



## **2024 Conference Class Overview:**

**Thursday, August 22, 2024**

### **General Track:**

**Class T1300-1 | When Meters Matter - Thursday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Class T1300-2 | Roundtable with PEMA - Thursday: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Friday, August 23, 2024**

### **Transportation Track:**

**Class F1300-1 | Tabletop - Highway: Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Class F1300-2 | Highway Tank Review - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Class F1300-3 | Anatomy of a Derailment, CSX Case Study: Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Class F1300-4 | AWR-290 - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

### **Radiological Track:**

**Class F1300-5 | Why Does Everyone Hate Radiation? - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Class F1530-1 | Radioactive Waste Shipment Review - Friday: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

### **General Track:**

**Class F1300-6 | Roll-out of Awareness & Operations Courses - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**Class F1500-1 | PEMA's New Directives - Friday: 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Class F1600-1 | Drones and Technology in Public Safety Responses - Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



## Vendor Track:

**Vendor VF1300-1 | MSA – Friday - 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Vendor VF1300-2 | MCM Consulting Group – Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Vendor VF1430-1 | Bad Day Training - Friday: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Vendor VF1430-2 | Blackline Safety - 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Vendor VF1600-1 | 908 Devices - Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

## Saturday, August 24, 2024

### Transportation Track:

**Class S0800-1 | Railcar Incident Response – Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**[YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS. Click This Link To Download a PDF with the Class Description and a Registration Link](#)**

**Class S0830-1 | Alternative Fueled Vehicles - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**Class S0830-2 | Tabletop – Railway – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Class S1030-1 | EV Fire Case Review - Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Class S1300-1 | AWR-290 – Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Class S1300-6 | Knowns Unknowns - Alternative Fuel Vehicles – Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

### Radiological Track:

**Class S1300-2 | I Found a Plutonium Rod in my Basement, Now What? – Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Class S1530-1 | Radioactive Package Assessment – with live sources – Saturday: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



## **General Track:**

**Class S0830-3 | Human Error Prevention** – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Class S0830-4 | Should I be Intubating in the Hot Zone?** – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Class S0830-5 | Are We Producing Quality Emergency Responders Or Are We Just Checking The Boxes** - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Class S0830-6 | Initial Monitoring for First Arriving HazMat Responders** – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Class S1030-2 | Foam IQ Training** - Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Class S1300-3 | When Meters Matter (second offering)** - Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Class S1300-4 | Tele HazMat** – Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Class S1530-2 | Craft Distillery** – Saturday: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Class S1300-5 | Hold my Matches and Watch This!** – Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Class S1030-3 | HAZMAT RIT - Introduction**– Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

***Class Details Below***



## Class Details

**Thursday, August 22, 2024**

### **General Track:**

**Class T1300-1 | When Meters Matter - Thursday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

4-hours

This class will teach First Responders how to use a meter properly and understand the readings they see and the implications of such, at an emergency response. Currently, it is estimated that 90% of first responders can turn a meter on but have no idea what the readings mean when it alarms; nor do they have the knowledge of changing situations as a meter begins to register readings, putting them at significant risk.

This is a self-contained course and is geared for all experience levels, from the most experienced HazMat Technician to the rookie. The Meter Guys arrive with everything to teach the class, meters, reference material, and chemicals.

#### **PRESENTERS:**

Meter Guys

Scott Russell is a 29-year Veteran of the Baltimore County Fire Department where he began his career as a Paramedic assigned to the Hazmat Team. He is now a Captain with the Hazardous Materials Response Team. He also volunteers his time as a member of the NFPA 470 committee and is on numerous research and development task groups vetting and collaborating on the next generation of Hazmat PPE and equipment. He also is an IAFF Hazmat instructor bringing quality training to Fire Departments around the country.

Scott retired from the Air Force after 27 years of service as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Delaware Air National Guard's 142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. He spent 27 years performing Aeromedical Evacuation of wounded, deploying nine times in support of four different overseas contingencies. He also performed Disaster/Emergency planning with the Air National Guard specializing in Hurricane evacuation/disaster response.

Scott's education consists of an AA Emergency Medical Services, BS in Nursing, and a MS in Disaster/Emergency Management.

His love is First Responder training and instilling the basics through his Safety Through Knowledge™ concepts; his company creates training focused on the responder with the principles of STK™ and the KISS (keep it simple stupid) concept. He is passionate about First Responder training, getting off the



computers and training hands on in person. His goal is to promote Survival and Safety on incidents and to prevent Cancer in first responders.

