

Fireground Command / Managing The MayDay

FIREGROUND COMMAND

Many fireground operations are dysfunctional. Why? There can be many reasons. Absence of command or poor command decisions are among the top of the common culprits. This presentation will share strategy to fix the dysfunctional fireground. The program will take the participant through the command sequence, discuss the incident action plan and the designing of a successful strategy and discuss the roles of the various command positions on an incident scene. In addition, a review of NIMS terminology will be discussed and why the use of these terms is important on a day to day basis.

MANAGING THE MAYDAY

One of the most ominous phrases to be heard across radio traffic on the scene of an incident is “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”. Most departments are not prepared for the inevitable call for help by their own personnel. This program looks at a multitude of Mayday events, dives deep into the causes and the management of these events. Through the misfortunes of others, participants in this program will study real mayday events to gain a better understanding as to the causes, warning signs and management of the mayday event.

Instructors – Mike Prete

Mike retired after a 37-years career and 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 and 1100 volunteers.

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 and degrees in business administration and public safety. Since his retirement, Mike splits his time between teaching and as a project coordinator for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).