

Blackhawk Firefighters Association Fire/EMS Conference



**Friday, May 16, 2025
6:00pm-9:00pm**

Heavy Equipment Rescue with Rhys Eastham

This course will discuss the intersection of construction equipment and the fire department. It will address the critical issue of low-frequency, high-risk incidents, as well as some of

the considerations necessary for equipment-involved accidents. Rhys Eastham has over 22 years of experience within the construction equipment industry, with 18 of those years with Volvo Construction Equipment. Currently, Rhys serves as the Global Head of Uptime and Vice President of Uptime for the North America region. Outside of work, Rhys is a dedicated firefighter with Carlisle Fire and Rescue Services, where they have a passion for truck and rescue operations.

Free to Attend. Meal Provided. For Questions or Registration, please email student name, department, and class to info@dingesfire.com.

Location: Dixon Elks Lodge 779, 1279 Franklin Grove Road, Dixon, IL 61021

BLACKHAWK FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION FIRE/EMS CONFERENCE

Saturday, May 17th, 2025 - 8:00-5:00pm

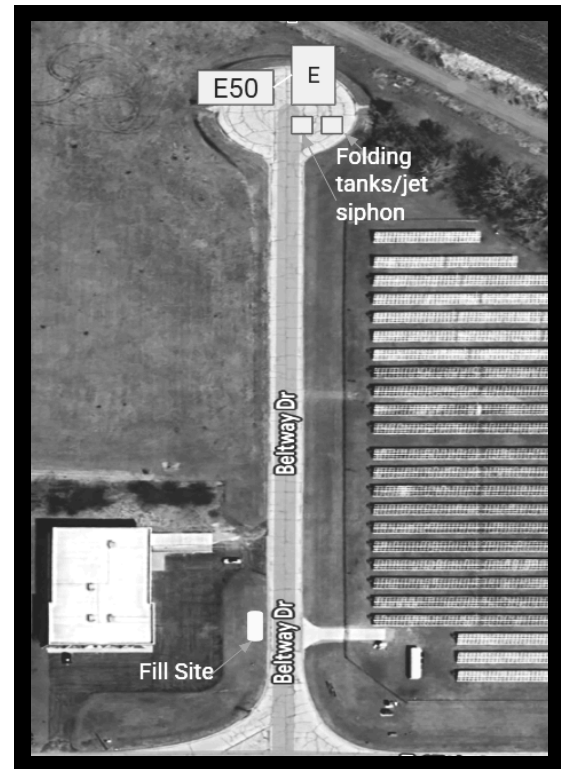
7 Class Offerings

- **1st Rung Recruit & Rookie Fire and Extrication Training - Hands-On (Held at Amboy Fire Department)**
- **Putting it all Together Fire Company Operations - Hands-On (Held at Dixon Rural Fire Department)**
- **EMS Topics - Classroom (Held at Dixon City Fire Department)**
- **Auto Extrication - Hands-On (Held in Dixon - Location TBD)**
- **Pump Operations - Tender & Engine Operations - Hands-On (Held in Rock Falls on Beltway Drive - See Map)**
- **Company Officer - Tailored for the Right Seat (Held at Dixon Elks Club)**

Cost - \$50 per BFFA member or \$100 per non-BFFA member

Lunch hour food will not be provided. All classes will have a break to allow students to go to local eateries and return to class. 1st Rung class in Amboy will have a food truck on site to purchase lunch.

For Questions or Registration, please email student name, department, and class to info@dingesfire.com.



Sponsors:



BLACKHAWK FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION FIRE/EMS CONFERENCE

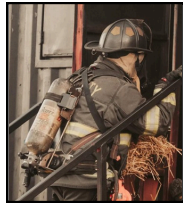


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1st Rung Recruit & Rookie Fire and Extrication Training - Hands-On - w/ Scott Wittenauer, Mike Kucaba & Crew

This class will be geared towards perfecting basic fire ground operations with hands-on live fire training in several different scenarios with hose handling and advancement. Additional rotations will include an SCBA confidence-building course, forcible entry, and vertical ventilation practicals. Instructors from several departments will bring over 150 years of fire ground experience. Expect an intense class packed with information, geared towards a new or experienced firefighter just wanting to get the basics right. **REQUIRED: Full PPE, SCBA, & spare bottle.** (NFPA 1403 for Live Fire Training and NFPA 1500 and 29 CFR 1910.134 for Facial Hair will be Strictly Enforced)



Putting it all Together Fire Company Operations - Hands-On - with Jason Greer

This class is designed to provide hands-on training in fireground operations within a live-fire environment. Participants will learn and practice critical skills, including:

- **Building Size-Up:** Understanding how to assess a structure, identify hazards, and develop a tactical plan.
- **Command Operations:** Running an effective incident command system to ensure accountability and clear communication on the fireground.
- **Fire Attack Strategies:** Planning and executing efficient fire attack methods while adapting to dynamic conditions.
- **Forcible Entry:** Gaining access to structures quickly and effectively using the appropriate tools & techniques.
- **Primary Search:** Conducting thorough searches for occupants under live-fire conditions, prioritizing safety and efficiency.



