



Saturday (One day)

24. Managing the MAYDAY

Instructor: Michael Prete

NEW for 2026

The last thing any firefighter, company officer or chief officer wants to hear over the radio on the fireground are the shouts of “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”!!! This program will review and discuss the common themes in firefighter injury and fatalities, and the common situations that create mayday events. In addition, the students will learn the role of Incident Command in the MAYDAY, the role of a firefighter in the MAYDAY, discuss the importance of effective communication, the PAR, and the importance of Rapid Intervention. Also, the program will identify the relationship of the Incident Management System and a Rapid Intervention Team. Finally, students will have an opportunity to review numerous Case Studies. Students will see final images and hear harrowing last words of firefighters who have given the ultimate sacrifice during mayday events as they learn from those events through in-depth analysis.

About the instructor:

Mike Prete retired after 37-years of active service as an Assistant Fire Chief at Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Services, a large combination department near our nation’s capital. With over 40-years of fire and rescue experience, Mike started as a volunteer in a department that bordered Washington DC and served in a career capacity for Montgomery County holding positions from Firefighter Paramedic through Executive Operations Chief. In addition to his role directly relating to fire and rescue operations, he managed daily operational and administrative issues including budget, daily oversight and scheduling for 1300 full time personnel. Mike began teaching in his early days as a sergeant, serving as a recruit instructor, and has continued this passion today. With national and state instructor certifications, Mike has served as an adjunct instructor for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, NIMS Instructor for MEMA, Anne Arundel Community College adjunct instructor, Practical Incident Control Training lead instructor and holds various certifications in public safety. Since his retirement, Mike splits his time between teaching and as a project coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). Mike hosts the NFFF Podcast series Firefighter After Action Review which takes deep dives into Line of Duty Death incidents by discussing all aspects of these incidents with personnel who have knowledge of these tragic events.