



Delaware State Fire School Annual Report 2024-2025

“Education is the key to Professionalism”



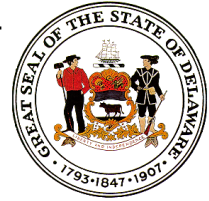
Delaware State Fire School Mission:
**To Provide Professional Instruction and
Training for the Emergency Services and the
Public to Improve Fire - EMS Services for all
the Citizens of Delaware**



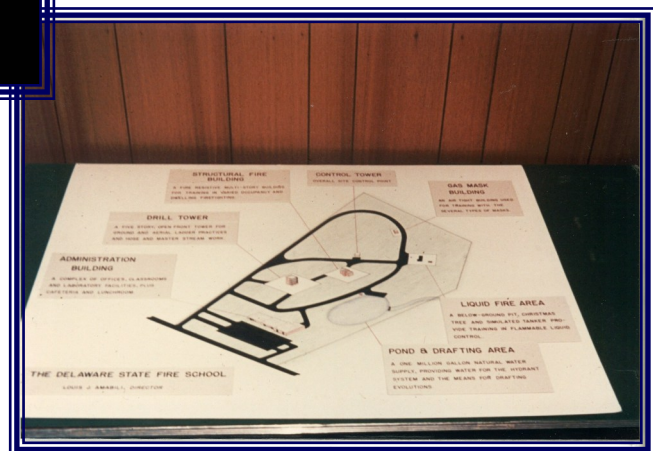
STATUTORY MANDATE

Delaware Code, Title 16, Chapter 66, §6613 – 6618, mandates the Delaware State Fire School to:

1. Provide firefighter's with needful professional instruction and training at a minimum cost to them and their employers
2. Develop new methods and practices of firefighting
3. Provide facilities for testing firefighting equipment
4. Disseminate the information relative to fires, techniques of firefighting, and other related subjects to all interested agencies and individuals throughout the state
5. Undertake any project and engage in any activity which, in the opinion of the State Fire Prevention Commission, will serve to improve public safety.



On July 1, 1972, the State Fire Prevention Commission was also given the mandate under Delaware Code, Title 16, and Chapter 67, §6708 – 6714, to regulate the ambulance service in Delaware. The Commission assigned to the State Fire School the duty of training ambulance/EMS personnel.



FROM THE DIRECTOR, William R. Dempsey, III

The staff and I are proud to present the sixty-first Annual Report of the Delaware State Fire School. The School operates with oversight from the State Fire Prevention Commission to provide Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Training, and Public Fire Safety Education to first responders and citizens of our state and region.

We have enjoyed excellent support this past year from the Governor and members of the General Assembly. This support, along with the dedication of our staff and instructors, enables us to provide high quality training and education to thousands of students each year.

The 2024-2025 training year has been very busy. Our staff has challenged themselves to improve our program delivery and I believe it shows in the caliber of Fire/EMS responders we have in this state. We continue to expand our course offerings, develop our instructors, and improve our training props.

Our first Director, the late Lou Amabili, had a vision of creating one of the finest emergency training centers in our nation and we do our best every day make that a reality.

We stand ready to face the challenges ahead in fiscal year 2026. We will work hard to be responsive to the needs of first responders and other customers, while looking ahead to anticipate their future needs. We are guided by our passionate belief in what we do, and we stand ready for the future.

Tucker Dempsey
Director
Delaware State Fire School



William (Tucker) R. Dempsey, III

Life Member of Cheswold Fire Company, President
Joined the staff in March 2011.

Member of the Delaware Air Rescue Team.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to comply with the statutory mandate, the State Fire School established a goal "To provide Fire, Rescue, Emergency Care and related training to members of the fire community, industry, agencies, institutions and the general public requiring specific programs and any program which will serve to benefit the safety of the public." The primary activities are consolidated into in-service fire department training courses, training programs for state agencies, institutions and industrial facilities, public education programs, and emergency care courses.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

In order to more effectively manage the State Fire School's training and education program, services for specific target audiences have been identified:

- Program services for firefighters and fire officers

- Program services for ambulance and rescue personnel

- Program services for state agencies, institutions, industrial personnel and the general public.

