



# 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



 **October 16-19, 2024** |  **Duluth, MN**

Registration Information at [www.msfc.org](http://www.msfc.org)

## SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS



### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

8:15 am – 11:15 am

**Opening Symposium: Observations from 30,000' –  
Challenges and Opportunities for the Modern Fire Service**

*Chief Timothy E. Sendelbach*



### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

8:00 am – 11:30 am

**Closing Symposium: Creating an “Aggressive”  
Culture in Today’s Fire Service**

*Assistant Chief Brian Zaitz*



# 2024 MSFCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE Duluth, MN • October 16-19, 2024



I am excited to welcome everyone to the 2024 Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) Annual Conference. The Annual Conference is a wonderful opportunity to attend a wide variety of educational sessions, while also creating professional connections with fire service individuals from all over Minnesota. This three-day conference includes a wide range of class offerings, the vendor Show, Memorial Service, and Awards Banquet. In addition, Fire Chiefs who register for the conference can receive complimentary expo passes and administrative track passes for their department members.

Please encourage your department members to register early to take advantage of the lower registration rate. Early registration also allows the MSFCA to adequately plan for food and beverage, and event space.

Every year the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association looks for ways to create a more beneficial and rewarding conference experience. Sign up today and help us make this the best MSFCA Annual Conference yet.

See you in Duluth!

*Eric Bullen, MSFCA President*

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

### Conference Location

All the sessions, exhibits, meals, and networking events will be held at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center unless otherwise noted.

### Complimentary Expo Passes

If a department's Fire Chief is registered for the Annual Conference, he or she receives complimentary expo passes for the trade show on Thursday, October 17th to share with non-registered individuals from their department. Expo passes do not include meals. To take advantage of the complimentary passes, please complete the form on the MSFCA website.

### Administrative Support Track

If a department's Fire Chief is registered for the Annual Conference, department administrative support personnel can attend the Administrative Support Track Session on Friday, October 18th from 8:30am - 3:00pm for no cost. There is a separate registration form for the Administrative Support Track on the MSFCA website.

### Cancellation Policy

A cancellation penalty of 50% shall be imposed if cancellation occurs between 30 and 60 days from the first day of the event. If cancellation occurs under 30 calendar days of the first event day, a 100% penalty shall be imposed. Substitutions are permitted and not subject to a fee. Extenuating circumstances, such as a death in the family, will be handled on a case-by-case basis, please e-mail the MSFCA Office at [office@msfca.org](mailto:office@msfca.org).

## Make your Hotel Reservations today!

### Mention you are with the MSFCA to reserve a discounted rate.

#### Canal Park Lodge

250 Canal Park Dr, Duluth, MN 55802  
218-279-6000

#### The Holiday Inn

200 W 1st St, Duluth, MN 55802  
218-722-1202

#### Pier B Resort Hotel

800 W Railroad St, Duluth, MN 55802  
218-481-8888

#### Edgewater Hotel and Waterpark

2400 London Rd, Duluth, MN 55812  
218-728-3601

#### Inn on Lake Superior

350 Canal Park Dr, Duluth, MN 55802  
218-726-1111

#### The Suites Hotel at Waterfront Plaza

325 S Lake Ave, Duluth, MN 55802  
218-727-4663

800-743-0911 • [office@msfca.org](mailto:office@msfca.org) • [www.msfca.org](http://www.msfca.org)



# 2024 MSFCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE Duluth, MN • October 16-19, 2024

## Schedule & Session Descriptions

### Wednesday, October 16, 2024

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm      **Registration**  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm      **Welcome Reception**

### Thursday, October 17, 2024

7:00 am – 6:00 pm      **Registration**  
8:00 am – 8:15 am      **Conference Welcome**  
8:15 am – 11:15 am      **Opening Symposium**

**Opening Symposium: Observations from 30,000' – Challenges and Opportunities for the Modern Fire Service**  
*Chief Timothy E. Sendelbach, Loveland Fire Rescue Authority (CO)*



As firefighters and fire officers we oftentimes view the problems we face day-to-day as local or unique, but the reality is that most of the problems we face in the fire service are shared by firefighters throughout the nation (volunteer, paid, urban, suburban and rural). This high impact, high-energy program will highlight the challenges faced by firefighters and fire officers throughout the nation while sharing critical insight as to the opportunities these challenges bring to current and future leaders of the fire service. This program is a no holds barred presentation designed to uphold the mission of our profession while challenging our daily routines and the decisions that accompany them.

