"THE PROGRAM PROVIDED A GREAT MIX OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND WITH PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS."

LOCATION & TRAVEL

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Annapolis in Annapolis, Maryland, will serve as the host site for the seminar. Air travelers should plan to fly into Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), located approximately 25 miles from the hotel.

Participants should plan to arrive at the hotel no later than 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 28, 2027, to allow sufficient time for check-in and preparation for the seminar.

CERTIFICATION

Participants who successfully complete the course requirements and actively participate throughout the seminar will be awarded course certification upon completion.

ATTENDANCE FEE

$2,285 per person – Includes six nights of lodging at the hotel.
$1,500 per person – For participants who do not require hotel accommodations.

Both registration fees include:

- All course materials
- Morning and afternoon refreshments
- Off-site activities
- Seminar instruction and related course programming

REGISTRATION CLOSES FEBRUARY 15, 2027

Space is limited to 100 attendees. Cancellations received after February 25, 2027 will incur a $125 processing fee. For more information please email: sac@mfri.org or call: 301-226-9960.

TO REGISTER VISIT WWW.MFRI.ORG/SAC OR SCAN THE QR CODE

2027 LEAD WITH CONFIDENCE RESPOND WITH PURPOSE

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 5



NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE STAFF AND COMMAND COURSE

www.mfri.org/sac

Presented by Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute | University of Maryland in cooperation with The International Association of Fire Chiefs

SPEAKERS

Alex Cardella
Intelligence Branch Chief

Alex Cardella serves as the Intelligence Branch Chief at the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center. With expertise in emergency management and homeland security, Alex provides terrorism and homeland security briefings to non-traditional stakeholders, including fire and EMS, emergency management, public health, healthcare, and transportation.

Amy Dant
Lieutenant Paramedic (Ret.)

Amy Dant retired as a lieutenant paramedic from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service in Maryland. Drawing on personal experience, she works to raise awareness of cancer in the fire service and promote prevention, education, and early action. She is committed to helping change the culture of the fire service and encouraging greater awareness of occupational cancer risks and firefighter health.

Dr. Richard Gasaway
Founder, "Situational Awareness Matters!"

Richard Gasaway is the founder of Situational Awareness Matters!, an organization dedicated to improving how individuals, teams, and organizations recognize risk, process information, and make effective decisions in stressful and rapidly changing situations. His work focuses on strengthening situational awareness, decision-making, and performance in high-pressure environments.

Dr. David Griffin
Instructor and Author

Dr. David Griffin is an internationally recognized speaker, instructor, and author of *In Honor of the Charleston 9 – A Study of Change Following Tragedy.* He also serves as Assistant Chief of Administration in Charleston, South Carolina, bringing extensive experience in fire service leadership, organizational change, and professional development to his work as an educator and speaker.

Dr. Daniel Madrzykowski
Senior Director of Research, Fire Safety Research Institute

Dr. Daniel Madrzykowski is the Senior Director of Research at the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI), part of UL Research Institute. With 32 years of experience in fire safety research, he is internationally recognized for his work advancing fire safety research and development in fire dynamics, fire-test methods, and fire investigation.

Pete Piringer
Public Information Officer

With a reputation built on experience, credibility, and a deep understanding of public safety, Pete Piringer is nationally recognized as a trusted voice in emergency communications. He is currently the PIO for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service in Maryland and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Pete is also an adjunct instructor at the National Emergency Training Center and FEMA's National Disaster & Emergency Management University.

John Rukavina, JD, EFO
Director of Public Fire Safety Services

John Rukavina is the Director of Public Fire Safety Services, where he specializes in executive consulting, leadership, and professional education. He earned his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School and was a charter participant in the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. He was also selected as a FEMA Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Dave Statter
Public Information Officer

Dave Statter is the founder and partner at PIO Academy, a comprehensive communications training program serving fire, EMS, and emergency management agencies. With more than 40 years of experience as a reporter, he also leads STATter 911 Communications, helping public safety agencies navigate crisis communications and media relations.

Keith Stakes

Keith is a Lead Research Engineer with UL's Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI). He is a Fire Protection Engineer with expertise in the study of fire service tactics, firefighter safety, and fireground operations. He currently serves with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad in Maryland, as their Fire/Rescue Deputy Chief. He also serves on the NFPA Technical Committee for Fire Service Training, IFSTA validation committee for Building Construction, and the Editorial Board for FireRescue1 and Fire Chief.

The National Fire Service Staff and Command Course is designed for senior administrative personnel, chief officers, and company-level officers. The course brings together nationally recognized experts to examine the challenges shaping today's fire and emergency services.

Over five days, participants will explore emerging threats, leadership challenges, operational safety, communications, and effective decision-making. The course provides practical insights and perspectives that can be applied to today's increasingly complex public safety environment.

The program encourages the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices with colleagues and fire service leaders from across the country, creating opportunities for meaningful professional discussion and collaboration.

"THE SPEAKERS ARE EXTREMELY INFORMATIVE. THERE WAS SO MUCH TO UNPACK."

CRITICAL ISSUES & CHALLENGES YOU'LL EXPLORE

- Cancer in the Fire Service
- Culture Change Following Tragedy: *In Honor of the Charleston 9*
- Fire Dynamics on the Fireground
- Lithium-Ion Batteries/Electric Vehicles
- Firehouse Law for Fire Service Leaders
- Flawed Situational Awareness: *The Stealth Killer of First Responders*
- Leveraging Intelligence to Improve Fire/EMS Preparedness, Operations, and Safety
- Public Information: *Tell Your Story or Someone Else Will*