

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual - Bryant Stiles Officers School February 19 – 22, 2026 Owensboro, KY



## Sunday (One day)

## 31. I am In charge, NOW WHAT? Rules of Engagement for Fire Officers!

Instructor: Tim Whitham

One of the most misunderstood applications of promotions is what will be required of the individual. Moving from one position to another within the fire service is a daunting task. It is not easily accomplished and will require sacrifice. Leadership is a constant hard-fought battle that will require all of the individual's abilities, a lot of time and effort, forward thinking, dedication, sleepless nights, stress, mistakes, gains, sacrifice, pride, intestinal fortitude and taking responsibility. Whether the fire officer wants to admit it or not, they are now the "BOSS", and with it comes a new mindset, abilities and the ability to avoid making critical mistakes that will affect their ability to motivate, lead and change their organization and the fire service.

## About the Instructor:

Timothy F. Whitham; MS, EFO, a 28-year veteran of fire and emergency services, serving as a career and volunteer firefighter in career, combination and volunteer agencies at the local, federal and contract level. He is currently the Fire Chief with the Edwardsville Fire Department, in the Kansas City Kansas metro area. Tim holds a Master's Degree in Leadership with the Emphasis in Disaster Planning and Executive Fire Leadership and is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program through the National Fire Academy. He is accredited through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as a Fire Officer III, Instructor III, Inspector II, Hazardous Materials Technician and Incident Commander, as well numerous other certifications. Tim is an Adjunct Professor with Columbia Southern University, College of Safety & Emergency Services as well as an Adjunct Instructor and Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Applied Research Project (ARP) evaluator with the National Fire Academy.