



Education Session Descriptions

A Model Statewide Approach to Firefighter Cancer Prevention –

The presentation will highlight the grass root efforts started by one individual fire department that has now grown to a statewide movement in firefighter cancer prevention. Utilizing our partnership with the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at University of Miami Health Systems and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, the presentation will discuss our involvement in the Firefighter Cancer Initiative research project and the development of a 12 Fire Department Team + the Firefighter Cancer Support Network with a focus on developing State Wide Preventative Recommendations. In addition, we will discuss the ground-breaking research conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and Centers for Disease control in 2 year study to analyze breath and urine metabolites after actual fire responses for select incumbent Firefighters for Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.

Accreditation: A Five-Year Engagement –

This session will focus on how to institutionalize the accreditation process within your department.

America's Opioid Epidemic and the Fire Service: Considerations for Preparedness and Response –

The United States is in the midst of an epidemic of recent unparalleled proportions: In 2015 opioid overdose deaths claimed more lives in the United States than motor vehicle trauma or firearms violence. From 2000 to 2015 more than half a million people died from drug overdoses. Each day 91 Americans die from an opioid overdose. These staggering statistics have prompted declarations of public health emergencies across the country. - From increased emergency calls for service, to concerns about responder safety, to the need to work collaboratively and creatively with other allied agencies, our nation's fire service has found itself at the front lines of this complex situation. And, this situation is effecting our personnel both on the job and at home. This session will provide participants with an overview of the opioid crisis, as well as practical take-away considerations for implementation.

Are We Reducing Line of Duty Deaths and Injuries...How Do We Do Better? –

This is an interactive program which will review statistics and have a discussion about best practices for a safer fire service.

CPC Goes Paperless - Unveiling the New Electronic Application

No more paper. No more Word fillable form. CPC moves into the 21st century unveiling the new on-line environment for submitting an application for designation.

Creating a Career Development Road Map for Success –

This session will offer numerous resources to assist personnel with creating a career development road map and action plan. Whether you are responsible for assisting personnel with career development, or you want to assist yourself with career development, this session will offer numerous key points for success!

Criterion 2A: Documentation of Area Characteristics

Criterion 2B: All-Hazard Risk Assessment and Response Strategies

Criterion 2C: Current Deployment and Performance

Criterion 2D: Plan for Maintaining and Improving Response Capabilities

These sessions will provide an in-depth look at developing your Community Risk Assessment / Standards of Cover (CRA/SOC) document.

Critical Tasking for Large Homes –

Many departments rely on NFPA 1710 to justify staffing levels, but fail to realize that the standard was written around a "normal" size home - not the "starter mansions" that are popping up in many jurisdictions. Brian presents operational challenges associated with these types of structures, and Derek discusses how to determine the number of personnel necessary to complete the associated critical tasks.

Data Collection 101 –

Data Collection 101- Is a high level overview of what a peer team will be verifying and validating as it relates to the data analysis conducted by the department. It will include information on what should be collected, areas that you find the needed data, and how it should be analyzed. Additionally the class will provide some examples of when data analytics go wrong and how to defend against those situations.

Developing, Implementing, and Tracking Your Strategic Plan –

This session details a process used to develop a strategic plan around predetermined priorities. The process engages teams of department members to develop the plan using institutional knowledge, feedback from external stakeholders and strategies borrowed from organizations outside of the fire service. A step-by-step description of this process is provided with a special emphasis on communication of goals and progress updates.

Developing Planning Zones Under the CRA/SOC 6th ed., Where Do You Start? –

The session will discuss the expectations of the Commission and use examples from agencies recently accredited under the 6th edition CRA/SOC to illustrate different approaches to this critical building block for assessing your jurisdiction.

Exploring Municipal Fire Department Consolidation –

Leadership in a Fire Department is constantly charged with driving organizational improvement, whether through efficiency gains through collaboration or performance improvements with existing resources. Consolidation of fire departments may be a viable option to accomplish both. This presentation will use a case study to explore how the accreditation model can assist a department with the decision to explore the consolidation of fire departments.

FireCARES and NFORS –

This session will provide a live demo on FireCARES and NFORS.

From Candidacy to Commission Hearings: Viewpoints from an Accreditation Manager, Team Leader, and Commissioner –

This session discusses how agencies, particularly those hosting their first site visit, can develop approaches to effectively interact with the peer team during the document review, the site visit, and after and how the peer team interacts with the commission.

