

# 2026 OVFA Conference

**June 17-20  
Brooks, Oregon**

Brooks Regional  
Training Center



**Hosted by the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association**

Co-hosted by Marion Co. Fire District No. 1 and Keizer Fire District

**Silent Auction**

**Vendor/Sponsor Reception**

**Awards Banquet & Live Auction**

1284 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 378 -0896  
[www.ovfa.org](http://www.ovfa.org)





## OREGON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

# 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Wednesday, June 17

- 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Coffee, Juice, & Pastries
- 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration at Brooks Training Center
- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Classes Begin - *Lunch provided*  
Dinner on your own

#### Thursday, June 18

- 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Coffee, Juice, & Pastries
- 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration at Brooks Training Center
- 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. OVFA Business Meeting
- 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Classes Continue - *Lunch provided*
- 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Vendor/ Sponsor Reception  
*Family Friendly event with games & prizes*

#### Friday, June 19

- 6:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m. **Conference Feedback Roundtable**
- 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Coffee, Juice, & Pastries
- 7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Registration at Brooks Training Center
- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Classes Continue - *Lunch provided*
- 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Social Hour
- 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. **Featured Event:** OVFA Reception, Business Meeting, and Banquet  
Live Auction to follow

#### Saturday, June 20

- 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Coffee, Juice, & Pastries
- 7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Registration at Brooks Training Center
- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Classes Continue - *Lunch provided*
- 5:00 p.m. Conference Concludes

#### Join us Thursday Evening

for the Vendor/Sponsor Reception and Silent Auction. All proceeds will benefit the OVFA Volunteer Relief Fund to help injured volunteers and their families.

**Don't forget the Live Auction following the Friday Banquet**

# 2026 OVFA Conference Class Schedule

## *Class Start Times and Instructors*

### Wednesday, June 17, 8:00 am—5:00 pm

8:00 a.m.	<b>Rope Rescue</b>	Travis Reid
8:00 a.m.	<b>Fire Officer 1</b>	Sean Hartley
8:00 a.m.	<b>Emergency Medical Response (EMR)</b>	Suzy Ryan
8:00 a.m.	<b>Wildland S-215</b>	Marc Crain
8:00 a.m.	<b>DPSST Skills Training</b>	Aaron Bielemeier
8:00 a.m.	<b>Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy</b>	Leo Keelan

### Thursday, June 18, 8:30 am—5:30 pm

8:30 a.m.	<b>Rope Rescue <i>continued</i></b>	Travis Reid
8:30 a.m.	<b>Swift Water Rescue</b>	Bryan Lewis
8:30 a.m.	<b>Fire Officer 1 <i>continued</i></b>	Sean Hartley
8:30 a.m.	<b>Emergency Medical Response (EMR) <i>continued</i></b>	Suzy Ryan
8:30 a.m.	<b>Wildland S-290 (Hybrid)</b>	Jason Wickizer & Shawn Weagle
8:30 a.m.	<b>Wildland S-215 <i>continued</i></b>	Marc Crain
8:30 a.m.	<b>DPSST Skills Training <i>continued</i></b>	Aaron Bielemeier
8:30 a.m.	<b>Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy <i>continued</i></b>	Leo Keelan
8:30 a.m.	<b>Apparatus Equipped with Fire Pump (Hybrid)</b>	Vincent DeFabis
8:30 a.m.	<b>OSFM Health &amp; Safety Collaborative</b>	Matt Laas & Jon Peterson
2:30 p.m.	<b>Improving Emergency Services for People Living with Dementia</b>	Shelly Edwards

*\*Hybrid courses may require completion of coursework prior to the start of the conference. See the Class Information for details.*

## Friday, June 19, 8:00 am—5:00 pm

8:00 a.m.	<b>Rope Rescue <i>continued</i></b>	Travis Reid
8:00 a.m.	<b>Swift Water Rescue <i>continued</i></b>	Bryan Lewis
8:00 a.m.	<b>Fire Officer 1 <i>continued</i></b>	Sean Hartley
8:00 a.m.	<b>Emergency Medical Response (EMR) <i>continued</i></b>	Suzy Ryan
8:00 a.m.	<b>Fire Instructor I (Hybrid)</b>	Chief Jay Alley
8:00 a.m.	<b>Wildland S-290 (Hybrid) <i>continued</i></b>	Jason Wickizer & Shawn Weagle
8:00 a.m.	<b>Vehicle Rescue Technician</b>	Shaun Wagner
8:00 a.m.	<b>Apparatus Equipped with Fire Pump (Hybrid) <i>continued</i></b>	Vincent DeFabis
8:00 a.m.	<b>Wildland S-230</b>	Levi Eckhardt
8:00 a.m.	<b>Pastoral Crisis Intervention</b>	Bill Lotz

