



Minnesota State Fire Department Association 149th Annual Conference and Fire School

Breezy Point, MN September 17-19, 2026

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 - \$300 per firefighter (\$325 if after July 15, 2026)

Guests - \$50

Firefighter Registration Fee is eligible for MBFTE reimbursement

Registration Deadline: August 15, 2026

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 18, 2026 - Morning Class Descriptions 7:30 am – 11:30 am

Classes #1-5 (pick 1)

1 - Advanced Water Rescue for First Responders (Dan Bernardy) 8 Hours – CLASSROOM AND HANDS ON - This course involves specialized techniques and training for complex, high-risk environments like moving water, floods, victims trapped in vehicles, and nighttime searches and rescues, strictly adhering to NFPA 1670 technician-level standards. Key areas include use of intermediate level rope systems, in-water contact rescues, rescue boat operations, victim management and medical stabilization. This is not a swiftwater rescue course. Training includes the use of specialized PPE and rescue equipment. Prerequisites include basic swimming ability, physical readiness, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team. **Students must provide their own/FD PPE including rescue swimmer PFD, swimming apparel, water shoes/boots (snug fitting boots or tennis shoes are acceptable, no sandals or crocs), towels and dry clothing for post training.**

2 – Heavy Truck vs Auto Extrication Crashes (Alex Air – Al Ebbinga) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM AND HANDS ON – Large truck vs. Auto accidents can present significant challenges. This course will cover extrication and stabilization of an override/underide situation with a truck and a passenger vehicle. Course will cover stabilization and lifting of the truck, extrication of car occupants and extrication of truck occupants. **Full PPE required.**

3 - Reading the Fire: Dynamics, Flow Paths, and Tactical Impact (FIRE, Inc. - Mike Schwankl) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - Fire doesn't behave randomly—it follows predictable patterns driven by fuel, air, and environment. This class dives into the science behind fire behavior and turns it into practical, street-level decision making. We'll break down what fuels really are, why understanding their characteristics matters, and how they influence fire growth and intensity. From there, we'll tackle flow paths—how fire, heat, and smoke move through a structure—and what you must identify and control to keep conditions from rapidly deteriorating. Learn what to look for during your assessment, how your actions can improve or worsen the environment, and how to apply water effectively—where it matters and in the right amount. We'll also connect the dots between compartment geometry, ambient conditions, and fire behavior, giving you a clearer picture of how buildings and environments shape the fight. This class is designed to help you read conditions faster, think more critically, and operate more safely and effectively on the fireground.

4 - Modernizing Fire Incident Reporting: NERIS Functionality (SFM) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - The National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) is here. New modules, new fields, and new terms. A new way for the fire service to approach post-incident documentation. Course content will include the most recent updates with NERIS, fire incident reporting requirements, and utilize scenarios for hands-on practice with the NERIS incident report. The course will also give an overview on how fire incident reporting is important for your community risk reduction plan. This course is for individuals who complete fire incident reports in accordance with MN Statute. Training officers who can teach other department staff how to complete fire incident reports and fire officers and chiefs who want to learn more about how NERIS impacts their department.

5 - Mastering Investment & Financial Planning for Fire Relief Associations (Parr McKnight Wealth Management Group) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - With over 30 years of experience serving more than 100 fire relief associations across Minnesota, Parr McKnight Wealth Management Group brings deep expertise in the unique financial challenges trustees face. This session will give both new and experienced trustees practical knowledge and actionable tools to confidently oversee relief association investments while enhancing their own retirement readiness. Topics include investment fundamentals, fiduciary responsibilities, creating and maintaining an effective investment policy statement, and understanding the psychology of investing. The class will also feature a practical review of benefit levels and strategies for working with your city to pursue thoughtful, sustainable increases over time. The session will conclude with expert guidance on personal retirement planning, including retirement preparation, funding strategies, and maximizing pension benefits. Attendees will leave better equipped to strengthen their relief association's financial future and make more informed decisions about their own.

