



Minnesota State Fire Department Association 148th Annual Conference and Fire School

Breezy Point, MN September 18-20, 2025

Registration Form

Please complete this form and mail with payment to:

MSFDA
28711 Holly Drive NW
Isanti, MN 55040
Make checks payable to MSFDA.

Registration fees: Early Bird - \$250 per firefighter (\$275 if after August 1, 2025)

Guests - \$35

*****Firefighter Registration Fee is eligible for MBFTE reimbursement*****

Registration Deadline: August 15, 2025

Registration Information

Fire Department Name: _____
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Attendee Information – SELECT CLASS #'S FROM "CLASS DESCRIPTIONS" SECTION ON BACK

Attendee #1 Name: _____ Attendee #1 Email: _____
Attending Guest Name: _____ Guest Attending Luncheon/Activity: Yes No
Friday AM Selection _____ Friday PM Selection _____ Saturday AM Selection _____ Banquet # _____

Attendee #2 Name: _____ Attendee #2 Email: _____
Attending Guest Name: _____ Guest Attending Luncheon/Activity: Yes No
Friday AM Selection _____ Friday PM Selection _____ Saturday AM Selection _____ Banquet # _____

Attendee #3 Name: _____ Attendee #3 Email: _____
Attending Guest Name: _____ Guest Attending Luncheon/Activity: Yes No
Friday AM Selection _____ Friday PM Selection _____ Saturday AM Selection _____ Banquet # _____

Attendee #4 Name: _____ Attendee #4 Email: _____
Attending Guest Name: _____ Guest Attending Luncheon/Activity: Yes No
Friday AM Selection _____ Friday PM Selection _____ Saturday AM Selection _____ Banquet # _____

Friday, September 19, 2025 - Morning Class Descriptions 8 am – 12 pm

Classes #1-5 (pick 1)

1 - Open Water Rescue Operations (Dan Bernardy) 8 Hours – CLASSROOM AND HANDS ON – Classroom and practical hands-on training includes: PPE, rescue equipment, identification and evaluation of potential and existing hazards, hydrology, scene management, emergency action plan development and implementation, rescue vs. recovery considerations, medical considerations, self-rescue through multiple victim rescue, shore-based and watercraft-based rescue techniques. Students must demonstrate competency in both the classroom and outdoor practical sessions. Students must demonstrate competency in both the classroom and outdoor practical sessions. Taught to NFPA 1670 standards. This course does NOT provide certification or licensure.

2 - Fire Dynamics & Flow Paths: Mastering the Invisible Forces that Drive the Fire Ground (FIRE, Inc. - Mike Schwankl) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - When seconds count and conditions change in an instant, understanding what you can't see saves lives. This high-impact class dives into the core principles of fire dynamics and flow path behavior – two critical, often misunderstood elements that shape every fireground decision. With a better understanding of fuels, compartment geometry, ambient factors, and flows you will gain a deeper understanding of how heat, air, and structure interact under fire conditions. Discover how simple actions-like opening a door or breaking a window-can drastically alter fire behavior and fireground survivability. With this session you will be armed with the science-backed knowledge to anticipate conditions, make smarter tactical choices, and stay a step ahead of the fire.

3 - Hazmat Realities – What You Need to Know to Stay Alive (FIRE, Inc. - Chuck McKusick) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM – Hazmat isn't just for the tech teams — it's every firefighter's responsibility. *Hazmat Realities* is a no-fluff, fast-paced refresher built specifically for paid-on-call firefighters who need clear, actionable knowledge to stay alive and make smart decisions on the scene. This class strips away the textbook overload and focuses on what matters most: recognition, survival, and staying in your lane. You'll review the critical signs, tools, and tactics that can mean the difference between a close call and a catastrophe. From common hazards and first-arriving responsibilities to hot zone awareness and protective gear essentials, this is the "street knowledge" you need when seconds count and the unknown is leaking from a drum, truck, or railcar. If you've ever rolled up to a strange odor, a placard you barely remember, or a spill that didn't look right — this class is for you. No scare tactics. Just solid, life-saving intel for firefighters who want to stay sharp and stay safe. Because in hazmat, what you don't know *can* kill you.