Scott Russell also founded the non-profit organization Society of One America's Defenders which is dedicated to building houses for combat wounded Veterans.

Dan Warchol is a 26-year emergency services veteran with experience in EMS, 911/ Emergency Dispatch Operations, Emergency Management, Fire and Hazardous Materials responses. Dan has been with the Baltimore County Fire department for the past ten years and currently holds the rank of Fire Lieutenant assigned to the primary Hazmat Unit. He is the Meter Repair Group Supervisor in addition to his regular duties. His experience comes from Union County NJ Hazmat Unit where he was a Captain responsible for daily responses and administrative duties including the UASI Hazmat Group Supervisor, overseeing the funding for the hazmat units in the region & the designing of three regional mass decontamination vehicles. He was also the Secure the Cities Marine Unit Coordinator.

Dan currently serves as a Hazmat Instructor for the NJ State Police hazmat tech course through Rutgers University and is a contract meter instructor for Environics USA. Dan has also worked as an EMT or paramedic for over 25 years and currently works in York County PA as a paramedic.

In his spare time, Dan Warchol coaches his two girls, Alyssa and Daniella's rec soccer teams and enjoys camping with his wife Charlene and family.

Ben Bosley is currently a 25-year firefighter in the Baltimore County Fire Department where he has spent twenty of those as a Hazmat Technician with the Hazardous Materials Response Team. He is a meter training expert and a master instructor.

His teaching techniques make learning meters fun and relevant to where the rubber meets the road which prepares the student for the call "when meters matter". He has a passion for teaching fundamentals of basic chemistry and hazardous materials response. He has the gift of taking complex ideas/concepts and boiling them down to what the first responder needs to know on an incident.

Ben Bosley takes great pride in training the next generation of First Responders as well as volunteering much of his time to the Boy Scouts of America. He is an avid Civil War reenactor and supports The Society of One Americas Defenders in their building of houses for combat wounded Veterans.

**Class T1300-2 | Roundtable with PEMA - Thursday: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

An open discussion.

PRESENTERS: TBD



**Friday, August 23, 2024**

## **Transportation Track:**

**Class F1300-1 | Tabletop - Highway: Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

4-hours

In this training program, students will conduct a functional exercise on the tabletop. Instructor Mike Krzeminski has created an entire town of models, with everything from a basic residence to a main street of commercial buildings, to industrial facilities, transportation infrastructure, and of course the emergency vehicles that accompany an emergency response. Just as reading the containers is important for understanding and preparing for a hazmat incident, this “city” gives responders the chance to “read the incident” in a compressed time and space. The processes of Incident Management in general and the 8-step process can be put to the test, practiced, and discussed as the incidents play out on the tabletop. This is a highly interactive class, chairs will be available, but participants will be moving around and placing resources to respond, manage and mitigate the incident.

The scenario will involve a transportation incident occurring on a highway. There will be a number of issues that will need to be addressed. We will focus on using the 8-step process and consider recommendations that Hazmat experts can make to the emergency management staff. Traffic Management will also need to be addressed.

### **PRESENTER:**

Michael V. Krzeminski is a staff instructor at the Allegheny County (PA) Fire Academy and a volunteer Firefighter at Hilltop Hose Co. #3 in Natrona Hts, PA. He is an adjunct instructor at the PA State Fire Academy. He has a commitment to firefighter safety and the prevention of Line of Duty Deaths while maintaining a capable volunteer fire service through building a solid foundation with entry level volunteers.

Krzeminski is a self-proclaimed student of the Fire Service. His emergency services career began in July of 1997 when he volunteered and joined Hilltop Hose Co. #3. Climbing the ranks, he served as a trustee and chaplain in his early years. After six years of the rank of firefighter, he was elected as a lieutenant and eventually held the offices of captain, assistant chief, and in 2014 accepted the honor of being chief of the company. Krzeminski climbed the ranks of being a state certified fire instructor in the State of Pennsylvania, starting as a non-suppression instructor in 2006, earning suppression instructor status in 2011, and being honored to join the ranks of the Adjunct Instructors to the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy in 2012. In 2017 he accepted a full-time position as a staff fire instructor at the Allegheny County Fire Academy. He is currently the Certification Test Site coordinator for Pro-Board and IFSAC testing, leading online learning efforts, and instructor mentoring. He is the Emergency Management Coordinator for Harrison Township, Pennsylvania, and the Safety



Officer for the Allegheny County Hazmat Team.