## Saturday, June 20, 8:00 am—5:00 pm

8:00 a.m.	<b>Rope Rescue <i>continued</i></b>	Travis Reid
8:00 a.m.	<b>Swift Water Rescue <i>continued</i></b>	Bryan Lewis
8:00 a.m.	<b>Fire Officer 1 <i>continued</i></b>	Sean Hartley
8:00 a.m.	<b>Emergency Medical Response (EMR) <i>continued</i></b>	Suzy Ryan
8:00 a.m.	<b>Fire Instructor I (Hybrid) <i>continued</i></b>	Chief Jay Alley
8:00 a.m.	<b>Vehicle Rescue Technician <i>continued</i></b>	Shaun Wagner
8:00 a.m.	<b>Apparatus Equipped with Fire Pump (Hybrid) <i>continued</i></b>	Vincent DeFabis
8:00 a.m.	<b>Wildland S-230 <i>continued</i></b>	Levi Eckhardt
8:00 a.m.	<b>Pastoral Crisis Intervention <i>continued</i></b>	Bill Lotz

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See the Class Information for details.*

# Class Information

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**APPARATUS EQUIPPED WITH A FIRE PUMP Hybrid\***  
(32 hrs, including 8 hours pre-course work as outlined below and 24 hours on-site, Thu - Sat)

**DPSST# 23F061**

**Instructor: Vincent DeFabis (Marion County Fire District 1)**

**Additional Charge of \$100**

Required Text: IFSTA Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator Handbook, Third Edition.

Students will complete reading chapters 1 through 15 in the text and successfully passed the online tests in the ResourceOne website prior to attending the 3-day in-person class. There are a few written assignments due the first day of class that are specifically related to some chapter reading assignments and apparatus located at your station. Students attending the class should wear or bring attire (PPE) suitable for wet environments during drill ground exercises, including eye protection and gloves.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** Completion of online ResourceOne coursework based on IFSTA Pumping Apparatus Driver/Operator 3rd edition. MCFD1 will host and provide an enrollment key to course registrants. Coursework, tests, and quizzes for Chapters 1-14 must 100% complete by 5pm on June 12 to be eligible for the in person dates. Students will need a full set of structural PPE.

**What to Expect:** *Notice of Course Completion (NOCC) for Apparatus Equipped with a Fire Pump (Pumper Operator) and a partially completed task book to include requisite knowledge elements and tasks associated with activities successfully performed on the drill grounds. All driving related elements will need to be completed at your home agency.*

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR)**

**EMT RECERT HOURS (32 hrs, Wed - Sat)**

**Instructor: Suzy Ryan (Marion County Fire District)**

This course complies with 2021 national EMS standards and has been approved by the Oregon EMS office. Upon successful completion students will be presented with an official course completion certificate that they can apply for licensure through the OHA-EMS online licensing system for EMR.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** *BLS CPR Certification, Jones & Bartlett Emergency Medical Responder: Your First Response in Emergency Care 7th Edition*

**What to Expect:** *This class will be full days including lecture, hands on skills, and culminating with state testing. Students will have access to the materials prior to the beginning of the in-person portion of the course and are encouraged to utilize their time prior to class to prepare for the onslaught of information being taught in the short time we are together. This course can also be used fulfill EMS rectification hours. If you want to take any portion of the class to satisfy any EMS hours needed for recertification please reach out and we can work with you to make sure you are in class the correct times.*

Students must bring a copy of Jones & Bartlett  
Emergency Medical Responder: Your First Response in  
Emergency Care 7th Edition.

## **SWIFT WATER RESCUE (24 hrs, Thu - Sat)**

**DPSST #23F068**

**Instructor: Bryan Lewis (Rescue 3 International and Salem Fire Department)**

This training provides rescuers with the fundamentals of survival in moving water and is recommended for anyone who may be called upon to effect in-water rescues. Students gain knowledge in hydrology and river classifications, size-up, site control and scene management. Practical skills include self-rescue, swift water swimming and the fundamentals of shore, boat and in-water rescues. Additionally, students are introduced to the basics of boat handling and the fundamentals of rope rescue including mechanical advantage and anchor systems.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** Some swimming capability, dry or wet suit, helmet, gloves, water shoes, PFD with quick release (type 5 PDF) If there are people that can bring gear they use from there department (throw bags, rope, pulleys, carabiners, raft, RDC, Ect.) it would be greatly appreciated.

