



Welcome to the 2023 MSVFA conference! This year's conference will take place at Miles Community College at 2715 Dickerson Ave. Parking will be at the west side parking lot. Enter through the double doors on the NW corner.

You will be required to register through the Miles City Chamber of Commerce and the details are on the registration form. There is a discount for registering by May 22nd. After that date, the prices increase, and registering at the conference will cost the most. The chamber will be handling all the paperwork and money for the conference.

In addition, when you register, you will be required to select the sessions you wish to attend. Each session has limited seating, and they will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.

We have reserved hotel rooms at the following locations: Sleeping Inn & Suites, Miles City Hotel & Suites, and Super 8. The rooms will be held until June 9th, 2023. Hotel rooms are hard to come by, so make your reservations early!

The keynote speaker is Deputy Chief Steve Prziborowski (retired) and he will be presenting *Courage Under Fire Leadership: Being the best fire service professional you can be in 2023 & Beyond* and *Courage Under Fire Leadership: Personal Leadership, it starts with Us!*

Registration on Thursday, June 22nd starting at 1300 will be at the Bucking Horse Saloon & Casino located at 3105 Steel St, Miles City, MT.

A social gathering with food and drink starts at 1800 hours at the Bucking Horse Saloon & Casino. The food will be free and there is a cash bar.

The pre-conference will kick off with a 9-hole scramble at Miles City Town & Country Club starting at 1400 hours. It will be a 4-person team event, playing the best shot each time. Prizes for first through fifth place.

Conference Session Offerings

Wildland Fire Investigations: Isaac Wald - Mitigation/Education Specialist

This class will focus on the things a Wildland Firefighter Investigator will need in the field to help them out since they are usually a few hours to a day or 2 behind. Like flagging off the area, getting photos of the smoke and what way it is blowing on arrival to the fire, getting statements from suspects or witnesses, and looking for things that are out of place.

Structure Fire Investigations: Mike Spini – Deputy State Fire Marshal

This class provides a brief introduction to the methodology, practices, and standards used by fire investigators to determine the origin and cause of fires. It covers applicable laws concerning fire investigations and the fire department's authority and responsibility as well as the first responder's role in fire investigations and expectations during fire suppression and overhaul operations.

Wildland IC Hot Seat: Ben Patten – Captain BLM

Using a software program designed specifically for wildland scenarios, you will be the IC of various incidents. You will be given various resources such as hand crews, engines, heavy equipment, and air to manage your incident. The program reacts to your actions as you go, challenging you and increasing your capabilities as an IC.

The Depth of a Firefighter: Nikki Stevens – Integrative Nutrition Health Coach/Personal Fitness Trainer

Make sure you have the tools to perform physically, mentally, and emotionally at the highest level. Keeping your cool when temperatures rise.

Resiliency in your Fire Service Leadership Position: Chief Branden Stevens – Miles City Fire Rescue

Building resiliency & longevity in a time where Fire Service Leaders are needed more than ever.

Fire Evidence Documentation & Preservation: Tom Pierce – CFI, ECT MFCI, CFCI, GIFireE, and owner of Pierce Fire Investigations and Consulting

The purpose of this class is to provide engine company fire officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to properly preserve the fire scene and identify and preserve evidence for fire investigations.

Wildfire Preparedness & Response Planning in the WUI Environment: Bob Fry – Wildland Battalion Chief – Gallatin County Emergency Management and Fire

Provide information to better prepare Rural Fire Departments for future responses to wildfires in the wildland interface environment. Improve ability to perform safely and effectively on a wildfire in a wildland interface environment. Share strategies and processes for wildfire preparedness and response planning in a wildland interface environment. Share methods for improving priority setting during conflagration conditions that have competing and critical priorities for wildfire incidents. Improve coordination with all response agencies during extreme wildfire conflagration incidents.

Extrication / EV Vehicles: Rick Paulsen & Troy Peterson – MSU Fire Services Training School

This presentation will focus on the latest extrication techniques for dealing with modern vehicles (2015 and newer). They will discuss and demonstrate the tools needed to perform successful extrication to defeat the new high-strength steel (besides boron) and other safety features of today's vehicles. In addition, they will provide the latest information on dealing with EV vehicles as gathered from UL and FDNY. To conduct hands-on training, students will need full PPE including turnouts, gloves, helmet, and eye/hearing protection.