From PTSD to PTG: It Will Change Your Life –

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) affects emergency responders all over the world. Many times emergency responders do not want to discuss incidents that may have had lasting effects on them or know where to go for help. Research indicates that this is both unhealthy physically and mentally not only for suffering responders, but for their family and friends as well. Furthermore, PTSD has led to an alarming increase in responder suicides. Research from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) indicates that fire departments are four times more likely to experience a suicide of one of its members than a line of duty death (LODD).

Goal Setting: Moving Beyond Traditional Strategies for Meaningful and Fulfilling Growth –

Many fire service leaders struggle to set meaningful goals for personal and professional development. This session will provide participants with highly intentional strategies to develop and execute solutions that are essential for purposeful growth. Participants will be challenged to look beyond traditional goal setting plans to develop relevant and fulfilling goals for themselves and those leaders around them. Goal setting and professional growth is a choice and should not be left to chance.

How to Get Started on Your Accreditation Journey –

This session lays the groundwork for the other three sessions of the accreditation bootcamp by sharing with attendees how to get started on their accreditation journey. It will focus on the staff resources, project management techniques, and mindset necessary to be successful when planning for, pursuing, achieving, and maintaining accreditation.

Improving Community Risk Reduction and Public Education Outcomes Utilizing the Accreditation Model

This presentation will discuss the Grand Rapids Fire Department Residential Safety Program and how it directly addresses Community Risk Reduction and Public Education performance indicators in the Fire and Emergency Service Self-Assessment Manual (FESSAM).

Improving Operations Through Accreditation –

The purpose of this class is to reflect on how the accreditation process can improve the on-scene operations of a department through evaluation (including case studies), appraisal, and planning.

Integrity - It's All You Have! –

Emergency service personnel earn a certification to practice their skills. What does it mean to earn and maintain a certification? It has become increasingly evident that personnel do not hold the level of integrity to a high degree. Join Dr. Lindsey as he discusses the components of the profession and the level of character needed in the profession. If you are an educator, training officer, chief or provider this session is for you. Keep your name off the latest news in the emergency services websites.

ISO Crosswalk –

The FESSAM manual is an incredible tool to help your fire department lower your ISO rating while working toward accreditation. The ISO Crosswalk section will be discussed in detail and how it relates to ISO points. Examples will be provided how the FESSAM manual assisted Pike Township Fire Department to lower their ISO rating from a Class 4 to a Class 1 rating in 2017.

Leading Change Through Accreditation –

This session will provide participants with a background of leading organizational change through accreditation. Many fire chiefs are being hired and directed to lead and implement change initiatives that affect them today but have an impact on tomorrow. This is not an easy task in today's fire service and political environment however short and long term agency success is dependent upon ability to lead change. Attendees will be introduced to principals, resources, and examples of leading change in action for a successful agency.

Measuring and Reporting Outcomes that Matter –

Presentation will help participants understand the importance of presenting potentially complex data in a format that is more quickly and easily understood by elected officials, the media and community members. The focus will be on how agencies can report out publicly on their performance but with heavy emphasis on the employment of graphics to emphasize the right outcomes and less emphasis on activities/inputs/outputs that maybe inaccurate or counterproductive for the key stakeholders.

Measuring Fire Department Performance Beyond Annual Runs –

Organizational decision-making must be based on more than just annual response numbers. Today's fire service environment demands measured performance to drive decisions every day decisions. Understanding practical performance measurement is the first step to matching your department with the ever-changing environment.

Measuring Outcomes: No Stop Watch Necessary –

The presentation will continue to help clarify the connection between a department's focus on inputs and need to look at what happens with their work. The information will help better explain how a department can utilize the data and information from outcomes to justify not only their current but future deployment needs.

Psychological Health and Safety –

Talking about the broader psychological health and safety strategy being developed by the Calgary Fire Department with a particular focus on the proactive Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR) program.

Program Evaluation –

The 9th edition of the CFAI model requires agencies conduct formal annual appraisals of all their programs. This session will showcase one department's use of data and processes to evaluate their programs as part of their continuous quality improvement efforts.

Response Check: Conducting Organizational Change to Ensure Long-Term Success and Sustainability –

This session is intended to assist fire service leaders, both career and volunteer, to conduct a self-assessment of their organization; this could be specific to an individual fire company, a training academy and/or a multi-company agency. The primary focus will be on understanding and implementing organizational change through self-reflection of processes, policy and 'historical social norms' which obstruct diversity, inclusion and forward progress. Long term sustainability depends on the leader's ability to set policy and adapt new processes to eradicate destructive cultures and past practice which prohibit inclusion and ultimately, continued success.