11:00 am – 6:00 pm      **Exhibit Hall Open (includes lunch)**  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm      **Reception in Exhibit Hall**

### Friday, October 18, 2024

7:00 am – 2:00 pm      **Registration**  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm      **Full Day Educational Session**

• **State Fire Marshal: Response and Safety Considerations for Gas or Explosion Incidents**  
*Pat Donovan, MNOPS, John Kreuser, SFM, Brad Winger, SFM & SFM HMRT Members*

Learn from the Minnesota Office Pipeline Safety and the State Fire Marshal division on best practices when responding to gas incidents (i.e., LPG or natural gas) including house explosions. The instructors will give insight from their respective fields, educate on State resources available to assist incident commanders, incorporate data trends and analyses from NFIRS reports and State hazmat team incidents, and present some recent case studies.

8:30 am – 3:00 pm      **Full Day Educational Session**

• **Administrative Support Track**

1. MBFTE will present on filing reimbursement, Maintaining records, Updating roster and instructor.
2. League of Minnesota Cities HR: Discuss issues on Contract, HR issues, Filing reports, FMLA issues and records retention.
3. How will the new OSHA Standards effect your department?
4. Firefighter 101: Fire Ground tactics, Understand equipment, Lingo, unique to the fire department
5. Round Table Discussion:
  - a. Identifying at Risk people and getting them help
  - b. Community outreach (Fire Prevention, Open House, Safety camp)

8:00 am – 11:30 am      **Morning Educational Sessions**

• **Chiefs' Issue: OSHA Update/Roundtable**

*Chief Ed Hoffman, Owatonna Fire Dept., Chief Hugo Searle, Eagan Fire Dept., and Chief Mike Dobesh, Richfield Fire Dept.*

Participants will:

- Receive an update on the revised Fire Brigade Standard
  - » Where the process is at
  - » Where (we think) the process is going
  - » Best guess for implementation timeline
- Gain insight to what it may mean for their organization
  - » Priorities based upon the standard
  - » Financial considerations for departments
- Have the ability to ask questions of the panel

• **Emergency Management: Managing an Incident Response to Recovery (with Matchbox Cars)**

*Lance Ross, MN-CEM, MBA*

This will be an interactive class focused on Managing an Incident in your community starting with response and going into recovery. Many of you may be the Fire Chief, Fire Officer, and Emergency Manager for your Community or a key stakeholder that will be involved with the life cycle of the incident that impacts your community. This class will allow you to work through scenarios while learning about some of the key tactics that come with the Incident. This session will utilize a model city (matchbox cars, model buildings) to work through the scenarios. This will be a fun Interactive, informative session that allows you to utilize educational props (matchbox cars). Don't miss out.

• **EMS: Brave Leadership: Pioneering Wellness in the Fire Service**

*Panel of MN Chiefs implementing wellness programs & Margaret Gavian, PhD, LP*

This workshop will offer leaders a practical and insightful journey into enhancing department wellness. This workshop showcases the



*Friday, October 18, 2024 continued on next page*



# 2024 MSFCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE Duluth, MN • October 16-19, 2024

## Schedule & Session Descriptions continued

### Friday, October 18, 2024 continued

strategies of chiefs who've effectively integrated mental and physical wellness into their leadership, promoting resilience and support within their teams. It's a gathering for chiefs ready to lead with care and commitment to their department's well-being. Join us to share in the collective wisdom and take meaningful steps towards positive change in your department.

- **Lessons Learned**

The workshop will be a classroom setting typically addressing special incidents that have happened over the past year in Minnesota and the lessons learned from these events from the responders of these incidents.