A graduate from Highlands High School and Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Social Studies Education, he was an educator at Highlands High School from 1998 to 2016. He taught a variety of courses including World Cultures, Economics, Civics, Pennsylvania History, and American Government as College in High School Professor, Seton Hill University. In addition, a new elective was offered in 2007. Eight fire departments in four municipalities formed an alliance known as the Highlands Emergency Service Alliance. This elective program allowed for the training of new firefighters as volunteers. During the school day, in a 40-minute class, the students progressed through the Pennsylvania Entry Level Fire Training program. The Fire Service training elective continues to this day, offered as a partnership between the Fire Academy and five school districts. It continues to grow with more schools interested in joining soon.

**Class F1300-2 | Highway Tank Review - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

4-hours

This comprehensive Highway Tank Review Course is designed specifically for Hazmat Technicians attending the conference. As the transportation of hazardous materials via highway tanks presents unique challenges and risks, this course aims to enhance technicians' knowledge and proficiency in handling, responding to, and mitigating incidents involving highway tank vehicles.

PRESENTER:

Robert A. Moore Jr., Director of Hazardous Materials Operations, Eagle

**Class F1300-3 | Anatomy of a Derailment, CSX Case Study: Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

3-hours

CSX will provide a situation analysis on the anatomy of a derailment.

PRESENTER:

Mark Castin

**Class F1300-4 | AWR-290 - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

4-hours

This is an awareness level course that provides the most important concepts and core information on railroad terminology, procedures, organization, and response methods.

PRESENTER: SERT-C

# PA HazMat



## Radiological Track:

**Class F1300-5 | Why Does Everyone Hate Radiation - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

90-minutes

When you think of radioactive emergencies, does your mind immediately think of Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, or Atomic Train? Truth is that a majority of emergencies involving radioactive substances involve construction vehicles or normal non placarded vehicles carrying low level packages. Someone smuggling a Soviet warhead onto a runaway train is a scenario only made for the movies. This class will go over radiation basics, transportation case studies, metering techniques, and ways you can make radiation less boring for your team, and keep you prepared to mitigate any incident, without evacuating 50,000 people.

PRESENTER:

Joseph Pordash is a Hazardous Materials Tech/Specialist from Allegheny County Pennsylvania, the county that surrounds the City of Pittsburgh. Joey is a current Battalion Chief with the Allegheny County Hazardous Materials Red Team 440 where he is a current state certified Radiological Officer/Instructor. Joey is affiliated with the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency Hazmat Team 900 where he is the county's state certified Radiological Officer, as well as the Hazmat 2 Environmental Fire Rescue Company out of Lancaster County PA. Joey has eight years' experience on the hazmat team specializing in radiation and medical toxicology.

**Class F1530-1 | Radioactive Waste Shipment Review - Friday: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

90-minutes

Radioactive waste shipments in Pennsylvania are a common and routine event. But the packaging and shipping paper requirements are not necessarily the same as other radioactive material. This session will review in greater detail some of the unique aspects of how radioactive waste is packaged, marked, labeled, and shipped in the United States.

PRESENTER:

Mark Linsley, CHP, Technical Resources Group, Inc., contractor to the United States Department of Energy Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program





## **General Track:**

**Class F1300-6 | Roll-out of Awareness & Operations Courses - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

90-minutes

Review of the Awareness and Operations courses.

PRESENTER: PSFA

**Class F1500-1 | PEMA's New Directives - Friday: 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

90-minutes

Discussion on the new PEMA Directives

PRESENTER: PEMA

**Class F1600-1 | Drones and Technology in Public Safety Responses - Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

1-hour

Drones and Technology in Public Safety is a 1-hour interactive program that covers the use of drones and technology in Public Safety. Students will learn about drone program policy, working relationships across public safety, the value of partnerships and your drone program, and a working relationship with legal authorities. In this program we will cover the following topics: What types of drones are there and what are their capabilities; FAA Part 107 Certification vs. Public Safety Exemption COA; Legal aspects and evidence collection; HazMat Response and capabilities; Thermal Imaging; Technical Hazards Response assistance; Overwatch missions; Other considerations of tech for PSD's.

PRESENTER:

R. Michael Greiser has served as the Public Safety Director for Freeport Borough since 2021. Mike became an FAA Part 107 sUAS Pilot in 2023. Mike has flown drones as a hobbyist since 2017. Mike has operated specialized technology for various federal entities since 2015. He served as the remote Pilot in Command for Armstrong County Department of Public Safety's Drone Team on their first mission, where he is one of the 2 initial Part 107 sUAS Pilots of the program.

