



THE DELAWARE STATE FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

“THE COMPANY OFFICER ACADEMY”

FEATURING:



Chief John Salka



Chief Rick Lasky

Date(s): July 25 & 26, 2025

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lunch Provided

Tuition – Free

Location: Delaware State Fire School Dover Campus

Fill out a DSFS Registration Form to register

Contact: Jeffrey Brown 41, Training and Education Specialist IV

The Company Officer Academy

The program, "The Company Officer Academy" is the result of numerous requests and discussions the chiefs have had with chief and company officers across the nation concerning company officer training and preparedness. Many departments simply promote a new company officer and send them to a new assignment with no formal training. This often results in creating a more stressful and challenging situation for the new officer and the unit.

Chiefs Salka and Lasky have put together a dynamic multi-day program that addresses the many skills and abilities that company officers need to have to be effective in the firehouse and on the fireground. The following list of topics are just a few from this exciting program series:

Designed For:

New Company Officers - Current Officers - Future Officers

Topics Include:

- *Leadership and the Leader, Manager, and Supervisor "traits" of the company officer
- *Communications, Motivation, Training, Team Building and Mentoring
- *What it takes to be that great Company Officer
- *The Roll Call: Setting Up and Planning Your Day
- *Your Firefighter's First Day: The Company Officer's Role
- *Your Company Officer's First Day: The Chief's Role
- *Riding the Front Seat
- *Fireground Responsibility: The Company Officer's role in preventing LODD's
- *The First-In Officer: Tactics and Strategy considering ALL staffing levels

Your instructors:

Chiefs Lasky and Salka have decades of experience as chiefs and company officers and have handled many of the difficult and challenging situations that you are likely to face sometime in your fire service future. They will explain some of the myths concerning performance evaluations and discipline and how to get a handle on your daily firehouse routine. Join them as they guide you through the challenges you will face tomorrow with concepts and solutions that have served them well. The success of a company officer on the fireground is often determined by their success as a leader in the firehouse. This is where the rubber meets the road!

Bio for Chief Lasky

Chief Rick Lasky is a 40-plus year veteran of the fire service. Rick followed in his father's footsteps beginning his career as a firefighter in the suburbs on the southwest side of Chicago and while in Illinois received the 1996 International Society of Fire Service Instructors "Innovator of the Year" award for his part in developing the "*Saving Our Own*" program. He served as the co-lead instructor for the H.O.T. Firefighter Survival program at FDIC for over 10 years, is a long-standing editorial advisory board member for *Fire Engineering Magazine* and also serves on the *FDIC* advisory board. Rick is the author of the best-selling books "*Pride & Ownership: A Firefighter's Love of the Job*" and "*Five Alarm Leadership: From the Firehouse to the Fireground*" published by *Fire Engineering Books* and is the co-host for the podcast "The Command Post" heard on *FireEngineering.com* as well as the podcast "Old School." Rick has served as both a career and volunteer firefighter and in 2017 was the recipient of the Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bio for Chief Salka

Battalion Chief John Salka (ret.) a 40-plus year veteran of the fire service, served with the FDNY for over 33 years, the last 15 years a battalion chief and battalion commander in the 18th Battalion in the Bronx. He is a seminar presenter and has presented at Firehouse Expo, FDIC International, the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs show and many other venues. Chief Salka writes the monthly back page column "The Fire Scene" in *Firehouse Magazine*, has also written for *Fire Engineering Magazine*, *Size-Up*, and the FDNY training magazine *WNYF* and has served on the Firehouse Expo advisory board. He served as the co-lead instructor for the H.O.T. Firefighter Safety and Survival program at FDIC for over ten years and is the co-host for the podcast "The Command Post" heard on *FireEngineering.com* as well as the podcast "Old School." He is the author of the best-selling books "*First In-Last Out: Leadership Lessons from the New York Fire Department*," "*The Engine Company*," "*Five Alarm Leadership: From the Firehouse to the Fireground*," and "*The Fire Scene*". He received the 2001 FDIC Training Achievement Award for his *Get Out Alive* firefighter survival training program and has served as a volunteer firefighter throughout his entire 50-year fire service career. Chief Salka was inducted into *Firehouse Magazine's Hall of Fame* in 2019 and in 2022 was the recipient of the Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award.

FIVE ALARM LEADERSHIP

From the Firehouse to the Fireground



Fire Engineering

RICK LASKY

JOHN SALKA

Introduction by Chief Bobby Halton ret., Editor-in-Chief *Fire Engineering*