



## Agenda-at-a-Glance

For more information and to register, visit [www.nvfc.org/summit](http://www.nvfc.org/summit).

FRIDAY, JUNE 26		
Time	Session	Speakers
<i>Begin: 3:00 p.m. EDT (2:00 CDT, 1:00 MDT, 12:00 PDT)</i>		
3:00	Welcome and Introduction	Facilitators: Chief Jeff Cash and Kevin Quinn, NVFC Health, Safety, and Training Committee
3:15	Keynote	NVFC Chair Steve Hirsch
3:45	Break	
4:00	Health & Safety Panel	<i>Meet the 2021 NVFC Training Summit instructors and get quick tips and turnkey takeaways to use in your department now.</i>  Facilitator: Jeff Cash Panelists: Brian Focht, Nathan Stoermer, Jack Sullivan, Keith Tyson
5:15	Breakout Networking and Q&A Sessions	<i>Join a discussion room on the health &amp; safety topic of your choice.</i>  Facilitators: Brian Focht, Nathan Stoermer, Jack Sullivan, Keith Tyson
5:30	Day 1 Debriefing	Facilitators: Jeff Cash and Kevin Quinn
<i>End: 6:00 p.m. EDT (5:00 CDT, 4:00 MDT, 3:00 PDT)</i>		



## SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Time	Session	Speakers
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**Begin: 12:00 p.m. EDT (11:00 CDT, 10:00 MDT, 9:00 PDT)**

12:00	Welcome Back	Facilitators: Jeff Cash and Kevin Quinn
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12:15	Keynote	Tom Merrill
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12:45	Break	
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1:00	Leadership Development Panel	<i>Meet the 2021 NVFC Training Summit instructors and get quick tips and turnkey takeaways to use in your department now.</i>
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Facilitator: Jeff Cash

Panelists: Dave Denniston, Bill Gardner, Robert Leonard, F.R. Montes  
de Oca

2:00	Breakout Networking and Q&A Sessions	<i>Join a discussion room on the health &amp; safety topic of your choice.</i>
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Facilitators: Dave Denniston, Bill Gardner, Robert Leonard, Tom  
Merrill, F.R. Montes de Oca

2:30	Day 1 Debriefing	Facilitators: Jeff Cash and Kevin Quinn
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**End: 3:00 p.m. EDT (2:00 CDT, 1:00 MDT, 12:00 PDT)**



## SPEAKER BIOS

### FACILITATORS

#### **Jeff Cash**

Chief Jeff Cash has been in the fire service for over 40 years serving in both the volunteer and career sectors. He has served as the fire chief of the Cherryville (NC) Fire Department since 1986 and is a North Carolina certified firefighter, EMT, rescue technician, fire officer, arson investigator, fire code enforcement officer, and instructor. He is a past president of the North Carolina State Firefighters' Association and serves as the North Carolina director to the NVFC. He represents the NVFC on the NFPA 1021 Committee and the IAFC Safety Health & Survival Section, and has testified before Congressional committees on fire service issues on two occasions.

#### **Kevin D. Quinn**

Kevin D. Quinn joined the fire service in 1976. He has served on the NVFC board of directors for over 36 years and is past chair of the NVFC. He is currently the NVFC first vice chair and Health, Safety, and Training Committee chair. He retired as a deputy chief of the Union Fire District in South Kingstown, RI, and has returned to where he began in the volunteer fire service – actively responding to fires and alarms with his original Station #3 of the Union Fire District. Kevin is a past-president of the Rhode Island State Firemen's League, Rhode Island State Advocate of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Everyone Goes Home-Courage to Be Safe Program, member of the Foundation's Rhode Island Local Assistance State Team, board member of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, member of the Hope Valley HazMat team, and member of numerous federal, state, and local exercise design management teams. He holds a master of science degree in counseling and educational psychology and a master of science degree in education.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

#### **Steve Hirsch**

Steve Hirsch is training officer for Sheridan County Fire District # 1, Thomas County Fire District #4, and Grinnell Fire Department, all of which are 100% volunteer fire departments. Steve is the chair and KS director on the National Volunteer Fire Council and is currently first vice chair of the Kansas State Firefighters Association after serving as secretary from 2000-2018. His father started a rural fire district in north central Kansas in 1963, the year after he was born, so he grew up in the fire service. Steve is also the county attorney in Decatur County in northwest Kansas. He has a private law practice and serves as city attorney for 18 cities in Norton, Phillips, Graham, Mitchell, Rawlins, Decatur, Sheridan, Thomas, and Gove counties.

