



FIRE COMMISSION
STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING



FY2025

KENTUCKY
FIRE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Kentucky Fire Commission



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MISSION STATEMENT



The Kentucky Fire Commission is committed to enhancing safety and education within the fire service for the citizens and industries within the Commonwealth through standardized special and technical education, training, communication, coordination and the distribution of funds to the agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As we close out the chapter on FY2025 and look ahead to FY2026, the Fire Commission continues to navigate the needs of the fire service and our fire departments. We remain committed to improving our current programs, implementing new programs, and as always, excellence in our mission.

In FY2025, we upgraded components of our fleet and training props, and made improvements to our facilities. Our student numbers were the highest we have seen in several years, and we continue to be pleased with the amount of firefighters who take advantage of our accredited certification programs to better themselves in their role within the fire service.

This past year also saw the launch of a pilot program to screen firefighters for occupational cancer. During the 2026 legislative session, the fire service will be working with lawmakers to encourage adopting this program into KRS. With the elevated cancer risk firefighters face, it is crucial to earmark funds dedicated to the health and wellness of those who protect our communities.

We continue to make strides in the development of our Fire Academy of Kentucky property as we work toward making it a leading model for state academy fire training. Our Academy has experienced robust growth in the first six recruit classes and we are encouraged at the amount of individual fire departments each class who elect to send their members through this program.

The Fire Commission holds steadfast in their mission to support the firefighters of the Commonwealth through the dedication, strength and resilience of our 500+ staff members. None of our accomplishments would be possible without our devoted staff, the support of Kentucky's fire departments, and the support of KCTCS. As always, we wish to thank the 18,000+ men and women who serve the public diligently and with the utmost professionalism.

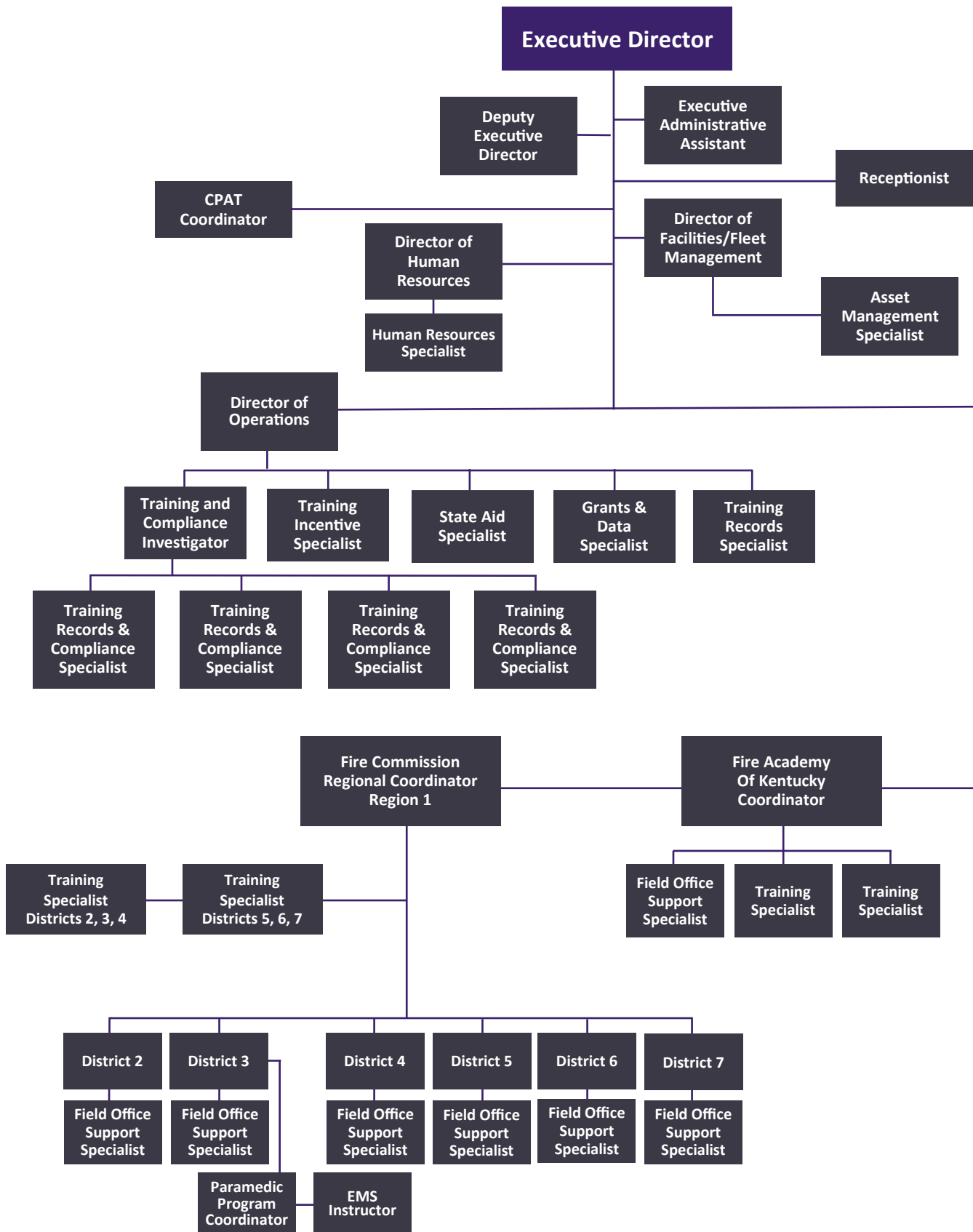
If you have any thoughts, questions or concerns on how to improve our offerings, we always welcome your input.