An integral part of each program area is the technical services which include, but are not limited to, the preparation of instructional outlines, the preparation of student materials, the selection and development of visual aids and training aids, the selection and development of instructional staff, the preparation and publication of informational bulletins, consultation services, emergency planning, etc.

QUALITY CONTROL

Since its inception in 1964, the State Fire School has been sensitive to the need for quality training and education in the fire prevention and control effort and has been continually responsive to that need. As the demand for programs and services increase, so does the need to select and qualify additional instructional personnel.

Strong emphasis is placed on improving the instructor development program for the part-time personnel. Instructor candidates are trained in instructional methodology and then trained to teach specific subject areas. Active instructors are cross-trained in high priority subject areas to help the school meet its program service demands as well as improving the individual's professional ability. All instructors are required to attend improvement seminars as scheduled by the Fire School in order to maintain their certification.

PLANNING AND EVALUATION

Continued emphasis is placed on planning and evaluation. Existing courses of instruction are reviewed and revised, as necessary, to assure their content is current and consistent with new concepts and techniques. Careful study is given to the need for additional courses. When a need is determined, the completion date for the development of the course is established, the selection and training of instructors is considered, and the date for delivery of the new course is scheduled.

Regular staff meetings and yearly evaluation and planning meetings are scheduled to monitor the progress of the tasks assigned during the planning session and to make any adjustments which may become necessary. These efforts continue to produce positive results. In addition to conducting the normally scheduled activities and meetings, honoring special requests for programs and services, progress continues to be made towards improving program quality. Emphasis on improving program management and monitoring cost analysis has improved program quality and cost-effectiveness.



Training Center Usage

The administration building is made available for meetings, classes and other functions, which serve the public interest. During the past year, maximum usage of the facility has continued because of its central location. The following state agencies, institutions and emergency service organizations utilized the facility:

DE Volunteer Firefighter's Association
DE Volunteer Firefighter's Ladies Auxiliary
Delaware Air Rescue Team
Delaware Emergency Management Agency
Delaware State Police
Delaware State Fire Police
Department of Corrections
Department of Education
Department of Elections
Department of Finance
Department of Forestry
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Public Health
Department of Technology & Information
Department of Transportation

Dept of Services for Children, Youth & Family
Division of Accounting
Division of Developmental Disabilities
Division of Social Services
Fire Marshal's Office
Dover PAL
Dover Air Force Base
Dupont-Experimental Station
Local Emergency Planning Committees
New Castle County Police
Office of Emergency Medical Services
Office of Management and Budget
PBF (DE City Refinery)
Proctor and Gamble
State Emergency Response Commission
U.S. Capitol Police





PROJECTS / INITIATIVES COMPLETED

Accomplishments initiated or completed during fiscal year 2025 included:

1. Completed update for Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue to current NFPA 1006 standard.
2. Completed new industrial training props with assistance from IMTT.
3. Built new hose racking props at New Castle and Sussex Divisions.
4. Received a donated Fire Engine from IMTT and placed it in service.
5. Assisted with the distribution of Electric Vehicle blankets to state fire companies.
6. Dedicated the Vehicle Rescue area to Instructor Rodney Marvel. →
7. Placed 70 new breathing apparatus in service along with two new air compressors and three Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) fill stations.
8. Developed a policy for Live Fire Training in Acquired Structures based on NFPA 1403.
9. Held our first live burn training in an acquired structure with the Camden-Wyoming Fire Company.
10. Instituted our first large-scale electronic testing system.
11. Placed a Command Simulation Trailer/Mobile Computer Lab in service that was funded through FEMA.
12. Placed a Decontamination Trailer in service that was funded by DEMA.
13. Updated our Firefighter I-II and Hazardous Materials programs to the latest NFPA standard.
14. Acquired state funding for a large storage building at our New Castle facility.
15. Acquired new Hazard Houses through a FEMA grant and placed them in service for fire safety education.
16. Upgraded our Drone fleet, thermal imaging cameras, and vehicle rescue equipment.
17. Got approval from Pro-Board (National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications) to add three more certifications: Support Firefighter, Fire Inspector, and Health and Safety Officer.
18. Created a mobile rehabilitation unit for the training grounds and expanded our medical coverage during hands-on training.
19. Improved our first-time pass rates for EMT from 49 percent to 81 percent, and increased the number of successful students overall.
20. Hosted a booth at the IAFC Hazardous Materials Conference to advertise our industrial training programs.
21. Finalized the purchase of new live burn props for all three Divisions.
22. Completed new Field Training Officer (FTO) and FTO refresher program in cooperation with the Fire Prevention Commission.
23. Updated the EMT Continuing Education modules.
24. Placed 150 training radios in service.
25. Updated the Emergency Medical Responder program to the latest standard.
26. Placed a second AED/CPR training trailer in service.



