

2017 Health & Safety Conference

Speaker Bios

- Peter Berg - Peter S. Berger is a 13 year veteran of the fire service. He has been able to attain the rank of Captain/Paramedic and continues to learn. He most recently received his Masters of Science from Oklahoma State University in Fire and Emergency Management Administration where he wrote a National Curriculum for Cancer in the Fire Service that is being adopted at universities to be included in Fire officer programs across the country. Peter has created standard operating protocols on PPE and overhaul that are being adopted nationwide. Peter has been published on this subject matter and is in the process of having his Cancer in the Fire Service Risk Analysis published. Peter is dedicated to this subject matter and has spoken nationally to include a recent engagement at the NFPA National Conference in Boston, the Indiana Emergency Responders Conference, Birmingham Fire Department, Akron Fire Department, Fire Chief's Summit, and has been asked by the government of Brazil to come and speak to their Fire Service in November.
- Denise Smith, PhD - Professor of Health and Exercise Sciences at Skidmore College, Director of First Responder Health and Safety (Skidmore College) and Research Scientist at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. Some of the studies and publications Denise has been involved with include:
 1. Focus on Firefighter Physiology: Physiological Recovery from firefighting activities in rehabilitation and beyond
 2. Exercise Physiology: For health, fitness and performance
 3. Combating sudden cardiac death in the U.S. fire service
 4. Implementing effective on scene rehabilitation
 5. Effect of strenuous live - fire firefighting drills on hematological, blood chemistry and psychological measures
 6. Effect of strenuous live - fire firefighting drills on cardio vascular and psychological responses of recruit firefighters
 7. Effect of live - fire training drills on firefighters platelet number and function
 8. Acute effects of firefighting on arterial stiffness and blood flow
 9. Acute effects of firefighting on cardiac performance
 10. Core temperature and heart rate response to repeated bouts of firefighting activities
 11. Quantifying dehydration in the fire service using field measures and novel devices
 12. Fire suppression and firefighter physiology and exposure risks
 13. Effect of heat stress and dehydration on cardiovascular function
 14. Effect of deployment of resources on cardiovascular strain of firefighters
 15. The effects of different thermal environments on the physiological and psychological responses of firefighters to a training drill
 16. Thermal response to firefighting activities in residential structure fires

- Steve Hamilton - Lieutenant with Fort Jackson (SC) FD, Member of the fire service for 20 years, over 6 years of experience as a certified law enforcement officer, 4 years service in the U.S. Air Force, Consultant for Emergency Services organizations regarding violent scene response, nationally recognized speaker on violent scene response for fire and EMS, conference speaker at FDIC for 5 years, serve on FDIC Educational Advisory Board, published in Fire Engineering, released fire engineering training DVD "Responding to Scenes of Violence", certified Fire Officer III, Instructor III, Arson investigator, NREMT-B
- Doug Mitchell - Captain (3rd Division) FDNY, 25 years in the fire service, currently detailed to probationary firefighters school operating as Executive Officer. A Lieutenant in the Bronx, a fire marshal in Queens and a firefighter in Manhattan. He also served with Fairfax County, VA fire and rescue. Bachelors degree from University of MD. Serves as Vice President of Traditions Training LLC and instructs fire service topics nationwide. He co-authored a book "25 to Survive: Reducing Residential Injury and LODD" Published by Penn-Well in 2013.
- Jason Emery - A 27-year veteran of the fire service, has been with the Waterbury (CT) Fire Department for 23 years and is Captain of the city's heavy rescue/hazmat company. He has lectured throughout the US and internationally on AFVs over the past 13 years and has published numerous articles on the subject. He is the lead SME for the National Fire Protection Association's AFV safety program.
- Sean DeCrane - Retired as a 25 year veteran of the Cleveland Division of Fire. He rose through the ranks serving in various roles including director of training and acting chief of operations. He retired as Battalion Chief covering Cleveland's West Side. Sean has been very involved in the research at underwriters laboratories and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He serves on the UL Fire Council. Is a member of the UL Fire Safety research Institute Advisory Board and is currently on a number of technical panels for research and standards. Chief DeCrane also represented the IAFF in the International Code Council Process and has served on the 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 Fire Code Developing Committee and as chair for 2015 and 2018. Sean served on the NFPA 1 Technical Advisory Panel, NFPA Research foundation on tall wood buildings and is serving as the chair of the fire test work group for the ICC Tall Wood AD HOC Committee. Sean has been awarded the 2015 UL Council Members Achievement Award, 2014 Fire Equipment Manufacturers Fire Safety Advocate of the Year Award, the 2013 IAFC Life Safety Award and the 2012 ICC - IAFC Life Safety Advocate Award, Sean has delivered a number of keynote addresses including the 2015 Fire Department Instructors Conference. Currently Sean has been appointed as the UL Manager for Industry Groups and Professional Organizations.
- Joseph Finn - Fire Commissioner and Chief of Department in Boston. A three decade department veteran. Holds numerous certification related to fire service training. Graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration graduating Magna Cum Laude and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1979-1982.