Friday, September 18, 2026 - Afternoon Class Descriptions 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Classes #6-10 (pick 1, unless taking 8-hour class)

6 – Advanced Company Operation – Making the Stretch (Customized Fire Rescue Training - Scott Carriveau/FIRE, Inc – Mike Schwankl) – 4 Hours – HANDS ON - The true art of Firemanship is learned through a desire to be your best, and the determination to never stop learning and honing our craft. This abridged course will highlight modules of the advanced program and is designed to have the firefighters cut down on scene time from the parking brake to getting water on the seat of the fire. The faster we get water on the fire, the more quickly things get better, enhancing victim search and survivability. This hands on session will highlight: cutting mask up time, tools & PPE, radios. Making the Stretch: Hose lays and deployments, variations of flat load, modified minuteman load, triple layer, splitting the load, adding length, hose straps. Predicting the hose lay, advancing charged lines, FF placement, managing corners, stairs, transitional attack. Putting it all together with hot roll-ins. **Full PPE and SCBA required.**

7 - Motorsports Event Emergency Response (Alex Air – Al Ebbinga & Chris LeTendre) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM AND HANDS ON - Motorsports events take place regularly, including dirt track racing, drag racing, demolition derbies, tractor pulls, autocross, go karts, etc. These events can present unique challenges for responders; like specialized fuels, high performance engines, safety equipment worn by the drivers, roll cages, etc. This course will prepare responders to deal with these emergency situations. **Required PPE: Turn-out or tech rescue gear, or SFI 3.2A-5 rated fire suit, boots, gloves, helmet and eye protection.**

Continued on next page

8 - Current MN OSHA and Your Fire Department (SFM) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - Hear from experts from MOSHA, and other organizations, and have opportunities to ask questions about your compliance topics. OSHA has provided support to fire departments in Minnesota since the inception of the 1980 Fire Brigade Standard. The State Fire Marshal (SFM), Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA), Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA), MOSHA, Minnesota Association of Townships, MPFF, and League of Minnesota Cities, have joined forces to break down barriers for fire department compliance. We will examine requirements, discuss tools that are available to assist fire departments, best practices, and identify support opportunities. This course is for individuals who are responsible for fire department safety and regulations. Additionally, training officers responsible for developing training programs targeting state and federal compliance with training competencies in accordance with MN Statute.

9 - 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. Additionally, staff with the Department of Revenue will walk through state aid programs for fire relief associations. There will be lots of opportunities to speak with Office of the State Auditor and Department of Revenue staff, who will be ready to answer your questions about state aid eligibility, how municipal contributions are determined, and questions about your bylaws.

10 – 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.

Saturday, September 19, 2026 - Class Descriptions 8 am – 12 pm

Classes #11-15 (pick 1)

11 – Fire Engine Pump Operations: Fundamentals, Fast Water, and Finding the Problem– (FIRE, Inc. – Jory Danielson) – 4 Hours – HANDS ON - This course is designed for both new and experienced fire engine operators looking to strengthen their pump operation skills. Participants will review the fundamental steps of fire pump operation, with a strong emphasis on delivering *fast water* and maintaining *smooth, efficient transitions* during evolving fireground operations. The class will cover operating from tank water, transitioning to a draft, and relay pumping concepts. Students will gain practical insight into establishing a reliable water supply and managing pump pressures under changing conditions. In addition, the course will address common pump operation challenges and provide proven troubleshooting techniques to quickly identify and correct problems when they arise. Whether you are just beginning as an operator or looking to refine your skills, this course will reinforce best practices, improve confidence, and enhance your ability to keep water flowing when it matters most. **Full PPE required.**

12 – EV Emergency Response (Alex Air – Al Ebbinga) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - This training course is designed to equip first responders with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage incidents involving electric vehicles (EVs), specifically those involving crashes or fires. Participants will learn about the unique risks associated with EVs and the specialized techniques required to safely respond to such emergencies.

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 – The First 5 Minutes: Where Incidents are Won or Lost (FIRE, Inc - Mike Schwankl) – 4 Hours – CLASSROOM - Those first five minutes on scene set the tone for everything that follows. In this high-impact session, we break down the critical decisions that define incident success—from size-up to strategy, from priorities to command presence. Learn how to stay sharp under pressure, establish clear objectives, and avoid the common pitfalls that can derail operations before they even begin. Whether you're riding the front seat or preparing to step into leadership, this class will give you the mindset and tools to take control early, think clearly, and lead with confidence when it matters most.