Mike has been involved in Public Safety since 1996. His career in HazMat started in 1999 at Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation, West Leechburg Works in their Plant Protection Division. Mike currently



serves in federal law enforcement, as well as in his position with the Borough of Freeport. He volunteers as Chief of Company 420: Allegheny County Hazardous Materials Response Team, as well as serving on Armstrong County DPS Team 330: All-Hazards Response Team. Mike also has served in various positions with the Freeport Fire Department and Freeport EMS, and he was a career firefighter for the Town of Matthews, NC.

## Vendor Track:

**Vendor VF1300-1 | MSA - Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

1-hour

**Vendor VF1300-2 | MCM Consulting Group – Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

1-hour

**Vendor VF1430-1 | Bad Day Training - Friday: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

1-hour

**Vendor VF1430-2 | Blackline Safety – Friday: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

1-hour

**Vendor VF1600-1 | 908 Devices - Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

1-hour

## Saturday, August 24, 2024

## Transportation Track:

**Class S0800-1 | Railcar Incident Response – Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

8-hours

The All-Hazards Training Center at The University of Findlay has developed the Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol, and Other Flammable Liquids training course for the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (DOT PHMSA) to educate emergency responders on freight rail car incident involving hazardous materials, specifically crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids. As more and more rail traffic transports cargo, including hazardous materials, it is important that the responder community become educated about the dangers and unique hazards presented with rail cars carrying these commodities. The information covered in this training course will enhance the ability of emergency responders to assess the scene of a rail car incident, understand the



resources needed to remediate the emergency, including how the railroad will pay a critical role in the response.

**[YOU MUST REGISTER FOR THIS CLASS. Click This Link To Download a PDF with the Class Description and a Registration Link](#)**

PRESENTER:

Brian Archer

The Center for Rural Development, and the University of Findlay's All Hazards Training Center

### **Class S0830-1 | Alternative Fueled Vehicles - Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

90-minutes

This program contains information on vehicles powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), and propane (LPG). The program will cover recognition, property of fuels, container design and features, reference resources, and response strategies/tactics.

PRESENTER:

James Leer's emergency response experience spans over 30-years with the volunteer fire service. Jim is a member of the Somerset VFD and Somerset County (PA) Hazardous Materials Team. His fulltime employment is a Senior Loss Control Consultant for a regional property and casualty insurance company for over 25 years. Prior to working in the insurance industry, he worked as a zoning and code enforcement officer for five years.

He is an Instructor Emeritus/Suppression with over 25-years as a Pennsylvania State Local Level Instructor with a focus on hazardous materials courses. He is ProBoard Certified Firefighter II, Fire Officer III, Instructor II, and Vehicle Rescue Technician. He is currently working on his Hazmat Safety Officer ProBoard certification. Jim holds the designation of Certified Safety Professional (CSP) through the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP).

Jim's formal education includes an A.S. in Fire Science and Administration from Community College of Allegheny County, a B.S. in Safety and Environmental Management from Slippery Rock University, and a M.S. Safety Sciences 0 Technical from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

### **Class S0830-2 | Tabletop – Railway – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

4-hours

In this training program, students will conduct a functional exercise on the tabletop. Instructor Mike Krzeminski has created an entire town of models, with everything from a basic residence to a main street of commercial buildings, to industrial facilities, transportation infrastructure, and of course the

# PA HazMat



emergency vehicles that accompany an emergency response. Just as reading the containers is important for understanding and preparing for a hazmat incident, this “city” gives responders the chance to “read the incident” in a compressed time and space. The processes of Incident Management in general and the 8-step process can be put to the test, practiced, and discussed as the incidents play out on the tabletop. This is a highly interactive class, chairs will be available, but participants will be moving around and placing resources to respond, manage and mitigate the incident.

The scenario will involve a transportation incident occurring on a railway. There will be a number of issues that will need to be addressed. We will focus on using the 8-step process and consider recommendations that Hazmat experts can make to the emergency management staff. In addition, the research capabilities and knowledge of reactivity of products will be a focus, in addition to the recognition and hazard mitigation of other mechanical and physical hazards, which are common to railway incidents will need to be addressed, beyond just the hazmat scene.