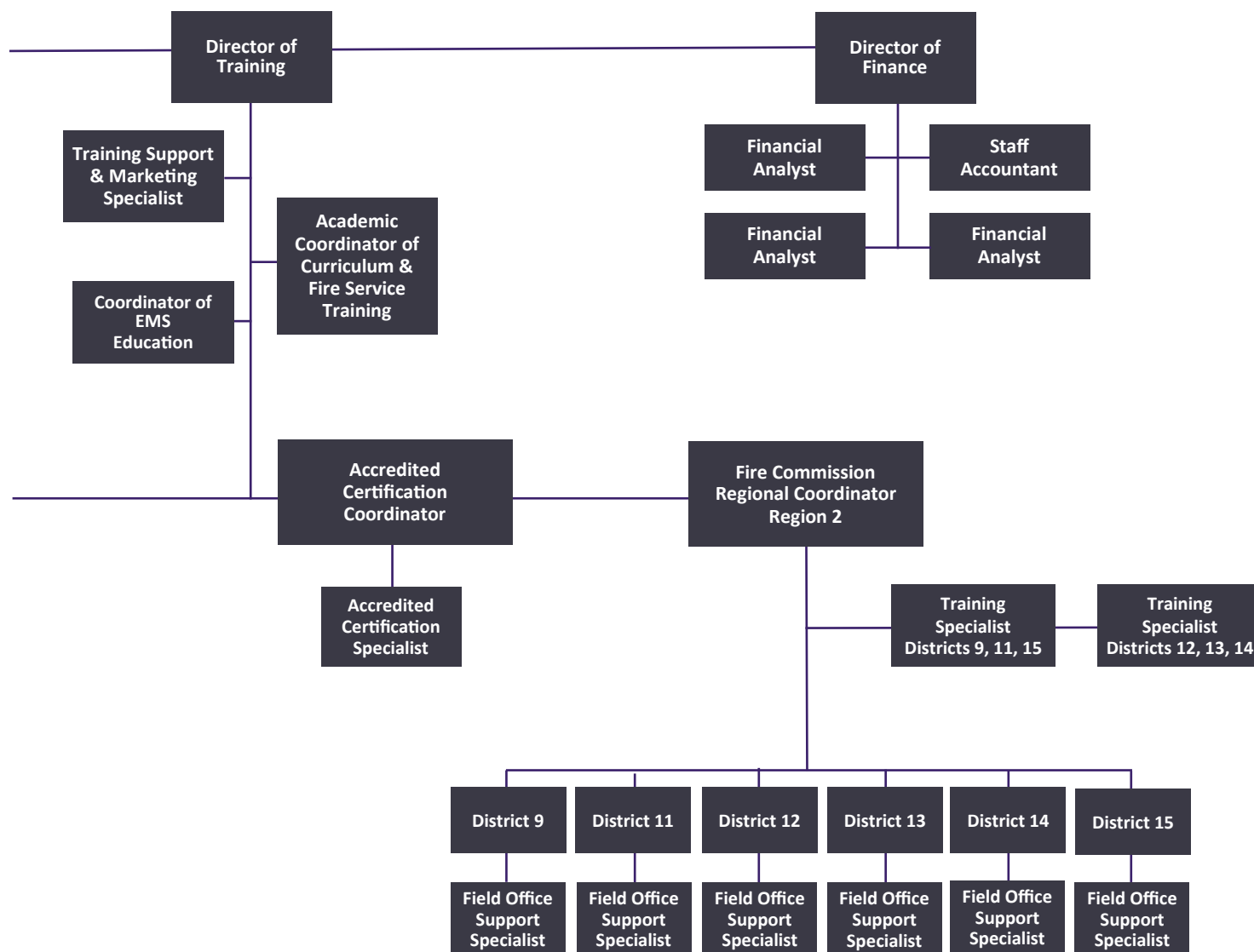
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bruce W. Palmer".



