

The Art Of Reading Smoke

Today's structure fires are more dangerous than ever before. Lightweight construction, low-mass synthetics, and open space floorplans have created a perfect storm for rapid, prolific fire growth and extreme behavior. It is imperative for firefighters of all ranks and experience levels to be prepared for this new battle. The Art of Reading Smoke, developed by Dave Dodson and continued by Rob Backer, provides the knowledge necessary for first-arriving firefighters, officers, and chief officers to determine the fire's location, progression, and future "from the seat" before seeing any flame. This knowledge ensures that the correct tactics are implemented for the best possible outcome. Through the extensive use of actual fireground videos, first-time students will develop, and return students will refine their knowledge and skills to become INTELLECTUALLY aggressive firefighters, rather than ARBITRARILY aggressive. The next generation of Reading Smoke brings new research, a new library of videos, and discussion on cancer prevention, tactics and strategies to develop the next generation of aggressive interior firefighting!

Instructor – Rob Backer

Rob Backer is a 20-year fire service veteran and currently serves as Captain of Engine 76 for Thornton Fire Department in Thornton, Colorado. He has written for Fire Engineering and multiple fire service blogs. He is an instructor for The Art of Reading Smoke and The Art of the First Due.

***This class is also offered on Saturday, February 24th.**