4 - Your Department is Upgrading to NERIS (SFM) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - Where did the '111 – Building Fire' or '300 – Rescue, EMS, Other' incident type go? Who deleted the '419 – 1 or 2 family dwelling' property use type we've chosen for the past 40 years? I still can't remember my FDID; why are we changing to a NERISID? The Minnesota State Fire Marshal division will be discussing Minnesota's final months of NFIRS, the rollout of NERIS, and what your fire department should know. Learn how the fire incident report has changed, get hands on experience with the new modules within NERIS, and walk through scenarios to ensure you have understood the fire incident reporting changes and expectations. All fire personnel who work with a fire incident reporting system are encouraged to attend this session. Tablets or laptops are encouraged, but not required to attend.

5 - Mastering Investment & Financial Planning for Fire Relief Associations (Parr McKnight Wealth Management Group) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - With over 30 years of experience serving the unique needs of more than 100 fire relief associations across Minnesota, the Parr McKnight Wealth Management Group understands the challenges and responsibilities trustees face. This session will equip both new and experienced trustees with the knowledge and tools to confidently manage their relief association's investments while also improving their personal financial well-being. Topics will include investment fundamentals, understanding fiduciary responsibilities, developing and implementing an effective investment policy statement, and navigating investing psychology. The class will also provide a first-hand analysis of benefit levels and strategies for working with your city to consistently and responsibly increase them over time. To conclude, Parr McKnight will offer expert guidance on personal retirement planning, including how to prepare for retirement, funding strategies, and maximizing pension benefits. Attendees will leave with actionable insights to strengthen their relief association's financial future and take control of their own retirement planning.

Friday, September 19, 2025 - Afternoon Class Descriptions 1 pm – 5 pm

Classes #6-11 (pick 1, unless taking 8-hour class)

6 - Through the Fire – Survival, Entry, and Escape (Customized Fire Rescue Training - Scott Cariveau/FIRE, Inc – Mike Schwankl) – 4 Hours – HANDS ON - Step into the heat with *Through the Fire* — a high-intensity, hands-on training experience designed to push your skills, mindset, and teamwork to the edge. This HOT (Hands-On Training) class is built for firefighters who are ready to sharpen their edge in the most critical areas of fireground performance: forcible entry, SCBA mastery, coordinated team movement, RIT, and self-rescue under pressure. You'll breach doors, make the tough pushes, and operate in zero visibility while managing your air and your mind. Instructors will guide you through fast-paced scenarios emphasizing communication and trust — the backbone of effective firefighting. Then, you'll face the ultimate test in our *Confidence Trailer*, a brutal labyrinth designed to simulate tight quarters, entrapment, and total blackout conditions. It's a place where panic is your enemy and composure is your weapon. Whether you're a seasoned firefighter or sharpening your fundamentals, *Through the Fire* will test your limits, reinforce critical skills, and send you back to the firehouse tougher, smarter, and more prepared. Are you ready to earn your exit?

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7 - How Not to Get Sued: Legalities of Fire Investigation (SFM) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - This class is a "must-have" for Fire Chiefs, Fire Marshals, and Chief Officers. Do a deep dive into the legal issues surrounding fire investigation, the basics of "getting it right," and insight into the case law that led to these rules we have to follow. This class will help you understand fire statute interpretation, Fourth Amendment issues, legal interpretations, and when to seek advice or assistance. Full of real-life examples that actually occurred in this state, and a list of where we commonly "get it wrong", this class may potentially save you from lawsuits and/or protect your arson case from unraveling over technicalities.

8 - Office of the State Auditor Relief Association Training (OSA) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - The Office of the State Auditor's training will cover important topics to help relief association trustees be successful in administering their pension plans. The topics will include how to avoid common compliance issues that could result in a delay of your fire state aid and learn about new laws that affect your relief association that were passed in recent legislative sessions. There will also be an opportunity for a Q and A with the OSA's Pension Division staff, who will be ready to answer your questions about how municipal contributions are determined, how to change benefit levels, and questions about your bylaws.