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





Committees of the Board

- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Public Education
- ◆ Loans
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Training Facilities
- ◆ Health & Wellness
- ◆ Eligibility
- ◆ EMS

Board of Directors Representation

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary

Ricky King
Dwane Smeathers
Chris Black

Paid Fire Chiefs

Nick Clark

County Judge Executive

Joe Choate

Volunteer Fire Chiefs

Cheryl Allen

Practicing Physician

Dr. Irvin Smith

County Fire Depts

Chris Black

Ofc Homeland Security

Josiah Keats

Volunteer Fire Depts

Dwane Smeathers

State Fire Marshal

Mike Haney

KRS 95 Fire Depts

Jerry Stephens

Fire-Based EMS Services

Mike Sutt

KRS 75 or 273 Fire Depts

Ricky King

KY Firefighters Assn

Eddie Rucker

General Public

Fr. Matthew Young

KY Professional FFs

Joe Baer

Mayors

Andrew Scott

KY Assoc of Fire Chiefs

Steve Kyle

Building & Safety

VACANT

KCTCS CFO

Todd Kilburn

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Director	Bruce Roberts	bruce.roberts@kctcs.edu
Director of Training	Marc Rudder	marc.rudder@kctcs.edu
Director of Finance	Brenda Goddard	brenda.goddard@kctcs.edu
Director of Facilities/Fleet Management	Derrick Hall	derrick.hall@kctcs.edu
Director of Human Resources	Val Parks	val.parks@kctcs.edu
Director of Operations	Carrie Wilburn	carrie.wilburn@kctcs.edu

SUPPORT STAFF

Mary Adams	Training Records Specialist	mary.adams@kctcs.edu
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Lisa Bradley	Training Incentive Specialist	lbradley0017@kctcs.edu
Ericka Cole	Training Support & Marketing Specialist	ericka.cole@kctcs.edu
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Gary Hall	Coordinator of EMS Education	gary.hall@kctcs.edu
Scott Landram	Training Records & Compliance Specialist	scott.landram@kctcs.edu
Rick Larkins	CPAT Coordinator	rick.larkins@kctcs.edu
Ashley McWaters	Training Records & Compliance Specialist	ashley.mcwaters@kctcs.edu
Melissa Norsworthy	Financial Analyst	melissa.norsworthy@kctcs.edu
Bonita Oldham	Grants & Data Specialist	bonita.oldham@kctcs.edu
Christy Rodgers	Accredited Certification Coordinator	christy.rodgers@kctcs.edu
Casey Smith	Staff Accountant	casey.smith@kctcs.edu
Dustin Staves	Training Records & Compliance Specialist	dustin.staves@kctcs.edu
Pat Thompson	Coordinator, Fire Academy of Kentucky	pat.thompson@kctcs.edu
Ashley Tackett	State Aid Specialist	ashley.tackett@kctcs.edu
Cheryl Watkins	Receptionist	cheryl.watkins@kctcs.edu
Richard Wright	Asset Management Specialist	richard.wright@kctcs.edu



STATE FIRE SCHOOL

The 94th edition of the Kentucky State Fire School was held June 11-15 in Lexington. 623 students from 218 departments/agencies participated in 35 classes.

INCENTIVE & PENSION

The Incentive & Pension fund continues to supplement eligible local governments, plus an amount equal to the required employers contribution on the supplement to the defined benefit pension plan, or to a plan qualified under Section 401(1) or Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended.

To be eligible for incentive pay, firefighters must have a minimum of 300 training hours, work at least 2,080 hours and earn at least \$8,000 annually. To maintain eligibility, all firefighters in the department must complete one hundred (100) hours of training annually. Eligible firefighters each received \$4,429 during FY2025 through this program.

Incentive and pension funds totaling \$18,711,699.24 were distributed to 4,183 firefighters during FY2025.

HEPATITIS VACCINATIONS

During FY2025, the Fire Commission's voluntary Hepatitis vaccination program assisted in providing funds for 37 Hepatitis immunizations. The Fire Commission collaborates with local health departments in this program and sponsors Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B or a combination of both Hepatitis A/B vaccines for Kentucky's firefighters.

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA GRANTS

It is the goal of the Kentucky Fire Commission to ensure every fire department throughout the Commonwealth has at least one thermal imaging camera. 148 departments were awarded thermal imaging cameras in FY2025.

TRAINING FACILITY GRANTS

The Fire Commission's Training Facility Grants program allows eligible and approved fire departments access to much needed funds to enhance their department's training program with facilities and equipment. During FY2025, 48 departments were awarded a total of \$1,000,000 in grant funds.



FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS

The Fire Commission conducts compliance inspections of training and financial documentation, State-Aid and Incentive Pay disbursements, grant equipment and purchases, and department apparatus and equipment.

Our team of four Training Records & Compliance Specialists conducted 509 inspections during FY2025 and will continue to conduct annual inspections throughout the Commonwealth.

LOW INTEREST LOANS

The Low Interest Loan program is available for any volunteer fire department that meets certain criteria. Volunteer fire departments can borrow up to \$125,000. Funds in the amount of \$1,652,196.00 were distributed to 20 departments in FY2025.

STATE AID

The Fire Commission's State Aid program is available to all qualifying volunteer fire departments in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. During FY2025, the Kentucky Fire Commission allotted up to \$15,000 to each qualifying volunteer fire department throughout the Commonwealth.

