a Junior Firefighter/Explorer with the Oliver Springs Fire Department. Justin is also a part-time instructor with the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy, delivering classroom and hands-on instruction on a range of topics on-campus, at regional fire conferences, and at fire departments throughout Tennessee. He has presented at both local and national fire conferences on training program development and delivery, professional development, and rural fireground management. Justin holds an Associate of Applied Science in Allied Health Science from Roane State Community College, a Bachelor's of Science in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University, and a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Waldorf University.



Joseph Cortez

Dr. Joseph A. Cortez is the Deputy Chief of the Vanderbilt University Police Department with over two decades of public safety, military, and executive leadership experience. He previously served as Captain and Director of Training for the Williamson County Sheriff's Office, as well as in leadership roles with the Santa Monica Police Department and Los Angeles Police Department Office of Inspector General. His experience includes emergency management, organizational development, and law enforcement training. As a nationally recognized instructor, Dr. Cortez has taught public safety professionals nationwide in critical incident management, leadership, active threat response, emergency preparedness, organizational change, and collaborative public safety. He is also an instructor for USC's Public Safety Leadership Program and the University of Chicago's Police Leadership Academy. He is passionate about helping agencies develop strategies and improve public safety outcomes.





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