

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

COURSE BROCHURE

FEBRUARY 3RD-4TH, 2026

**HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO
1000 BOARDWALK, ATLANTIC CITY, NJ**



NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (2 DAY)

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026
and
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
08:30 - 15:30**

DFS Credit: 1.0 DFS Instructor Credit

Instructors:

Robert G. Moran, *Fire Chief, (Ret.) Brewster, MA Fire/Rescue, Fire Chief (Ret.)
City of Englewood, NJ*

John J. Lewis, *Lieutenant (Ret.) City of Passaic FD and Bergen County Fire Academy*

Course Description:

To be safe and effective on the fire ground, it is critical for Fire Officers and Firefighters to have exceptional knowledge and understanding of the types of buildings, building construction methods, occupancies, collapse hazards, and construction materials, as well as how the buildings they will be operating will respond under fire conditions. Frank Brannigan, one of the authors of the building construction textbook adopted by New Jersey, said it best when he coined the phrase, "The building is your enemy, know your enemy." This two-day building construction training program will provide attendees with the requisite knowledge of building construction types, methods, materials, hazards and operational considerations that Fire Officers and Firefighters need to acquire to achieve success on the fireground.

Fire Officers who attend the program will meet the 12-hour building construction training requirements for Fire Officer 1 certification in New Jersey. **Students must attend both days of class to receive the 1.0 DFS instructor credit.** Attendees must hold a New Jersey Fire 1 certification to attend.

Continued

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Note: Students must contact Jones and Bartlett to purchase the following book:

Brannigan's Building Construction for the Fire Service,
6th edition with Navigate Advantage Access

ISBN: 9781284177312

Book Code: 17731-2

Your Discounted Price: \$61.77

<http://www.jblearning.com/cart/Default.aspx?bc=17731-2&ref=psg&coupon=NJDFSS22>

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

DEVELOPING AND PRESENTING AN EFFECTIVE FIRE SERVICE PRESENTATION

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
08:30 - 15:30

DFS Credit: UFC Admin Fire Instructor 0.5

Instructors:

Brendan Rhodes, *Chief Middlesex County US&R/Chairman UASI Metro Strike Team /Task Force Leader / FEMA NJTF-1*

Robert Seeburger, *Battalion Chief Special Operations Command, (Ret.)*

Course Description:

As a fire service professional and instructor, you can be called upon to deliver presentations to your community and department. This course is designed for fire instructors looking to enhance their instructional performance. The class will cover tools to use during presentations to promote learning and participation among all students. We will review modern instructional tips and tricks, along with the use of technology to enhance presentations. These tools will assist instructors in teaching the "modern student." The class will be interactive and will also involve students teach-backs.

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

MANAGING THE FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
08:30 - 15:30

DFS Credit: UFC Admin/UFC Investigator 0.5

Instructors:

Bob Disbrow, *LAAI-CFI, Fire Captain/Investigator*

Robert Seeburger, *Battalion Chief Special Operations Command (Ret.)*

Course Description:

As a fire service professional and instructor, you can be called upon to deliver presentations to your community and department. This course is designed for fire instructors looking to enhance their instructional performance. The class will cover tools to use during presentations to promote learning and participation among all students. We will review modern instructional tips and tricks, along with the use of technology to enhance presentations. These tools will assist instructors in teaching the "modern student." The class will be interactive and will also involve students teach-backs.

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

MEGA-EVENT (AND SMALL EVENT) SAFETY & SECURITY: BEST PRACTICES FOR NJ FIRE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

08:30 - 15:30

DFS Credit: UFC Tech/UFC Investigator 0.5

Instructors:

BC Paul Kearns (Ret.), *Lecturer and Undergraduate Program Coordinator,
Emergency Services Administration, CUNY-John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Chief Brian Higgins (Ret.), *Lecturer John Jay College of Criminal Justice Emergency
Services Administration, CUNY-John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Course Description:

A six-hour advanced seminar for New Jersey fire service responders, inspectors, instructors, and emergency managers. The course delivers specialized knowledge on life safety, code compliance, security risk assessment, and emergency response at large public events, emphasizing NJ-specific code requirements, ASIS and NFPA standards, operational planning, and global best practices. Real-world incidents and professional standards—including NFPA 1660 and ASIS guidelines—illustrate the critical importance of compliance and preparedness.