**What to Expect:** *Notice of Course Completion, Partially signed Task Book*

## **ROPE RESCUE (32 hrs, Wed - Sat)**

**DPSST# NFPA 1006**

**Instructor: Travis Reid (Oregon Rescue LLC)**

This course will train firefighters and emergency responders in the use of rope, rescue equipment, and mechanical advantage systems for high-angle rescue environments. This course is applicable for rescuers seeking to initially acquire these skills, or to refresh and expand upon existing skills.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** Bring good boots, helmet, comfortable gloves, snacks and water, clothing for both sunny and rainy weather, and 3-4 aluminum locking carabiners (preferably big and rounded).

**What to Expect:** Be prepared for all weather possibilities, as this class will be outdoors.

## **FIRE OFFICER 1 (32 hrs, Wed - Sat)**

**DPSST #24F015**

**Instructor: Chief Sean Hartley (Crooked River Ranch Fire & Rescue)**

This will be a hybrid NFPA Fire Officer I class. Students will need to complete the IFSTA Resource I curriculum before attending the in-person session. The in-person session will be discussion and activity based on NFPA Fire Officer I skills.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** *Complete NFPA Fire Officer I pre-work in IFSTA Resource 1.*

**What to Expect:** *Notice of Course Completion*

# Class Information

## DPSST SKILLS TRAINING (16 hrs, Wed - Thu)

**Instructor:** Aaron Bielemeier (Department of Public Safety Standards and Training)

**FLAG CLASS:** Flammable Liquids and Gases class that includes both a classroom illustrated lecture and hands-on exercises using propane-fueled live-fire props. Classroom content includes chemical and physical properties of flammable and combustible liquids and gases, the hazards they present, and safe tactics in handling these emergencies. The props include a residential natural gas meter and propane tank, as well as a flash pan for liquids. With these props, NFPA Firefighter II skills such as hose advancing, fire stream placement and foam application techniques are practiced in the hands-on portion. This class conforms to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1403 standard for live fire training. All students must have the prerequisite firefighter coursework and OSHA respiratory requirements to participate.

**VEHICLE FIRE:** Propane fired vehicle fire safety prop designed to simulate a passenger vehicle fire. This completely hands-on class teaches the tactics required for safe and effective extinguishment of vehicle fires. The course covers the principles of: angle of approach, vehicle hazards zones, order of operations, and hose handling skills. This class conforms to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1403 standard for live fire training. All students must have the prerequisite firefighter coursework and OSHA respiratory requirements to participate.

**FORCIBLE ENTRY:** This will be an all hands-on class that will cover the principles of forcible entry. Class will include forcing entry through doors, windows, and walls including outward-swinging, inward-swinging and security doors. Additional training will include cutting bars, prying hinges, forcing locks and window access.

**SEARCH CLASS:** This class will focus on structural search and rescue techniques. Firefighters will practice SCBA air management, conduct searches, perform rescues in a variety of scenarios

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** Each student will need to have full ensemble of Oregon OSHA complaint firefighting PPE and SCBA with two bottles.

**What to Expect:** The FLAG and Vehicle Fire classes will receive Notice of Course completions which work towards FFII certification. The remaining will be overall skills development and recert training hours.

## WILDLAND S - 290 Hybrid\* (16 hrs, Thu-Fri)

**DPSST# 24-F029**

**Instructor:** Jason Wickizer (Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District) & Shawn Weagle (Avangrid)

**Additional Charge of \$10**

S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior.

