

KANSAS FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING INSTITUTE FY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

(JULY 2020 - JULY 2021)

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



The mission of Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is to provide accessible, comprehensive training and credentialing for fire and emergency response personnel to promote health and safety in Kansas communities.

On behalf of Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute (KFRTI) at the University of Kansas, welcome! It is my pleasure as the Director to welcome you.

KFRTI was instituted in 1949 by Kansas legislation and housed on KU's Lawrence campus. We are a ***traveling instructional service***, bringing training to local jurisdictions across the State of Kansas so fire and emergency services personnel do not have to travel to receive training.

KFRTI plays an important role in workforce and economic development through fire and emergency services training. Our funding is derived primarily from fire insurance premium levies. As a result, we provide training to Kansas fire and emergency services personnel at no cost.

We are accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and The Pro Board, and we are the only entity in the State of Kansas with the authority to award 22 levels of national certification.

We have great leadership at KU and a great training team at KFRTI. We strive to listen to the State's fire service, respond to needs, and deliver excellence in training and customer service. In a word, we aim to be responsible stewards of the resources we have been entrusted with.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us at kufire@ku.edu or 866-804-8841.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly McCoy".

Kelly C. McCoy, *Director*
Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute
University of Kansas

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



For 20 years the unchanged mission of the Kansas Fire Service Training Commission has been to provide guidance to Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute (KFRTI) at The University of Kansas (KU), to assure first response personnel of Kansas receive “high quality training, delivered in a consistent manner,” as well as to participate and consult with the Director in preparing the budget for adoption through KU’s internal processes. Over the years, the Fire Commission has faced many challenges in keeping up with the changing demands in the delivery of mobile training to the mostly rural fire services within the State of Kansas.

Members of the Fire Service Training Commission stand with open ear to the fire service entities we each represent. Additionally, as we hail from different regions of the state, we bring a component of regional diversity to the guidance of KFRTI’s training programs. Over the next few years, the Fire Service Training Commission will welcome new members, as some of our past members will retire or move into new areas of their careers. We will continue to use the strategic planning process to identify challenges & opportunities, identify key performance areas and goals to focus on, and provide guidance on directing human and fiscal resources within KFRTI.

It is our hope as Fire Service Training Commission members that we will continue to provide Kansas first response personnel with quality training through the continued support of the University of Kansas and the Kansas Legislature. Thank for your continued support of your Fire Service Training Commission and the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Roosevelt'.

Mike Roosevelt, Chair
Kansas Fire Service Training Commission

NEW DIRECTOR

Kelly McCoy became the new Director of Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute on July 20, 2020. McCoy has 30 years of experience in the fire service, advancing through the ranks from firefighter-paramedic to Division Chief of Operations, Training, and Special Teams. His career includes enlistment as a Crash Rescue Firefighter with the Army National Guard. Kelly is a certified Chief Training Officer through the Center for Public Safety Excellence, a graduate of the US National Fire Academy, and a 2013 Firefighters Beyond Borders - Israel Delegate. Most recently, McCoy served as the Fire Science program director for Montana State University - Billings, where he secured accreditation for the program through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. Kelly holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership through Northern Arizona University.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING COMMISSION

KSA 76-327a: “There is hereby creating within the University of Kansas a Kansas fire service training commission which shall consist of 12 members which shall include...”

The Fire Service Training Commission: consults with the Director of KFRTI to adopt rules and regulations necessary for fire service training operations; approves and monitors means to ensure fire service training is of high quality and consistent; recommends curriculum; participates and consults with the Director in preparation and approval of budget; and publishes an annual report.