NEW PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

Live Burn Training in an Acquired Structure with Camden-Wyoming Fire Company



Major projects or programs to be initiated or implemented during fiscal year 2026 include:

1. Continue the validation and update of programs offered by the School.
2. Continue to improve our EMT pass rates.
3. Expand our certification offerings through Pro-Board and IFSAC.
4. Update the Water Rescue training programs.
5. Develop a Health and Safety Officer Course
6. Conduct our first Support Firefighter program.
7. Building the Storage Building at the New Castle Division that has been approved.
8. Continue to make improvements at the Divisions to reduce travel time for students.
9. Continue to work with Delaware schools interested in hosting Fire/EMS programs.
10. Upgrade the audio/visual equipment throughout the building at the Dover Division.
11. Finalize the installation of the new burn prop at the Dover Division.
12. Finalize and adopt a policy to conduct live fire training in acquired structures.
13. Work with Delaware Technical & Community College on higher education fire programs.
14. Activate the Student Portal on our records management system (LMEP).



National Certification Programs

National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications nationally recognized certification examinations are administered by the Delaware State Fire School in the following Accreditations:



Certifications

NFPA 470	<i>Hazardous Material Awareness</i>	454
NFPA 470	<i>Hazardous Materials Operations</i>	240
NFPA 470	<i>Hazardous Materials Technician</i>	35
NFPA 1001	<i>Firefighter I</i>	183
NFPA 1001	<i>Firefighter II</i>	187
NFPA 1002	<i>Driver/Operator-Aircraft Rescue & Fire</i>	20
NFPA 1002	<i>Driver/Operator-Aerial Operator</i>	33
NFPA 1002	<i>Driver/Operator-Mobile Water Supply</i>	20
NFPA 1002	<i>Driver/Operator-Pump Operator</i>	22
NFPA 1002	<i>Driver/Operator-Tiller</i>	0
NFPA 1003	<i>Airport Fire Fighter</i>	12
NFPA 1006	<i>Rope Technical Rescuer Awareness</i>	31
NFPA 1006	<i>Rope Technical Rescue Operations</i>	32
NFPA 1006	<i>Passenger Vehicle Rescue Awareness</i>	176
NFPA 1006	<i>Passenger Vehicle Rescue Operations</i>	173
NFPA 1006	<i>Passenger Vehicle Rescue Technician</i>	173
NFPA 1006	<i>Confined Space Technical Rescuer</i>	0
NFPA 1021	<i>Fire Officer I</i>	32
NFPA 1021	<i>Fire Officer II</i>	28
NFPA 1021	<i>Fire Officer III</i>	33
NFPA 1021	<i>Fire Officer IV</i>	22
NFPA 1030	<i>Fire Inspector</i>	0
NFPA 1041	<i>Fire Instructor I</i>	123
NFPA 1041	<i>Fire Instructor II</i>	5
NFPA 1041	<i>Fire Instructor III</i>	0
NFPA 1041	<i>Live Fire Instructor</i>	25
NFPA 1041	<i>Live Fire Instructor In-Charge</i>	0
NFPA 1081	<i>Advanced Exterior Industrial Fire Brigade Member</i>	0
NFPA 1081	<i>Incipient Facility Fire Brigade Member</i>	0
NFPA 1521	<i>Incident Safety Officer</i>	8
NFPA 1091	<i>Traffic Incident Management Personnel</i>	0
NFPA 2400	<i>Remote Pilot for Small UAS (Drone)</i>	18
NFPA 2400	<i>Visual Observer for Small UAS (Drone)</i>	18
Total Certifications:		2102



TOTAL STUDENTS TRAINED...

