

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING UPDATE



The University of Missouri Fire & Rescue Training Institute's (MU FRTI) has a busy training calendar scheduled through the end of David Hedrick the fiscal year (June Director 2008). So far this year MU FRTI has 714 classes scheduled and completed 7800 enrollments. This equates to over 115,000 student instructional hours through January. These totals do not include the students from Winter Fire School which was conducted in February and the course data is still being processed. Over all we are projecting another great year in providing training to the state's fire and emergency service responders. Thank you for utilizing

MU FRTI to meet your departments/agency's training and resource needs.

I and the MU FRTI staff were saddened to learn that FF/Paramedic Louis P. Berra, of the West County EMS & Fire Protection District died on duty on January 18, 2008. Our thoughts and prayers go out to FF Berra's family and the members of the West County EMS & Fire Protection District for their loss.

This year the Institute has had some issues with low attendance in state funded classes. MU FRTI's policy is to have a minimum of 15 students for each class. Though MU FRTI is willing to work with all fire departments to make sure critically needed training classes are available to them, we also have a responsibility to assure that state monies are effectively used to provide the greatest training opportunity for the state's emergency first responders. To make effective use of the tuition free training courses that are funded through the Division of Fire Safety and the Missouri Emergency Response Commission, these agencies have ask MU FRTI to assure that the classes taught have the minimum number of students required. If your department has scheduled a training course with us, please make sure that the minimum number of students attend the course so it will not have to be canceled. Your assistance in this matter will help provide for the maximum number of course deliveries and number of firefighters trained.

The 27th Annual Winter Fire School (WFS) along with the Fire Equipment Expo was conducted February 8 -10, 2008 in Columbia. Over 1,700 firefighters, emergency medical personnel and other emergency responders from across Missouri and six states attended this comprehensive training event. Over 100 classes were conducted covering subjects from Surviving the "Routine" Structure Fire, to Emerging Trends in Fire Department Leadership, to Automotive Safety and Hybrid Technology. Back by popular demand was the web casting of three workshops over the internet to registered sites allowing greater access to the WFS educational offerings for those fire departments and personnel that could not attend in Columbia. WFS this year continued to be a huge success with a 32% increase in students. This success is due not only to the experienced instructors, effective Command Team, dedicated staff, our fire service

partners and supporters, but especially to the individual student participants. Thank you for continuing to support this important training event.

The 76th Annual Summer Fire School (SFS) is scheduled for June 3 - 8, 2008 in Jefferson City. There will be a Fire Equipment Exposition on Friday June 6 in and around the Capital Plaza Hotel with over 65 fire equipment vendors and state organizations and entities participating. In addition to the regular in-depth hands-on technical training courses this year, there will be eight new course offerings including Advanced Suppression Operations, Firefighter I & II Live Burn Class, and Flashover Training Simulator. Also again this year, MU FRTI and the Big Rivers Forest Fire Management Compact (BRFFMC) will host the annual Wildfire Academy in conjunction with SFS. For further course and registration information on SFS 2008, check out the SFS brochure or visit MU FRTI's website. Please mark your calendars for this annual training program and come be a part of the experience of Missouri's longest running fire school.

The Institute has entered into a joint partnership with the Missouri Association of Fire Protection Districts (MAFPD) to deliver their Certified Fire District Board Training for newly elected fire district board members. This training is required under state statute that was passed last year. A recent class was held in conjunction with Winter Fire School. Additional open enrollment courses will be scheduled in various locations in the state in the near future. Also, requests for training can be made to MU FRTI or MAFPD to set up a program in your area.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency will be administering the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for 2008. Federal funding for AFG 2008 is \$560 million. Initial workshops to assist fire departments in learning about the grant and the application process were conducted in cooperation with DHS/FEMA and MU FRTI at the Winter Fire School. Additional grant workshops will be conducted in the region during March. The Grant application period should be opening in early March and running through the first of April. Please check the AFG website at: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com/> for further details and workshop schedules. So far for the grant award period for 2007, Missouri fire departments have been the recipient of 138 AFG grants totaling over \$10 million. The state is currently the twelve highest in number of grants received. These grants have provided a significant opportunity for the recipient fire departments to improve or increase their emergency response capabilities. We hope that each department in the state will take advantage of the opportunity to apply for a grant, and we wish each of you good luck in this year's grant process.

Thank you for your continued support of the University of Missouri's Fire & Rescue Training Institute. The MU FRTI staff and I look forward to continuing to provide quality fire and emergency service training programs to Missouri's emergency responders. For more information on MU FRTI, please view our website at <http://www.mufrti.org/>.