In FY2025, 649 departments were awarded State Aid for a total of \$9,954,000. Monies must be allocated toward specific expenditures approved by the Fire Commission.

Funds are required to be spent in total each fiscal year. Departments may hold the entirety of the funds over into the following fiscal year to acquire enough funds for a more substantial project. Partial carryover is disallowed.

Funds may also be applied toward Fire Commission loan payments.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

The Junior Firefighter program allows youth ages 15-17 the opportunity to learn about fire and emergency services organizations in a safe, supervised, controlled and fun manner. There are 455 departmental junior programs registered in Kentucky.

The Fire Commission held a training class specific to junior firefighters during State Fire School in June in Lexington. 26 junior firefighters from 15 fire departments participated in this class.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS



The Fire Commission's Health & Wellness Program funds the purchase of fitness equipment and gear extractors for qualifying fire departments of the Commonwealth. Through this grant in FY2025, 10 fire departments received fitness equipment and 20 fire departments received gear extractors.



FIREFIGHTER CANCER SCREENING REIMBURSEMENT

Cancer is a rising and dangerous threat to firefighter health and safety. Firefighters face a higher risk of being diagnosed with, and dying of, cancer than the general U.S. population. Early detection is paramount to manage this risk.

In FY2025, the Fire Commission piloted a program to reimburse eligible firefighters for the cost of cancer screenings performed at designated testing sites. This pilot program was met with great interest and it is anticipated to be revisited during the 2026 legislative session in hopes of passing funding for this screening into law.



STRESS INJURY TREATMENT REIMBURSEMENT

Firefighters have long been about helping others; these days more than ever, that includes fellow firefighters. The Kentucky Fire Commission is proud to offer a policy for line-of-duty stress injury treatment reimbursement. This program establishes funds for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses that a firefighter has incurred after being diagnosed with a line-of-duty stress injury through firefighting related experiences. Each qualifying individual may receive reimbursement benefits up to \$50,000 for care or treatment that was provided on or after July 1, 2020.

During FY2025, 88 firefighters received reimbursements totaling \$196,027.58.

***No one should suffer with PTSD on their own.
If you are a firefighter struggling with this, or you know one who is,
please seek help from a licensed mental health professional.***

PEER SUPPORT TRAINING

The Kentucky Fire Commission partnered with the International Association of Firefighters to present two Peer Support Training Classes during FY2025. 54 participants received training and skills practice to become effective peer counselors and learn how to establish peer support teams for their fire departments. This program is designed specifically for firefighters, EMS providers, dispatchers, chaplains, firefighter retirees, behavioral health specialists and any member of the fire service interested in supporting their fellow firefighters during tough times.



IAFF PEER SUPPORT TRAINING

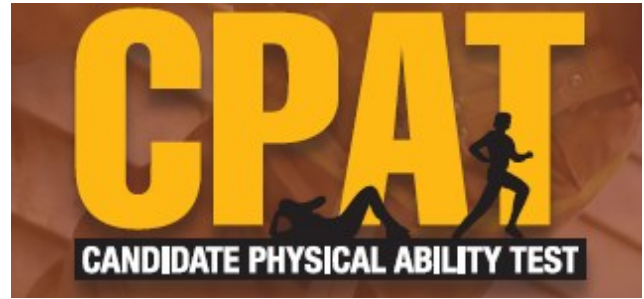
Developed and Delivered by Peers



CPAT

Since 2013, administrative regulations in the state of Kentucky mandate all newly hired career firefighters pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). CPAT is set up to develop a fair and valid evaluation tool in the selection of firefighters to ensure that all firefighter candidates possess the physical ability to complete critical tasks effectively and safely. CPAT is a sequence of events requiring the participant to progress along a predetermined path from event to event in a continuous manner. Stations include: Stair Climb, Hose Drag, Equipment Carry, Ladder Raise and Extension, Forcible Entry, Search, Rescue and Ceiling Breach and Pull.

The Fire Commission has three fixed testing locations: Burlington, Louisville and Paris, and administers testing monthly.



32

Testing Sessions

1,165

Candidates

745

Cards Issued

Rick Larkins

CPAT Coordinator



APPRENTICE I & II CERTIFICATION

The Kentucky Fire Commission has established two firefighter certification levels for students enrolled into Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)-sponsored Fire Science programs. Students engage in hands-on and lecture training in an environment that will allow them to work toward certification as a Kentucky Apprentice I Firefighter (100 hours of training) and as a Kentucky Apprentice II Firefighter (200 hours of training). These programs enable students to acquire knowledge and aptitude of fire service administration and firefighting tasks while still in high school, allowing them to accrue necessary skills toward service as a career or volunteer firefighter once they turn 18.

Students with Fire Science Program of Studies course codes successfully transcribed will be eligible to request approval for credit for prior learning credits upon enrolling into a KCTCS campus offering the Fire Science Degree Program.

Apprentice I and Apprentice II certifications are only available to students enrolled in a KDE-sponsored Fire Science pathway.