At present, two Fire Service Training Commission seats remain vacant: Kansas State Council of Firefighters, and the University of Kansas representative. Jim Modig, the previous representative for the University of Kansas, retired in January 2021. Three names will soon be advanced by the University of Kansas as a replacement for Jim Modig.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING COMMISSION MEMBERS

CHAIR

Mike Roosevelt, International Association of Arson Investigators, Kansas Chapter

VICE-CHAIR

Darin Myers, Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs

MEMBERS

Justin Ducey, Fire Marshal's Association of Kansas

Kevin Flory, Kansas State Firefighters Association

Douglas Jorgensen, Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office

Jim Modig (*retired January 2021*), University of Kansas

Rick Mosher, Fire Educators Association of Kansas

Mark Neely, Kansas Forest Service, Kansas State University

Larry Pander, Kansas Community College Degree Programs

Jack Taylor, Kansas State Association of Professional Fire Chiefs

Eric Voss, Kansas Board of EMS

Vacant, Kansas State Council of Firefighters

COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

All Kansas governmental and public service agencies, including Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, have been challenged by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Kansas Governor Laura Kelley enacted Executive Order No. 20-15, establishing the Kansas Essential Function Framework for COVID-19 Response Efforts on March 24, 2020. The executive order included the following language pertaining to Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute:

- Educate and Train Essential Functions Personnel (KEFF 300 Manage);
- Prepare for and Manage Emergencies (KEFF 300 Manage); and
- Provide Public Safety (KEFF 300 Manage).

Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is an “Essential Function” within the Essential Functions Framework due to the unique role of KFRTI in training and credentialing firefighters and emergency response personnel in Kansas.

Based on Executive Order No. 20-15, and the extension of the State of Disaster Emergency Declaration, KFRTI has continued training and credentialing firefighters within Kansas to maintain and advance public health and safety.

In response to COVID-19, most of the nation’s fire service is pivoting toward online and hybrid training. KFRTI, working with the Center for Online and Distance Learning (CODL) at the University of Kansas, has quickly developed several online training programs that continue to address the needs of the State’s fire and emergency response personnel, while continuing to train and credential firefighters and emergency

response personnel in-person. Online courses developed include Fire Officer, Technical Rescue, Fire Instructor, and Fire Inspector. Development of new online courses will continue into 2021.

Finally, Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute has developed a “gating criteria” used to determine counties where in-person,

hands-on training can safely be conducted. The gating criteria references data from Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Specifically, two-week percent positive case rates, trend in incidence rates, and daily case rates per 100,000 are analyzed along with other decision-making frameworks to make informed decisions about conducting in-person, hands-on training.



COMPETENCY-BASED TRAINING

Consistent with our Strategic Plan, the most important immediate work before Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is an updated process for bringing on new adjuncts, contract instructors, identifying instructor qualifications, and initial and ongoing training for instructors. Beyond NFPA 1041 Instructor I and II certification requirements, we need to know our instructor pool is delivering effective training to the State's fire service, and that there is consistency in instructional approach. We have completed a *Training Methodology* document that will be used within KFRTI to develop instructors, and will become a foundational document for many of our programs.

Another focus is the development of instructional excellence in both KFRTI full-time staff, part-time staff, and contract instructors. Our instruction must be informed, consistent, and aligned with best practices in firefighter (adult) learning. To this end, after the development of our *Training Methodology* document and a revised Instructor Criteria process, our next efforts will be to develop a one-day workshop to train all contact instructors in the methods we will be using at KFRTI. Mainly, our methodology at KFRTI will be to move away from classroom-based PowerPoint presentations and move the lecture "to the field." KFRTI will employ training based on what is often called *training in context or learning in context*. This type of training shows students the big picture and is focused on the work performed on the streets. Students train under more realistic training conditions, rather than conducting skills in isolation.

kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/31332



The University of Montana Fire Services Training School (Dr. John Culbertson and Dr. Brian Crandall) visited Lawrence, KS on April 14-15 to deliver two days (16 hours) of training for 12 members of the Kansas Fire Service. The training was specific to training in context, which Montana has been using for many years. Members represented were from Kansas City, KS FD, Johnson County Training Officers Association, Topeka FD, Coffeyville FD, and KFRTI. An article ran in KU News regarding the training Montana Fire Services conducted for KFRTI and members of the Kansas fire service: today.ku.edu/montana-fire-services-training-school-leads-demonstrated-ability-training-event-kansas-fire-rescue.

KFRTI also delivered “live fire” training to 18-year-old Liberal High School students on April 21. This was an excellent collaboration between Liberal High School, Liberal FD, Seward County EMS, and KFRTI. KFRTI used a *training in context* methodology to conduct the training, and the training was well received.



STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan was completed on November 20, 2020 and approved December 3, 2020.

In an effort to start fresh, the Kansas Fire Service Training Commission and Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute staff worked together to create a new strategic plan - developing a mission for the organization, identifying five key performance areas, and establishing priorities. The new strategic plan was developed during a two-day workshop held November 19 and 20, using information gathered through surveys of key stakeholders, staff, and focus group discussions. The strategic plan will guide financial and human resource allocation. Regular updates during quarterly Fire Service Training Commission meetings will be provided to commission members on strategic plan implementation efforts.

MISSION

Provide accessible, comprehensive training and credentialing for fire and emergency response personnel to promote health and safety in Kansas communities.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS AND PRIORITIES

QUALITY INSTRUCTION AND CURRICULUM

KFRTI will hire instructors based on established qualifications, provide curriculum to meet current needs, and establish measures for student success.

- Goal 1: Establish instructor qualifications.
- Goal 2: Create a volunteer firefighter and officer development program.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREAS AND PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)

ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTION

KFRTI will be flexible when providing training to accommodate the different needs throughout the State using in-person, virtual and blended formats.

- Goal 1: Develop flexible training models to include blended and online learning models.
- Goal 2: Address training needs of rural counties.

PROPS AND FACILITIES

KFRTI will maintain and care for its training props and equipment to ensure longevity and allow for it to be used by fire departments across the State.

- Goal 1: Implement a plan for location and sheltering of the props.

COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

KFRTI has a comprehensive communication and marketing strategy to connect, educate, and involve stakeholders and external partners.

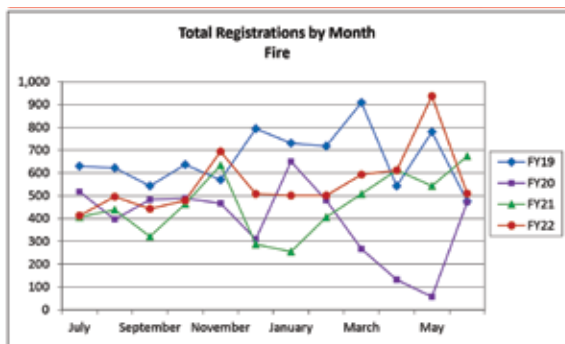
- Goal 1: Develop a comprehensive communication and marketing plan.
- Goal 2: Partner with other organizations to share resources, training opportunities, and conferences, etc.

AGENCY ENHANCEMENT

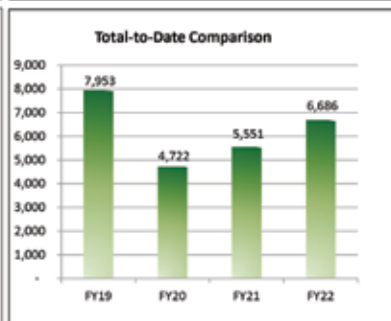
KFRTI staff and commission members will work cooperatively to promote the health and safety of Kansas communities.

- Goal 1: Review and revise internal processes and procedures.
- Goal 2: Foster continued quality relationships among commission and staff with face-to-face meetings including rotating location.

KFRTI REGISTRATIONS BY YEAR



Total Registrations (Reggie + Enrole)				
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
July	630	518	407	413
August	622	397	439	496
September	543	483	321	443
October	637	489	464	479
November	570	467	634	694
December	794	310	287	508
January	731	650	255	501
February	718	480	406	501
March	909	267	508	593
April	543	132	613	611
May	780	57	543	937
June	476	472	674	510
Total	7,953	4,722	5,551	6,686
Total to Date	7,953	4,722	5,551	6,686

