

**50
YEARS**

Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference

presented by



*Building
Community
Engagement*



Practical Prevention



*Helping
Make
Homes Safer*

50th Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference

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2025 New York State Fire & Life Safety Educators' Training Series
Event Schedule – Henrietta Fire District Station #6
Friday, May 9th, 2025

08:00 – 09:30 – Opening Remarks/ “50 Years of Fire & Life Safety in New York State”
New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control & New York State Association of Fire Chiefs

09:30 – 09:45 – Break

09:45 – 10:30 – “Injury Prevention Outreach for the Fire Service”
Thomas Moran – Injury Prevention Outreach Coordinator
Albany Med Health Systems Trauma Program, Albany, NY

10:30 – 10:45 – Break

10:45 – 12:15 – “Community Risk Reduction & Prevention – Prevention is Retention”
John Buttino – Fire Protection Specialist
New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control – Buffalo, NY

12:15 – 13:15 – LUNCH

13:15 – 14:45 – “Engaging Your Audience Through Impactful Presentations”
Edward Tracey – Captain, Rescue 11/ New York State Fire Instructor
Rochester Fire Department – Rochester, NY

14:45 – 15:00 Break

15:00 – 15:45 – “Developing & Growing Your Public Outreach Program”
Nicholas Persons – Lieutenant/ Paramedic
Niskayuna Fire District, Niskayuna, NY

15:45 – 16:00 – Break

16:00 – 17:00 – “Battery Emergencies & Electric Storage Systems”
Heather Roth – Fire Protection Engineer
New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control – Rochester, NY

Session Descriptions

“Advancing CRR for New York Fire & Life Safety Educators”

Karen Berard-Reed – Community Risk Reduction Lead – National Fire Protection Association

It is time for New York to shift gears, stepping into a new era of community safety. What if we could reimagine fire and life safety by pairing New York’s legacy of adaptability and dedication with forward-thinking, data-driven strategies? In this interactive session, NFPA CRR Lead Karen Berard-Reed will guide you through the powerful CRR approach, designed to move beyond traditional Fire and Life Safety Education to a model that leverages data, precision, and community partnerships. Attendees will explore the process outlined in NFPA 1300, the “Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development”, and identify entry points into local practice. Discover how CRR can modernize safety initiatives and enable departments to operate with efficiency, equity, and impact. Whether you’re just starting with CRR or refining existing strategies, this session offers the tools and insights you need to amplify your department’s effectiveness and elevate safety across New York. Lead the transformation that protects our firefighters, our neighborhoods, and the New Yorkers we serve every day.

“Injury Prevention Outreach for the Fire Service”

Thomas Moran – Injury Prevention Outreach Coordinator – Albany Med Health Systems Trauma Program

While we in the fire service do our best to provide the best possible care for those who are injured, it is equally important to prevent these injuries in the first place. In this presentation, we will discuss:

- * Why should this matter to your agency? Community relations, NFPA, OSHA, etc.*
- * How to decide which topics to address*
- * Overview of programs addressing common causes of injuries*
- * Available resources, including expertise, certifications, & grants*
- * The importance of partnerships: shared effort, expanded impact, future operational familiarity*
- * How to get started*

“Battery Emergencies & Electric Storage Systems”

Heather Roth – Fire Protection Engineer - New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control

This presentation consists of a one-hour overview of Li-Ion batteries and some of the hazards associated with them.

“Developing & Growing Your Public Outreach Program”

Nicholas Persons – Lieutenant/ Paramedic - Niskayuna Fire District

This presentation will discuss the successful development and growth of the services provided to the community served by the Niskayuna Fire District through partnerships, budget management, staffing changes, and varying approaches to delivery of educational messages.

“Community Risk Reduction & Prevention – Prevention is Retention”

John Buttino – Fire Protection Specialist - New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control

This presentation will offer tools and information on multiple aspects of the community risk reduction process, including risk assessment tools, education & outreach opportunities, the importance of community involvement, & how to monitor and evaluate risk reduction efforts.

“Engaging Your Audience Through Impactful Presentations”

Edward Tracey – Captain, Rescue 11/ New York State Fire Instructor - Rochester Fire Department

This presentation is a dynamic 90-minute professional development workshop designed for fire service instructors to enhance their presentation skills. Participants will explore techniques for structuring effective presentations, engaging their audience through active learning and storytelling, and using visual aids and body language to deliver training with impact. Through interactive activities and real-world scenarios, instructors will leave with practical tools to elevate their instructional delivery and engage firefighters in meaningful and lasting ways.

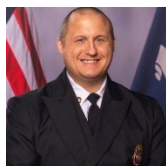
Presenter Biographies

Karen Berard-Reed



Karen Berard-Reed, M.Ed., is a Senior Strategist leading the Community Risk Reduction initiative at the National Fire Protection Association. Karen develops innovative tools and resources to assist stakeholders who are focused on data and standards-driven processes to improve community safety. Her contributions include training, partnership-building, and critical tools to support CRR efforts such as CRAIG 1300™, the NFPA Community Risk Assessment Insight Generator and the CRR Kitchen Table, a monthly virtual gathering of prevention-minded professionals. Karen previously managed NFPA's high-risk outreach activities and created safety education materials for young children, older adults, and underserved communities. Karen serves on the IAFC Fire and Life Safety Section Board of Directors, the NASFM Core CRR team, the Vision 20/20 steering committee and has served as an instructor at the National Fire Academy. Before coming to NFPA, Karen worked in the health promotion field in K-12, higher education, and community settings.