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

FUNDAMENTALS OF AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER AND STANDPIPE SYSTEMS

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026
08:30 - 15:30**

DFS Credit: UFC/UCC Tech & Investigation 0.5

Instructor:

Paul T. Dansbach, *Fire Marshal, Borough of Rutherford*

Course Description:

This course will present timely and up to date material covering fundamental design and water supply requirements for automatic sprinkler and standpipe systems including when and why building fire pumps are required. The participants will be able to identify the various component parts of automatic sprinkler systems, standpipe systems and fire pumps. The importance of ensuring these fire protection systems are maintained in full service, while identifying common system impairments and violations which lead to these fire protection systems being out of service, will be reviewed throughout the course

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
08:30 - 15:30

DFS Credit: Instructor Tech 0.5

Instructor:

Nelson Wiest, *CPM Fire Chief (Ret.), Past President NJ Career Fire Chiefs Association*

Course Description:

Beyond the Theory: A Kitchen Table Approach to Leadership

Leadership isn't confined to textbooks, rank insignias, or formal training rooms—it's built in real conversations, daily decisions, and the shared experiences that shape our teams. Beyond the Theory: A Kitchen Table Approach to Leadership invites participants into an open, honest dialogue about what leadership truly looks like in practice.

Using the familiar “kitchen table” setting as a metaphor for candid discussion, this program explores both the strengths and the pitfalls of leadership. Participants will examine real-world scenarios, reflect on their own behaviors, and discuss the challenges faced in guiding others—whether formally or informally.

This session emphasizes that there is no single, one-size-fits-all formula for effective leadership. Instead, every person, regardless of rank or role, has the capacity to lead through their actions, attitude, and influence. Through interactive conversation and self-reflection, attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of their personal leadership style and practical insights they can apply immediately in their everyday environment.

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

MANAGING SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026
08:30 - 15:30**

DFS Credit: UFC Admin/UFC Investigator 0.5

Instructors:

Bob Disbrow, LAAI-CFI, *Fire Captain/Investigator (Ret.)*

Robert Seeburger, *Battalion Chief Special Operations Command, (Ret.)*

Brendan Rhodes, *Chief Middlesex County US&R/Chairman UASI Metro Strike Team /Task Force Leader / FEMA NJTF-1*

Course Description:

The course will cover establishing, maintaining, and managing a Special Operation Command, the different types of teams and technical rescue training levels, creating a team based on needs rather than wants, and understanding the application standards for recruiting the correct members. It will also cover developing outside partnerships to further enhance capabilities throughout the response area, reviewing training standards and certifications, and discussing the recertification process. Finally, it will address budgeting concerns through grants and other financial support.

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

NAVIGATE TRAIN THE TRAINER WITH PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP &

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY TRAINING & CERTIFICATION UPDATE 2026

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

08:30 - 15:30

DFS Credit: .5 Instructor

Instructors:

Jennifer Troup, Jones + Bartlett, *Account Executive*

Gregory Kirkham, *Training & Certification Supervisor, New Jersey Division of Fire Safety*

Course Description:

Join Jennifer Troup with the Public Safety Group to explore Navigate, an online learning platform accompanying each textbook to support instruction, promote classwork management, and drive concept mastery. During our time together, we will look at Navigate Premier for New Jersey Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills & Hazardous Response, 5th edition, a complete Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II training solution. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) are pleased to bring you product enhancements and features that ensure student comprehension and enhanced critical thinking skills. Navigate transforms the traditional teaching and learning environment by bringing together authoritative and interactive content aligned to course objectives. We will review practice activities that reinforce student understanding, including flashcards, PowerPoints, Test Prep, case studies, videos, and an eBook. If possible, please bring your laptop to the class to set up your personal account to JBL and gain access to a Navigate course for further exploration.

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety's Training and Certification Supervisor, Gregory Kirkham, will provide students with an overview of the required and minimum recommended qualifications and certifications for the New Jersey Fire Service. Established procedures and policies will be reviewed as well as updates to the training regulations for 2026.

NEW JERSEY FMBA EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION

UTILIZING DIVISION SUPERVISORS: ENHANCING TASK LEVEL SUPERVISION

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

08:30 - 15:30

DFS Credit: 0.5 UFC Fire Instructor

Instructor:

Patrick Wirkus, *Battalion Chief, CFO, MIFireE*

Course Description:

This course introduces a tactical framework for embedding fire officers into division supervisor roles to address gaps in task-level supervision on the fireground. Participants will explore how this decentralized model reduces span-of-control issues, enhances operational coordination, and improves firefighter safety. Grounded in real-world implementation and aligned with NFPA 1550 and 1710 the course covers command presence, radio discipline, accountability, tactical coordination, and the use of thermal imaging. Case studies include complex incidents in legacy construction and lithium-ion battery fires. Whether you're a chief officer, aspiring chief officer, or a company officer functioning in a command capacity, this course delivers actionable strategies for improving fireground performance through embedded supervision.