**What to Expect:** Notice of Course Completion

"Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior S-290" materials (available for print via the National Wildfire Coordinating Group)

## WILDLAND S-215 (16 hrs, Wed - Thurs)

**DPSST# 24F030**

**Instructor:** Marc Crain (Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue)

**Additional Charge of \$10**

S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface is a course designed to provide the student insight into the firefighting complexities of working a fire in the Wildland Urban Interface. (WUI). Students will be able to develop triage skills, strategic and tactical options through student group exercises

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** None

**What to Expect:** Notice of Course Completion / NWCG Certificate

## Wildland S-230 (16 hrs Fri - Sat)

**DPSST# 24F028**

**Instructor:** Levi Eckhardt (Jefferson Fire)

**Additional Charge of \$10**

The S-230 Crew boss course is designed to provide wildland fire personnel with the foundational knowledge and skills required to perform the duties of a Crew Boss. The course covers operational leadership, incident responsibilities. It is a blended training approach that includes both online and in person components, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the necessary skills and knowledge.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** S130/S190/S131

**What to Expect:** Notice of Course Completion / NWCG Certificate

## ESSENTIALS OF CHAPLAINCY (16 HRS, WED - THUR)

**Instructor:** Leo Keelan (Public Safety Chaplaincy) Kenton Johnson (Clackamas Fire District), Joel Peterson (Cornelius Fire/Gaston Fire District) & Chris Wade

Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy is a two-day course designed to serve as a "Survey of Fire Chaplaincy." It is appropriate for new Chaplains, experienced Chaplains, and those who just want to learn what Fire Chaplaincy is all about.

The course includes classes in Ministry to Firefighters, ministry to People in Crisis, Managing Stress, Fire Department Funerals, Fire Chaplain Operations, and many others.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** none

**What to Expect:** Notice of Course Completion; this course fulfills the requirements to become a member of the Oregon Chapter of the Federation of Fire Chaplains

# Class Information

## IMPROVING EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA (3 hrs, Thu)

**Instructor: Shelly Edwards (Oregon care Partners)**

Oregon Care Partners offers free dementia training with a Positive Approach to Care® Certified Dementia Training Expert to help emergency personnel recognize and provide effective service when dementia is a potential factor. This training was created to equip you with the information and skills needed to navigate challenging interactions and improve outcomes for individuals living with dementia.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** none

**What to Expect:** Recognizing dementia symptoms and knowing how to reduce stress and resistance during difficult situations is essential for emergency personnel. *Improving Emergency Services for People Living with Dementia* trains law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, 911 dispatchers, and ER staff to respond effectively to challenging behaviors and potential abuse or neglect. A Positive Approach to Care®-certified dementia expert reviews key signs and symptoms to improve recognition and teaches simple, effective strategies to reduce distress in crises and routine interactions. This hands-on training uses demonstrations to address common challenges and builds practical physical and verbal skills for immediate use in daily service.

## VEHICLE RESCUE TECHNICIAN (16 hrs, Fri - Sat)

**DPSST# 22F023 & 22F024**

**Instructor: Shaun Wagner (Dallas Fire)**

**Additional Charge of \$100**

This course is geared toward both beginners and more experienced rescue workers, as it includes reviews of new vehicle technology including anatomy, airbags, pre-tensioners, and hybrid vehicles. Students will participate in both classroom lecture/discussion and in hands-on training, putting the lessons learned inside to work. They will learn techniques designed to take advantage of and conquer today's vehicles. Hands-on training will include scenarios with vehicles on their tires, side, and on their top. Patient care and removal will also be addressed during this class.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** Bunker pants/coat, helmet, eye protection, gloves (preferable non-structural)

**What to Expect:** Notice of Course Completion, Partially signed Task Book

## PASTORAL CRISIS INTERVENTION I & II—CHAPLAINS (16 hrs, Fri-Sat)

**Instructor: William 'Bill' Lotz (Chaplain Services Network)**

Pastoral Crisis Intervention is designed to integrate researched and proven psychological crisis intervention techniques within a spiritual/religious context. It provides valuable training for fire chaplains as they provide support to emergency services personnel.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** none

**What to Expect:** Members who complete this course will receive a certificate from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation including CEUs for 13 contact hours. You can expect this class to be interactive and include a blend of researched psychological intervention and faith-based interventions.

## OSFM HEALTH & SAFETY COLLABRATIVE (6 hrs, Thu)

**Instructor: Matt Laas & Jon Peterson**

Health and safety are critical to the Oregon fire service's readiness and performance. Firefighters face physically and psychologically demanding, dangerous situations, making their well-being essential. The Oregon Fire Service Health and Safety Collaborative works to support firefighters and fire agencies in prioritizing health and safety, improving lives and strengthening emergency response. Enhancing firefighter health is an investment in community safety and stability.