## PRESENTER:

Michael V. Krzeminski is a staff instructor at the Allegheny County (PA) Fire Academy and a volunteer Firefighter at Hilltop Hose Co. #3 in Natrona Hts, PA. He is an adjunct instructor at the PA State Fire Academy. He has a commitment to firefighter safety and the prevention of Line of Duty Deaths while maintaining a capable volunteer fire service through building a solid foundation with entry level volunteers.

Krzeminski is a self-proclaimed student of the Fire Service. His emergency services career began in July of 1997 when he volunteered and joined Hilltop Hose Co. #3. Climbing the ranks, he served as a trustee and chaplain in his early years. After six years of the rank of firefighter, he was elected as a lieutenant and eventually held the offices of captain, assistant chief, and in 2014 accepted the honor of being chief of the company. Krzeminski climbed the ranks of being a state certified fire instructor in the State of Pennsylvania, starting as a non-suppression instructor in 2006, earning suppression instructor status in 2011, and being honored to join the ranks of the Adjunct Instructors to the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy in 2012. In 2017 he accepted a full-time position as a staff fire instructor at the Allegheny County Fire Academy. He is currently the Certification Test Site coordinator for Pro-Board and IFSAC testing, leading online learning efforts, and instructor mentoring. He is the Emergency Management Coordinator for Harrison Township, Pennsylvania, and the Safety Officer for the Allegheny County Hazmat Team.

A graduate from Highlands High School and Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Social Studies Education, he was an educator at Highlands High School from 1998 to 2016. He taught a variety of courses including World Cultures, Economics, Civics, Pennsylvania History, and American Government as College in High School Professor, Seton Hill University. In addition, a new elective was offered in 2007. Eight fire departments in four municipalities formed an alliance known as the Highlands Emergency Service Alliance. This elective program allowed for the training of new firefighters as volunteers. During the school day, in a 40-minute class, the students progressed through the Pennsylvania Entry Level Fire Training program. The Fire Service training elective continues to this day, offered as a partnership between the Fire Academy and five school districts. It continues to grow with more schools interested in joining soon.



**Class S1030-1 | EV Fire Case Review - Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

90-minutes

Electric vehicles are increasingly present in our everyday lives. What started as structural fire response resulted in an extended operation cycle involving outside partners and critical decision making. This presentation will expose the steps, actions, challenges, and resources utilized to bring the event to a successful conclusion.

PRESENTER:

Brian Kokkila, Assistant Chief – Operations, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire

**Class S1300-1 | AWR-290 – Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

4-hours

This is an awareness level course that provides the most important concepts and core information on railroad terminology, procedures, organization, and response methods.

PRESENTER:

SERT-C

## **Radiological Track:**

**Class S1300-2 | I Found a Plutonium Rod in my Basement - Now What – Saturday:  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

3-hours

Continuing from our previous discussion on radiation, let us explore why this topic tends to evoke fear and concern. With a foundation in radiation fundamentals, this class will take a hands-on approach to applying your knowledge practically. We will delve into tactics for mitigating hazardous materials incidents involving radioactive substances. This will include mastering the use of radiation detection meters, making informed decisions when establishing control zones, and applying street-smart strategies to navigate complex incidents. You will soon realize that even the presence of plutonium rods in your basement may not be as daunting as it seems. By the end of this course, you will be equipped with the skills and expertise equivalent to a technician or specialist in this field.



**PRESENTER:**

Joseph Pordash is a Hazardous Materials Tech/Specialist from Allegheny County Pennsylvania, the county that surrounds the City of Pittsburgh. Joey is a current Battalion Chief with the Allegheny County Hazardous Materials Red Team 440 where he is a current state certified Radiological Officer/Instructor. Joey is affiliated with the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency Hazmat Team 900 where he is the county's state certified Radiological Officer, as well as the Hazmat 2 Environmental Fire Rescue Company out of Lancaster County PA. Joey has eight years' experience on the hazmat team specializing in radiation and medical toxicology.

**Class S1530-1 | Radioactive Package Assessment – with live sources – Saturday: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

90-minutes

Using high activity, licensed radioactive sources, this session will give attendees the opportunity to perform through radioactive package assessments for the range of material they may encounter: Empty, UN2910, LSA, White 1, Yellow II, and Yellow III packaging.

**PRESENTER:**

Mark Linsley, CHP, Technical Resources Group, Inc., contractor to the United States Department of Energy Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program

**General Track:**

**Class S0830-3 | Human Error Prevention – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

90-minutes

Errors are made every day. Some are made with no consequence, while others lead to deadly disasters. Time, money, and lives can be saved by becoming aware of common error precursors. This program takes a lighthearted look at how to prevent errors both individually and organizationally. We tend to take for granted that every day we are just one mistake away from a fatality or disaster that not only may affect ourselves but many others around us.