FIRE, RESCUE and OFFICER PROGRAMS **(7,253 students)**

The fire department training programs are conducted at the Delaware State Fire Training Center throughout the week, including nights and weekends. This allows the volunteer firefighters of the state to be accommodated without having to take time off from work. The Dover Center and two regional centers are used for weekend and weeknight training and refresher training for a variety of courses that range from six core entry level programs all the way through various stages of leadership. Each of the courses is designed so that the firefighter may progress from one level of training to the next more difficult level. Ancillary programs are offered throughout the year to supplement the sequential training program. Also provided are National Fire Academy courses to support continuing education and special interest seminars; thereby allowing for the firefighters and officers in the state to maintain the highest level of training.

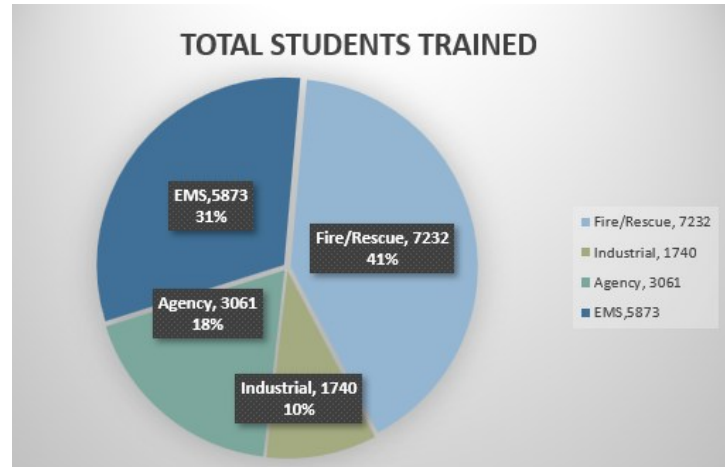
We have added the option of taking classes in a blended format. Combining online learning with traditional lecture or hands-on. Currently, Fire Officer I, Fire Officer II, and Fire Instructor I are available this way, and we are developing other programs for the near future.

INDUSTRIAL FIRE BRIGADE PROGRAMS **(1,691 students)**

The Delaware State Fire School is very proud of its Industrial Fire Brigade training programs. Though this program has been copied elsewhere, its quality has never been duplicated. The programs were developed so that courses between Basic Skills and Brigade Leadership may be taken in any order to accommodate fire brigade personnel from industries and businesses in the state. Each of the programs have been developed to meet the national standards under NFPA 600. We now offer certification NFPA 1081 in Advanced Exterior Firefighting. The training ranges from basic firefighting skills, to leadership development; with a full range of rescue programs and Hazardous Materials Technician courses where successful completion grants Pro Board certification. Also, the School provides Emergency Medical Responder training for those requiring a basic first aid course as well as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training.

AGENCY and INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS **(3,253 students)**

Training Courses are conducted for those associated with other agencies that have a need for Safety Awareness. Programs are provided through our Healthcare Program to employees of Long Term Care Facilities, Hospitals, and any other individuals who provide direct care to others. Custodial Fire Safety Training is held for those who are new employees within State School Districts to make them familiar with Fire Safety Issues within their workplace. All of these programs



are designed to meet the special needs of the clients in obtaining the certification level they are required to have. Corrections Fire Safety training is offered to recruits and Corrections Officers at our state's detention facilities. Topics include Basic Hazard Identification, patient movement, evacuations and General Fire Safety. Training is provided for new Recruits of area Police Departments through our Law Enforcement Fire Safety Program.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS **(5,541 students)**

The Delaware State Fire School continues to improve its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Programs. The school offers various levels of EMS training to the State's fire and ambulance companies as well as law enforcement and industrial companies. The vision of the Delaware State Fire School's EMS program is to provide quality education to willing individuals, to create partnerships among the various agencies and to always offer the most progressive EMS training available.