During school year 2024-2025, the initial year of this program offering, Fire Science Pathway programs were offered at 9 Kentucky high schools, with active student enrollment of 459. Apprentice I certifications were awarded to 44 students, and Apprentice II certifications were awarded to 3 students.



The Fire Commission offers a weekly e-mail communication. If you are interested in receiving information on trainings, fire schools, employment opportunities, items for sale, and other news and events, please send an email to: kyfirecommission@kctcs.edu.

BUDGETARY



LEGISLATIVE



The 2025 Kentucky Legislative Session saw numerous bills related to Kentucky’s fire service introduced. Representatives of Kentucky’s fire service and the Kentucky Fire Commission continued their efforts to educate legislators, protect the interests of the Kentucky’s fire service and campaign on behalf of moving the fire service of the Commonwealth forward. Several bills related to the fire service were passed through Committee and were ultimately passed into law:

SENATE

SB10: This act related to retiree health provisions of the County Employees Retirement System

SB129: This act related to property

HOUSE

HB30: This act related to pension spiking in the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority

HB131: This act related to firefighters’ work schedules

HB152: This act related to Medicaid supplemental payment program for public ground ambulance providers

BY THE NUMBERS

651 Basic 1
Certifications

472 Basic 2
Certifications

44 Apprentice I
Certifications

3 Apprentice II
Certifications

710 Volunteer
Departments

52 Paid
Departments

4,239 Career
Firefighters

14,737
Volunteer Firefighters



IN MEMORIAM

The lives of Roger Askin, Jr., Joseph Back, Mitchell Christian, Donald Hart, Mark Hernandez, Normal Lytle, Robert Morton, Bobby Mosby, Thomas Petschke, Jr., Geneva Salyer, and Greg Vanhooose were honored in October at the Kentucky Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service.



During FY2025, renovations to upgrade the monument and grounds of the memorial were completed.



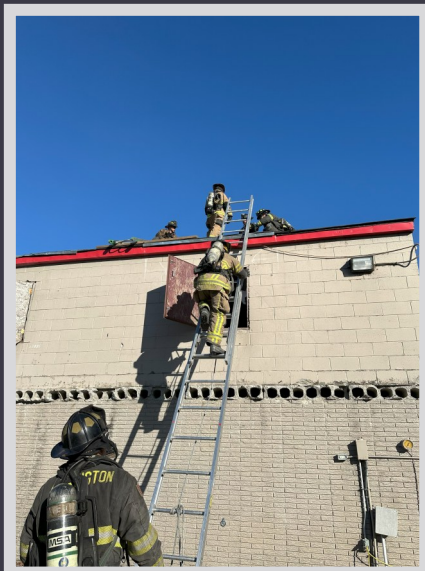
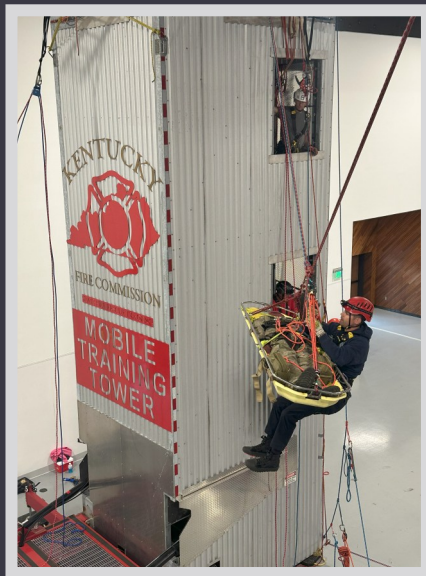
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Fire Rescue Training is to plan, direct and administer a quality, comprehensive and uniformly delivered training program through the most efficient use of available resources to assist in meeting the training needs of fire, rescue and other emergency services personnel so that lives and property may be saved more safely and effectively. In addition, to provide health and safety training programs for industries, institution, government agencies and other such entities to assist in meeting their training needs mandated by federal, state and local laws.

VISION

The vision of Fire Rescue Training is to be recognized as a national leader in providing comprehensive educational programs for current and future emergency responders at the local, regional, state and national levels.

STATE OF STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING



FY2025 saw another remarkable year for State Fire Rescue Training, with significant strides in program development, training delivery, and statewide impact. The organization introduced new state-of-the-art props and training aids, launched innovative programs, and began forging new partnerships—all with the goal of enhancing the training experience for firefighters across Kentucky. Over 100,000 students participated in SFRT programs this year, a testament to the dedication of instructors and the strong support from fire departments throughout the Commonwealth.

The Fire Academy of Kentucky continued to evolve, with progress underway on its property in Muhlenberg County. Plans for a new dormitory building are in their final stages, with construction expected to begin mid-FY2026. The Academy has successfully completed six recruit classes, thanks to the trust and feedback from participating departments, which have been instrumental in shaping the Academy into a premier training center.

FY2025 also saw the full rollout of the virtual Fire Commission class series, offering essential training in Firefighter Survival, Firefighter

Rescue, Flashover Recognition, and Wildland Awareness. With two sessions offered each month—both daytime and evening options—the series has proven to be a popular and accessible way for firefighters to meet vital training requirements.

