

39th Annual - Bryant Stiles Officers School February 19 – 22, 2026 Owensboro, KY



Sunday (One day)

29. Fireground Strategy: Commanding the Fire Ground

Instructor: John Turner

NEW for 2026

This dynamic, interactive course is designed for all levels, from small volunteer to metro departments. It goes beyond the mechanics of using the command system, diving deep into the decision-making process at the command post and the critical role of the incident commander. Learn how to formulate effective strategies, know when to adapt, and how to respond to a Mayday. Finally, prepare for what happens after the fire with guidance on handling media interviews. This course is full of nuggets to sharpen your command skills and build confidence in making life-saving decisions on the fireground.

About the instructor:

John Turner holds the rank of Fire Chief in Derby, KS, a position he has held for the past five years. His career spans four decades, having risen through the operational ranks in some of the busiest companies within the Wichita Fire Department in Wichita, KS. A chief officer since 2009, he has managed numerous major emergencies. He is a contract instructor at the National Fire Academy and holds a Master's Degree in education. Chief Turner has conducted training sessions in over 30 states.