- **Professional Development: The 9L's**

*Battalion Chief Corley Moore, Moore Fire Department (OK) & Firehouse Vigilance & The Weekly Scrap, Firefighter Podcast*

The mission of the class is to give people the tools they need to build a high performance culture within their organization. I am extremely passionate about this, and I believe that understanding these principles can challenge anyone, anywhere to improve the culture of their department. The presentation is broken down into nine principles of leadership all of which start with the letter "L". Learn, Listen, Love, Look, Laugh, Level, Live, Labor, Last. The ultimate point of the class is to provide them with the single greatest tool that I can give to someone in a leadership role, and that is a lens by which you can judge every decision around the firehouse... before you make it. (I say firehouse on purpose... not fireground)



- **Safety: Beneath the Badge - Don't Wait Until You Break**

*Dave & Christi Dyke, Beneath the Badge*

After an unexpected detour caused him to retire early, Dave & his wife, Christi, began sharing their story of what often lies silently beneath the badge, and have quickly become highly sought-after keynote speakers. Together, they walk you through their experiences on how PTSD ended Dave's career, led to suicidal thoughts and the planning of the same, & the near demise of their marriage. They intimately understand the mental health struggle that many are facing, often in silence.



Their story is emotional, uncensored, and raw. Mixed with humor, and at times a few tears, their vulnerability breaks the stigma with a powerful message resonating to all in attendance, no matter the background instilling a feeling of hope and resilience all the while emphasizing finding balance in one's own life and the importance of self-care.

11:30 am – 12:30pm **Lunch & Business Meeting**

### 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm Educational Sessions

- **Chiefs' Issue: OSHA Update/Roundtable**

*Chief Ed Hoffman, Owatonna Fire Dept., Chief Hugo Searle, Eagan Fire Dept., and Chief Mike Dobesh, Richfield Fire Dept.*

*See description from morning session.*

- **Hot Topics: Mitigating the Impact: Building Resources from Within the Firehouse**

*Chief David Brosnahan, Roseville Fire Department & Jonathan Bundt, MA, LMFT, MNCEM*

This program works to better address firefighter mental health by providing the insight, tools, and resources of having an embedded mental health professional in your fire department. Most of the existing response and support programs for firefighters are reactive. In this presentation, we will look at the balance of preparing your firefighters not only in reacting to stressful events but also in creating proactive approaches to improving well-being and mental health. By utilizing models and actionable items that provide immediate access to a licensed professional, ongoing training, and organizational support the instructors will demonstrate the steps involved in establishing an embedded mental health program.

This program will review existing post-traumatic stress, chronic stress, substance abuse, suicide threats, and relationship challenges firefighters are facing. And how to better address mental health in your organization to reduce your firefighters' chances of being victim to it.

Through step-by-step guidance, case studies, audience participation, and deliverables, fire officers will leave this class with a better idea and understanding of how to establish their own embedded mental health program within their fire department.

Ashes, a K9 service dog, will also be available to meet and ask her handler questions about this valuable program.

- **Lessons Learned**

*See description from morning session.*

- **MnFIRE: LivingWorks safeTALK**

*Pro Network*

The statistics are well-known: Police, paramedics and firefighters are at a higher risk of dying by suicide than the average citizen. LivingWorks suicide prevention training adds a layer of support, within workplace and social networks, which can help first responders with practice and appropriate action plans to help keep their peers and the community safer from suicide. LivingWorks safeTALK is a four-hour training that equips firefighters to be more alert to someone thinking of suicide and better able to connect them with further help.

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# 2024 MSFCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE Duluth, MN • October 16-19, 2024

## Schedule & Session Descriptions continued

### Friday, October 18, 2024 continued

- **Professional Development: Reflexive Readiness –** Battalion Chief Corley Moore, Moore Fire Department (OK) & Firehouse Vigilance & The Weekly Scrap, Firefighter Podcast

In the fire service we never know what call will be the call of our lifetime. There is no guarantee that the next fire we run on will be a run-of-the-mill one. Reflexive Readiness is all about learning the core concepts that will allow a person to build a culture of Unconscious competence. So that when things are hard and changing and chaos is trying to rear its head, we can be ready, adaptable, confident and competent. No short class can turn someone into the ultimate fireground expert, but Reflexive Readiness provides the tools and a framework for beginning that journey. Starting on the premise that making decisions is simple when you understand your priorities, and then building from there. Just remember that simple does not mean easy! The remainder of the class is then spent defining fireground tactical decision making, and how to best maximize each and every attendee fireground experience, training, situational awareness and their comfort level when making decisions. I believe there is a massive need in the fire service to prepare those in decision making roles to be more decisive and deliberate on the modern fireground. To understand that decision making is based on understanding your priorities. When there is a clear understanding of this throughout an organization then you can operate at a very high level, and with intentionality. Experience, combined with training to maximize your situational awareness and enhance your comfort level. The keys to achieving this are outlined in this class. When things are hard and changing, nothing can replace a well prepared and decisive fireground commander.