RMS Selection: Avoiding Landmines –

Thinking about changing your department's incident reporting software? There are a number of excellent products on the market, but where are the landmines? This presentation will give attendees tips for an eyes-wide-open approach to selecting and implementing a new RMS.

Smart vs Healthy: The Future of Leadership in the Fire Service –

This presentation will show specific ways that "smart" leaders can measure and then increase the internal health of their organization in order to create a culture of trust, communication and accountability where employees can be imperfect and still find the support they need. This is the basis for true teamwork because it spreads ownership to mid and lower levels of leadership and, ironically, increases the authority of senior leadership.

Strategic Planning –

Every fire department needs a contemporary strategic plan. Every fire department needs to talk to its community. This session will explore the concepts of strategic planning, some mechanics, and the understanding of community feedback.

Striving for Greatness –

Attendees will be exposed to leadership concepts they can use to ensure they are Striving for Greatness. Successful organizations don't just happen by chance. It takes focus, drive, determination, persistence and a collaborative team effort, among other things, to be successful and more importantly sustainable and relevant in today's world. Striving for Greatness is not easy; it requires some to get out of a routine they have fallen into and gotten used to: complacency, apathy, boredom, pessimism, group think, lack of desire for change, and ultimately the desire to maintain the status quo, even if it is obvious they are on a road to failure. It's not about you; it is about the organization you are fortunate to be a part of, and more importantly those you are expected to serve and lead. Striving for Greatness means you will be the best you can be, and that you will challenge your personnel and your organization to be the best they can be. If you do not lead by example, how do you expect others to follow? It's not about your title or the position you are in. It's about what you do to leave your organization better than you found it, and your personnel better than when they first met you. By wanting Striving for Greatness, you are someone who promotes and encourages continuous quality improvement and excellence in everything that is done!

Taking to the Sky! –

This session will provide opportunities and challenges to emergency services organizations through Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) including how these systems can be utilized to aid in hazard and risk assessment and situational awareness. The FIRST thing we will establish is why it is a BAD idea to just go buy a hobby store drone or remote controlled helicopter, tape on a camera, and take to the air... BAD IDEA! In addition, we will examine the most recent rulings governing emergency services agency use of sUAS and case studies.

The Cost of Doing Business: Property Damage vs Property Saved –

This presentation will discuss the current and best practices to estimate property damage and accurately report property saved. This will be based on NFPA best practices, FDNY Research and a look into the construction calculations and the insurance industry models.

The Four Parts to the Self-Assessment Manual –

Focusing on one of the key elements of the accreditation process, the self-assessment manual, the presenters will borrow from their time as accreditation managers and peer assessors and outline how best to begin writing the manual. They will provide tips on distinguishing the four parts of the self-assessment manual and how to keep the manual updated to reflect current operations.

The Impact and Use of Evaluation Within Your Agency –

This presentation will provide the participant with an in depth interactive discussion on the use and impact of evaluation within the accreditation process.

Transformational Change and the Fire Service –

The argument for change in the fire service has been on-going for centuries. This interactive presentation offers relevant case studies of fire service efforts to achieve change while offering key elements that shaped success or failure. A discussion of current research on fire service culture change will be offered with an evaluation with past public safety efforts. The outcome will be the identification of key elements for consideration—which will be associated and aligned with the CFAI accreditation process—in implementing strategies for transforming the fire service.

Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Company Officer Actions that Support Accreditation –

Leadership at the Chief Officer level will begin the path towards excellence through accreditation, however, the chief is not at each firehouse every hour of the day. Through demonstration of how actions taken by company officers and firefighters, the program will link positive outcomes in the service to actions taken each day in the fire station. The program will specifically cover data entry and record-keeping accuracy, the professional developments mindset needed to operate in the current and next generation of the fire service, and specific examples of how information gathered each day at the company level can translate into a safer working environment for each firefighter and a better service to the community. While many firefighters and company officers are focused on the 10% of the work that involves emergencies, this session will explain how the other 90% of the work translates into a positive 10%. The class is focused on the company officer, but will provide the battalion level officer the tools to take back and train their company officers.

Writing Winning Technical Competencies and Development Goals –

This session will provide an in-depth look at requirements for addressing both the technical competencies and the Designee Development Goals of the credentialing candidate applications.