To support certification planning, during FY2025 SFRT organized a comprehensive schedule of Classes for Certification through June 2026 in IFSAC Driver/Operator, IFSAC Fire Instructor, and IFSAC Fire Officer categories. Details are available on the Fire Commission's newly updated website.

As SFRT looks ahead, the focus remains on growth, innovation, and excellence. The organization is committed to delivering world-class training programs and continuing to support the dedicated individuals who serve Kentucky's communities. We look forward to serving you in FY2026 and beyond.

SFRT BY THE NUMBERS

CLASSES
7,068
FY2025

STUDENTS
106,979
FY2025

INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS
27,342
FY2025

FIRE TRAINING:
91,561
STUDENTS

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING:
7,908
STUDENTS

EMS TRAINING:
7,510
STUDENTS

CLASSES BY CATEGORY

3,693

FIRE DEPARTMENT

135

FIRE ACADEMY OF KENTUCKY

850

FIRE COMMISSION

282

EMR/EMT/EMT-A

442

FIRE SCHOOL

86

PARAMEDIC

979

DEGREE PROGRAM

601

INDUSTRIAL

% KY Fire Departments Trained By SFRT



SFRT BY THE NUMBERS

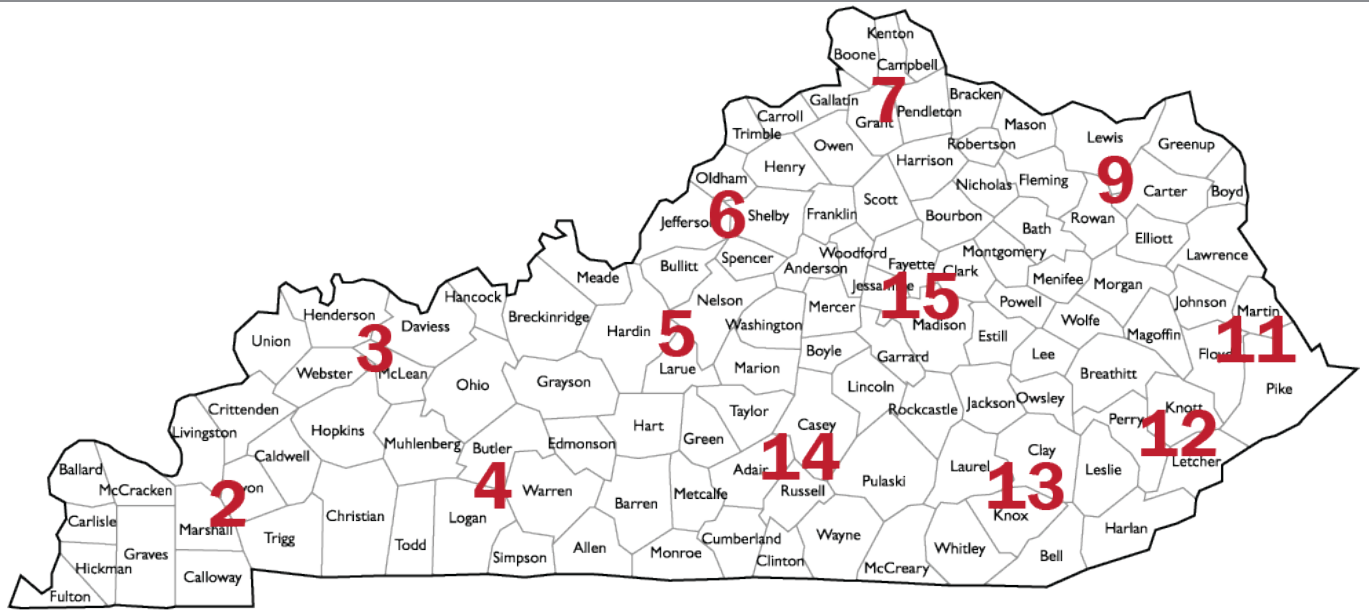
TOP 10 SFRT-DELIVERED CLASSES FY2025	CLASSES
Hazmat (All levels)	322
Drivers Training	317
Fire Behavior	218
Forcible Entry	212
Fire Control	204
Victim Search & Rescue	201
Ventilation	191
Pump Operations	183
Ropes	179
Personal Protective Equipment	168

TOP 10 SFRT-DELIVERED CLASSES BY STUDENTS FY2025	STUDENTS
Drivers Training	4,534
Hazmat (All levels)	4,218
Fire Control	3,169
Fire Behavior	3,076
Forcible Entry	3,017
Ventilation	2,846
Victim Search & Rescue	2,840
Officer Training (All levels)	2,402
Personal Protective Equipment	2,388
Pump Operations	2,318

FIRE COMMISSION CLASSES FY2025	CLASSES	STUDENTS
Firefighter Survival	105	2,395
Firefighter Rescue	102	2,130
Flashover Awareness	122	2,807
Wildland Awareness	89	1,718



SFRT DISTRICT OFFICES



SFRT Region 1

Region Coordinator: Marc Henderson

District 2—Princeton

Todd Warner, Training Coordinator
Kelly Bolin, Field Office Support Specialist

District 3—Greenville

Jimmy VanCleve, Training Coordinator
Joe Dennison, Paramedic Program Coord.
Dinah Chapman, EMS Instructor
VACANT, Field Office Support Specialist

District 4—Bowling Green

Ronnie Stinson, Training Coordinator
Tamara Steele, Field Office Support Specialist

District 5—Elizabethtown

John Gentry, Training Coordinator
Janell Townsend, Field Office Support Spec.