John Buttino



John Buttino is a Fire Protection Specialist with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control currently assigned to the Fire & Life Safety Branch in Buffalo, New York. Having served in various roles, including Fire & Safety Representative for the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Chief of the Eggertsville Hose Company, a Peace Officer with the Erie County Sheriff's Office Reserve, and a Special events Manager for Twin City Ambulance, he has over thirty years of combined fire protection, communications, and emergency services experience. Through each of these roles, John has gained a wealth of knowledge and experience in methods to reduce risk and improve life safety through application of various prevention and mitigation techniques.

Victor Graves



Victor Graves has been a Fire Protection Specialist with the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control since 2011. Victor is currently assigned to OFPC's Hazardous Materials Branch in Albany where he develops and conducts various courses related to battery emergencies and other emerging technologies. He has been a member of the West Albany Fire Department for 30 years where he is a past chief of the department, still serves as the Deputy Chief, and oversees the department's hazardous materials team. He also serves as a member of Albany County's Hazardous Materials Team.

Tom Moran



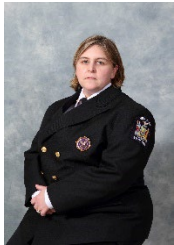
Tom Moran is the Trauma Education, Injury Prevention, and Outreach Coordinator for the Albany Med Health System Adult Trauma Program. Tom retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after a 26-year military career in positions of increasing responsibility culminating in his assignment as Chief of Plans for Third Army G6. He maintains certification and actively rides as a New York State Emergency Medical Technician and formerly served as a National Registry Paramedic and Clinical Instructor in the Paramedicine Program at Hudson Valley Community College. He actively serves his community as a Volunteer EMT/Firefighter, Fire/Rescue Officer, Fire Company President, Fire Commissioner, and Alpine Ski Patroller. He currently maintains National certification as a Child Passenger Safety Technician- Instructor, Safe Transport for All Children, Stop The Bleed Instructor, CRASE Instructor, CarFit Technician and Impact Teen Drivers Trainer. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Oswego State University and a Master of Arts from American Military University. Tom currently resides in Niskayuna, NY.

Nicholas Persons



Nicholas Persons is a 19-year student of the fire service, with 17 years as a career firefighter in Niskayuna, where he currently serves in the rank of Lieutenant. He has a Bachelors degree in Fire Administration, Associates degree in Fire Protection Technologies, and is currently pursuing a Masters in Fire Executive Leadership. For the last 9 years, Nick has also served as a New York state Fire Instructor assigned to Schenectady County and led the Niskayuna Fire Department's Fire Prevention/ Fire and Life Safety Education programs. Nick has remained passionate about the mission of public education and hopes to share some of the lessons he has learned throughout his career.

Heather Roth



Heather Roth currently serves as a Fire Protection Engineer for the Office of Fire Prevention and Control since 2014. She has been in the fire protection industry for over twenty-five years, having served in both the public and private sectors by previously providing engineering consultation for business and now doing the same for governmental entities. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Protection Engineering from University of Maryland – College Park and is a licensed Fire Protection Engineer.

Edward Tracey



Ed Tracey has over 30 years of active involvement with volunteer, combination, and career fire departments. Ed has 27 years of experience as a full-time firefighter and currently holds the rank of Captain with the Rochester, New York Fire Department.

Additionally, he has spent over 25 years as a fire/rescue instructor teaching firefighting, technical rescue, firefighter safety, and hazardous materials courses at the state and local levels. He is a member of multiple fire service, instructional/training, and technical rescue program curriculum committees and holds a Doctorate of Education from the University of Rochester, an MPA from SUNY Brockport, and a BS in Fire Service Administration from the University of New Haven.



Training Authorization Letter

The student listed below is an active member of the agency indicated below, is at least 16 years of age, and is authorized to attend the course indicated below. I understand this training course may contain certain evolutions that simulate and/or create actual firefighting or rescue conditions. The Office of Fire Prevention and Control is not responsible and/or liable for any malfunction or damage to any equipment used during this training program.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Course Information			
Course Name			
Course Number		Location	
Agency Authorization			
Agency Name		FDID #	Date
Print Name of Authorized Rep.		Original Signature	
COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATE SECTION BELOW			ORIGINAL INITIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> The student listed below is authorized to attend the training indicated			
<input type="checkbox"/> The student listed below has medical clearance to use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), in accordance with 29 C.F.R. part 1910.134 for courses as required.			
If you cannot answer the questions above because you do not know the requirements of 29 C.F.R Part 1910 or do not know whether the firefighter listed below is authorized to use SCBA, please contact OFPC			
Student Information			
Last Name		First Name	MI
Address		City	State
New York Training ID		Primary Phone	Zip
Email Address			

I, _____, have read, fully understand and agree with the above
PRINT NAME OF STUDENT
information. I understand and acknowledge the importance of safety during the training course and further acknowledge that if an instructor believes that my behavior or abilities may cause a safety risk to myself or another, the instructor has the authority to remove me from the simulation or course.

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE OF STUDENT

DATE

16 or 17-year-old students must have the section below completed to participate in state fire training

The undersigned parent or legal guardian of _____
PRINT NAME OF STUDENT
consent to his/her participation in the training listed above. I have read, fully understand, and agree with the above information. I understand and acknowledge that safety is important during the training and further authorize the instructor to remove the student from the simulation or course if the instructor believes that his/her behavior or abilities may cause a safety risk to himself/herself or another.

PRINTED NAME OF LEGAL GUARDIAN

ORIGINAL SIGNATURE OF LEGAL GUARDIAN

DATE