

# 73rd ANNUAL MFSIA CONFERENCE

## Instructor Bio's

### **Dan Besson – Slogans, Slippery Slopes, and the other “S” word (....You know the one we can't say)**

Chief Besson has been in the fire service for 30 years and has risen through the ranks from a paid-on-call firefighter through fire chief. He 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.

### **Jennifer Besson - Slogans, Slippery Slopes, and the other “S” word (You know .... the one we can't say)**

Mrs. Besson not only helps people needing assistance in an emergency room – she helps her family and friends avoid the pitfalls of advertising gimmicks by doing all the online shopping for them – leaving nothing left for them to buy except for cheap dog toys and forged copies of *Whistler's Mother*. If Amazon Prime had a diamond status for their members, she would be one. In addition to helping her husband present here – she leads in-house trainings and courses in the hospital setting too.

### **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.

### **John R. Brophy – Multi-Family, Non-Highrise Residential Firefighting**

MSHS, FACPE, Captain (ret.) Saginaw Township (MI) Fire Department, has over 39 years in the fire service as a firefighter, engineer, officer, and instructor. He began his fire service career in New Jersey and is a life member of the New Jersey State Firefighters' Association. He is a US Navy Veteran, having served at home and abroad as a Corpsman. Captain (ret.) Brophy earned the IFSAC Level II Instructor credential and has presented fire, EMS, and leadership topics at local, state, national, and international venues. He was the 2018 Michigan Eastern Region Fire Instructor of the Year and the 2018 Saginaw Township Fire Department Firefighter of the Year. He was also awarded the Saginaw 100 Club Silver Chalice Award and numerous other individual and meritorious unit citations in fire, EMS, and the military.

### **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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## **Chief Adam Carroll - ...but are they confident?**

Chief Carroll has been in the fire service since 1985, working for Hartland Township until the creation of the Hartland Deerfield Fire Authority in 2003. Prior to being appointed Fire Chief, he married his wife Cheri in 1996 and has two daughters and son. He has served in the roles of Deputy Chief, Fire Marshal, Asst. Chief, Department Training Officer, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Firefighter, and Cadet. He participates in his community and the larger public safety arenas as Secretary of the Hartland Enrichment and Recreation Organization Board, Chair of the Livingston County Fire Chiefs Association, Chair of the Livingston County Fire Service Training Committee, Vice Chair of the Livingston County Specialized Response Teams Board, Vice Chair of the Livingston County Incident Management Team, Chair of Livingston County 911 Administrative Oversight Board, Instructor for the Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training (RAFT), Planning Team Manager for Michigan Task Force 1, Member of the Michigan State 911 Committee, and is active with the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs on various committees.

## **Mark Fankhauser -Captain - Grand Rapids Fire Department - MFSIA – Keynote Address What Is Your Impact**

Mark began his Fire and EMS service in 1989 on a small community fire department in North Carolina while serving active duty with the US Army. Upon his Expiration-Tour of Service (ETS) of active duty, he returned to Michigan and attended Davenport College and Grand Rapids Junior College. While attending college Mark continued to serve in the US Army Reserves. After receiving his paramedic certification and licensure, he worked for a private ambulance service and a volunteer fire department. Seeking to improve his career opportunities, he was hired as a career member for a small combination fire department and served as the Union President of the IAFF Local. During this time, Mark obtained his fire service instructor certification, EMS Instructor Coordinator licensure, and fire officer III certification. In 2003 he was hired by the Grand Rapids Fire Department and has promoted through the positions of Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain - EMS Coordinator, and finally Captain - Fire Suppression.

Mark earned his A.A.S of Fire Science from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is working on a B.A.S. of Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University School of Fire Staff and Command. Mark strives to improve the fire service by actively providing Fire and EMS education. His dedication and professionalism were noted by the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services, and he serves on the Curriculum Committee and as a BFS FFD Area 14 (Muskegon & Newaygo) Training Coordinator.

Over the years, Mark has come to understand the simple power of engagement. It is not a particularly difficult thing, nor does it require profound insight. It can be incremental so don't plan on making it monumental. Each morning, get out of bed, look in the eyes of the person you see in the mirror and simply say, today make something positive happen. Take the things that are within your sphere of influence, understand them, invest your time and passion into them, and do them well.

## **Garrett Fairchild - Slogans, Slippery Slopes, and the other “S” word (...You know the one we can't say)**

Chief Fairchild has been in the fire service for 27 years and has risen through the ranks from paid-on-call firefighter through Fire Chief. Chief Fairchild took over Grand Traverse Band Fire Rescue in 2019. Chief Fairchild is a certified Fire Instructor and a licensed AEMT/IC. He currently serves as the Leelanau County Fire Chief's Association President.