Introductory courses offered are American Heart Association (AHA) programs. Students learn CPR and basic first aid. The next level of training is the Emergency Medical Responder course. This training is based on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) national curriculum. However, the National Registry written examination is optional.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is the highest level of training the school offers. This course is based on the (NHTSA) national curriculum. To be certified in the State of Delaware, individuals must have completed all course requirements and successfully completed the National Registry of EMT's written and practical examination. This year we moved to the newest edition of the EMT text from Brady Publishing with the most current information available for students.

Fire Safety & Injury Prevention Programs Reached 27,156 People

Fire Safety programs are provided to a wide range of audiences across our state. Programs are age appropriate, targeted at groups ranging from Pre-School to Senior Citizens. They are given for public and private schools, as well as civic organizations, scout groups, day care centers, senior citizen groups, agricultural groups, state agencies, and many others. Children, teachers and parents may visit our facilities through our "School Tour Program." They become familiar with the Fire School and participate in activities such as Emergency Calling, Fire Behavior, Escape Planning, Hazards in the Home, and the roles of the Community Helps such as Firefighter and EMT's.

The Delaware State Fire School also partners with several groups to provide safety messages to the public, including the American Red Cross, local Senior Centers as well as other State Agencies. We recently partnered with North Dover Elementary School to provide Fire Safety classes for their 21st Century after-school program, serving grades 1-4. The program runs twice a week over an eight-week time period and includes interactive activities and handouts for students to share with their families. We are also offering this program through the First State Community Action Agency at four of their after-school locations in Sussex County.

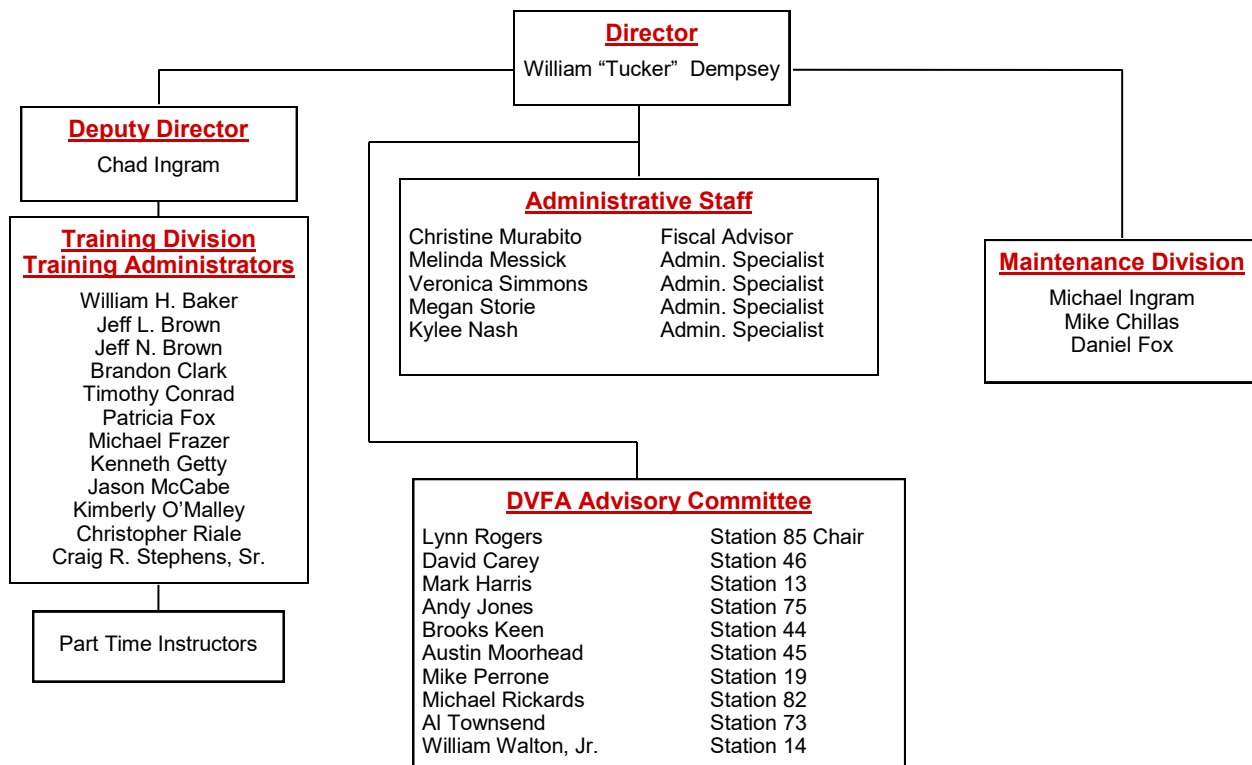
The Fire School attempts to assess and generate current information regarding Community Risk Assessment. Major resources include but are not limited to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Fire Academy, National Fire Protection Association and the International Fire Service Training Association, all of which support National Fire Protection Association Standards. We play an active role with groups such as Safe Kids, Progressive Agriculture Safety, Center for Campus Fire Safety and Vision 20/20, expanding the message of community risk reduction.