**Suicide Awareness & Intervention Training - QPR Gatekeeper**

**Instructor: Matt Laas (Oregon State Fire Marshal)**

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

**Health & Safety track Cancer Risk Reduction**

**Instructor: Jon Peterson (Medford Fire Department)**

This class provides practical, evidence-based strategies to reduce cancer risk in the fire service, focusing on exposure control, decontamination, best gear practices, and long term health habits. Participants will learn real world insights and proven methods to help firefighters protect themselves on and off the fireground. Participants will leave with actionable steps to lower risk and safeguard their careers and lives.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** none

## FIRE INSTRUCTOR I Hybrid\* (16 hrs, Fri - Sat)

**DPSST# 26F040**

**Instructor: Chief Jay Alley (Stayton Fire District)**

Fire Instructor I is designed to teach firefighters the knowledge and ability to deliver instruction effectively from a prepared lesson plan, including instructional aids and evaluation instruments; adapt lesson plans to the unique requirements of the students and authority having jurisdiction; organize the learning environment so that learning is maximized, and meet the record-keeping requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** Students will be required to bring course completion certificate from ResourceOne.

**What to Expect:** Notice of Course Completion

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
NOMINATION FORM, VOLUNTEER OF THE  
YEAR, NOMINATION FORM and  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are  
available online at [www.OVFA.org](http://www.OVFA.org) AND  
in this brochure.**

# Meet Our Instructors

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## Marc Crain

Marc Crain has 45 years in the fire service in Oregon and California and retired from Clackamas Fire District #1 as a Deputy Chief. Experience includes over three decades as a fire ground commander in both rural and metro fire operations including interagency incident command level functions during several all-hazards incidents. Additionally, Marc has current IQCS qualifications as an Operations Branch Supervisor and Structure Protection Specialist. Additional duties include a past position as a Deputy Incident Commander for the Oregon State Fire Marshal Incident Management Green Team. Marc currently instructs in several local Oregon and Washington fire courses and was previously a fire instructor at Clackamas Community College. Marc also currently volunteers as fire instructor with Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue and with Klickitat Rural Fire District #7 in Washington as well as Coordinator and instructor with the annual Columbia Gorge Training Association Wildland Fire Academy. Marc is currently listed as a lead instructor with Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) for several fire courses.

## Travis Reid

International Rescue Training Professional with 30+ years of Guiding, Guide Training and Agency experience. In-depth knowledge of water and remote rescue operations at all levels. As General Manager of a successful tourism and guiding corporation have demonstrated proficiency in staffing, training, and development, budgeting and program management. As owner & lead instructor for Oregon Rescue LLC, has trained many students extensively in the disciplines of Water Rescue, Technical Rope Rescue and Rescue Boat Operations with very positive feedback.

## Jason Wickizer

Jason has been a wildland firefighter for 36 seasons. Working for Oregon Department of Forestry and the United States Forest Service. Jason is also a qualified Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Pilot, and Forest Officer for the McKenzie Patrol block South Cascades ODF. As a volunteer lieutenant with Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District, Jason is responsible for operations out of Station 1 in McKenzie Bridge, and the Chief Pilot for the sUAS program.

## Shawn Weagle

Shawn Weagle is a Senior Meteorologist at Avangrid, forecasting for wind and solar energy projects across the United States. Prior to his role at Avangrid, Shawn served nearly 20 years as an Incident Meteorologist for the National Weather Service, based in Portland, Oregon. Shawn is originally from Santa Rosa, California, and earned his bachelor's degree in meteorology from Penn State University in 1998.

## Levi Eckhardt

Levi Eckhardt began his fire service career in 1989 as a volunteer firefighter. He transitioned into a career role in 1996, demonstrating a deep commitment to public safety and community service. In 2001, he was promoted to Training Officer. In 2018, Levi advanced to the position of Fire Chief. He has also served as an instructor for Portland Community College, sharing his expertise with the next generation of fire service professionals. Levi holds an Associate degree in Fire Science and a Bachelor degree in Fire Administration.

## Bryan Lewis

Bryan has been in the fire service for 20+ years. Started as a volunteer in 2002 in Newton, Iowa, and is married and has three great kids. One is in college and the other two are still at home. Bryan moved to Oregon in 2008 and got hired with Salem Fire Department in 2009. Bryan got in to recreation whitewater when he moved out here. Became part of SFD water rescue team in 2013. Became a deckhand, swift water technician, technical rope rescue technician, rescue boat operator in 2013-2014. In 2016 became an in house instructor for his agency. In 2022 became an independent instructor with Rescue3 International. Bryan currently also teaches and assists in the fire and rescue classes through Chemeketa Community College. Bryan is still an active member with SFD water team and loves being in and on the water whether it's in a motorized boat or raft.

