

WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTORS (WSESI) 2022 ANNUAL INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE

The WSESI Annual Instructors Conference continued to break new ground in that the 2022 program was co-hosted by Fond du Lac Fire Rescue (FDLFR) and Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) in Fond du Lac, February 18-20, 2022.

As in the past, pre-Conference training led off the week. However, unlike the past, the course offered was

Emergency Services Instructor (ESI) II – part of the statewide rollout of Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Fire Education's own curriculum for that certification level. The course, combining a class, a pilot, and a Train-the-Trainer, was delivered by WSESI members Jim Austad,

Karl Sandry, and Brandon Hageman. Over a dozen instructors, representing districts from Northwood to Gateway, attended the training, which culminated in a proctored state exam Friday morning.



Karl Sandry conducts pre-Conference Training – ESI II

In addition to our flagship Program Track A (Instructor Development), Track B (NFPA 1403 Live Burn Compliance) returned to the Conference with this year's emphasis on Acquired Structure Preparation. Track C featured a second state-wide rollout with a

Train-the-Trainer workshop for Entry-Level Technical Rescue (ELTR). Completing the 'four-ring circus' was the National Fire Academy (NFA) two-day course Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations (STICO).



Chief Lipski at MPTC for the Friday Workshop.

The Friday afternoon program kicked off with two concurrent workshops. The first, "Tag-Team Chiefs" for Tracks A and C participants, featured City of Milwaukee Fire Chief Aaron Lipski with a review of the February 2020 active shooter event at Molson-Coors (Miller) Brewery. Topics

included training and preparation, policies and procedures, and a synopsis of the incident with radio traffic and satellite-view maps of the incident location. Chief Mike Stanley of the Oshkosh Fire Department followed with his presentation, "The Importance of the 4 C's: Diamond Standard Leadership," relating the qualities of an effective leader to the role of training personnel. The chiefs held their workshop at MPTC's World Link Conference Center.



A tabletop exercise in the NFPA 1403 classroom session.

Meanwhile, Track B lead instructor Dave Yakowenko convened the NFPA 1403 Live Burn Compliance class at FDLFR Station 1. In similar fashion to the 2020 offering, the course is based on National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA)® Standard 1403 on Live Fire Training. The standard provides for the practices and conditions that optimize the safety of all participants in a live fire training operation. Unlike the 2020 class, the emphasis for this year was centered on acquired structure preparation.

In addition to the NFPA standard, Friday's four-hour classroom session covered material outlined in the course text, Jones & Bartlett's Live Fire Training, 2nd Edition. Participants conducted tabletop exercises and

practiced inspections of personal protective equipment (PPE) as part of the safety requirements of the standard.

Attendees from all three program tracks converged for the Friday evening Dinner Buffet at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center. The 2021 Instructor of the Year award was presented to Tim Heiman of Oshkosh, nominated by Oshkosh Fire Chief Mike Stanley.

After dinner, WSESI members settled in for the Society's 61st Annual Meeting. Four Board members were up for re-election: President Jim Austad, Vice-President Ron Naab, Southeast Regional Director Dave Yakowenko, and Southwest Regional Director John Austad. All four were re-



L to R: Oshkosh Fire Chief Mike Stanley, guest presenter and Instructor of the Year nominator; Division Chief Tim Heiman, WSESI 2021 Instructor of the Year; Oshkosh FD Assistant Chief Brian Bending.

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 pair of workshops at FDLFR – “So You’re the New Training Officer!” with Jim Austad, followed by “Training for Success” co-presented by David Briggs and John Austad. These sessions are geared toward new small-department training officers, who may be starting out in their roles faced with the challenges of meeting regulatory and accountability requirements with limited resources.



Instructor Development Track A participants in session.

Meanwhile, with Friday’s classroom learning under their belts, the Track B Live Burn students, lead instructor Yakowenko, and three assistant instructors (Red Van Ert, Mike Newton, and Jeff Dykes), took to the field; specifically, to a four-family residential

structure near downtown Fond du Lac. This older two-story house, provided for our use by Fond du Lac Community Development, is awaiting renovation and, while it was not available for live fire training, served as an example-rich platform from which to demonstrate and practice preparation procedures with the class.



NFPA 1403 class conducting acquired structure preparation activities.

Track C’s Saturday program was comprised of another statewide rollout – Entry Level Technical Rescue, a new class to be available for delivery through the Technical College system. The course outlines awareness-level knowledge for first responders dealing with emergencies containing one or more of the technical rescue disciplines covered by NFPA 1670.

This Train-the-Trainer workshop was conducted in the World Link Conference Center by David Briggs (straddling two program tracks at separate venues!), Tom Stuckart, Doug McElmury, and Chris Garrison,

members of the curriculum development committee for this course.

In addition to these three concurrent programs, FDLFR hosted the National Fire Academy (NFA) two-day course Strategy & Tactics for Initial Company Operations (STICO), delivered on Saturday and Sunday by NFA Adjunct Instructor Lane Heins. Twenty participants from area departments, both career and volunteer, were in attendance.



NFA STICO Class getting underway at FDLFR.

In addition to the presenters already mentioned, our sincere appreciation goes out to FDLFR Chief Peter O'Leary for his support as primary host, and all shifts at Station 1 for their accommodation of our program, but especially to Assistant Chief of Training Jim Knowles for his tireless efforts making everything come together. Many thanks also go to MPTC faculty fire instructor Aaron Paul for his assistance with getting presenters settled at World

Link. BIG thanks go to Korie Gospodarski at Jones & Bartlett Public Safety Group 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.

Please save the dates for our Conference to return to Fond du Lac, February 17-19, 2023 – plans are already underway!

These and other photos of our 2022 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!

