

72nd ANNUAL MFSIA CONFERENCE

Instructor Bio's

Shaun Abbey – Leadership, Promotions

Shaun Abbey has been in the fire service since 1990, starting out attending Kellogg Community College for Fire Science and working as a Paid-on-Call Firefighter in Springfield (MI). He has worked for the Kentwood Fire Department for the past 29 years serving as a Firefighter/EMT, Lieutenant, Captain and is currently a Battalion Chief. Over the past 20 years Shaun has been a formal leader in both the fire department and the union where he is currently the Second District Vice President for the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union. He is also a past Board President for the Great Lakes Burn Camp and is the Chair of the Michigan Joint Fire Service Council. Early in his career he focused on comprehensive practical training and now devotes more time to learning about leadership, command and organizational dynamics.

Shawn Allen – Firefighter Cancer Awareness

has been career firefighter with the City of Sterling Heights Fire Department for over 25 years. Presently the Fire Marshal of the fire prevention division. A Firefighter Cancer Support Network Instructor and MUSAR Instructor. Shawn is a manager of the Macomb County Technical Rescue Team and a Member of Michigan Task Force 1.

Dan Besson – Advertising, Branding/Marketing a Course for Success – Putting the Power of Advertising to Work for You

Dan Besson has been in the fire service for 28 years and has risen through the ranks from a paid-on-call firefighter through fire chief. Chief Besson took over as Leland Township's fire chief in 2017 – coming from Van Buren Township where he is served in a wide range of roles including as Public Information Officer – standing before the lights, camera, and microphones selling messages to the public. Chief Besson is a certified Fire Instructor I & II and a state-licensed Paramedic/I.C. He represents the International Association of Fire Chiefs on the N.F.P.A 72 – National Fire Alarm & Signaling Code committee.

Brian Blomstrom – McNeil Drivers TtT

Brian K. Blomstrom is a command officer with the Greenville Department of Public Safety and is the Police and Fire Training Sergeant for that organization. He supervises a designated patrol shift, the GDPS Fire Investigation Unit, training within the organization, and has been employed with the agency for over 15 years. He is recognized as a Fire Investigation Technician and a Certified Instructor with the International Association of Fire Investigators. Brian has qualified as an expert witness in Circuit Court regarding fire investigation and was a recipient of the Michigan Arson Prevention Committee's Investigator of the Year Award in 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree from Lake Superior State University, a Master of Public Administration Degree from Grand Valley State University, successfully completed the Police Executive Management Program through Northwestern University, achieved the Professional Emergency Manager designation with the Michigan State Police, and is recognized as a Chief Fire Officer through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Eric Burghardt – Know Your Flow, Conducting an In-House Pump Operator Academy Utilizing Online Component

is a 15-year veteran of the fire service. Eric is currently a Captain for Oshtemo Township Fire & Rescue where he serves as the Training & Safety Officer for the department. He is a certified Fire Instructor I and a licensed EMT-Basic. He is a graduate of Kalamazoo Valley Community College where he earned an Associates of Fire Science Degree and Siena Heights University where he earned a Bachelor of Public Safety Studies Degree. Eric resides in Mattawan Michigan with wife and two children.

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Jake Fedel – Probationary Firefighting Training

Jake Fedel started his career in the fire service with Inkster (MI) Fire Department when he was just 20 years old. His underlying tenacity and leadership were quickly recognized as he was promoted to Sergeant. As a Sergeant, Jake served primarily as a company officer and at times shift commander. In 2019, Jake decided to accept a position with the Northville Township (MI) Fire Department where he serves as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Jake has always been excited to learn and teach the various disciplines within the fire service, including EMS. He currently instructs a vocational program for high school students designed to train and certify students to the EMT-B level through the NREMT. Jake aspires to be an Instructor I and EMT-P Instructor/Coordinator. His studies of interest include leadership, followership, organizational culture, organizational change, evolving EMS, and the science of fire dynamics. He was a successful probationary Firefighter in Northville Township and is striving for continuous improvement personally, organizationally, and industry wide.

Paul Firth – Arson Class

Chris Gruener – Modern Engines

I started my fire service career in 2015 as a volunteer with the City of Mt. Clemens Fire Department. In 2017 I was hired as a paid on-call firefighter with Macomb Township. During 2018 I transitioned to being fulltime career firefighter with Macomb Township. After getting hired with Macomb Township I began to be more involved in training and developed a love for Engine Company work and fire hydraulics. As a self-proclaimed “Nozzle Nerd” I have traveled across the country to attend classes such as Nozzle Forward, Hydrants to Nozzles, 350 Line Conference and Water on the Fire. Prior to joining the fire service, I worked as a HVAC computer controls engineer for over 16 years.