9 – LivingWorks safeTALK Suicide Prevention (MnFIRE – Rochelle Hawthorne & Sara Nelson) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - The statistics are well-known: first responders are at a higher risk of dying by suicide than the average citizen. LivingWorks suicide prevention training adds a layer of support, within workplace and social networks, which can help first responders with practice and appropriate action plans to help keep their peers and the community safer from suicide. LivingWorks safeTALK is a four-hour training that equips firefighters to be more alert to someone thinking of suicide and better able to connect them with further help.

10 - Wildland Urban Interface (DNR) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - This class will cover how fire departments and wildland fire agencies can work together in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Topics include communication, jurisdictions, and how the Incident Command System (ICS) works. We'll also talk about safety concerns, basic strategies and tactics, and the tools and aircraft used to fight fires in these areas.

11 - Shock Factor – Electric Vehicle Fires and Crashes (FIRE, Inc. – Jory Danielson) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - The future is electric — and it's already showing up on your scene. *Shock Factor* dives into the rapidly evolving world of electric vehicles (EVs) and the unique challenges they bring to fire and crash incidents. High-voltage systems, hidden energy storage, thermal runaway, and delayed ignition are just the beginning. This class will break down the critical information every firefighter needs when responding to EV crashes and fires. Learn how to identify EVs quickly, assess risk zones, disable power safely, and navigate the unpredictable behavior of lithium-ion batteries. You'll also get real-world case studies, tactical considerations, and the latest best practices for suppression, extrication, and overhaul — all tailored to frontline responders. Whether it's a Tesla wrapped around a pole or a burning battery pack reigniting hours later, *Shock Factor* will arm you with the knowledge and tactics to stay ahead of the curve — and out of the kill zone. Technology is changing. Are you ready to respond?

Saturday, September 20, 2025 - Class Descriptions 8 am – 12 pm

Classes #12-16 (pick 1)

12 - Auto Extrication (Alex Air – Al Ebbinga) – 4 Hours – HANDS ON - "They don't build 'em like they used to." Advanced steels, modern modular assembly procedures and higher crash test ratings have contributed significantly to increase the crash worthiness of modern vehicles, this can also lead to difficulty when patient extrication is needed. This course will focus on techniques needed for patient access and disentanglement on modern vehicles.

13 - Traffic Incident Management (Chief Judy Thill) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - Many firefighters feel more unsafe working along a roadway than they do going into a burning building! All public safety personnel, not just firefighters, as well as their vehicles, continue to get struck at scenes at an alarming rate. In addition to being hit at the scene, first responders have also been killed traveling to emergency calls. Learn what to look out for when responding to and working at scenes, along with how to best communicate, coordinate and cooperate with other responders. The goal is to make sure everyone, including the traveling public, has the opportunity to go home when the call is done. ***LEO can earn 3 POST credits for this class.**

14 - Relief Trustee Basics (MSFDA – Ed Hoffman/PERA – Doug Anderson) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - This class is for the new Relief Trustee or an existing Trustee who wants to learn more about Relief Associations. The topics covered will include: what is a relief association, the responsibilities of the association and its trustees, the different types of relief associations in MN, an overview of the laws that apply to reliefs, investment options and bylaws. A representative from PERA will be available to discuss the Statewide Volunteer Firefighters (SVF) Plan. ***Bring your Association Bylaws and Records**

15 – Don't Get Burned: Fire Code for the First Truck (SFM) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - Code inspections occur in many occupancy types behind the scenes, and locals may not even realize it. With so many different occupancies and license types, it can be challenging for the first due engine staff to understand specific requirements. This session will go over the state agencies that are out completing inspections in your backyard and help identify the best contacts to raise concerns to when found. State Fire Marshal division staff will guide you through the basics of a company-level inspection, so you have the tools to identify hazards when out on a run. Instructors will help you understand what you can and shouldn't mess with on a sprinkler system riser during those 2 am water flow calls. Code can be a lot to digest, but we are here to help!

16 – Leadership & Resiliency in the Fire Service (MnFIRE – Becki Rowan) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - This session equips fire service professionals with strategies to lead resilient, healthy teams by promoting mental, physical, and emotional well-being across all ranks. From peer support and fitness to generational mentorship and self-care, participants will explore practical tools and leadership approaches that build a strong, adaptive workforce ready to meet the challenges of the job and thrive throughout their careers.