



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association



LEADERSHIP TRAINING WEEKEND 2023

December 9th - 08:00 to 15:30 &
December 10th - 08:00 to 12:00

Ocean City, MD

**** NEW VENUE ****

Holiday Inn Oceanfront - 6600 Coastal Highway Ocean City, Maryland

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: If you are a leader in your department (Fire Chief, Chief Officer, Company Officer, Senior Leader, or you aspire to be, you need to be here!

WHY MUST I BE THERE: Because this course is facilitated by today's fire service leaders with real life expertise and because you won't get a more thorough education anywhere...

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Saturday, December 9th 08:00 – 15:30

FLAWED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS: THE STEALTH KILLER OF FIRST RESPONDERS

Chief Richard B. Gasaway, PhD, CSP

This program shares the powerful findings of Dr. Gasaway's extensive research on issues related to first responder decision making and flawed situational awareness. In his review of hundreds of near-miss reports, case studies, line-of-duty death reports and videos he continually found himself being frustrated because there were so many clues, indicators and signs that the incident was going to end in disaster. Yet, for some reason, personnel operating at the incident scene – from company officers to incident commanders – could not see it coming. Or if they did see it coming, they did nothing to alter their course. In his research to understand why first responders were (seemingly) blind and deaf to what was happening right in front of them, Dr. Gasaway uncovered and investigated over one hundred barriers that can destroy situational

awareness and flaw decision making. This program focuses on some of the most pervasive situational awareness barriers first responders will face while operating in stress-filled, dynamically-changing environments. Barriers to be explored and discussed will include:

- o Pre-arrival lens
- o Mind drift
- o Normalization of deviance
- o The curse of knowledge
- o Miscommunications
- o Command support
- o Task fixation
- o ... and more
- o Confabulation
- o Staffing issues
- o Human factors
- o Overconfidence
- o Command location
- o Overload
- o Culture
- o Mission Myopia
- o Cognitive biases
- o Complacency
- o Technology
- o Peer and supervisor pressure
- o Fear-driven decisions
- o Task saturation

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sunday, December 10th 08:00 – 12:00

FREDERICK COUNTY - THE BALL ROAD FIRE, AND THE TWO YEARS SINCE

Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Service

**Chief Tom Coe, Battalion Chief Frank Malta, Lt. Aaron Waltz, Lt. Mike Knight
and FF Trevor Meador**

On Wednesday, August 11, 2021, The Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Service suffered the tragic line of duty death of Battalion Chief Joshua Laird while operating at a house fire in the 9500blk of Ball Road in Ijamsville, Maryland. This presentation is an in-depth review of the events of that day as well as organizational changes made following this incident to help prevent similar instances from occurring in the future. Presenters will provide an organizational overview, first-hand accounts of the Ball Road Fire, and outline the organizational growth and training following this incident.

Contact the Holiday Inn Oceanfront at 410-524-1600 to make your reservations and use the code “Maryland Fire Chiefs Association”. MFCA Reservation Link:

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?>

[path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=OCEMD&checkInDate=07&checkInMonthYear=112023&checkOutDate=10&checkOutMonthYear=112023&PMID=99801505&GPC=MFC&cn=no&viewfullsite=true](https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=OCEMD&checkInDate=07&checkInMonthYear=112023&checkOutDate=10&checkOutMonthYear=112023&PMID=99801505&GPC=MFC&cn=no&viewfullsite=true)

Reservations must be made by November 7, 2023. The room rate is \$79 per night + taxes/fees. Attendees who have a valid Maryland **volunteer** fire, rescue or EMS affiliation and who travels more than 50 miles one way are eligible to have lodging cost covered by the SAFER grant. Attendees will need to place the room on hold with a credit card. **Credit card on file will be charged for anyone not in attendance.**

Make it a family “get away”, come for a great training weekend and enjoy Ocean City in its full holiday spirit, including **Winterfest of Lights**.

REGISTER AT MFRI’S SEMINAR PAGE:

<https://www.mfri.org/training/seminars/>