We are pleased to provide Delaware's children with comprehensive safety education on a wide range of topics, including fire safety, Halloween safety, pedestrian safety, holiday and toy safety, poison prevention, playground safety, and bike safety. Requests for programs have returned to pre-pandemic levels. The Delaware State Fire School maintains the offerings of our core injury prevention topics as well as expanding our safety day programs into new schools. We continue updating our current curriculum and developing new programs to further reach into the community.





DELAWARE STATE FIRE SCHOOL STAFF



DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHAD E. INGRAM



Member of Wilmington Manor Fire Company, Past Fire Chief

Joined the staff in March 2016 as a Training Administrator and became the Deputy Director in January 2023. His responsibilities include all curriculum oversight and he is the sUAS (drone) Administrator.



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE STAFF



Back Row: Veronica Simmons, Megan Storie, Kylee Nash
Front Row: Christine Murabito (Supervisor), Melinda Messick

MAINTENANCE STAFF



Mike Chillas



Michael Ingram
(Supervisor)



Dan Fox



Delaware State Fire School Program Managers:



William (Billy) Baker

Member of Carlisle Fire Company, Captain and Past Deputy Chief

Joined the staff in April 2000. His responsibilities include: Fire Instructor I and II along with Instructor Orientation, Fit Testing and Emergency Vehicle Operator classes. He schedules the Fire Department in-service training for Kent County Division. Billy is also the Assistant Accreditation Manager for Certification.



Jeffrey L. Brown

Member of Cheswold Fire Company, Past Fire Chief

Joined the staff in June 2022. His responsibilities include our core curriculum to become a firefighter— Firefighter I/II programs, the Basic Firefighting Skills, Structural Fire Fighting Skills and Hazardous Materials Response Skills classes. He is also responsible for Advanced Fire Behavior and Advanced Live Fire Training in the Phase V Prop, along with the Wilmington Recruit Classes and Instructor Aides.



Jeffrey N. Brown

Member of Camden-Wyoming Fire Company, Deputy Fire Chief

Joined the staff in February 2022. His responsibilities include the Fire Officer Programs and Fire Inspector classes. His other program responsibilities are the Junior Fire Academy, Incident Management and the Blue Card Certification. He also manages the Instructor Gear distribution and maintenance to make sure our staff is safe while conducting training exercises.



Brandon Clark

Life Member of Joppa-Magnolia Fire Company, Harford County, MD, Past Asst. Chief and Past Career Captain for Singerly Fire Company, Elkton, MD

Joined the staff in March 2023. He is responsible for EMS programs include Emergency Medical Responder initial and recertification, Field Training Officer, and the EMS Continuing Education programs. He serves as the AHA training center coordinator and the NAEMT training center coordinator.



Timothy Conrad

Member of Clayton Fire Company, Assistant Fire Chief

Joined the staff in March 2025. He serves as the School's Certification and Accreditation Manager for the growing certification programs which continues to add offerings to the Delaware Fire Service. He is also the State Fire Prevention Regulations testing coordinator along with the Testing Center Manager and Online Testing Coordinator. He sits on the School's IT Committee as well.



