

KANSAS FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING INSTITUTE FY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

(JULY 2021 - JULY 2022)



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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 black ink that reads "Kelly McCoy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 that reads "Mike Roosevelt".

Mike Roosevelt, Chair
Kansas Fire Service Training Commission

ACCREDITATION

The International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) provides accreditation to entities that certify the competency of, and issue certificates to, individuals who pass examinations based on NFPA qualifications and standards. Accreditation leads to increased professionalism and better service to communities. On June 16- 18, 2021, IFSAC sent a three-member site team to KFRTI for the purposes of re-accreditation. KFRTI was successfully recommended for re-accreditation at 21 levels of certification and initial accreditation for Trench Rescue I. This is a significant accomplishment and took a lot of time and effort to prepare for IFSAC's visit and successful re-accreditation.



KFRTI PERSONNEL

After competing in a competitive, nationwide search, **James Zeeb**, retired KCKFD Assistant Chief of Training, was hired as a Fire Officer Training Program Manager. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. He will work out of the Lawrence, KS, office and we expect him to significantly enhance Fire Officer programs, including working with the Kansas Fire Service to develop a robust Volunteer Fire Officer training program.

Matthew Breininger was hired as a full-time Western Regional Training Program Coordinator following a competitive, nationwide search. He brings extensive training experience in fire, EMS, and special operations to KFRTI. He's completed Training Program Management through the NFA and he is a credentialed Training Officer through ISFSI. Breininger lives in Goodland, KS, and will continue to serve his community as a volunteer fire training officer with the Sherman County Rural Fire Department. Matt works remotely from Goodland and will coordinate training in the Southwest, Northwest, and North Central regions of Kansas.

Finally, **Jennifer Johnson** has been promoted to Assistant Director for Accreditation and Credentialing. This is a new title within KFRTI, bringing all of Jennifer's previous job responsibilities into a new role that adds several new job dimensions, including supervision of all administrative staff within KFRTI, developing new programs for credentialing and certification, and serving as the direct liaison with all State community college fire science and high school programs. Her work in this area is crucial as KFRTI looks to enhance relationships and partnerships with these organizations to benefit the State's fire service and local communities.



COLLABORATIONS

Following the tragic deaths of two Iowa State rowers in March 2021, the women's rowing team at the University of Kansas reached out to KFRTI for potential water rescue/safety training. Through conversation with Ben Green in Special Operations, and working on a pricing structure, it was agreed training could be conducted. Three members of KFRTI's special operations instructional staff met with rowers and got in the water with their equipment to work on best methods of water safety/rescue. The training took place August 17, and positive media coverage followed the event.

Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, represented by Jennifer Johnson, participated in running *Catching Fury*. *Catching Fury* is an annual event helping 7th, 8th, and 9th grade girls get a feel for careers in public safety. On Saturday, October 30, 38 girls and over 30 public safety volunteers spent the day learning CPR, taking rides in the aerial platform, learning self-defense, and practicing car stops, fostering leadership skills and team-building. *Catching Fury* highlights the importance of building a pipeline of young women to fill gaps in male dominated industries.



Through KFRTI's continuing and ongoing partnership with State Farm, KFRTI was awarded a \$10,000 grant to help partner and program with *Camp Fury* in Kansas City.

KFRTI partners with *Camp Fury* to help better expose young women to careers in fire service and law enforcement. *Camp Fury* held their first weeklong camp June 12-17, 2022.



The International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) recently asked North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) to provide an Advisory Board Member to an AFG/FEMA grant committee focused on NFPA 1700-Guide for Structural Firefighting. The advisory members will develop curriculum for online and in-person course deliveries. KFRTI Director Kelly McCoy was selected to represent NAFTD on this advisory board. This is a working board, at a distance, with a sunset.