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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**

## **Rob Gauthier – Slogans, Slippery Slopes, and the other “S” word (You know .... the one we can’t say)**

Mr. Gauthier is a jack-of-all-trades kind of guy when it comes to acting and advertising. After appearing on the big screen as an actor and key grip in Missouri he turned his attention to delivering the sports and weather at a local Dexter, Missouri public channel. He then added advertising specialist to his resume – selling and writing commercials for a variety of customers. A graduate of Glen Lake High School in Leelanau County – he returned home after exploring everything the *Show Me State* had to offer – raising a family, entertaining people locally, and being the Master of Ceremonies of the Cedar Polka Festival. Although Chief Besson jokes with Mr. Gauthier by telling him he only has a voice for radio the reality is he has a voice that will draw you in to his message.

## **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 HVAC computer controls engineer for over 16 years.

## **Dan Hammerberg – Instructor I – SMOKE Training**

## **Bill Hopson – Leadership for the Fire Service Instructor**

Bill Hopson is a third-generation fireman, who began his firefighter career in 1978 with the Seaside Heights NJ Fire Department. He is the current Captain and Training Officer for the Beachwood NJ Fire Department, where he has completed 31 years of active service. During his time in the fire service, he has presented training across the country and in various countries around the world. He has been a classroom presenter, lead workshop presenter and lead H.O.T. presenter for FDIC and has taught for Firehouse Expo, Firehouse West, FDIC East, FDIC West and multiple regional conferences. He has previously taught at the Michigan Fire Instructors Conference and delivered the conferences initial keynote address. He is the Past President and a founding member of the NJ F.O.O.L.S. and considers it a privilege to be invited to this conference.

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## **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.

## **Mike Kennedy – Training for a Black Swan incident**

is a 27-year fire service veteran and chief of the Ann Arbor (MI) Fire Department. He is a CPSE Chief Fire Officer, a Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Instructor II, and a Michigan State Police professional emergency manager. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Administration degree from Eastern Michigan University.

## **John Lapenta – Technically Speaking, preparing your department for a technical rescue response**

John is a 21 year veteran of the fire service serving as a Lieutenant/Training Officer for the Northville City Fire Department (MI). He is a State of Michigan Instructor II. He holds certifications in Confined Space Rescue; Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, Structural Collapse, Tower Rescue, Machine Rescue, Heavy Truck Rescue, and Advanced Vehicle Extrication. John is a charter member of the Western Wayne Urban Search and Rescue Team and serves as a Rescue Squad Officer (RSO). Rescue Specialist. In addition he is a Member of the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association and International Society of Fire Service Instructors. John believes that we are all perpetual students, and strives to "leave the fire service better than we found it."

## **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.

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## **Rich Mahaney – Potential Firefighter Deaths from Common Chemicals, Basic Hazmat/Chemical Monitoring and Monitoring Priorities, Firefighting in Sprinkler Properties**

has been working in the “loss prevention” field since 1972. Yup, that is 50 years! Rich has worked in positions in corporate and plant level loss prevention (fire protection, safety, emergency planning/preparedness); firefighter/hazmat/medical responder involving four organizations (29 years); emergency manager for planning, response, and recovery for disasters; training program developer and instructor for presentations across North America and other countries in industry, the fire service, disaster planning and college courses. Rich has also conducted insurance company inspections over his career. Rich is a MI trained and certified firefighter, fire officer, hazmat technician/specialist, and instructor. Rich started teaching for the MI Firefighter Training Council training emergency responders in 1979. Rich is a MI certified Professional Emergency Manager (PEM).

Rich has been presenting hazmat and safety related courses for the MFSIA annual instructors conference for a number of years, as well as the annual Michigan Safety Conference. Rich has continued to assist the IFSTA/Fire Protection Publications, at Oklahoma State University with photography and writing of training manuals since 1975.

Rich has completed college degrees from Oklahoma State University in the areas of fire protection and safety (Associate Degree), technical education (Bachelor and master’s degrees). Rich also has a degree in marketing (Associate Degree) from Jackson Community College.

## **Pete McCarthy, Fire Instructor II – Scene Safety**

Pete is the Fire Chief for the White Lake Fire Authority in Whitehall. He is a Fire Instructor II who is actively involved in training within his county and department for Fire and EMS. He teaches CPR, Agricultural Rescue, and kids how to Stop, Drop, Cover Their Face, and Roll. He has been in the Fire Service since 2002, career since 2010. He is a Sagittarius, a mediocre amateur stand up comedian and a Level 9 Human Fighter in his current Dungeons and Dragons Campaign.

## **Adam Munro – Being Safe at a marijuana grow operation**

A 29 year veteran of the fire service, Adam Munro has been with the Macomb Township Fire Department for 12 years and currently serves as Deputy Chief. Previous to Macomb, Adam served Kenockee Twp Fire Department, Harper Woods Fire Department and the US Navy where he started his fire service career in 1992. Adam is involved with the Macomb County Training Committee teaching Instructor I classes and other classes throughout the state. Adam is a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program and a certified Fire Service Instructor II, Fire Inspector II, Plans Examiner and EMS Instructor Coordinator for the State of Michigan. In conjunction with the Building Department and Law Enforcement, Adam has been responding to marijuana ordinance complaints received by the municipality for the past 12 months.