- **Safety: Beneath the Badge - Don't Wait Until You Break**  
*Dave & Christi Dyke, Beneath the Badge*

See description from morning session.

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm      **Memorial Service**

6:00 pm – 6:30pm      **Social**

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm      **Awards Banquet**

### Saturday, October 19, 2024

8:00 am – 11:30 am      **Closing Symposium**

**Closing Symposium: Creating an “Aggressive” Culture in Today’s Fire Service –** Assistant Chief Brian Zaitz, Kirkwood Fire Department (MO) & President of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors



We all strive to be called “Aggressive”, but do we really know what that means or what that should look like in our own department? Being aggressive requires daily work, leadership, training and doing what is right for the community. An aggressive mindset must be mission driven, focusing on the values of the organization and aligning those with personal beliefs and a vision of what is to be for personnel, organization and the community. Culture is not changed overnight but with planning, guidance, input and training, every department can cultivate a culture that will drive membership and create a sense of pride within the department.

## MSFCA PARTNER’S PROGRAM

Guests and partners of 2024 MSFCA Annual Conference attendees are invited to join a downtown Duluth scavenger hunt and social on Friday, October 18 from 11:00am - 2:30pm. Participants will explore downtown Duluth on foot and enjoy a catered buffet lunch from OMC Smokehouse at the final location of the scavenger hunt!

There is an additional fee of **\$38/person**. Food and drink ticket included. Additional beverages available for purchase.

Find more information and register on our website at [www.msfca.org/annual-conference](http://www.msfca.org/annual-conference)





# 2024 Annual Conference Registration Form

Only one (1) registration per form. Duplicate the form as needed for additional registrations.

You can also register online at [www.msfc.org/page/annual-conference](http://www.msfc.org/page/annual-conference)

ATTENDEE INFO

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION

MSFCA Conference Registration	Before Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>	After Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup>
Member Full Conference Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350
Non-Member Full Conference Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400	<input type="checkbox"/> \$425
Awards Banquet Ticket <i>(Full conference registration receive 1 complimentary ticket)</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> \$40
Partner's Program		<input type="checkbox"/> \$38

First time attending the MSFCA Annual Conference?  Yes  No

Will you be bringing a spouse/partner?  Yes  No

Are you bringing any children, if so how many? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Total</b>	\$ _____
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PAYMENT

Credit Card

Check enclosed

Please invoice my department

Name on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**  
**Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association**  
 6737 W. Washington St, Suite 4210  
 Milwaukee, WI 53214  
 800-743-0911 • office@msfca.org

ATTENDEE EVENTS

## Annual Conference Events

Please check all that you plan to attend:

**Welcome Reception**

Wednesday, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Welcome & Opening Symposium**

Thursday, 8:00 am – 11:15 am

**Lunch Inside Vendor Show**

Thursday, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

**Reception in Exhibit Hall**

Thursday, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Memorial Service**

Friday, 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

**Social**

Friday, 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**Awards Banquet**

Friday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**Closing Symposium**

Saturday, 8:00 am – 11:30 am

## Friday Educational Sessions

*(Please select choice #1 and #2 for each, both AM and PM sessions)*

Time	#	Title
AM Sessions 8:00 am – 11:30 am		Chiefs' Issues: OSHA Update/Roundtable
		Emergency Management
		Emergency Management: Managing an Incident Response to Recovery (with Matchbox Cars)
		Lessons Learned
		Professional Development: The 9L's
PM Sessions 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm		Safety: Beneath the Badge - Don't Wait Until You Break
		Chiefs' Issues: OSHA Update/Roundtable
		Hot Topics: Mitigating the Impact: Building Resources from Within the Firehouse
		Lessons Learned
		MnFIRE: LivingWorks safeTALK
Full Day Sessions 8:00 am – 3:00 pm		Professional Development: Reflexive Readiness
		Safety: Beneath the Badge - Don't Wait Until You Break
		Administrative Support <i>(Complimentary if department's Fire Chief is registered):</i> Admin's name: _____
		State Fire Marshal: Response and Safety Considerations for Gas or Explosion Incidents