## Vincent DeFabis

Vincent DeFabis joined the fire service as a volunteer firefighter for Paulden Volunteer Fire Department in Paulden, Arizona, in 2003 and served as the agency's Communications Officer through 2006 before moving to Oregon. After spending 15 years in the Information Technology field, Vincent returned to the fire service as a volunteer firefighter for Marion County Fire District No. 1 and was promoted to volunteer lieutenant in 2022. He has also served as a firefighter/AO for Stayton Fire District and lieutenant at Aumsville Fire District. In late 2023, he accepted the position of Volunteer Coordinator and joined MCFD1's administration team where he is primarily responsible for recruitment, retention, and professional development of volunteer personnel. As part of his duties, he regularly assists the Training Division with delivery of instructional material, leads new recruit academies, and develops volunteer training programs.

## Suzy Ryan

Suzy is an experienced paramedic, educator, and manager with more than two decades of experience. Over the course of her career she has worked in many roles in both fire and EMS. As an educator Suzy is passionate about creating impactful, real world EMS training and empowering the next generation of EMS professionals.

# Meet Our Instructors

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## Leo Keelan

Chaplain Leo Keelan is the lead chaplain for Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and serves several public safety agencies across Oregon. A veteran, certified EMR, and experienced first responder chaplain, he is trained in crisis intervention, trauma support, and critical incident stress management. Leo is passionate about supporting first responders and their families through compassionate presence, practical care, and hope; and he is committed to equipping others for effective chaplaincy in the fire service.

## Jay Alley

Chief Jay Alley began his fire service career in 1983 as an Explorer Scout member of the Stayton Fire District. When he turned 18 years of age he joined as a volunteer firefighter where he advanced through the ranks to volunteer Division Chief. His employment during his volunteer service was with the Oregon Department of Forestry as a Forest Officer, in Fire Protection. In July of 1996 he was hired full time as the Division Chief/Training Officer and later promoted to Assistant Chief/Training Officer. The responsibilities of this position include the day-to-day operations of the district and managing the training for personnel. On November 1, 2022, promoted to Fire Chief of the Stayton Fire District where he has served for 40 years.

## Aaron Bielemeier

DPSST's Fire Training Program provides entry-level, specialized, leadership and maintenance training to Oregon's fire service professionals on a regional basis and at the Oregon Public Safety Academy. Training is delivered based on identification of specific training needs by individual firefighting agencies and regions of the state.

## Matt Laas

Matt Laas began his fire service career at Eugene Fire & EMS. After moving to Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, he worked my way through the operational ranks, serving on engine, truck, heavy/technical rescue companies, training officer, field training officer, engineer, and lieutenant. Throughout his 28-year line career, health, wellness, fitness, operational readiness, and safety were professional passions. He began his role as Fire Service Safety Specialist with the Oregon State Fire Marshal in mid-2023, where he has helped create the Oregon Fire Service Health and Safety Collaborative, a program within OSFM. As Program Coordinator for the Collaborative, he is helping to coordinate and support statewide health and safety initiatives on a regional basis. By building relationships among the collaborative stakeholders, regional, and local leaders we will build a more resilient, healthy, and safe Oregon fire service. As a father and stepfather to 5 young adults, he has experienced the impact a fire service career, occupational cancer, and suicide loss can have on a family. As fire service leaders, we owe it to the next generation of firefighters and their families, to better manage the risks inherent to this occupation

## Shaun Wagner

Dallas Fire has been involved in teaching extrication competitively since 1999. We enjoy passing on knowledge and skill to firefighters across the state.

## Chaplain Bill Lotz

Chaplain Bill Lotz, has been involved in fire service since 1978. He served as the training director for the Federation of Fire Chaplains for 15 years and currently is the director of Chaplain Services Network in the Columbia Basin. Bill has been an instructor with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation for over 20 years.

## Shelly Edwards

Shelly Edwards has worked in the dementia field as a trainer and educator since 2007. She began using Positive Approach to Care (PAC) techniques in 2014 and began working directly with PAC in 2017, where she currently serves as a PAC-Certified Mentor and the Director of Customer Experience. Shelly has been a training expert for Oregon Care Partners since its inception in 2014, delivering courses on a wide range of topics, including PAC, PAC for first responders, challenging behaviors, caregiver communication, and other related topics. She has also provided consulting services for numerous families and people living with dementia, helping them find their own solutions to the unique challenges that arise in living with dementia.

