



Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association

Fire Ground Survival Train the Trainer

October 2023 ■ Toronto ■ Program Information

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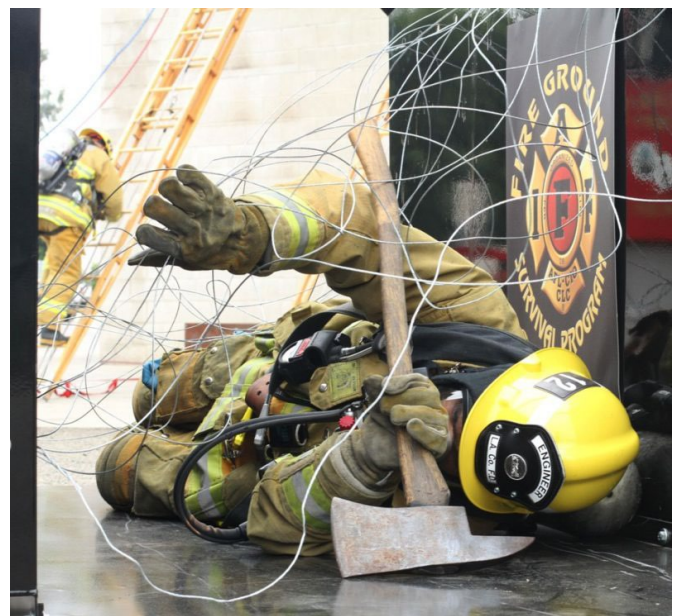


Fire Ground Survival (“FGS”) Training



The purpose of the Fire Ground Survival program is to ensure that training for Mayday prevention and Mayday operations are consistent between all firefighters. Firefighters must be trained to perform potentially life-saving actions if they become lost, disoriented, injured, low on air, or trapped.

There is no other call more challenging to fire ground operations than a Mayday call - the unthinkable moment when a firefighter’s personal safety is in imminent danger. Firefighter fatality data compiled by the United States Fire Administration have shown that firefighters “becoming trapped and disoriented represent the largest portion of structural fire ground fatalities.” The incidents in which firefighters have lost their lives, or lived to talk about it, have a consistent theme - inadequate situational awareness puts them at risk.





Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association 2023 OPFFA FGS Train-the-Trainer Program



While firefighters don't plan to be lost, disoriented, injured, or trapped during a structure fire or emergency incident, fires are unpredictable, volatile, and ruthless - and they will not go according to plan. What a firefighter knows about a fire before entering a blazing building may radically change within minutes once inside the structure. Smoke, low visibility, lack of oxygen, structural instability and an unpredictable fire ground can cause even the most seasoned firefighter to be overwhelmed in an instant. It's not a matter of IF the Mayday happens, it's WHEN.

The Fire Ground Survival (FGS) program is the most comprehensive survival skills and MAYDAY prevention program currently available within the fire service. Incorporating federal regulations, proven incident management best practices and survival techniques from leaders in the field, and real case studies from experienced firefighters, the FGS program aims to educate all firefighters to be prepared if the unfortunate happens.





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Costs & Inclusions

This program is being offered by the OPFFA and is funded in part through the Ministry of Labour’s Skills Development Funding. This funding, combined with the OPFFA’s negotiated discounts, provides a unique opportunity to receive top notch training at a significantly discounted rate. The cost to participate in this training would normally be more than \$3,000 however the OPFFA has set the registration fee at \$675.

Please refer to the chart below and contact OPFFA Executive Director Marcia Kim at mkim@ontariofirefighters.org with any questions.

Item	Non-Subsidized*	OPFFA Subsidized															
Cost per person to attend training session for 4 days (7:30-4:30pm)	\$1,920	Included															
OPFFA Event Package Fee – includes 5 nights accommodations (based on double occupancy), 4 breakfasts & 4 lunches, light refreshments	\$1183	\$675															
Event Parking	\$34/day	Included															
Daily transit to/from Training Facility	Participant Cost	Included															
Subtotal Savings: \$2,564																	
Travel to/from Toronto	Participant Cost	Travel subsidies (to a maximum of \$1000/attendee) are available under the following guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air travel is permitted when it is the most practical and economical way to travel. Choose the lowest fare available when purchasing a ticket. ▪ Rail travel is permitted when it is the most practical and economical way to travel. Choose the lowest fare available when purchasing a ticket. ▪ Road Travel – where possible car pooling is advised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The use of a personal vehicle is permitted, and mileage will be reimbursed using the same rates the Ontario government uses. <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Total Kilometres Driven per fiscal year</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Southern Ontario (\$ per km)</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Northern Ontario (\$ per km)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">0 – 4000 km</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.40</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4001 – 10, 700 km</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.35</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10, 701 – 24, 000 km</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.29</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">More than 24, 000 km</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.24</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – If renting a vehicle, choose the lowest cost model guided by the principle that the rental vehicle is the most economical and practical size, considering the business purpose, number of occupants, safety considerations and any reasonable accommodation requirements. 	Total Kilometres Driven per fiscal year	Southern Ontario (\$ per km)	Northern Ontario (\$ per km)	0 – 4000 km	0.40	0.41	4001 – 10, 700 km	0.35	0.36	10, 701 – 24, 000 km	0.29	0.30	More than 24, 000 km	0.24	0.25
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Shift Coverage	Participant Cost	Replacement coverage subsidies are available upon request up to a maximum of 50%. Please contact mkim@ontariofirefighters.org for pre-approval and/or information.															