Bill Hopson – Improving Your Instructor Competency, Developing & Implementing Realistic Rapid Intervention Training

is a 36-year member of the New Jersey Fire Service. As a 3rd generation fireman, he began his service with the Seaside Heights, NJ Fire Department and currently serves as the Captain and Training Officer with the Beachwood NJ Fire Department. For 30 years, he served with the Ocean County, NJ Fire Marshal’s Office as a Deputy Fire Marshal. He has been a certified fire instructor since 1982 and has instructed at multiple conferences and venues across the country and around the world. He has been a lead H.O.T. instructor, lead Workshop instructor and classroom presenter at FDIC, in Indianapolis for nearly 20 years.

Rick Humphreys – Arson Class

Rick has worked in the paid-on-call ranks with the Saginaw Township Fire Department since 1987. He has held the positions of Firefighter and Captain and served fourteen years as Assistant Chief. He currently is a full-time Fire Inspector / Fire Investigator with the Saginaw Township, as position he has held since 2006.

He holds a bachelor’s Degree in History from Alma College, is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program and is credentialed as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO). He is state and nationally certified as a Professional Emergency Manager, Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI), Fire Instructor II, Fire Inspector II, Fire Plan Examiner and Fire Officer III.

He has been actively involved as a fire instructor for over seventeen years, instructing incident command, fire officer, and fire investigation classes. His other fire service duties include serving as Region III Coordinator for MI-MABAS.

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Jack Johnson - Tactical Considerations and Initial Company Operations at a Structure Fire

Battalion Chief of Special Operations for the City of Grand Rapids Fire Department and a former board member of the MFSIA. He has over 22 years of experience with the City of Grand Rapids rising through the ranks from Firefighter up to Battalion Chief.

Kyle Lewis – Probationary Firefighter Training

Kyle Lewis has been a member of the fire service for over nine years, serving the last seven as a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Northville Township (MI) Fire Department. Kyle was a standout probationary employee who showed a hunger for knowledge and a commitment to excellence. He strives to improve all aspects of the organization in any way that he can. Kyle is currently a mentor for the Northville Township Fire Department Probationary Firefighter Training Program and is responsible for providing the guidance needed to be a successful probationary firefighter. He has sought out many informal and formal leadership positions including his current service as President of IAFF Local 3961. Kyle holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Technology and a master's degree in Organizational Leadership. Kyle is diligent in his work and uses his attention to detail and strong leadership traits to continuously set a high standard for himself and others. These attributes make him a critical member of the Northville Township Fire Department as he represents both the present success and future growth of the organization.

Rich Mahaney – Firefighting and Hazmat Decontamination, A look at Common Chemicals

An outstanding and creative instructor/trainer with domestic and international teaching experience that has been training adult learners since 1972. Training presentations take advantage of my experience as a manager/supervisor in business and managing adult workers to provide great work output, great customer service, managing costs, individual employee self-development work and productivity improvement and to prepare for future career opportunities. Training presentations have also focused on corporate and plant level loss prevention/safety, fire protection, emergency preparedness/management, emergency response (fire and hazardous materials, and training and exercise program design and delivery.

Jesse Marcotte – Probationary Firefighter Training

Jesse is the Training Coordinator for the Northville Township (MI) Fire Department where he has served since 2002. He is passionate about taking an innovative approach to training and continuing education. As an educator, Jesse specializes in curriculum design, educational methodology and educational technology. He is an active member of the ISFSI and currently serves as the Project Leader for the Mentoring/Coaching Initiative as well as an instructor for the Understanding and Fighting Basement Fires program. Jesse has been fortunate to present at several state and national conferences. He has a master's degree in Public Safety & Emergency Management and is a graduate of EMU's Fire Staff & Command School. Jesse places an emphasis on building construction, fire dynamics, strategic level command and operational readiness. He is also the Training Coordinator for the Western Wayne County Urban Search and Rescue Team. Jesse continues to seek out new ways to develop, master and maintain the many skills needed by today's fire service providers.

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David J. Purchase – Emergency, Emergency Services Trailer Operations & Safety – Instructor Level TTT

Chief Purchase served 38 years in the fire service retiring in 2013 after 14 years as Fire Chief for the City of Norton Shores. He also served 7 months as the interim Fire Chief for the City of Lansing, Michigan and is the owner of Fire Mark Advantage LLC a training and consulting firm. He currently resides in Muskegon, Michigan with his wife Kari. He has been a Michigan certified fire instructor for over 40 years having taught over 500 fire officer programs around the State of Michigan since 1996. An EFO graduate of the National Fire Academy, Chief Purchase has received various recognitions throughout his career including the Michigan Jaycees, State Firefighter of the Year, Fire Service Instructor of the Year presented by the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association and the Michigan Association Fire Chiefs, Fire Chief of The Year. As a Governor appointee, Chief Purchase served ten years on the Michigan Firefighters Training Council. He is a Past President of both the Western Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs and the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs. Chief Purchase has presented programs at Fire Service conferences around the Country including VCOS, FDIC, FDIC East, Ohio State Fire School, Michigan and Wisconsin state fire chiefs, Fire House Expo and the Eastern Michigan Fire School of Staff and Command. He has been a contributing author for several Jones and Bartlett publications including Chief Fire Officer's Desk Reference (Training Chapter) and Fire Service Instructor and is the author of the Jones and Bartlett Chief Officer 3rd edition text.