## Sean Hartley

Chief Hartley serves as the Fire Chief for Crooked River Ranch Fire & Rescue, bringing nearly three decades of fire services experience to the classroom. His career began in 1998 as a volunteer on the Oregon Coast, a foundation that instilled a deep appreciation for the unique challenges and tight-knit dynamics of small-community fire service. Throughout his career, Chief Hartley has focused on the evolution of leadership within rural and combination departments. He holds Associate Degrees in the Fire Science and Emergency Medical Services from Central Oregon Community College and is currently finalizing his Fire Officer III and IV certifications. A firm believer that leadership starts at the kitchen table, Chief Hartley focuses on the critical transition from "one of the crew" to the person in charge. He is passionate about passing on the tradecraft to the next generation of fire ground commanders, ensuring they are prepared to lead with both tactical proficiency and administrative integrity.

## Jon Peterson

Jon Peterson is a Captain with the Medford Fire Department, where he serves as the department's PPE specialist, Health and Safety Officer, Swiftwater Rescue lead, and a member on a private REMS team. He also represents Oregon as a district representative for the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, advocating for firefighter health and cancer prevention. Peterson holds a bachelor's degree in health and physical education and brings a strong focus on safety, wellness, and operational excellence to his work in the fire service.

# Course Program At A Glance

Course	Wednesday, 6/17	Thursday, 6/18	Friday, 6/19	Saturday, 6/20
Rope Rescue				
Emergency Medical Response (EMR)				
Fire Officer I				
Essentials of Fire Chaplaincy				
Wildland S-215				
DPSST Skills Training				
Swift Water Rescue				
Apparatus Equipped with a Fire Pump*				
Wildland S-290*				
Fire Instructor I*				
Wildland S-230				
Pastoral Crisis Intervention I & II				
Vehicle Rescue Technician				
OSFM Health & Safety Collaborative				
Improving Emergency Services for People Living with Dementia				

*\*Hybrid courses may require completion of assignments prior to the start of the conference. See the Class Information for details.*

# REGISTRATION FORM



Online registration, course descriptions, and lodging information available at: [ovfa.org](http://ovfa.org).

Attendee Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendee Email \_\_\_\_\_ Attendee Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 District/Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Chief/Training Officer Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 District/Agency Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

OVFA MEMBERS		NON-MEMBERS		ADDITIONAL FEES				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Four-day Conference:	\$440	<input type="checkbox"/>	Four-day Conference:	\$515	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vehicle Rescue Technician	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Three-day Conference:	\$350	<input type="checkbox"/>	Three-day Conference:	\$425	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any Wildland Course	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-day Conference:	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-day Conference:	\$325	<input type="checkbox"/>	Apparatus Equipped with a Fire Pump	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	One-day Conference:	\$150	<input type="checkbox"/>	One-day Conference:	\$225	<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra Banquet Meal	\$ 45	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra Banquet Meal	\$ 45	\$ _____		

Using the previous page, specify the class(es) you would like to attend:  
 Schedule subject to change.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations received **AFTER MAY 25**, will be charged an additional **\$25** processing fee.

Please acknowledge the fee increase by initialing here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals provided:** Light breakfast & lunch for all attendees; banquet included for 2-day, 3-day, and 4-day attendees only. Banquet tickets available for purchase for guests and other attendees.

Will you be attending the OVFA Banquet on Friday 6/19 starting at 5:30 p.m.? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

**REQUIRED TO PROCESS REGISTRATION**

**Oregon Volunteer Firefighter Conference Liability Statement of Understanding and Assumption of Risk:** I understand and acknowledge that hosting fire districts are acting as an agent of the Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association in coordinating the OVFA Annual Conference from June 17 to June 20, 2026. Recreational activities are the sole responsibility of the Participant. I understand that as a Participant my exclusive remedy for injury or illness, which may arise out of participation in this conference, rests solely with my agency or affiliation and/or with me. Recreational activities are not mandatory. Risks associated with participation in any activities, including transportation to and from the event, are the responsibility of the Participant. By signing you are agreeing that as a Participant you agree and that you have informed your district/department/agency of your involvement in the OVFA Conference.