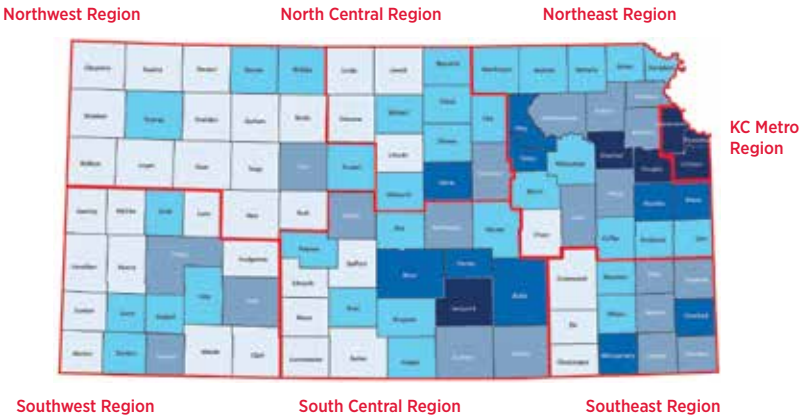




REGIONALIZATION

Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute has divided the state into seven training regions using the same regions as the Kansas Adjutant General's Department (Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Homeland Security, Kansas National Guard) and the Office of the State Fire Marshal (Kansas Search and Rescue). This leads to training consistency in the State of Kansas.

Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute Region Map



Population Density by Classification* (persons per square mile, ppsm)

- Lightly-settled Rural (less than 6.0 ppsm)
- Rural (6.0 - 19.9 ppsm)
- Densely-settled Rural (20.0 - 39.9 ppsm)
- Semi-Urban (40.0 - 149.9 ppsm)
- Urban (150.0 ppsm or more)

*Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas;
data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimate, Vintage 2019

GRANTS

Early in 2021, while working with Scott Zerger from KU Endowment, KFRTI applied for a State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship grant, and was recently awarded the \$10,000 grant. This marks the second time KFRTI has been awarded a State Farm grant. Consistent with State Farm's focus on home and roadway risk mitigation, the grants have been applied toward Vehicle extrication equipment. This equipment and training remain a free service for Kansas fire service. On April 23, 2021, a local community event was held at State Farm office in Lawrence, KS where State Farm presented a \$10,000 check to KFRTI. Three state representatives were in attendance: Senator Kloos, Representative Amyx, and Representative Highberger. This event was picked up by local media, the Lawrence Journal World.

ljworld.com/news/ku/2021/apr/23/kus-kansas-fire-rescue-training-institute-demonstrates-extrication-tools/



EQUIPMENT

Four new 3M Scott™ Air-Pak™ X3 Pro SCBA were delivered on January 28, 2021, and will be put into use during live fire training. The cost of these four NFPA compliant air packs was \$29,312.05 and was budgeted for within the ‘Training Equipment’ line. These air packs replace outdated packs that were no longer NFPA compliant.

The mobile Pump Ops Simulator arrived in late August, and is now operational. This prop includes a traditional side-mount pump panel, as well as a top-mount pump panel simulation. The Pump Ops Simulator can be combined with the Driving Simulator to create a high-fidelity training scenario that can be completed multiple times without having to pick up hose.



KFRTI has invested approximately **4.4 million dollars** over the last **18 years** to purchase props and other training resources to improve firefighter training in Kansas. These props and support units include semi-trailers, bumper hitch trailers, and other various firefighting tools and equipment. Most of these props and equipment were secured through Federal grants.

These resources can be found on the following page.

Props (Semi-trailers) \$3,200,000

Interior Firefighting Simulator
Flammable Liquids & Gases Simulator
Technical Rescue Support Unit
Search & Rescue Training Unit
Firefighter Skills Training Unit
Emergency Fire Service Driving Simulator

Emergency Vehicle Pump Operations Simulator
Grain Rescue Trainer
Mobile Training Tower
Confined Space Trainer

Support Units (Bumper hitch trailers) \$3,500

Trench Rescue Training Unit
Rural Water Supply Training Unit
Rope Rescue Training Unit
National Certification Testing Support Unit
Surface Water Rescue Training Unit

Tow Vehicles - \$475,000

3 Semi-Tractors
3 Heavy Duty Pickup Trucks

Equipment (Stored in trailers) \$705,000

Firefighting Equipment
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
Rescue Tools & Equipment
Portable Generators & Other Training Equipment



KANSAS
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TRAINING INSTITUTE

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