



2025 IaSFSI

INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE

February 21-22, 2025





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The annual Iowa Fire Service Instructors Conference is conducted for ALL Certified Instructors as well as those who prepare and present training programs for fire, rescue, and EMS personnel, as well as those in public fire safety education. Whether you are just starting out, or have been involved in training for many years, this conference is meant for you.

GENERAL INFORMATION



LOCATION

Ankeny DMACC Campus
2006 S. Ankeny Blvd.
Ankeny, IA

Building 5/Trail Point
Conference Room 1240



LODGING

[Residence Inn by Marriot Ankeny](#)

1515 SW Main St
Ankeny, IA 50023
Phone: (515) 446-7300

- Special room rate = **\$121/night plus tax**
- Please ask for the **Iowa Society of Fire Instructors Conference rate.**

REGISTRATION

Registration Fees:

- Bill Department or Check = \$140.00
- Online Payment = \$145.00

The Registration Fee includes dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday, and membership to the Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors.

Click Here to [**REGISTER NOW!**](#)

SCHEDULE



2025 laSFSI OFFICERS

President

Doug Kolkman

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Vice President

Al McCune

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Secretary

Jerry Wisner

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Mike Sabin

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Director

Katie Sorrell

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Past President

Thomas Craighton

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Friday, February 21, 2025

1:00 - 2:00 pm **Welcome** by laSFSI President Doug Kolkman
FSTB Update by Bureau Chief Jess Dunn
FSTB Field Programs Update by Russ Grossman
FSTB Certification Update by Gary Howard
State Fire Marshal Division Update by SFM Dan Wood

2:00 - 4:00 pm **Keynote Presentation** by Eddie Buchannan:
"The Modern Fire Academy - The Role of the Training Officer"

4:00 pm **Presentation** by Mike Schipper,
2023 Instructor of the Year
"We're Not Just Fire Instructors"
Anyone can read out loud from a manual or slide presentation. Some of those people even know a little about the subject matter. A lot of us are instructors. But we have a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, strengths, weaknesses, and personalities. We are not just fire instructors.



5:00 pm **Dinner/Networking** in the DMACC Conference Room

Saturday, February 22, 2025

8:00 - 10:00 am **Special Presentation** by Doc Patterson:
"21 Attributes That Turn an Instructor Into a Leader/Mentor"

10:00 am - 12:00 pm **Keynote Presentation** by Eddie Buchannan:
"The Modern Fire Academy - The Role of the Training Officer"

12:00 - 1:00 pm **Working Lunch**
• laSFSI Annual Meeting
• 2024 "Instructor of the Year" Award Presentation

1:00 - 5:00 pm **Keynote Presentation** by Eddie Buchannan:
"The Modern Fire Academy - The Role of the Training Officer"

5:00 pm **Conference Closing**



Eddie Buchanan began his fire service career in 1982 and retired as an Assistant Chief with Hanover Fire & EMS in Richmond, VA. He is a past president of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI). In 2015, he received the George D. Post Instructor of the Year Award from ISFSI for creating the SLICE-RS concept.

Eddie serves on the executive advisory board of Fire Engineering Magazine and FDIC. He is the co-author of the Training Officer's Handbook and the author of the Volunteer Training Officer's Handbook from Fire Engineering Books & Videos. He has served on the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Service Training, the NFPA 1700: "Guide for Structural Firefighting" Committee, and the Technical Committee for Fire Services Training.

He is a past board member of the Volunteer/Combination Officer's Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and serves on various advisory boards and committees for the fire service industry. Eddie also hosts the Fire Service Data & Tech Talk Podcast on Fire Engineering.

The Modern Fire Academy – The Role of the Training Officer

The modern fire academy can range from a single instructor in a single station department to a metropolitan academy with a large full-time staff. This program explores the essentials a training officer needs to ensure department success. It focuses on how training officers can best prepare themselves for the role, the craft of instruction, department training assessments, and student management.

- The Local Training Environment
- The Mission of the Training Division
- Embracing Tradition to Promote Change
- Core Training Principles
- Respect (Self-Exec-Peers-Students)
- Practice What You Preach (Behaviors – Tactics)
- Managing Generations
- Strategy, Tactics, and Craft of Instruction
- Instructional Style, Environments, Configurations
- Staying Current - Networking - Mentoring
- Department Training Assessment
- Student Management
- Defining "Good"
- Tactical Equality or Inequality
- NFPA Standards/Guides – ISO – OSHA (State)
- Executive Vision and Stakeholders
- Student Learning Styles & Needs
- Critical Skill Assessment
- The Calendar of Compliance
- Basic Performance Expectations
- Communicating Expectations of Tasks
- Documenting Performance
- Technology
- Etiquette & Technique



21 Attributes That Turn an Instructor into a Leader/Mentor

A great instructor & mentor must win the respect from others instead of demanding it. In fact he must lead by example, allow his actions to speak for him. Furthermore talking negatively to a student or behind his back is unacceptable. Obviously sarcasm and joking should be avoided since it can cause division through the group as well as harsh feelings. Surely maintaining professionalism at all times is significant. Therefore the good instructor knows that once he steps foot in the class all personal matters must be forgotten, deleted for a while. This some might say requires a little bit of acting. Finally being a “people” person is an advantage, to be able to understand and work with people, caring about their needs and listen carefully.

A great instructor knows that no one is born an instructor/mentor and that becoming one is something that takes time, patience, effort and persistence. Now it is fair to say that some are more gifted with teaching than others. What is more anyone who has the attributes mentioned, is most likely someone’s favorite teacher.



Doc Patterson is a passionate charismatic motivator who really understands what it takes to build high performance people. With over 39 years of experience in the motivational and leadership industry, Doc is truly an example of, you are given a title... but you own your character. He lives this everyday in his professional and personal life. His life focus is to help Emergency Services fix the damage that is created from the environment we work in and respond to. Once you have the tools to heal physically, mentally and spiritually, our life becomes a new experience everyday!

Doc believes that in order to truly experience lasting success in life begins with igniting our unconscious mind to access the internal and external resources available to us all. As a Speaker/Trainer and Motivational Leader, he has successfully trained people on how to use the power of the mind to make their visions and personal goals a reality. Doc’s commitment and passion for teaching people how to get more out of life is both refreshing and exciting. He currently serves as Commander of the Southeast Iowa Regional Fire Honor Guard. Also on Field Staff and Mentor with the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

