

**Sunday – All Day**

**7 Hours**

## **Crisis Leadership Management**

This class is for chiefs and officers in volunteer and paid departments, as well as leadership in EMS. We discuss leadership principles in today's challenging environment. We will review incidents that have occurred in my personal and professional life. We discuss 2016 wildfire lessons learned and principles applied. Then, further discuss my personal, professional, weight, and physical fitness struggles in the fire service. In review of Pigeon Forge Fire-Rescue (PFFD) quarterly fitness assessments, we use an NWCG pack test, a firefighter furnace assessment based on NFPA 1583, SCBA air consumption drill, and an NFPA 1583 physical assessment screening. With this approach, I have transformed the standards for health and wellness standards within PFFD. I further go on to discuss my personal disciplinary action and subsequent suspension; and the ways that I have worked to come out of the experience stronger than before. Additional subjects reviewed include:

- March 2022 Hatcher Mountain wildfire event and examine improvements that our department has made to our county-wide system as a result.
- November 2016 Gatlinburg Fire and my driving goal to provide tools for today's leadership that strengthens and confirms that through adversity you can learn, react, and come out stronger because of the experience. In short, every moment counts, including this one.

### **Instructor – Tony L Watson**

Tony L Watson is the Pigeon Forge Fire-Rescue Chief, a second-generation firefighter with 35 years of industry experience, and a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program. After serving 17 years as a volunteer, Tony became the first salaried chief of the Pigeon Forge Fire Department in 2007, growing the department to 75 salaried and volunteer team members. Early in his career, Tony worked full-time in EMS, climbing the ranks, and becoming the training officer for a growing ALS transport system. His education and experience in EMS led him to become a multidisciplinary fire/rescue and EMS instructor and later to become an adjunct instructor for Walters State Community College and the National Fire Academy. Tony has served as past President of the Sevier County Fire Chiefs Association and past President of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, remaining heavily involved in its current planning and functions. His formal education includes an Associate of Arts degree in Fire Science from Walters State Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management, and a Master of Art in Education degree in Organizational Training from Tusculum College.