Making A Difference Training & Incident Safety Solutions

Course Catalog and Presentation Information

2026

Mission Statement

At MAD Training and Incident Safety Solutions, our Mission is to be what right looks like in fire service and incident safety training. We deliver relevant, standards-based programs that make firefighters and officers better, faster, safer, and smarter — while reinforcing the leadership, safety, and operational values that define today's most effective fire service professionals.

We don't offer one-size-fits-all courses — we offer solutions that matter.
Whether you're training recruits, developing incident safety officers, improving instructor and training officer abilities, or building company officer capabilities, we deliver training that sticks and skills that last. All of this is supported by published textbooks and curriculum materials.

What Sets Us Apart

- NFPA-aligned, competency-based curriculum
- Experienced fire service leadership and instruction
- Customizable programs for career, combination, or volunteer departments
- Built-in assessment tools and instructor coaching
- Focused on real-world performance, not just classroom theory

CHIEF FOREST REEDER

Informational Biography

Forest Reeder began his fire service career in 1978 and retired as Fire Chief of the Tinley Park (IL) Fire Department in 2021. He also served as the Interim Fire Chief for the Sterling, (IL) and Marion (IA) Fire Departments after retirement. He has worked extensively in the areas of instruction, firefighter safety and officer development and earned his Master of Science Degree in Public Safety Administration. He is the author of Fire Department Incident Safety Officer 4th edition (2025) and co-author of Fire and Emergency Service Instructor just published in its 4th edition. Forest presents nationally on fire service leadership, safety and instructor development. He was inducted into the Moraine Valley Community College Alumni Hall of Fame and awarded the Distinguished Alumnus award in 2021. In 2008, he received the ISFSI George D. Post Instructor of the Year, considered to be the highest recognition for fire service instructors in the nation.

Making A Difference
Training & Incident Safety Solutions

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"What Right Looks Like"

Making a Difference – One Fireground, One Firefighter at a Time

Professional Development Programs for the Fire Service

These courses are designed to strengthen leadership, decision-making, incident safety, training effectiveness, and operational performance across all levels of the fire service. Each program combines practical field application, instructor experience, and current standards-based content to deliver relevant, actionable learning for today's fireground.

BETTER FASTER SAFER SMARTER—WHAT RIGHT LOOKS LIKE

This leadership development course is designed for company officers, shift commanders, and aspiring first-level supervisors seeking to elevate performance, accountability, and team culture. Through practical discussion, self-assessment, and scenario-based application, participants explore how expectations, communication, and leadership behaviors influence operational excellence on and off the fireground.

A BETTER 360—IMPROVING SIZE-UP AT STRUCTURE FIRES

This interactive workshop strengthens the ability of firefighters, company officers, and Incident Safety Officers to conduct a more complete and effective structure fire size-up. Grounded in NFPA 1550, NFPA 1700, and evidence-based practices, the course emphasizes safer decision-making, stronger tactical execution, and improved situational awareness from the earliest stages of the incident.

OUTCOMES OVER OBJECTIVES

This course helps Fire Instructor I and II personnel move beyond traditional objective-based training by focusing on measurable performance outcomes. Participants will learn how to design, deliver, and evaluate training that aligns NFPA 1041 principles with adult learning practices and real-world operational success.

TACTICAL DECISION MAKING

This course examines the decision-making process officers use to match fireground conditions with appropriate tactical actions throughout an incident. Using tabletop exercises and simulation-based scenarios, participants build skill in critical thinking, size-up, and timely decision-making to support safe and effective operations.

THE 5 MOST DANGEROUS PLACES

This workshop examines five high-risk fireground locations where firefighters are most vulnerable to serious injury or death: on top of, under, inside, next to what is burning, and on or near the roadway. Designed for Incident Safety Officers, company officers, and training leaders, the course provides practical tools for hazard recognition, risk assessment, and proactive intervention.

LEADERSHIP AT THE COMPANY LEVEL

This course focuses on the officer's role in building a culture of excellence, accountability, and high performance at the company level. Using case-based discussion and common leadership challenges, participants develop practical skills in problem-solving, coaching, and communicating expectations.

THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE—THE PUMP OPERATOR AS A SAFETY OFFICER

This course highlights the pump operator's critical role in monitoring fireground conditions and supporting incident safety from the apparatus position. Participants learn how to recognize collapse indicators, changing fire conditions, and operational breakdowns while using awareness and timely communication to support safer outcomes

COMPANY LEVEL SAFETY AND SURVIVAL

This course prepares officers and crew members to recognize, anticipate, and manage hazards commonly encountered during fire attack, search, and other high-risk fireground operations. Participants gain practical insight into hazard awareness, crew responsibilities, and actions that support safer and more effective performance.

IMPROVING FIREGROUND COMMUNICATIONS

This course addresses one of the most common contributing factors identified in incident critiques: ineffective communication. Through scenario-based practice and practical communication models, participants improve their ability to deliver clear, concise, and standardized messages during emergency operations.

THE INCIDENT COMMANDER'S INHERITANCE—ASSUMING COMMAND AT ESTABLISHED INCIDENTS

This course addresses the complex and critical task of assuming command at an incident already in progress. Participants will examine practical decision-making tools to determine whether an existing action plan should be reinforced, revised, or abandoned in support of safer and more effective incident command.

INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER WORKSHOP

This interactive, case-based workshop strengthens the core skills and decision-making abilities needed to perform effectively as an Incident Safety Officer. Participants will move beyond a limited enforcement mindset to better recognize building hazards, fire behavior warning signs, and operational errors that can place firefighters at risk.

MAKING TRAINING COUNT

This course helps training personnel transform routine drills into purposeful, survival-focused training that improves operational readiness. Participants will explore practical planning tools, resources, and methods for building short, focused, and meaningful training that makes every training minute count.

TRAINING OFFICERS: TODAY'S SURVIVAL OFFICER

This course reinforces the training officer's role as a key leader in firefighter survival, readiness, and organizational performance. Through interactive discussion and case-based application, participants will assess training needs, examine modern training methods, and develop practical strategies to strengthen and manage their department's training program.

DRILLS THAT DELIVER—MASTERING INITIAL FIREGROUND OPERATIONS

This fast-paced course uses NFPA 1410 evolutions to strengthen company-level performance in critical initial fireground operations. Focusing on water supply, attack lines, standpipe operations, and rescue-oriented tactics, the class helps participants turn baseline standards into stronger, more consistent crew capability.

STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING IN STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING

This course prepares officers, incident commanders, and training leaders to make sound and defensible strategic decisions on the modern fireground. Built around NFPA 1700, NFPA 1026, fire behavior science, and benchmark-driven command, it emphasizes the alignment of strategy, tactics, and risk management.

CUSTOM COURSES AVAILABLE

Custom programs are available to meet the specific training, leadership, and operational needs of your department or organization. Courses can be tailored to your goals, staffing model, experience level, and identified performance priorities.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Training and Incident Safety Solutions

CLASS & PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

Complete this form to inquire about our training programs and speaking services.

12888 Fairmont Lane
Lemont, IL 60439
thetrainingofficer.com

Date: _____

1 YOUR INFORMATION

First Name		Last Name		Job Title / Role	
Organization		Email Address	you@email.com	Phone	(000) 000-0000

2 PROGRAM INTEREST

Engagement Type	☐ Speaking ☐ Training / Workshop ☐ Consulting ☐ Hands-on Exercises ☐ Custom ☐ TBD	Format	☐ In-Person ☐ Virtual ☐ Hybrid ☐ Either
Program / Topic of Interest	e.g. Incident Command, Safety Leadership, Crisis Response...	Est. Audience #	

3 EVENT DETAILS

Preferred Date	MM/DD/YYYY	Alternate Date	MM/DD/YYYY	Start Time	9:00 AM	Duration	e.g. 2 hrs
Venue / Location or Platform	City, State or virtual platform			Audience Level	☐ Entry ☐ Middle Mgt ☐ Senior / Exec ☐ Mixed		

4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Goals / Outcomes You Hope to Achieve	e.g. Improve team safety culture, prepare for inspections, build leadership skills...
How Did You Hear About Us?	☐ Referral ☐ Social Media ☐ Conference / Event ☐ Internet Search ☐ Promotional Material ☐ Previous Client: _____

5 AUTHORIZATION & SUBMISSION

Signature	Date	**SUBMIT THIS FORM TO:** forestthetrainingofficer@gmail.com

Check our website for a form fillable version of this request form.