Patricia Fox

Member of Aetna Hose, Hook, & Ladder, Assistant Fire Chief

Joined the staff in August 2019. Her responsibilities include: Emergency Medical Technician Full, Accelerated, and Refresher classes; Active Shooter, and Resiliency Resource Officer programs. She serves as the EMS-Children Representative, Statewide Active Shooter Committee, and on several other State EMS Committees.



Delaware State Fire School Program Managers:



Michael S. Frazer

Member of Denton Fire Company

Joined the staff in 2023 after retiring from the Baltimore/Washington International Airport and Rescue Department, serving all ranks up to the Deputy Fire Chief of Operations and Training. His responsibilities include the Industrial Programs, Hazardous Materials Programs, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Courses, and Firefighting Foam as well as providing customized courses for the private sector and industrial clients as requested.



Kenneth Getty, Life Member of Odessa Fire Company, Past Fire Chief

Joined the staff in October 2024. after serving 24 years as career staff in New Castle County. His responsibilities include overseeing Driver Operator, Aerial Apparatus Operations, Engine Company, Truck Company, Fire Police, and Traffic Incident Management classes, along with Department of Corrections, the D.O.C. Youth Academy, and National Fire Academy programs including the State Delaware Weekend. He also manages the onboarding of all Instructor Aides. Kenny is currently an active member of the Clayton Fire Company.



Jason McCabe

Member of Dagsboro Fire Department, President and Assistant Fire Chief

Joined the staff in September 2024. He is responsible for the management of the Tuition Reimbursement and the Recruitment and Retention Programs for the Delaware Fire Service. He is also responsible for Harassment Training and Support Firefighter programs, along with being the Fire School's Public Information Officer (PIO) and maintaining the social media and webpage.



Kimberly O'Malley

Member of Citizens' Hose Fire Company and Auxiliary, Past Auxiliary President

Joined the staff in August 2012 and is serving as the Program Manager in Public Safety Education. Her responsibilities include scheduling School Tours at each of the three Divisions. Kim also coordinates injury prevention programs in child care facilities and in classrooms in the schools.



Christopher Riale

Member of Dover Fire Department, Assistant Fire Chief

Joined the staff in March 2023. His responsibilities include Technical Rescue Training and Certification. He manages the Vehicle Rescue, Rope Rescue, Confined Space, Water Rescue, Rapid Intervention, and Firefighter Safety and Survival programs. He is a member of Good-Will and Dover Fire Departments as well as the Kent County Special Operations Team and New Castle County Surface Water and Dive Rescue Teams.



Craig Stephens

Member of Lewes Fire Department, Past President, Past Fire Chief

Joined the staff in April 1997. His responsibilities include Law Enforcement Fire Orientation, Custodial classes, and the Fire/Rescue In-Service program lesson plans. He schedules the Fire Department in-service training for Sussex County Division. Craig also develops the Memorial Program for the Annual Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Conference.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH...

In a continuing effort to support the emergency services in Delaware, the Delaware State Fire School continues to offer courses and seminars provided by other experts in special areas:

Rapid Intervention Teams
Specialty Rescue Teams
National Fire Academy
DNREC & Water Rescue
DE Volunteer Firefighters Assoc.
Wilmington Police Department
Dover PAL
Chesapeake Utilities
DAFB Aircraft Firefighting
Sussex Early Learning Action Team
Safe Kids Delaware

Delaware State Fire Chiefs
Dept. of Agriculture—Forestry Division
DE State Police Helicopter DE Air Rescue Team
Delaware State Fire Police Assoc.
New Castle County Police
Dept. of Corrections
Sussex Health Coalition
Delaware Early Childhood Council
New Castle County EMS
DE Assoc. For Education of Young Children
Delaware Injury Prevention Coalition