Stacy Robinson – Linear vs Adaptive Testing

Stacy is a career Fire and EMS professional with 23 years of service, while being involved in education/instruction for the past 17 years.

Stacy is presently employed with Madison Township Fire Department as a Captain/Paramedic having roles in Fire and EMS education. He has a long history of Fire and EMS education roles and course coordination which have aided in the professional development of fire service personnel.

Jean-Christophe Sicard – (FEME), Introduction to Radiological/Nuclear WMD Operations AWR-140 Awareness level course

Jean Christophe "JC" Sicard is an experienced firefighter with over 20 years of service in 2 countries to the safety of the community. He demonstrates this commitment through continued education, certification, and personal growth through belonging to professional associations. His professional evolution has allowed him to educate fellow firefighters and the community in fire prevention and safety. As a Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor, and Hazmat Response Team member, he has worked to assure code enforcement and incident recovery. He is married to Lori, a nurse administrator in emergency, trauma, and critical care and has a 22 year old son, Tryston, an electrical contractor, a 32 year old stepson, Caleb, who as a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force, was physician of the year in 2019 and a 31 year old step daughter, Ashley who is a Account Manager with a international benefit corporation. His message to you, "If you learn one thing today that helps you make the difference between life and death, I have accomplished my goal"

Steve Staweck – Modern Engines

Steve started his career in 2001 with the Lenox Township fire department as a paid-on-call firefighter. During that time, he earned his Medical First Responder license. In 2004 he was hired by the Macomb Township Fire Department as a paid-on-call firefighter. In 2008 he was promoted to Sergeant and in 2009 he earned his Emergency Medical Technicians license. Steve has been actively involved with training throughout his career and in 2013 along with his promotion to fulltime Sergeant, he was also assigned to the Training Division as Training Officer. His responsibilities include fire suppression, research, development, instruction, and leads the training division. Steve earned his Associates Degree in Fire Science from Macomb Community College. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in Fire Administration.

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Justin Steeby – New Technologies in Hazardous Materials

Justin has worked for the Grand Rapids Fire Department since 2010 and is currently a Lieutenant on Ladder Co. #1. Justin is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program as well as an Instructor 2. He also serves as the GRFD's HazMat Team Assistant Program Manager and is a member of the City's Technical Rescue Team. To maintain a well-rounded knowledge of the fire service, Justin has worked as a contractor in the private sector of hazmat as well as an instructor at several county Fire Academies, community colleges and the GRFD Training Division.

Bill Parker – Karlin Road Brush Fire

Bill is the Fire Chief of Blair Township Fire Department. Bill is currently certified to the NFPA Fire Instructor I level. Bill also is the county training chair for Leelanau County. He is the Lead fire Instructor at the Northwest Regional Fire Training Center.

Teresa Robinson - Motivating Students Who don't want to be in class

Stacy Robinson – Linear vs Adaptive Testing

Alan Styles - HIPP

Alan is a fourth-generation fire fighter – he was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. Over the course of his career, which started in 1989, he covered all aspects of firefighting/EMS – rural, suburban, "Paid-on-Call" and Career, holding multiple positions including as a company officer and command officer. Alan also spent 10 years at a Level 1 Trauma Center as a Paramedic and EMS Educator during his tenure.

Alan holds degrees in Fire Service and EMS Management with minors in Psychology & Sociology. He has training certificates in Fire and EMS from several institutions in Illinois, Michigan, and the National Fire Academy. During his 30 years in the fire service, Alan has developed many skills with several specialties in ladder and heavy rescue work. Alan also lectures on career motivation not only for firefighters and their departments but other organizations as well, he also lectures on mental wellness of first responders.

In 2010, Alan accepted the Fire Chiefs' position in Dalton Township and moved with his family to Michigan. Alan is the Past President of the Muskegon Area Fire Chiefs, Past President of Michigan MABAS, Past President of Western Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, and is a current Council Member of the Michigan Firefighters Training Council representing the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.

He and wife of 23 years Ann, have two adult sons Cody & Casey (Cody is special needs, with autism and is developmentally delayed, but an amazing kid. Casey has followed in his father's footsteps and joined the fire service and "works" for his dad). Alan believes strongly in "paying it forward" and helping wherever he can for anyone.

Ask anyone who knows him, and they will confirm Alan's motto: "We don't train 'til we get it right; we train 'til we can't get it wrong."

Jim Tuller – Arson Class

Is currently the Fire Chief, Traverse City Fire Department.