The goal of this class is to integrate all these elements into a cohesive approach, helping participants develop the skills and confidence needed to be successful in real-world fireground operations. By the end of the course, students will have enhanced their tactical abilities and preparedness for real world events, ensuring they are ready to face the challenges of the fireground with competence and confidence.

Prerequisites: A solid understanding of basic firefighter skills, familiarity with and ability to operate a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), previous live-fire experience is not required.

EMS Topics - Classroom - with Ken Bouvier

Ken Bouvier is the Fire Chief at Westwego, Louisiana Fire Department. He is a paramedic & professional speaker known nationally & internationally. He started his Fire/EMS in 1975 as a volunteer firefighter / EMT and went on to become a career Firefighter / Fire Chief / Paramedic until retirement in 2012. Coincidentally, he joined New Orleans EMS in 1986 as an EMT and later as a paramedic until he retired as Deputy Chief of Operations in 2019. Bouvier served as EMS Commander of most New Orleans major events including Mardi Gras, Super Bowls, Hurricanes and managed the EMS crews and was featured on the A&E Television Show NIGHTWATCH. Bouvier is the recipient of several major awards, 1989-NAEMT National EMT of the Year Award, 2008-Morando Lifetime Achievement Award, 2019-Louisiana EMS Lifetime Achievement Award and the 2022 Westwego Firefighter of the Year Award. Bouvier served as President of NAEMT 2004-2006, Life Member of Westwego Fire Department, Louisiana Firemen's Association, NAEMT and Louisiana Fire Chief's Association. He is an active member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Executive Officers Section.

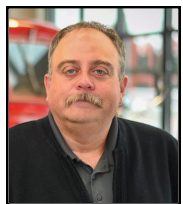


Auto Extrication - Hands-On - with Chris Soda

This comprehensive Vehicle Extrication class is designed to equip firefighters with the knowledge and hands-on skills needed to safely and effectively extricate victims from vehicles involved in accidents. Participants will gain a deep understanding of vehicle construction, safety systems, and the latest techniques used to manage complex extrication scenarios. By the end of this course, participants will have a solid foundation in extrication tactics and be prepared to handle even the most challenging rescue situations, ensuring they can perform with confidence under pressure. Modern Techniques for Modern Vehicles.



Chris Soda is a 17-year member of the Chicago Fire Department where he is currently assigned in the 4th District as a relief lieutenant. Chris also teaches at Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA) where he is the program coordinator for the Vehicle Machinery Operations and Technician programs. In addition to teaching at NIPSTA, Chris has also been an instructor for the Chicago Fire Department, Quinn Fire Academy, teaching candidate firefighter's vehicle extrication. Chris is the owner of Junk Yard Dog Extrication Training teaching Emergency Response to Electric Vehicles and vehicle extrication to first responders.



Pump Operations - Tender & Engine Operations - Hands-On - with Jeremy Billeb & Joel Hallstrom

Mastering fire operations starts with water. This class will cover basic pump theory and move into hands-on training utilizing water supply from a hydrant or rural operations. **FULL PPE RECOMMENDED, no SCBA.**



Company Officer - Tailored for the Right Seat - with Craig A. Haigh

Students will gain an understanding of operational priorities as they relate to structural fire suppression strategies and how coordination of the tactics between operating company are used to manage life safety and property conservation concerns. Whether an entry level firefighter, company officer, or chief officer, this training will build your knowledge and enhance your foundational knowledge of structural fire operations.



Craig A. Haigh is a retired fire chief who has led volunteer, combination, and career fire departments. He served as a fire chief for more than 30 years leading departments in Illinois and North Carolina before retiring in July 2021. He is the author of the book, *The Dynamic Fire Chief: Principles for Organizational Management* (Fire Engineering). He has also served as an Interim Village Manager. He was named the 2012 Illinois Career Fire Chief of the Year and is the recipient of the 2019 International Association of Fire Chiefs - Chief Alan Brunacini Executive Safety Award. He has published more than fifty trade journal articles on a variety of leadership topics. He is the Principal of Haigh Solutions LLC, a consulting firm focused on management, organizational leadership, and firefighter health and safety.