Delaware State Fire School 1461 Chestnut Grove Road Dover, DE 19904

History of the Fire School

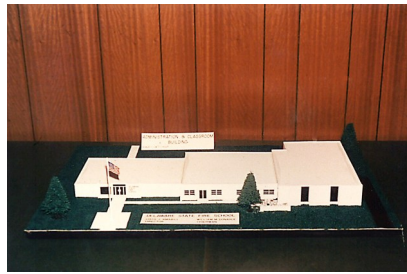
Over five decades ago, a group of ambitious men from the Delaware Fire Service organized the first formal training program for the volunteer firemen. For many years, the Educational Committee of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association, supported by the Department of Vocational and Technical Education carried on a valiant and rewarding program to provide training for the firemen in the state. They held classes in abandoned houses, in sandpits, at schools, in fire stations, and any other location that they could find. During this time, the dream of a permanent training center took root and grew, nourished by the ideas of many dedicated men.

Actual design for the center began in November 1964 when the Delaware State Fire School was created as a State agency. With the financial backing of the State Legislature, the staff and the architect began to sort ideas to fit the needs of the fire service, and to visit other training facilities to review the good and bad points of each. Finally, a plan was developed which, interestingly enough, was not modified from the start, attesting to the original strength of the plan.

On November 12, 1966, the dream began to take shape as a reality when Governor Charles L. Terry, Jr. turned the first spade full of earth, officially starting the construc-



tion. The original Classroom and Administration building was divided into three sections. The western end housed the office of the director, senior instructors, administrative offices, and locker facilities for the staff and students. Either a hallway or a closet separated each of the four classrooms in the center section, thus allowing for maximum soundproofing. The third section of the Administration building originally housed the cafeteria, a completely equipped kitchen, and an apparatus room. In 1970 with the addition of the warehouse the apparatus room was convert-



ed into an auditorium.

The drill grounds included a network of roadways connecting the various training areas. The Structural Fire Building serves as a multi-purpose building. The right side of the building simulates a regular 2 ½ - story dwelling, with the left side simulating a commercial or industrial building. The Control Tower is the nerve center of the training complex. From the windows on the second floor, the visitors and safety officer have an unobstructed view of every one of the different training areas. The original construction also included a Breathing Apparatus Building that offers a special facility for training firefighter's in the use of all types of breathing apparatus under actual smoke and darkness conditions.

During the mid 1970's four pole shed type classroom structures were erected on the drill grounds. These outdoor student areas are equipped with chalkboard and electricity. During 1978 a new training area was constructed as the Flammable Gases Training Area, located between the pump house and the Liquids Training Area.

The current Classroom and Administration building bears little resemblance to the original Administrative Building. During Fiscal Year 1981, 16,200 square feet of additional administrative, classroom, and cafeteria areas were added to meet the growing and expanding needs of the Fire School. The modern facility can comfortably accommodate approximately 700 people for learning, workshops, meetings, or for any purpose in which large numbers of people assemble.

During the summer of 1984 the Flammable Liquids area was reconstructed to upgrade the original liquids training area. And the late 1980's added another addition to the west end to house the Fire Prevention Commission and their Secretary.

Throughout the 1990's many

different projects were completed that added to the ability of the school to conduct and improve training. These included the construction of the Confined Space Training area and the Forcible Entry building, along with the replacement of the outdoor classrooms. With the financial support of the State Legislature, the Fire School was able to construct two Divisions, one in Sussex County, which was completed in April 1992, and one in New Castle County, which was completed in September 1997. These regional training centers allow the school to provide in-service training to our customers.

While the Classrooms and Administration Building are the focal point of the complex, the Drill Tower dominates the skyline. This original structure that has served many functions since the beginning was completely refurbished ensuring that the structure would remain serviceable for another 40 years.

A newly constructed Sussex Division was completed June 2013. It includes two new classrooms seating 40 students each. An additional classroom and offices were added to the New Castle Division in 2017. In 2018, the Dover Division remodeled the Administrative Offices and created a computer lab, new SERT office and School Store area. New restrooms and HVAC system were updated in 2020.

The Delaware State Fire School celebrated its 50th year of service in 2014. Today the complex of training facilities, classrooms and administration buildings stand as a tribute to those dedicated men who had a dream, as well as the succession of governors who have given their unflagging support, the succession of legislators who made the dream a reality, and to the thousands of firefighters for whom this center was built and will always be maintained.

