

2022 NEW MEXICO FIRE SERVICE CONFERENCE

Co-Sponsored by:



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS & SPEAKER BIOS

**September 22nd – 25th
Ruidoso Convention Center**



Frank Viscuso served the Town of Kearny, New Jersey (Hudson County) for twenty-seven years before retiring at the rank of Deputy Chief. He is the author of 8 books including Amazon bestsellers *Step Up and Lead*, and *Step Up Your Teamwork*. Chief Viscuso is a highly sought after, internationally recognized speaker who has the ability to move people to action. Over the past decade he has traveled throughout the United States, Canada and

Europe and spoken to hundreds of audiences on many topics that include leadership, team building, and customer service. His clients include emergency service workers, sales teams, U.S. Armed Forces, the healthcare industry, small businesses, and large corporations (including Exxon/Mobil). Frank has provided Keynotes at West Point Military Academy and various Universities and has been chosen to be a Keynote speaker for FDIC International in 2022. His seminars and speeches are designed to introduce people to the top traits associated with leadership and to equip them with the skills they will need to lead, inspire, and motivate their teams. Every organization's culture is either created by design or default. Creating a culture of exceptional service does not happen by accident. Chief Viscuso connects with his audiences through his passionate and often humorous delivery. His "High energy" and "highly-motivational" seminars are designed to equip people with the necessary skills they will need to excel in their chosen field. His proven theories, methods and techniques will help your organization provide exceptional customer service and make a great impression on the people they connect with on a daily basis.

Leading in Today's World – *Frank Viscuso*

This is a passionate talk about why we need strong leadership in today's world – more than ever before. This class is full of riveting true-life stories that will illustrate each trait.

- Among the traits discussed are: Loyal, Educated, Adaptable, Determined, Enthusiastic, Reliable, Selfless, Tough, Empathetic, Assertive, Courageous and Honorable. (There is a wealth of information covered within each topic like integrity, trust, and goal setting.) This popular class covers leadership in all service-based organizations.

Leadership Skills – Frank Viscuso

Most of the problems many leaders and people in management positions encounter can be directly attributed to poor or ineffective people skills. This class covered the following skills:

- Mentoring and Succession Planning
- Critiquing others (How to do it right)
- Delegating (The who, what, where, when and why of delegating)
- Preventing Freelancing and divisiveness (one team, one mission)
- Dealing with subordinate Issues (How to lead difficult people)
- Post Incident Analysis (How and why we should learn from past experiences)
- Leading through change and difficult times
- Building Morale (8 tips to increase morale)

Legislative Update – AJ Forte



AJ Forte has worked in public service in New Mexico since 2001.

Forte currently serves as the Executive Director for the New Mexico Municipal League, a nonprofit that represents the interests of the state's 106 cities, towns, and villages.

Forte is responsible for the overall operation of the League, including oversight of legislative policy development, implementation, political strategies, and financial management. Forte also leads administration of the New Mexico Self Insurers' Fund, representing it before the Governor's office, state legislature, and other organizations.

Before joining the League, Forte served in various executive branch roles as the State Budget Director, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, and Risk Manager for the State of New Mexico. Forte has also served in other public sector positions, such as budget analyst for the Executive and Legislative branches of government. In addition, he has helped run his family's real estate company. Forte has also served the New Mexico Finance Authority since 2012 as a designate board member, analyst, insurer, and statutory board member.

NM State Fire Marshal's Office Updates & Information

– Anthony Leyba



Anthony Leyba started his career in the fire service as a volunteer with Sandoval County Fire Department. He obtained IFSAC certifications and EMT basic while volunteering. In 2011 he became a career Firefighter for the City of Las Vegas Fire Department and was local IAFF 4625 President. In March of 2013 Anthony joined the ranks of the Santa Fe County Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT as well as working part time with Sandoval County Fire Department. Throughout the years Anthony Leyba has been an active volunteer in his local fire district and held the rank of Fire Chief for Cochiti Fire Department. In September of 2020, Anthony was promoted to the Volunteer Liaison Captain for Santa Fe County Fire Department. Anthony has been working closely with all 14 districts to ensure compliance, recruitment, develop programs for volunteer members and assist in volunteer and career academies.