District 6—Louisville

Chris Gosnell, Training Coordinator
Sabrina Kauffman, Field Office Support Spec.

District 7—Burlington

Tony Morgan, Training Coordinator
Kacie Mills, Field Office Support Specialist

Training Specialist—Districts 2, 3, 4

Andy Offerman

Training Specialist—Districts 5, 6, 7

Dawson Burch

SFRT Region 2

Region Coordinator: Mark Hammond

District 9—Morehead

Christy Rodgers, Training Coordinator
Tori Earlywine, Field Office Support Specialist

District 11—Paintsville

Greg Gray, Training Coordinator
Karen Richmond, Field Office Support Spec.

District 12—Hazard

Preston Hays, Training Coordinator
Amanda Turner, Field Office Support Spec.

District 13—London

Chantz McPeck, District Coordinator
Jessica Huff, Field Office Support Specialist

District 14—Somerset

Terry Wattenbarger, Training Coordinator
Kim Hollis, Field Office Support Specialist

District 15—Paris

Buzzy Campbell, Training Coordinator
Hannah Swartz, Field Office Support Specialist

Training Specialist—Districts 9, 11, 15

Tanner Rayburn

Training Specialist—Districts 12, 13, 14

Shane Yocum



EMS EDUCATION



State Fire Rescue Training is a leading provider of emergency services training for all sectors of the emergency response spectrum, including fire departments, EMS services, rescue squads, emergency management, public health, transportation, and community response agencies. SFRT offers training in Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, and a full menu of continuing education classes for all levels.

During FY2025 SFRT offered 25 Initial Certification classes with enrollment of 273 students, and led 131 Continuing Education classes, serving 2,010 students.

The Fire Commission offered a Hybrid EMT-Basic and EMT-Advanced class series in FY2025. 79 students participated in the EMT-Basic class, and 99 students participated in the EMT-Advanced class.

VIRTUAL TRAINING

First implemented during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic during FY2020, the Fire Commission and State Fire Rescue Training continued to offer training on a Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) Platform in FY2025.

VILT classes are led by an instructor in real-time, thereby allowing firefighters to utilize this type of training to assist toward completion of their Basic 1 and Basic 2 Kentucky certifications while still adhering to administrative regulations that require face-to-face training for initial certification hours. Certified firefighters are also able to use VILT for their annual continuing education requirements.

During FY2025, VILT served 11,825 students via 253 classes.

Today < > June 2025						
SUN Jun 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
Firefighter Rescue 1	IFSAC Fire Instructe		7pm Virtual Traini	7pm Virtual Traini		Flashover Training -
8	9	10 CPAT Testing - Loui	11 CPAT Testing - Loui 2 more	12	13	14 Flashover Training -
15	16	17 7pm Virtual Traini	18 6pm Virtual Traini	19	20	21 Firefighter Survival 2 more
22 Firefighter Rescue 1 Firefighter Rescue 1	23 IFSAC Firefighter I S 7pm Virtual Traini	24 IFSAC Firefighter II 10am Virtual Train	25 7pm Virtual Traini	26	27	28
29	30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5

SFRT DEGREE PROGRAM

KCTCS Fire Science Technology Courses Offered At:

- Bluegrass CTC
- Elizabethtown CTC
- Gateway CTC
- Jefferson CTC
- Madisonville CTC
- Owensboro CTC
- Southcentral KY CTC
- Somerset CTC
- West KY CTC

The Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology Program prepares for the challenges facing today's emergency responders. The Fire Commission's degree program is IFSAC Accredited and recognized by the National Fire Academy's Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) program.

The program offers courses in:

- Fire Suppression
- Fire Prevention
- Technical Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Medical Care
- Leadership

Students may enter the program with or without experience in emergency services. The degree, certificate and diploma programs that are offered can help in obtaining employment in various emergency service fields, or if already a firefighter, help assist in promotional opportunities. The program may be continued as a 2+2 program with Western Kentucky University's Work Force Administration Program. Students may also work with other higher education institutions, such as Eastern Kentucky University, to transfer certain coursework in pursuit of a 4-year collegiate degree.

Academic certificates are also available for Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Basic Fire Protection, Basic Firefighter, Advanced Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Technician, and Fire Service Administration. A Fire Chief diploma is offered as well.