Jennifer Johnson is on the NAFTD Testing Materials Committee. This committee is looking at providing peer reviewed, IFSTA and/or ProBoard accredited testing materials to NAFTD members. The committee hopes to gain consistency across member organizations as well as provide assistance to newer organizations, or those looking to add certification levels.

KFRTI continues to partner with Dr. Nancy Hamilton, associate professor in the department of Psychology at KU, to conduct sleep research on firefighters. Dr. Hamilton is developing a sleep management course for Kansas firefighters that will soon be placed on KFRTI's learning management system and made available to the State's fire service at no cost. This will be a self-paced, asynchronous class.

COVID-19

COVID quarantines were enacted from March 2020 - June 2020 for KFRTI and various for agencies across the State. In May 2021, KFRTI was beginning to see significantly more training activity from the State's fire service. We expected this trend would continue, but now there may be some leveling off due to the emergence of various COVID-19 variants.

TRAINING

Four members from KFRTI (Breininger, Everett, McGruder, Sellens) traveled to Omaha, Nebraska from May 9 - 12 to attend the UL Fire Safety Research Institute Fire Dynamics Boot Camp. This was an invitation by UL FSRI, and all expenses - minus travel - were provided for.

KFRTI staff participated in a one-day Regional Cancer seminar in Kansas City, MO, sponsored by First Responder Center for Excellence (FRCE) in partnership with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN).

Four members (Billquist, Green, Breininger, McCoy) participated in the O2X Regional Workshop, May 26 - 29.



Program Coordinator who lives and works in the NW region of Kansas. This training coordinator will serve the SW, NW, and NC regions of the State.

KFRTI has also hired a Part-time Instructor who lives and works in the NW region of Kansas. Finally, KFRTI has had a Part-time Test-site Coordinator on staff for several years who lives and works in the SW region of Kansas.

On March 31st – April 2nd, KFRTI, in partnership with Sherman County Rural Fire Department, hosted our first annual Fire School in Goodland, Kansas. Several courses were offered. A few examples include Essentials of Chaplaincy; Firefighter Resilience; Heavy Vehicle Extrication; Street Smart Rescue, and Fire Operations in the Wildland Urban Interface. While the Fire School's registration numbers were low, approximately 40, we were pleased with our collaborative efforts. We conducted an After-Action Review (AAR) after the Fire School, captured lessons learned, and we have committed to conducting another annual Fire School in Goodland, KS next year in 2023- March 31st- April 2nd. This will be a collaborative effort with Sherman County Rural Fire Department.



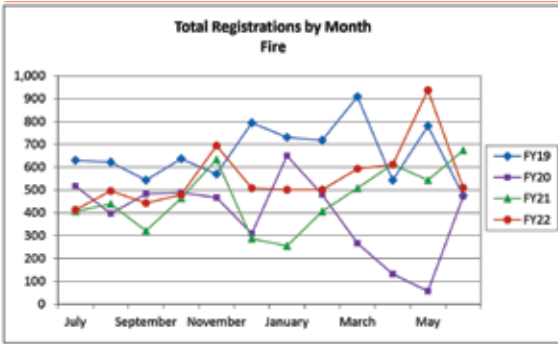
EQUIPMENT



KFRTI has purchased and received 15 used Motorola XTS2500 800 MHz radios. We are currently programming them. An MOA for radio use with KDOT is in process. Radios will be used for training purposes only, to enhance training realism and for training safety.

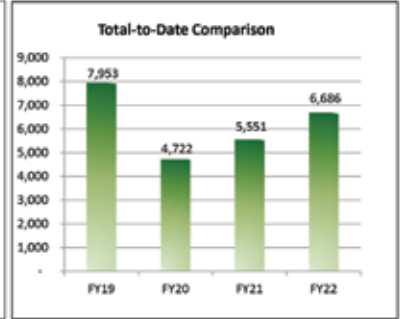


KFRTI REGISTRATIONS BY YEAR



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



KU

KANSAS
FIRE & RESCUE
TRAINING INSTITUTE

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