**PRESENTER:**

Benjamin Herskowitz has been involved in Emergency Services since the mid-nineties, starting as a Firefighter. For the past 22 years, Ben has been with a Hazardous Materials Response Team starting as a Hazardous Material/Radiological Specialist before being promoted to Hazardous Materials Team Chief of Hazmat 2 Environmental Fire Rescue Company of Lancaster County, PA in 2008. Mr. Herskowitz also has experience in emergency management and currently serves as the Deputy Director for the 6th



most populous county in Pennsylvania and managed the county's radiological response plans for Three Mile Island and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.

Mr. Herskowitz has responded to several complex incidents that include multiple operation periods and complex planning components including train derailments, orphaned radiological sources, and abandoned chemicals. Serving in roles from Group Supervisor to EOC Manager.

**Class S0830-4 | Should I be Intubating in the Hot Zone – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

90-minutes

In the early 2000s, I acquired the knowledge of intubating a patient within a hazardous environment. However, one may wonder about the practicality of this skill in the face of ever-evolving hazardous materials and their potential release. This course delves into the preparedness of medical providers to manage such patients, whether inside or outside the hazardous area. It also explores emerging trends in emergency medicine and offers practical approaches to enhance your proficiency as a tox-medic.

PRESENTER:

Joseph Pordash is a Hazardous Materials Tech/Specialist from Allegheny County Pennsylvania, the county that surrounds the City of Pittsburgh. Joey is a current Battalion Chief with the Allegheny County Hazardous Materials Red Team 440 where he is a current state certified Radiological Officer/Instructor. Joey is affiliated with the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency Hazmat Team 900 where he is the county's state certified Radiological Officer, as well as the Hazmat 2 Environmental Fire Rescue Company out of Lancaster County PA. Joey has eight years' experience on the hazmat team specializing in radiation and medical toxicology.

**Class S0830-5 | Are We Producing Quality Emergency Responders Or Are We Just Checking the Boxes – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

4-hours

This presentation will be a roundtable discussion of what is currently happening in the field including topics such as training content, training structure, evaluation mechanisms, IEPs, JPRs, NFPA Standards, recruitment, retention, mentorship, and incentives. This presentation is directed toward both career and volunteer personnel.

With current textbooks being over 1500 pages, are we encouraging or discouraging participation? With the influx of information, are emergency responders better trained now than when there were fewer pages? Are we incorporating technology? Are we re-inventing the wheel? Are we over-complicating training these new members? Can training be broken into the basics of pertinent versus non-pertinent for



entry into the field.

This is a highly interactive session where individual concerns, situations, and experiences will be addressed and discussed.

**PRESENTERS:**

Jamie Bero is a Firefighter, Safety Officer, and Public Information Officer for Tyler Mountain Volunteer Fire Department and West Virginia State Emergency Vehicle Driver Training-Instructor for VFIS.

Darin Virag is a Captain (retired), Charleston Fire Department, Public Service Training Supervising Instructor, Content/Technical Consultant for Jones & Bartlett Learning, and Instructor Emergency and Firefighting Management Services Putnam Career and Technical Center.

**Class S0830-6 | Initial Monitoring for First Arriving HazMat Responders – Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

4-hours

This course examines the strengths and weaknesses of standard 4 gas instruments that are carried by many hazmat teams and first arriving fire apparatuses. In today's world critical decision making is predicated on not only using instrumentation but using it correctly. This class goes into essential decision making when using a 4-gas instrument for qualitative and quantitative monitoring at hazardous materials incidents. Participants will understand the following concepts:

T-90 time and its relevance to accuracy

Correction factors and when to apply.

Common mistakes using air monitoring equipment.

**PRESENTER:**

Brian Ramsey

**Class S1030-2 | Foam IQ Training - Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

90-minutes

Foam IQ Training is a comprehensive program designed to equip emergency responders with advanced tactics and techniques for effectively managing incidents involving flammable liquids. From gasoline tank truck emergencies to other hazardous scenarios, participants will engage in hands-on practice and theoretical learning to develop a deep understanding of foam application and other essential response strategies. This course not only covers the fundamentals of foam application but also delves into tactical considerations, container assessment, leak control options, and flaring operations to ensure responders are fully prepared to handle diverse emergency situations.