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that any conference cancellation received after **May 29, 2026**, will be reviewed by the OVFA Conference Committee and will result in a minimum \$50 cancellation fee. Substitutions are welcome through **June 17, 2026**. Participant's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT METHODS** (select one):

Bill My Department/Agency at the billing address above  
 Check Made Payable to OVFA Enclosed with this registration  
 Email link to pay by credit card to \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit your completed registration to:**  
**Mail:** OVFA Conference, 1284 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 **Email:** [laureal@ovfa.org](mailto:laureal@ovfa.org) **Fax:** 503-364-9919



# OREGON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

## OVFA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP FORM

*"Representing Those Who Volunteer"*

### **Scholarships will be only for tuition and attendance at all functions at the OVFA Conference.**

Lodging, travel, and meals outside of conference will be the responsibility of the registrant.

#### **Requirements:**

Must be a member in good standing of a member department of the OVFA.

Must include copy of conference registration with application.

All applications must be received at the OVFA office: 1284 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 prior to May 4, 2026.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Rank/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you personally attended a previous OVFA Annual Conference?  Yes  No

Has anyone from your department attended a previous OVFA Annual Conference?  Yes  No

Will your department pay your lodging expenses?  Yes  No

District/Department budget for current fiscal year \_\_\_\_\_

Number of calls answered by District/ Department in 2025 \_\_\_\_\_

How many square miles does your department service? \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that the information recorded on this application is correct. I further understand that OVFA is not authorized to provide medical, accident, or health insurance for applicants. If, for any reason, I am unable to attend this event, I will promptly notify the OVFA office. I understand that I am expected to participate in all aspects of the conference including business meetings, vendor night, and the banquet held in conjunction with my registered attendance.*

**Signature of Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Fire Chief/Training Officer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed application by May 4, 2026, to the OVFA office:

1284 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

**FAX:** (503) 364-9919

**EMAIL:** Abbie@ovfa.org





# OREGON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT NOMINATION FORM

*“Representing Those Who Volunteer”*

Nominee's Name	Years of Service	Highest Rank or Position
Name of Fire Department or District	Mailing Address	
Submitted by	Daytime Telephone #	Email Address

**The individual named above is hereby submitted for consideration for the annual Lifetime Achievement Award.**

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have provided a long-term and significant commitment to public fire and life safety service. Nominees must have contributed twenty (20) or more years of active service with an emergency service agency whose membership contains volunteers. This award may be given to no more than one individual annually. Award winner will receive a complimentary conference registration and two banquet tickets.

**Deadline to submit a nomination is May 4, 2026.**

**PLEASE LIMIT YOUR RESPONSE TO THE SPACE PROVIDED ON THIS FORM  
AND ONE ADDITIONAL, SINGLE-SIDED PAGE.**

***Include specific information regarding positions held, projects completed, scope of work in fire prevention,  
volunteer recruitment/retention and alarm response, etc.***

Describe why you feel this nominee is deserving of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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Describe how this nominee has made a difference in his/her department and/or community.

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Send completed form to: **Lifetime Achievement Nomination Committee**

1284 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

**FAX:** (503) 364-9919

**EMAIL:** Abbie@ovfa.org

# OVFA's 2026 BANQUET

**Friday, June 19**

**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.— 9:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Pacific Northwest Truck Museum

Located at 3995 Brooklake Rd. NE, just one mile west of the Training Center

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## LODGING INFORMATION

*OVFA has decided not to reserve any room blocks this year. Instead, we are providing a list of recommended lodging options, along with the per diem rates for each. Please ensure you have your Fire Department ID or proof of eligibility available upon arrival for your reservation.*

**\*Holiday Inn Keizer –6150 Keizer Station Blvd.**

Per diem rate **\$110** plus taxes, fees, and assessments. Please note weekend rates may vary.  
Reservations: 971-718-5335

**\*Holiday Inn Salem –3301 Market ST NE**

Rate **\$164** plus taxes, fees, and assessments. Please note weekend rates may vary.  
Reservations: 503-370-7888

**\*Best Western Woodburn- 2980 Tom Tennant Dr.**

Per diem rate **\$110** plus taxes, fees, and assessments. Please note weekend rates may vary.  
Reservations: 503-982-6515

**\*La Quinta Woodburn- 120 N. Arney Rd.**

Per diem rate **\$110** plus taxes, fees, and assessments. Please note weekend rates may vary.  
Reservations: 503-982-1727

*\* Based on availability.*

# OVFA

1284 Court Street NE • Salem, OR 97301 • Phone: (503) 378-0896

[www.ovfa.org](http://www.ovfa.org)