## **Bill Parker – Lessons Learned from Gaylord Tornado Response**

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.

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## **David J. Purchase – VFIS EVDT-TtT/ VFIS ATV 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

## **Jeremy Robinson – Recruitment, retention, and Education of young Firefighters**

### **Stacy Robinson – Ethics and Leadership**

is a the 24-year Veteran in the Fire Service. Currently a Captain/Paramedic with the Madison Township Fire Department and Deputy Director of Morenci Area EMS. Stacy is the EMS Course Coordinator with Madison Township Fire Department and is active in fire education as a Fire Instructor II. Stacy has obtained a B.S. in Biology and a MPA (Master of Public Administration) with concentration in Emergency Services Management.

### **Teresa Robinson – Motivating Students**

a 24-year veteran of the Lansing Fire Department, has served in a variety of fire service roles, including Firefighter, Paramedic, Fire Instructor, Training Chief, and Assistant Fire Chief. She was the first female Training Chief and Assistant Fire Chief in the Lansing Fire Department's history. Chief Robinson is the City of Ferndale's first external candidate for Fire Chief, making her the first female to hold a leadership role in Ferndale Fire Department history.

In addition to her two-plus decades of operations and leadership experience, Robinson brings advanced education and fire service roles, including:

Instructor for EMU's School of Fire Staff and Command

Board Member for Southeastern Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program instruction and coordination

Campus Emergency Response Team (C-CERT) program development and instruction

Pro-board-certified Fire Instructor II

FEMA disaster response

Development of a Michigan State University Emergency Response Team program

Service on the Ingham County Opioid Task Force

Governor-appointed member of the State Board of Medicine

Bachelor's degree in Management and Organizational Development, Master's Degree in Leadership, and Doctorate degree in Human Services with a specialization in Disaster, Crisis, and Intervention

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## **Steve Staweck – Modern Engines Operations**

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. He recently has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Steve earned his Associates Degree in Fire Science from Macomb Community College, a 2019 graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Staff and Command. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in Fire Administration.

## **Alan Styles – FF Safety on the Fire ground**

Alan is a 4th generation fire fighter – he was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. Over the course of his career, which started in in the late 80's, he has covered all aspects of firefighting/EMS – including rural, suburban, "Paid-on-Call" and Career. He has held multiple positions including as an FF, Fire Medic, Company Officer and Command Staff. 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 squad/rescue work. Alan also lectures on mental wellness of first responders, career motivation for firefighters and their departments; but also lectures to other types of organizations as well.

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

He and wife of 25 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 currently "works" for his dad).

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

## **Curt Thompson-A Look at New Technologies to Build, Deliver, and Manage Training More Effectively.**

Curt Thompson is a Retired Fire Captain from Southeast Michigan. He spent over 21 years in the Fire Service and dedicated a great amount of that time to training others. He has fulfilled many roles in his Fire Career including Training Officer, HazMat Team Leader, and SWAT Medic. Curt retired and became a Senior Training Manager for Federal Resources where he provided Training and Exercises to the Military, Federal Agencies, and State and Local responders. Curt is currently active in Emergency Management for a Non-Profit Company and still provides various training to responders thru his own company, Right Track Response Solutions.

## **Jim Tuller – Arson Class**

Is currently the Fire Chief, Traverse City Fire Department.

Sunday, October 2, 2022

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## Mark Van der Feyst – The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Firefighter

Mark van der Feyst began his career in the fire service back in 1998 with the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company in Pennsylvania where he served as a Firefighter and Training Officer for a period of four years. From there he joined the Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services, Canada where he served for three years as a firefighter and shift instructor before transferring to the City of Woodstock Fire Department where he has served as their Training Officer and as a firefighter until 2020 taking early retirement. Currently, he is a firefighter for the Fort Gratiot Fire Department in Michigan.

Mark graduated from Seneca College of Applied and Technologies as a Fire Protection Engineering Technologist, the Justice Institute of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Fire and Life Safety Studies and completed his Master of Science in Safety, Security & Emergency Management through Eastern Kentucky University in March 2015.

Mark has a monthly column in Firefighting In Canada and Canadian Firefighter magazines. He also writes twice monthly for Fire Engineering and is the lead Author of Fire Engineering's Residential Fire Rescue and The Tactical Firefighter book, along with two DVD's from Fire Engineering called The First Five Minutes and The 21st Century Firefighter.

Mark is an international instructor teaching in Canada, the United States and India. He instructs at FDIC in Indianapolis, Fire House World and Expo, as well as many other regional conferences in both the USA and Canada.

Mark is the President of Firestar Services Inc. which specializes in providing training and infrastructure support for the fire & emergency services in Canada and other parts of the world and employs about 30 instructors.

He is a member of the Pittsburgh Metro FOOLS and a founding member of the Hogtown FOOLS in Toronto, Canada.