**PRESENTER:**

Todd Smith is a Senior Trainer/SME for NOBLE with a focus on CBRNE/HazMat Equipment, Response, and Tactics. From 1988 – 2014, Todd Smith dedicated over 15 years to Jacksonville Fire and Rescue





Department. He was assigned to the HazMat Team (Eng Co 7) in 1992 and was soon promoted from Firefighter to Engineer to Lieutenant, within the same house. During those years spent on the HaMat Team, Todd attended over 1,000 hours of training. He was honored to serve on America's first Fire Service Hazmat Team, where he gained an immense amount of knowledge from his experiences. Todd began teaching as soon as he started his career with Jacksonville Fire Rescue, as a CPR and First Aid instructor. He soon furthered his instructor experience, as an OSHA Compliance and HAZWOPER regional training and was hired in 2006 as an IAFF Hazmat/WMD Master Instructor. Throughout his career, he was also directly involved in developing Hazmat Ops and Tech programs. In 2008, he was invited to join HazMat IQ's Training Team, as one of its inaugural trainers. Todd has been an integral part in the development of Propane IQ, where he is the Tactical Project Manager.

**Class S1300-3 | When Meters Matter (second offering) - Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

4-hours

This class will teach First Responders how to use a meter properly and understand the readings they see and the implications of such, at an emergency response. Currently, it is estimated that 90% of first responders can turn a meter on but have no idea what the readings mean when it alarms; nor do they have the knowledge of changing situations as a meter begins to register readings, putting them at significant risk.

This is a self-contained course and is geared for all experience levels, from the most experienced HazMat Technician to the rookie. The Meter Guys arrive with everything to teach the class, meters, reference material, and chemicals.

**PRESENTERS:**

Meter Guys

Scott Russell is a 29-year Veteran of the Baltimore County Fire Department where he began his career as a Paramedic assigned to the Hazmat Team. He is now a Captain with the Hazardous Materials Response Team. He also volunteers his time as a member of the NFPA 470 committee and is on numerous research and development task groups vetting and collaborating on the next generation of Hazmat PPE and equipment. He also is an IAFF Hazmat instructor bringing quality training to Fire Departments around the country.

Scott retired from the Air Force after 27 years of service as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Delaware Air National Guard's 142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. He spent 27 years performing Aeromedical Evacuation of wounded, deploying nine times in support of four different overseas contingencies. He also performed Disaster/Emergency planning with the Air National Guard specializing in Hurricane evacuation/disaster response.

Scott's education consists of an AA Emergency Medical Services, BS in Nursing, and a MS in Disaster/Emergency Management.

His love is First Responder training and instilling the basics through his Safety Through Knowledge™ concepts; his company creates training focused on the responder with the principles of STK™ and the KISS (keep it simple stupid) concept. He is passionate about First Responder training, getting off the



computers and training hands on in person. His goal is to promote Survival and Safety on incidents and to prevent Cancer in first responders.

Scott Russell also founded the non-profit organization Society of One America's Defenders which is dedicated to building houses for combat wounded Veterans.

Dan Warchol is a 26-year emergency services veteran with experience in EMS, 911/ Emergency Dispatch Operations, Emergency Management, Fire and Hazardous Materials responses. Dan has been with the Baltimore County Fire department for the past ten years and currently holds the rank of Fire Lieutenant assigned to the primary Hazmat Unit. He is the Meter Repair Group Supervisor in addition to his regular duties. His experience comes from Union County NJ Hazmat Unit where he was a Captain responsible for daily responses and administrative duties including the UASI Hazmat Group Supervisor, overseeing the funding for the hazmat units in the region & the designing of three regional mass decontamination vehicles. He was also the Secure the Cities Marine Unit Coordinator.

Dan currently serves as a Hazmat Instructor for the NJ State Police hazmat tech course through Rutgers University and is a contract meter instructor for Environics USA. Dan has also worked as an EMT or paramedic for over 25 years and currently works in York County PA as a paramedic.

In his spare time, Dan Warchol coaches his two girls, Alyssa and Daniella's rec soccer teams and enjoys camping with his wife Charlene and family.

Ben Bosley is currently a 25-year firefighter in the Baltimore County Fire Department where he has spent twenty of those as a Hazmat Technician with the Hazardous Materials Response Team. He is a meter training expert and a master instructor.

