

**Health, Safety & Labor Seminar**  
**Sponsored By**  
**Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut**  
**And**  
**Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters**

**Foxwoods Resort & Casino**  
**Fox Tower - Celebrity Ballroom**  
39 Norwich - Westerly Road  
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

**December 9, 10, & 11, 2024**

**Agenda**

**Monday December 9, 2024**

8:00 am – 9:00 am

- Registration
- Continental Breakfast (Included in Registration)

9:00 am – 9:15 am

- Introduction  
Joseph A. Andriole, President – Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters.
- Posting of Colors  
UPFFA & RISAFF Honor Guard.
- Opening Remarks  
Peter Brown, President – Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Assoc. of Connecticut.  
Charles Steinhart, President – Mashantucket Pequot Fire Fighters, IAFF Local-4746.  
Jay Colbert, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Vice President – International Association of Fire Fighters.

9:15 am – 10:30 am

- Lessons from COVID-19 and Preparing for the Future  
During the COVID-19 pandemic, first responders were critical in keeping our communities safe. The resilience of these frontline workers was tested daily. In this keynote, Dr. Ashish Jha will explore the key lessons learned from the pandemic and how these insights can guide our response to future crises, including the growing threats of climate change, emerging pandemics, and new public health challenges and how trusted front-line providers have such a critical role to play. Dr. Jha will also address the vital importance of occupational safety, ensuring that as our first responders protect the public, they are also protected. Together, we will chart a path forward to enhance resilience and safeguard the health and safety of those who serve on the frontlines by focusing on preparedness, adaptability, and innovation. (Dr. Ashish Jha, Dean of Public Health – Brown University & White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator appointed by President Biden)

10:30 am – 10:45 am

- Break

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

- Melanoma in the Fire Service  
This lecture will focus on the high rate of skin cancer in the fire service, and how early detection, routine screenings and prevention can help fire fighters stay healthy. It will also examine the impact of how fire suppression duties and exposure to forever chemicals such

as PFAS, are negatively impacting our health. This lecture will examine what can be done to change this current health trajectory and decrease our risk. It will also discuss the importance of establishing a program within your department to spot skin cancer through screening and the adoptions of healthy lifestyle habits.

(Dr. Christine Kannler, MD, MPH, FAAD, FACMS – Cancer Dermatologist)

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

- Lunch (Included in Registration)

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

- **Fire Experience and Tradition Complimented by Science – Part 1.**  
This lecture will examine tactical fireground considerations based on the UL/NIST Fire Research. This fire research has been developed over the past two decades in partnership with the fire service. Modern fire tactics need to take into account the magnitude of changes that have occurred in the built environment.  
(George Healy, Deputy Chief - FDNY)

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm

- Break

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

- **Reducing The Burden of Cancer Through Earlier Detection and Intervention**  
This lecture will examine how the Dana-Farber Cancer Centers for Early Detection and Interception represent a fundamental shift in cancer care, moving from a reactive to a proactive approach. Traditionally, most cancers are diagnosed when symptoms appear, often at advanced stages, leading to higher mortality rates. However, many cancers can be prevented by intervening on precursor conditions. At Dana-Farber, the aim is to prevent or intercept cancer before it starts. Their focus areas include early detection, comprehensive risk assessment, and timely interception, transforming the landscape of cancer care.  
(Dr. David Jackman, MD - Medical Director of Clinical Pathways and Business Initiatives, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School)

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

- **Dana-Farber Direct Connect: Streamlining Access to World Class Cancer Expertise for Fire Fighters**  
This lecture will look at a new program offered by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. This “Direct Connect” offers guided access to world-renowned cancer care specialists at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, supporting employees and clients across all oncology needs. The program aims to improve cancer outcomes globally, ensure precise diagnoses, provide cost-effective treatments, and extend best-in-class cancer care and innovations to all communities.  
(Heather Cloran DiLorenzo - Sr. Director, Commercial & Market Alliances, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute)

5:00 pm

- Seminar Concludes for The Day

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

- Reception for Participants – (Included with Registration)

## **Tuesday December 10, 2024**

8:00 am – 9:00 am

- Registration
- Breakfast (Included in Registration)

9:00 am – 10:50 am

- **Fire Experience and Tradition Complimented by Science – Part 2.**  
This lecture will exam how an educated thinking firefighter is vital to ensure appropriate tactics are implemented, with the coordination of suppression and ventilation. This presentation will highlight the research and discus the tactical considerations for the fireground taking into account the research and integrating the research in some after actions of some line of duty death and near miss incidents.  
(George Healy, Deputy Chief - FDNY)

10:50 am – 11:00 am

- Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

- **Criminal Charges Against Paramedics - Aurora Colorado Incident Overview**  
The two Aurora Colorado Fire Medics who were charged and convicted of negligent homicide of a patient during an emergency medical incident, will speak about their ordeal for the first time after being released from prison. This lecture will examine the rapidly changing environment and heightened scrutiny that Fire Fighters and Medics are forced to contend with on a daily basis.  
(Peter Cichuniec & Jeremy Cooper, Fire Fighter Paramedics – Aurora Colorado Fire Dept.)

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

- Lunch (Included in Registration)

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

- **LODD Review – The 2019 Worcester Fire Department Tragedy**  
This lecture will provide an overview from former Union President Michael Papagni of the Stockholm Street fire where fire fighter Jason Menard died in the line of duty after heroically saving two the members of his crew. This overview will examine fire fighter Menard's heroism and the events of the incident and what the Union was confronted with and the Union's readiness for the family and the members of the department.  
(Michael Papagni, District Chief – Worcester Fire Dept.)

2:30 pm – 3:10 pm

- **Substance Use Disorder in Trauma Exposed Occupations**  
This lecture will examine the incidents of alcohol use disorder and the fire fighter/first responder population, relying on current statistics. The lecture will also examine the history of alcohol use disorder, the traditional treatments versus medication assisted treatment. The stigma related to substance use disorder specifically alcohol will be discussed as well as strategies to inform and reduce the stigma. The toxicity of alcohol use disorder specifically in its relation to cancer will also be illuminated. The final part of the lecture will be dedicated to medically assisted treatment focusing on specific therapies.  
(Dr. Victor A. Pinkes, MD – Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI)

3:10 pm – 3:20

- Break

3:20 pm – 5:00 pm

- **Natural Gas Emergency Preparedness**  
This lecture will focus on a fire department's preparedness for natural gas events, common pitfalls, and proper handling of gas emergencies.  
(Jason Emery, Senior Specialist Gas emergency preparedness - Eversource Gas & Ret. Battalion Chief – Waterbury Fire Dept.)

5:00 pm

- Seminar Concludes for The Day

### **Wednesday December 11, 2024**

8:00 am – 9:00 am

- Registration
- Breakfast (Included in Registration)

9:00 am – 11:00 am

- **Building Construction for the “Search & Rescue”**  
This lecture will examine building construction and how it pertains to both fire attack and search and rescue considerations by utilizing building layouts and exterior landmarks.  
(Jim Plaster, Capt. – Bristol Fire Dept. & Brad Rudman, Lt. – Waterbury Fire Dept.)

11:00 am – 11:10 am

- Break

11:10 am – 1:00 pm

- **Understanding and implementing NFPA 1851**  
This lecture will focus on a real-world explanation of the requirements of NFPA 1851. The course will provide examples of best practices for turnout gear maintenance and cleaning for any size fire department.  
(Tim Reardon, Director - Hi Tech Fire & Safety, Inc. & Deputy Chief – Norwalk Fire Dept. & Brian Marengo, Director - Gear Wash, LLC)

1:00 pm

- Seminar Concludes