*Calculated with OPFFA preferred group rates.



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Program Objective

In 2021, Ontario's Ministry of Labour introduced funding to address skills and workforce development challenges in the labour market. In January 2023, the OPFFA submitted two applications for funding to offer training and development to its members. Funding was granted for two programs: Fire Ground Survival Train-the-Trainer, and Peer Support training.

Professional development and capacity building are core value propositions the OPFFA offers to its members. The Association plays a unique role in assessing the continuing education needs of its members; and delivering programs to meet those needs.

Municipalities within Ontario - particularly the smaller ones - have competing priorities as to where funds are best allocated. In addition to ensuring firefighters have the appropriate functioning equipment, the employer must also focus on health and safety, risk management, and employee retention. Training tends to be directed towards firefighter certification. The focus is on training to put out a fire and save lives, but there hasn't been adequate training on firefighter survival.

The OPFFA has received funding to host a Fire Ground Survival ("FGS") Train-the-Trainer Course at the Health and Safety Labour seminar offered October 2023, in Toronto, Ontario. The train-the-trainer program utilizes Master Instructors and is designed to certify FGS Instructors from the ranks of firefighters. These certified instructors will have the ability to train their fire department's recruits and incumbents who have completed the FGS Online Awareness Course. Additionally, the OPFFA has received funding to purchase a trailer (includes all props to simulate various conditions) and an extra props training kit that could be utilized by certified trainers to provide regional training across the province.

The overarching objectives of this program are to:

1. Reduce economic barriers to municipalities across the province to access professional development for their employees that otherwise would be inaccessible,
2. To facilitate a permanent skills transfer,
3. To offer highly targeted training: evidence-informed, peer-to-peer, skill-building programs designed by and for professional firefighters,
4. To support and help develop a resilient workforce and build capacity for employers.

The OPFFA will prioritize interested applicants for this program using the objectives listed above as guidelines.



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The Training Program

The 2023 Train-the-Trainer course will utilize 6 IAFF Fire Ground Survival Master Instructors to provide 4 days of training (8:00-5:00) to 30 qualified firefighters who upon successful completion will receive the “Certified FGS Instructor” designation. Additionally, a trailer and prop kit will be purchased and made available to instructors in the event a Local/Employer wants to provide training in their region.

The Train-the-Trainer course has three main purposes:

1. to review the on-line materials to increase the candidates’ knowledge related to fire ground survival,
2. to improve the candidates’ ability to deliver the prepared classroom lessons to firefighters, and
3. to improve the candidates’ ability to demonstrate and teach the practical survival skills that are part of the FGS curriculum.

Prior to the in-person training, all participants must complete an FGS On-line Awareness Course as a prerequisite.

At the in-person course, students will spend part of the time in a classroom setting and the rest of the time performing practical self-survival skills while wearing full protective equipment (PPE), including SCBA.

The practical skills training utilizes a FGS mobile unit (truck and trailer) equipped with fabricated props.

The train-the-trainer students will receive the resources and tools necessary to facilitate training (FGS manuals, including Instructor Guides, PowerPoint Presentations, FGS Instructional Videos, Plans for Prop Construction, Practical Skill Instructor Notes and Evaluation Sheets).

Outcome Upon Completion:

- These IAFF-Certified FGS Instructors will have the ability to train their fire department's recruits and incumbents who have completed the FGS Online Awareness Course.
- IAFF-Certified FGS Instructors enhance these training sessions and increase retention by utilizing the FGS Classroom Instruction in addition to the FGS Online Awareness Course materials.
- IAFF-Certified FGS Instructors are also certified to deliver the FGS Hands-on Skills Training.
- Additionally, IAFF-Certified FGS Instructors are certified to train selected members from their fire department as FGS Assistant Instructors to assist in delivering the FGS Operations Course.
- Members successfully completing the IAFF FGS Train-the-Trainer Course will receive an IAFF-Certified Instructor Certificate.

Eligibility:

In order to participate in the IAFF FGS Train-the-Trainer Program, all participants must:

- complete the Fire Ground Survival Online Awareness Course;
- be an OPFFA member;
- have at least one year of teaching experience; and
- have a demonstrated ability to teach from prepared materials.