His teaching techniques make learning meters fun and relevant to where the rubber meets the road which prepares the student for the call "when meters matter". He has a passion for teaching fundamentals of basic chemistry and hazardous materials response. He has the gift of taking complex ideas/concepts and boiling them down to what the first responder needs to know on an incident.

Ben Bosley takes great pride in training the next generation of First Responders as well as volunteering much of his time to the Boy Scouts of America. He is an avid Civil War reenactor and supports The Society of One Americas Defenders in their building of houses for combat wounded Veterans.

**Class S1300-4 | Tele HazMat – Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

90-minutes

From the beginning of hazmat response, teams have utilized the phone-a-friend for technical advice. This program applies changes and modernization in technology to that concept to maximize efficiency. Follow along with Hazmat 2 Environmental Fire Rescue's development of a Telepresence Unit; learn how a desire to improve Staff retention changed a reach-back program to a reach-forward program. Join us in putting technology into the Tech Info Position.

**PRESENTER:**

Benjamin Herskowitz has been involved in Emergency Services since the mid-nineties, starting as a Firefighter. For the past 22 years, Ben has been with a Hazardous Materials Response Team starting as a



Hazardous Material/Radiological Specialist before being promoted to Hazardous Materials Team Chief of Hazmat 2 Environmental Fire Rescue Company of Lancaster County, PA in 2008. Mr. Herskowitz also has experience in emergency management and currently serves as the Deputy Director for the 6th most populous county in Pennsylvania and managed the county's radiological response plans for Three Mile Island and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.

Mr. Herskowitz has responded to several complex incidents that include multiple operation periods and complex planning components including train derailments, orphaned radiological sources, and abandoned chemicals. Serving in roles from Group Supervisor to EOC Manager.

### **Class S1530-2 | Craft Distillery – Saturday: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

90-minutes

This program will cover craft distillery operations, hazards, and emergency response considerations.

#### **PRESENTER:**

James Leer's emergency response experience spans over 30-years with the volunteer fire service. Jim is a member of the Somerset VFD and Somerset County (PA) Hazardous Materials Team. His fulltime employment is a Senior Loss Control Consultant for a regional property and casualty insurance company for over 25 years. Prior to working in the insurance industry, he worked as a zoning and code enforcement officer for five years.

He is an Instructor Emeritus/Suppression with over 25-years as a Pennsylvania State Local Level Instructor with a focus on hazardous materials courses. He is ProBoard Certified Firefighter II, Fire Officer III, Instructor II, and Vehicle Rescue Technician. He is currently working on his Hazmat Safety Officer ProBoard certification. Jim holds the designation of Certified Safety Professional (CSP) through the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP).

Jim's formal education includes an A.S. in Fire Science and Administration from Community College of Allegheny County, a B.S. in Safety and Environmental Management from Slippery Rock University, and a M.S. Safety Sciences Technical from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

### **Class S1300-5 | Hold my Matches and Watch This – Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

4-hours

A highly interactive demonstration of the physical and chemical properties of flammable liquids and flammable gases! During these sessions, participants will witness flash point, flammable range, vapor pressure, boiling point, and vapor density. Additionally, we will be demonstrating the dynamic tendencies of flammable vapors when they encounter oxygen and ignition sources to create the "Boom" that tends to surprise us if we don't fully understand the hazards of our response situation!



PRESENTER:

Brian Ramsey

**Class S1030-3 | HAZMAT RIT - Introduction** – Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

90-minutes

This introductory program will promote the implementation or improvement of practices and procedures for assisting or rescuing responders at hazardous materials incidents. The program will define Backup Team

and Rescue Team and their application under NFPA 470. The program will cover roles/responsibilities, emergency communications, tools/equipment, PPE, staging/readiness, drag methods, emergency decontamination, and emergency PPE doffing.

PRESENTER:

James Leer's emergency response experience spans over 30-years with the volunteer fire service. Jim is a member of the Somerset VFD and Somerset County (PA) Hazardous Materials Team. His fulltime employment is a Senior Loss Control Consultant for a regional property and casualty insurance company for over 25 years. Prior to working in the insurance industry, he worked as a zoning and code enforcement officer for five years.

He is an Instructor Emeritus/Suppression with over 25-years as a Pennsylvania State Local Level Instructor with a focus on hazardous materials courses. He is ProBoard Certified Firefighter II, Fire Officer III, Instructor II, and Vehicle Rescue Technician. He is currently working on his Hazmat Safety Officer ProBoard certification. Jim holds the designation of Certified Safety Professional (CSP) through the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP).

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