Thomas W. Aurnhammer is a retired Fire Chief and currently serves with the San Juan County, NM Fire and Rescue Department. Chief Aurnhammer commenced his 46-year fire service career in 1976 and has served with fire agencies in New Jersey, New Mexico, and Colorado. Tom is on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Arson Investigators Foundation and is also currently a member of the Board of the IAAI's New Mexico Chapter. He is also part of the Fire and Explosion Investigation Task Force in San Juan County and continues to provide instruction as a contract instructor at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

Tom is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program (EFO) and has received his Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He was also granted the grade of Member in the Institution of Fire Engineers (MIFireE). Tom, along with Chief Ron Kanterman, is the co-host of Fire Engineering Talk Radio's "Back Step Boys" pod cast. He has taught at numerous regional, state, national and international programs and academic institutions and is widely published in the national trade journals in the areas of Wildland

Urban Interface (WUI) fires; fire investigation, safety, and the executive management of fire departments.

Critical Considerations on the Fireground: The safety Officers Role – Tom Aurnhammer

This presentation examines the role of the Incident Safety Officer, from making observations at the emergency scene, to the competencies needed to effectively function in that position. The safety culture of the fire service, wildland urban interface (WUI) fires, operational considerations, and human factors are similarly explored. Fireground operations within the Incident Command System, risk management practices, and situational awareness are also comparatively analyzed.



The man who takes good and makes it... GOODER!

Matt says, “You can do more, be more and have more than you ever thought possible, you just have to be willing to get over yourself to get there.”

From the time Matt was in the 8th grade he knew his life’s ambition was to help others become more than they ever thought possible. Since then, his speeches, seminars, and books have inspired thousands of people. Most recently, Matt launched a new career as a bronze artist, achieving national and international acclaim in his first year.

Matt has served as the former CEO of the New Mexico Farm Bureau, served on the American Farm Bureau's Foundation for Agriculture Board of Directors and is a partnering speaker with the Zig Zigar family.

His story of planting new seeds to overcome adversity is an inspiration to any audience.

Stress Free You – Matt & Katy Rush

Imagine waking up every day with love, joy, peace, and a sound mind. All accomplished by turning off your Stress Switches.

Stress Free You provides the answers to why:

- Most people experience a 300% failure rate on diets, budgets, exercise, and other positive life programs.
- Traditional stress relief tactics are not enough?
- You should be in the Rest, Digest and Restore vs. Fight, Flight and Freeze response.
- Why your Go-To always sabotages you and how to fix it.

Rather than merely providing overly simplistic tips, Stress Free You examine stress from every angle, for a unique and more holistic approach. These methods for stress reduction are groundbreaking, and occasionally controversial, and stem from a desire to help others.

You deserve to be the best version of a **Stress Free You**.

Planting the Seeds of Greatness – Matt Rush

Since the beginning of time, everyone has understood the necessity of planting seeds in the hope of a harvest. However, have we ever considered planting seeds in ourselves in order to do more, be more and have more than we ever thought possible?

The reality is, if we are going to create a new future for ourselves and our communities, we must begin by looking internally for opportunities to grow. We must evaluate who we surround ourselves with and their impact on our success. Finally, it is easy to look back on the past, it is comfortable to enjoy the present, but we must plan for the future by planting new seeds to carry us forward.

Behavioral Health Issues in the Fire Service (Yellow Rose Project) – Paul Bearce & Dr. Jackson Williams

Chief Bearce and Dr. Williams have been working collaboratively on behavioral health initiatives and suicide prevention awareness education for firefighters for over a decade. They have also been serving as part of the First Responder Task Force subcommittee of the New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition. As part of their goals for the Task Force, and in conjunction with the Cummings Graduate Institute for Behavioral Health Studies (CGI), they have proposed a state-wide initiative to provide awareness, suicide prevention, and resiliency training to rural fire departments across the state. They will present their outline and gather much-needed feedback from department leadership to help them and CGI build an effective and sustainable program, which will benefit firefighters across the state.