#### **Thomas Merrill**

Tom Merrill is a 37-year fire department veteran and serves with the Snyder Fire Department, which is located in Amherst, NY. He served 26 years as a department officer including 15 years in the chief officer ranks, and was chief of department from 2007-2012. Tom has conducted various fire service presentations throughout the country including at previous NVFC Training Summits and at FDIC. He is the author of the series of articles "The Professional Volunteer Fire Department" which is featured on Fire Engineering's website and also hosts a Fire Engineering podcast.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY PANELISTS

### **Brian Focht**

Brian Focht CFPS, CFEI, is a 35-veteren of the fire service, past Chief of the Willow Grove (PA) Fire Company, and a training specialist at PECO. A Pro Board level 3 fire instructor, he teaches at several academies and venues across the country. He has authored articles on utility emergencies and designed a video on dealing with autism. Brian has received the OCAILA Community Achievement Award, Garry Breese IAFC Safety Performance Award, Liberty Museum Valor Award, and 2019 PA Department of Health Instructor of the Year.

*2021 NVFC Training Summit Presentation: Autism and the Emergency Services: Are You Prepared?*

### **Nathan Stoermer**

Chief Nathan Stoermer is a suicide attempt survivor and ardent supporter and speaker on firefighter mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Nathan has spoken on firefighter mental health to firefighters of all ranks, mental health professionals, chaplains and peer support teams.

*2021 NVFC Training Summit Presentation: Creating a Behavioral Health Assistance Program for your Department*

### **Jack Sullivan**

Jack Sullivan served as a volunteer firefighter and line officer for 25 years and currently acts as the Director of Training for the Emergency Responder Safety Institute. Jack is a subject matter expert on roadway incident operations and firefighter safety and promotes proactive strategies and tactics for protecting emergency personnel from being struck by vehicles while working on or near roadways. Jack is also a Master Instructor for the FHWA Traffic Incident Management Program.

*2021 NVFC Training Summit Presentation: Lessons Learned: Roadway Incident Safety & Survival*

### **Keith Tyson**

Keith Tyson is Vice President for Education and Research at the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. He's presented on the cancer issue within the fire service to the NVFC, IAFF, the IAFC, FDSOA, FDIC, NFFF Tampa 2 conference, and other relevant fire service organizations. Keith on several national research committees addressing this pressing topic and has multiple articles published in fire service journals including, Fire Engineering, FDSOA, FASNY, PFIA Protector, JOIFF's Catalyst & more.

*2021 NVFC Training Summit Presentation: Firefighter Cancer: Latest Research and Prevention Techniques*



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PANELISTS

### David Denniston

David Denniston is the Past Chief of the Cortlandville (NY) Fire Department. He currently serves as a Fire Commissioner in the Virgil Fire District, Deputy Fire Coordinator for Cortland County and Regional Director for the Association of Fire Districts State of New York. For the past 14 years, Dave has served as the Director of Risk Management at ESIP and Executive Director of the National FARMEDIC Training Program. He has presented at trade shows and conferences across the U.S. and been the keynote speaker at various state association conferences.

*2021 NVFC Training Summit Presentation: Extinguishing the Flames of Liability*

### Bill Gardner

Chief Bill Gardner is the Director of Fire Products at ESO. Bill began his firefighting career in 1985, volunteering and working at various Municipal Fire, Emergency Management, and Emergency Medical Services Departments. In 2010, he was appointed Fire Chief of Leander (TX) Fire Department. During his time at Leander, Bill was able to convert a community from an ISO of 7/10 to a 2 while having 18 people a day move to his community, and maintaining a combination department.

*2021 NVFC Training Summit Presentation: Showing Why You are Worth Volunteering With*

### Robert Leonard

With 30 years as a firefighter/officer and EMT, Robert has led communications for large and small emergency agencies, including serving as the FDNY's Deputy Director of Public Information and Deputy Press Secretary for Uniformed and Emergency Services for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. He is a senior executive at a national public relations firm, leading the public safety and local government practice, and chairs the Public Relations committee for the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

*2021 NVFC Training Summit Presentation: Media Mayday: A Volunteer Fire Department's Guide to Dealing with the Media*

### F. R. Montes de Oca

Frank Montes de Oca is a former fire chief serving communities in FL, OH, and NC, with over three decades of experience in fire, rescue, emergency management, EMS response and management and disaster response. F.R. began his career as a firefighter in Orlando in 1972 serving as Chief of Emergency Medical Services, Bureau Commander for Safety and Training and Senior Operations Officer. Currently, he develops and delivers training programs for fire and public safety responders throughout the United States as a recognized instructor for the National Fire Academy, Emergency Management Institute, US Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

*2021 NVFC Training Summit Presentation: Congratulations, You've Been Promoted!...Now What?*