Director of Training Marc Rudder serves on the IFSAC Degree Program Board of Governors and Casey Hall, Academic Coordinator of Curriculum & Fire Service Training, serves on the IFSAC Council of Governors.

196 students were enrolled into the Fire Commission's degree program (excluding Emergency Medical Technician courses) during the 2024-2025 school year. Approximately 447 Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees were awarded to students completing in 2024-2025.



SFRT's degree program has been accredited by IFSAC since 2004



SFRT CURRICULUM UPDATES

During FY2025, the following curriculum/instructional programs were updated, added, or revised:

• Hazardous Materials for First Responders	• Hazardous Materials: Managing the Incident	• Principles of Heavy Vehicle Extrication
• Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting	• Fire and Life Safety Educator	• Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement
• Adv. Fire and Emergency Services Admin	• Confined Space Principles & Practice	• First Responder Inspector
• Essentials of Firefighting (Firefighter I/II)	• Intro to Fire Protection & Emergency Services	• Fire Department Incident Safety Officer
• Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator	• Pumping and Aerial Apparatus Driver/Operator	• Structural Firefighting: Initial Response Strategy & Tactics
• Fundamentals of Firefighting Skills	• Fundamentals of Fire-fighting Skills & Hazmat Response	• Fundamentals of Firefighting Skills for Support Personnel

Academic Coordinator
of Curriculum &
Fire Service Training:

Casey Hall



FIRE ACADEMY OF KENTUCKY

The Fire Academy of Kentucky is being developed as the primary facility for Kentucky fire departments to send their new recruits for initial Basic 2 certification as required for full-time career firefighters, and optional for volunteer firefighters.

FY2025 saw Class 005 and Class 006 graduate from the Academy. Recruits from across the Commonwealth assemble in Greenville at the 50-acre campus to undergo 13 weeks of physical, classroom and skills training and exit their time at the Academy fully prepared to protect their citizens. The Academy accepts fire department-sponsored career and volunteer firefighters to its program free of charge. A 4-week accelerated Emergency Medical Technician class is offered to previous Academy graduates, and those registered for the upcoming Academy recruit class.

The Academy is aligned with Madisonville Community and Technical College as a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges facility. Each recruit receives up to 30 college credits, placing them approximately halfway to a KCTCS Associate of Applied Science-Fire Science Technology degree.

The Academy continued its expansion project during FY2025, with completion of a new 5-story training/burn tower. On-property dormitory-style housing for the recruits is currently in the final planning stages, and construction is anticipated to begin during FY2026. Construction will also begin on a new warehouse facility during this time.



2 RECRUIT CLASSES
57 RECRUITS
27 FIRE DEPARTMENTS
1,083 RECRUIT TRAINING HOURS



Coordinator: Pat Thompson
Training Specialist: Charlie Rafferty

Field Office Support Specialist: Mandy Ward
Training Specialist: Don Korpi



ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION



Kentucky recognizes the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) as its certification board. In addition to its certificate program, IFSAC also provides governing for the Fire Commission/State Fire Rescue Training's Fire Science Technology degree program. Accredited Certification Coordinator Christy Rodgers serves on the IFSAC Certificate Assembly Board of Governors and is the Vice Chair of the IFSAC Committee on Site Teams.

IFSAC accreditation is based on a peer-review process. During FY2025, Fire Commission employees participated in 11 site visits to review each entity's IFSAC program.

Written tests are administered via an online platform monthly in each district office as well as by appointment at the Accredited Certification office. 3,468 seals were issued in FY2025 from 5,450 candidates attempting written testing. 159 skills testing sessions were offered across the state during FY2025 with 3,214 candidates.

- ♦ **Airport Firefighter**
- ♦ **Common Passenger Vehicle (Awareness, Operations, Technician)**
- ♦ **Driver/Operator**
- ♦ **Driver/Operator Aerial**
- ♦ **Driver/Operator Pumper**
- ♦ **Driver/Operator Mobile Water Supply**
- ♦ **Firefighter I & II**
- ♦ **Fire Inspector I**
- ♦ **Fire Instructor I & II**



- ♦ **Fire Officer I, II, III, & IV**
- ♦ **Hazmat (Awareness & Operations)**
- ♦ **Live Fire Instructor**
- ♦ **Live Fire Instructor In Charge**
- ♦ **Rope Rescue (Awareness, Operations, Technician)**
- ♦ **Small Unmanned Aircraft**

Accredited Certification Coordinator: Christy Rodgers
Accredited Certification Specialist: Kayla Sisk

FLEET/FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT



Major Purchases/Updates

- Ram 5500
- Training Tower
- Pumper Apparatus
- Aerial Apparatus
- Chevrolet Tahoes
- Air Trailer
- Prop Trailers
- Survival/Rescue Props
- Scissor Lift
- Gator/Snowplow
- Updated Exterior—History Trailer

FY2025





Over **1,000,000** Fire/EMS Students Trained!

110 Cleveland Drive

Paris, KY 40361

(800) 782-6823

kyfirecommission.kctcs.edu