Paul Bearce

Chief Paul Bearce recently retired from the fire service after serving the community for the past 25 years; beginning his tenure as a volunteer firefighter and EMT in Sandoval County. At the time he was working full time as a journalist with the state's largest newspaper. Responding to fire and medical emergencies got into his blood and he left his chosen career in journalism to pursue a position as a full-time firefighter/paramedic with Rio Rancho Fire Rescue. He rose through the ranks of RFR and eventually was appointed Fire Chief in 2018.

During graduate school and the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy, Chief Bearce developed a passion for behavioral health initiatives for firefighters to reduce the stigma associated with seeking help for work-related stress and to eliminate firefighter suicides. He remains dedicated to taking care of those who take care of others. He is currently the chair-elect of the New Mexico Suicide Prevention Coalition and teaches mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and resiliency for first responders.

Dr. Jackson Williams

Dr. Jackson Williams is an independently licensed mental health clinician (LPCC) in the state of New Mexico and holds a Doctor of Behavioral Health degree from the Cummings Graduate Institute of Behavioral Health Studies. Dr. Williams served in the United States Air Force as a Firefighter/EMT. He began his counseling career in private practice in an Albuquerque inner-city community clinic, then for several years was a Behavioral Health Therapist with the NM Children Youth and Families Department. Following two years as an Opioid Syndromic Surveillance Epidemiologist with the NM Department of Health, Dr. Williams is currently in private practice. He has specialized training in trauma-informed care and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing.

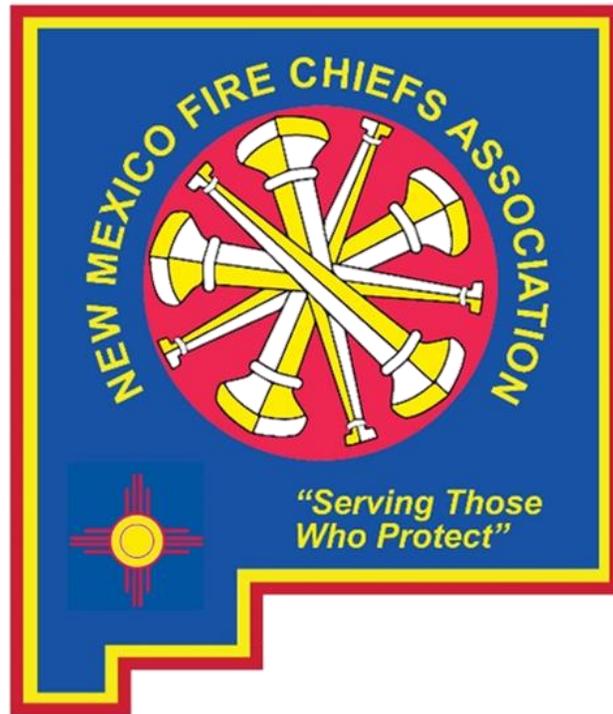


Brady Robinette is a Lieutenant with Lubbock Fire Rescue. Brady currently serves on the Lubbock Fire Rescue Traffic Safety Committee. Additionally, Brady has served for 14 years as a volunteer with Wolfforth Fire & EMS. Brady currently holds an Associate degree in computer science, advanced structural firefighter, advanced EMT, and certifications in swift water rescue, confined space rescue, and trench rescue.

16 Roadway Safety Strategies from Lessons Learned – Brady Robinette

This class will cover the lessons learned and the changes implemented in the wake of several struck-by incidents. The dangers the roadway presents to emergency responders is extremely high. Roadway safety education and other proactive steps to improve roadway safety is often overlooked by departments until they experience a struck-by incident. In January 2020, a struck-by incident killed a firefighter and a police officer and critically injured another firefighter in Lubbock.

Irving, Texas, has had several near misses, several apparatus struck, and a firefighter was injured in December 2020 by a vehicle traveling the wrong way on a section of roadway that was closed to all through traffic. Learn from these case studies to make your roadway operations safer for your personnel.



Special Thanks
to Our Speakers.
Your Knowledge &
Expertise are a
Valuable Asset to the
New Mexico
Fire Service
Conference!

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