

# 2017 South Dakota Fire Instructors Conference

**Date:** January 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Location:** Best Western Ramkota River Center  
Amphitheater II  
920 W Sioux Avenue  
Pierre SD 57501  
1-605-224-6877

**Registration:** 0730-0830 in the lobby out in front of Amphitheater II

**Saturday:** 0830- call the Business meeting to order  
(housekeeping business, fill the committees, General information etc.)  
0845-1200 Class  
1200-1330 lunch break  
1330-1700 Class  
1700- Resume the Business Meeting

**Sunday:** 0800-1200 Class  
1200- Conclude the Annual Meeting and adjourn

This year's Instructor Conference will feature two train the trainer classes. The class descriptions for the speakers are listed below. Pre-registration was set at \$25 and must be sent in and post marked by Dec15th, after that the registration will be \$30. This also means that anyone that requires to be billed or pays at the conference for the registration shall be charged the \$30 per instructor.

**Send ALL payments to: Jess Sondgeroth**  
**SDFIA - Treasurer**  
**5 Kansas Ave.**  
**Platte, SD 57369**  
**Or online at**

[2017 SD Fire Instructors Conference](#)

This year's conference will host two train the trainer classes, NFFF and the Federal Highway Administration sponsored TIM. See listings below.

**National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) Courage to Be Safe (CTBS)**

This course is a provocative and moving presentation by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, through the Everyone Goes Home® Program, that is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of firefighters as a normal occurrence. Leadership, accountability, Culture, and Knowledge (LACK) is your department on the path to a LODD? This compelling presentation by the National Fallen Firefighter Foundations examines the root causes of LODD's and the role of Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge as it influences the end result. Leadership so Everyone Goes Home (LEGH) a course of the Everyone Goes Home® Program of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation designed to assist in the reduction of LODDs utilizing a series of case studies.

**Kevin Sehmeyer** has 32 years of experience in the Fire Service, including six years in the Michigan Air National Guard as a Crash Rescue Fire Fighter. He has held the following positions in the Grand Rapids Fire Department since 1985: Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief, Training Chief, and retired in January 2016 as the Deputy Fire Chief of Support Services. Since retiring from the Grand Rapids Fire Department, Kevin has kept very busy consulting in both the fire service and private sector in Leadership and Organizational Development. He continues to be a leader in fire training in many topics including School Bus Extrication, Fire Officer Leadership Skills, and Fire-ground Tactics workshops and seminars presented by his company Rescue Resources LLC. Kevin has been an active contract instructor for the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) since 2014. Currently he instructs the "Principles of Modern Attack" and "NPFA 1403 Live Fire Instructor Certification" classes across the United States and Canada for the ISFSI. Since 2011 Kevin has been State Advocate for the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation (NFFF). In November 2015 Kevin was appointed by the NFFF to serve as the Region 5 Volunteer Advocate and coordinates NFFF activities in six states. He was the Chairman of the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union Safety and Health Committee from 2004 to 2010. He became a State of Michigan Certified Fire Instructor in 1996. Currently he is certified to the NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor Level 2 by the State of Michigan Office of Fire Fighter Training. Kevin has a BA in Management and Organizational Development from Spring Arbor University.

## **Traffic Incident Management (TIM)**

The National TIM Responder Training Program was developed by responders for responders, and was designed to establish the foundation for and promote consistent training of all responders to achieve the three objectives of the TIM National Unified Goal (NUG):

- Responder Safety
- Safe, Quick Clearance
- Prompt, Reliable, Interoperable Communications

The Train-the-Trainer (TtT) course is intended to provide participants (i.e., trainers) the knowledge and materials necessary for them to conduct TIM training for TIM responders in their area or state. The TtT is a 1½-day course that covers 11 hours of material, including classroom training as well as hands-on and outdoor activities. Once trainers have completed the TtT course, they will have the flexibility to train others as appropriate using either the full version of the training or through use of a condensed 4-hour version of the training.

### **Daniel Kontos**

Dr. Daniel Kontos currently serves as the Chief Deputy and Undersheriff at the Portage County (Wisconsin) Sheriff's Office. He is a former Fire Chief for the Whiting Fire and Rescue, Portage County Hazardous Materials Team Commander, and nationally certified instructor for law enforcement, fire service, and hazardous materials. Daniel is active in the Wisconsin Traffic Incident Management Enhancement program at both the state and local levels. He is an experienced instructor, especially in the field of Traffic Incident Management for both the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

### **Bruce Varner**

Bruce H. Varner retired December 30, 2010 as the Fire Chief of Santa Rosa (CA) Fire Department having served in that position since May 2004. Chief Varner began his fire service career with the Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department in 1967, promoting through the ranks to Deputy Chief in 1985. He became the Fire Chief in Carrollton (TX) in 1992, serving there until 2004. His fire service experience includes administration, operations, communications, safety, airport operations, training, fire prevention and investigations. Chief Varner has taught numerous fire service training classes throughout the United States and is recognized for his expertise in firefighter protective clothing and safety issues.

## South Dakota Fire Instructors Association



This is a notice of the upcoming Conference on January 14-15, 2017 and this notice is also to remind Instructors that the pre-registration was set at \$25 and must be sent in and post marked by Dec 15th, after that the registration will be \$30. This also means that anyone that requires to be billed or pays at the conference for the registration shall be charged the \$30 per instructor.

Our intention to have all pre-register, this will allow an easier registration the day of the conference. This year you will receive a card showing that you are a paid member of the Association and are covered by the Insurance Policy.

As you send in your registration a list of **ALL** your Department **instructor names** and their **email addresses** need to be written legibly or typed so the names will be entered appropriately for the Insurance. If you pay for Instructors that do not attend the Conference their cards can be picked up at the Conference by a fellow member or will be mailed to your Department. Checks are to be made out to "South Dakota Fire Instructors Association" or SDFIA, no cash please unless paying at the Conference.

So again please get your registration in as soon as possible to insure you will receive the Insurance coverage.

Thanks

Damon Hartmann

South Dakota Fire Instructors Association – Secretary

**Send ALL payments to:**

**Jess Sondgeroth**

**South Dakota Fire Instructors Association – Treasurer**

**5 Kansas Ave.**

**Platte, SD 57369**