



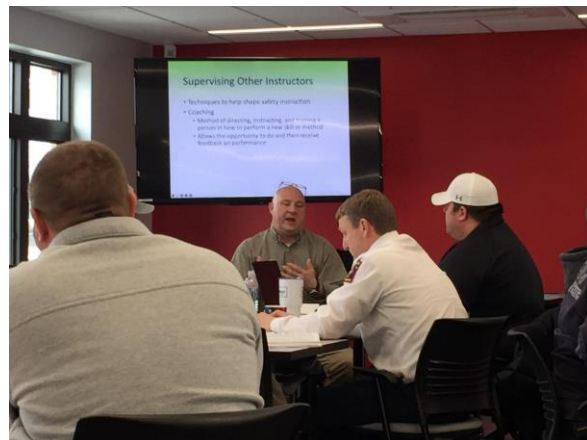
WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTORS (WSESI) 2023 ANNUAL INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE

The WSESI Annual Instructors Conference continued to break new ground in that the 2023 program, hosted by Fond du Lac Fire Rescue (FDLFR), featured the Live Fire Credential training of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI), February 17-19, 2023.

As in the past, pre-Conference training led off the week. Similar to last year, the course offered was Emergency Services Instructor (ESI) II –Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Fire Education’s own curriculum for that certification level. The course, combining a class and a Train-the-Trainer, was delivered by WSESI Training & Programs chair David Yakowenko. Over a dozen instructors, representing districts from Northcentral to Gateway, attended the training, which culminated in a proctored state exam Thursday afternoon.

In addition to our flagship Program Track A (Instructor Development), Track B (NFPA 1403 Live Burn Compliance) was comprised entirely of the ISFSI Fixed Facility program. Track C featured the National Fire Academy (NFA) two-day course Incident Safety Officer (ISO).

The Friday program kicked off in the morning with Day 1 of the ISFSI Live Fire Credential course. This program is regarded as the ‘gold standard’ in vetting fire instructors for conducting live fire training in their local jurisdictions. Instructors Bill D’Agostino and Matt Hoppel engaged the fully booked class with lecture and activities based on the live fire training standard, NFPA 1403.



Dave Yakowenko conducts pre-Conference Training – ESI II

In addition to the NFPA standard, Friday’s full-day session covered material outlined in the recommended course text, Jones & Bartlett’s Live Fire Training, 2nd Edition. Participants conducted tabletop



ISFSI instructors convene the Live Fire classroom session.

exercises and practiced inspections of personal protective equipment (PPE) as part of the safety requirements of the standard. The class also conducted an on-site walk-through of FDLFR's training burn facility.

Meanwhile, the Friday Afternoon Workshop convened for participants in Tracks A & C, as well as some Friday-only day attendees. Marc Hill of Wausau led off with "Winning Strategies for the Field Training Officer (FTO)," followed by "Beards, License Plates, and Tee Shirts,"

focusing on recruitment and retention in the emergency services, presented by Red Van Ert.

Attendees from all three program tracks converged for the Friday evening Dinner Buffet at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center. The 2022 Instructor of the Year award was presented to Jim Knowles of FDLFR, nominated by Fond du Lac Fire Chief Erick Gerritson.

After dinner, WSESI members settled in for the Society's 62nd Annual Meeting. Three Board members were up for re-election: Northeast Regional Director Tom Nelson, Northwest Regional Director Red Van Ert, and Director At-Large Lee Smith. All three were re-elected to a new two-year term. The Trustees' meeting of the William E. Clark Scholarship Fund Charitable Trust followed.

The Saturday program for Instructor Development Track A featured a trio of workshops at FDLFR – "Instruction and Training to Repair, Maintain, Replace, or Strengthen" with Milwaukee Fire Chief Aaron Lipski, followed by "Evaluating the Evaluator," presented by Marc Hill. The Saturday afternoon portion of Track A, "Firefighter I for the New Generation," was co-presented by Deb Westfahl and Tim Franz of Fox Valley Technical College, outlining techniques that address the needs of many young adults currently entering the emergency service disciplines.



Marc Hill presents for the Friday Workshop.



2022 Instructor of the Year recipient Jim Knowles accepting his award.

Meanwhile, with Friday's classroom learning under their belts, the Track B Live Fire students, lead instructors D'Agostino and Hoppel, and field support assistants Dave Yakowenko and Jim Flanagan, took to the field; specifically, to FDLFR's Public Safety Training Facility. Participants practiced the 'nuts and bolts' of a live fire burn plan, conducting evolutions in real time, rotating plan assignments and addressing instructional scenarios. The ISFSI program returned to Station 1 on Sunday for case study group presentations and the course exam.

In addition to these concurrent programs, WSESI and FDLFR hosted the National Fire Academy (NFA) two-day course Incident Safety Officer (ISO), delivered on Saturday and Sunday by NFA Adjunct Instructor Scott Barthelmass. Eighteen participants from area departments, both career and volunteer, were in attendance, including two who flew in for the weekend from Worcester, Massachusetts!

In addition to the presenters already mentioned, our sincere appreciation goes out to FDLFR Chief Erick Gerritson for his support as our Conference host, and all shifts at Station 1 for their accommodation of our program, but especially to Assistant Chief Jim Knowles for his tireless efforts making everything come together. BIG thanks go to Korie Gospodarski at Jones & Bartlett Public Safety Group, the Community Engagement department at 4imprint, and Oshkosh Fire & Police Equipment for their generous donations of drawing prizes at our Friday Dinner. Finally, our thanks to the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center for their accommodations and cuisine, Dyann Benson at Fond du Lac Community Development, and Darcie Holte and staff at Destination Lake Winnebago Region for their meeting support and complimentary materials.



NFPA 1403 class conducting fixed facility live fire evolutions.

Please save the dates for our next Annual Conference to come to Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, February 16-18, 2024 – plans are already underway!

These and other photos of our 2023 Annual Instructors Conference will be posted on the WSESI website's Photo Gallery (under the Events tab):

<https://www.wsesi.org/apps/photos/>

Check it out!

