

# MONTANA FIRE SERVICE CONVENTION

OCTOBER 11-14 2023

DoubleTree Hotel  
Billings, MT



## Wednesday, October 11, 2023

### PRE-CONVENTION MEETINGS

12:00 - 2:30	MSFCA Board Meeting - <a href="#">Boardroom 1 (2nd floor)</a>
12:00-2:30	Registration Check-in - <a href="#">3rd floor foyer</a>
2:30-4:00	Fire Marshals Forum - <a href="#">Conference Room 1 (3rd floor)</a>
<b>CONVENTION BEGINS</b>	
<a href="#">Willow Room (22nd floor)</a>	
4:00 - 4:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome to the Convention</b>            Chief Rich Cowger, MSFCA President            Chief Kevin Moritz, MSVFFA President            Chief Pepper Valdez, Billings Fire Department            Billings Mayor or City Manager</p>
4:30 - 5:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Organizational Branding: Are we doing the right things to market our organization?</b>            Michael P. Wallace EFO, CFO, MIFireE, MBA, MA, retired Deputy            Fire Chief, Salem, New Hampshire and Concord, Massachusetts Fire Departments</p>
5:30 - 5:35	Introduction of certified therapy dog <b>Winston</b> and his handler, Deputy Fire Marshal <b>Becky Biggins</b> , Billings Fire Department
5:30 - 7:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome Reception</b> <a href="#">Ponderosa Room (22nd floor)</a></p>

## Thursday, October 12, 2023

8:00 - 5:30	Registration Desk Open - <a href="#">3rd floor foyer</a>	
7:00 - 10:00	Vendor Set Up - <a href="#">Ballroom A/B/C (3rd floor)</a>	
<a href="#">Willow Room (22nd floor)</a>		
8:00-9:15	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome Back and Updates</b>  <b>Legislative Update</b> - Rich Cowger, Fire Chief, Columbus Fire Rescue  <b>Partner Updates</b> - Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, State Fire Marshals, Fire Services Training School, and Montana Disaster and Emergency Services  <b>WFOA Update</b> - Jeremy Craft, Fire Chief, Lehi City, Utah, Western Fire Chiefs Association  <b>NFIRS/NERIS Update</b> - Matt Hoppel, Executive Assistant Fire Chief, Billings Fire Department  <b>Introduction to Montana Fire Service Database</b> - Dave Knauer, GIS Analyst, Timmons Group</p>	
9:15-11:15	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Emerging Energy Technology</b>            Gary Honold, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)</p>	
11:15 - 11:45	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Networking Break with Vendors &amp; Sponsors</b> - <a href="#">Ballroom A/B/C (3rd floor)</a></p>	
<a href="#">Skyview 1 (20th floor)</a>		<a href="#">Skyview 2 (20th floor)</a>
11:45-1:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Volunteer Section Meeting</b>            (lunch provided - pick up in the vendor hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Combo/Career Section Meeting</b>            (lunch provided - pick up in the vendor hall)</p>
<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>		
<a href="#">Conference Room 1 (3rd floor)</a>		<a href="#">Conference Room 5 (3rd floor)</a>
1:00-3:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Cannabis Inspections and Fires            Ron Martin, Deputy State Fire Marshal,            Montana State Fire Marshals Office            Ron Martin, Deputy State Fire Marshal,            Montana State Fire Marshals Office</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Steaks and Taters – How to Conduct a Proper Home Assessment in the WUI</b>            Justice Jones, Wildfire Mitigation Officer, Austin Texas            Jerry McAdams, Senior Captain and Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator, Boise Idaho</p>

3:00-3:30	<b>Networking Break with Vendors &amp; Sponsors - Ballroom A/B/C (3rd floor)</b>		
	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>		
	<b>Conference Room 1 (3rd floor)</b>	<b>Conference Room 5 (3rd floor)</b>	<b>Skybridge 3 (2nd floor)</b>
3:30-4:30	<b>Planning your Fire Station for the future</b> Greg Megaard, Fire Chief, Big Sky Fire Department, Jared Ridgeway, Captain, Bozeman Fire Department, Brad Mohn, Fire Chief, Hamilton Fire Department, Chris Newman, Fire Chief, Missoula Rural Fire Department	<b>Big Money! Grant Writing 101</b> Dustin Tetrault, Deputy Fire Chief, Big Sky Fire Department	<b>Building a Tactical Structure Protection Plan</b> Lincoln Chute, Structure Protection Specialist, Flathead County Fire Warden
	<b>Transition to General Session</b>		
	<b>Willow Room (22nd floor)</b>		
4:40-5:30	<b>KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Leadership in a Complex World</b> Brian Schaeffer, Fire Chief, Spokane, WA Fire Department		
5:30-7:30	<b>Social Event with the Vendors and Sponsors - Ballroom A/B/C (3rd floor)</b>		
<b>Friday, October 13, 2023</b>			
7:00 - 5:00	Registration - <b>3rd floor foyer</b>		
7:00 - 8:00	Breakfast with the Vendors - <b>Ballroom A/B/C (3rd floor)</b>		
	<b>Willow Room (22nd floor)</b>		
8:00 - 8:15	<b>Welcome Back and Opening Remarks</b> Sponsor Acknowledgement		
8:15-9:00	<b>Striving for a High Performing Work Team</b> Kelly Martin, North America Fire Team, The Nature Conservancy, Vice President- International Association of Wildland Fire		
9:00-10:30	<b>Internal Size-Up</b> Jeff Dill, CEO and Founder, Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance		
10:30 - 11:15	Networking Break with Vendors & Sponsors - <b>Ballroom A/B/C (3rd floor)</b>		
	<b>Willow Room (22nd floor)</b>		
11:15-12:15	<b>Reality Check on Generational Differences</b> Andrew Holter, Organizational Psychologist, Wilmington, NC Fire Department		
12:15 - 1:30	<b>Lunch (provided) - Food Trucks in front of the hotel</b>		
	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>		
	<b>Conference Room 1 (3rd floor)</b>	<b>Conference Room 5 (3rd floor)</b>	
1:30 - 2:30	<b>Creating a Fire Adapted Montana</b> Julia Berkey, Community Preparedness Program Manager, Henry DeLuca, Fire Adapted Communities Specialist, Sarah Kleinhanzl, Community Wildfire Resilience Specialist and Jack Rink, Montana's Prescribed Fire Council, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	<b>Panel: The right time to transition from a volunteer to combination or career department</b> Rich Cowger, Fire Chief, Columbus Fire Rescue, Brad Mohn, Fire Chief, Hamilton Fire Department, B.J. Klose, Fire Chief, Dillon Beaverhead Fire District #2, Jason Caughey, Fire Chief, Laramie County Fire Authority	
2:30-3:30		<b>Seeing In Color Again - A Firefighter's Post Traumatic Success Story</b> Scott Geiselhart	
3:30 - 4:00	<b>Networking with Vendors &amp; Sponsors - Ballroom A/B/C (3rd floor)</b>		
	<b>Willow Room (22nd floor)</b>		
4:00-5:00	<b>KEYNOTE PRESENTATION Failure to Lead: The consequences of doing little or nothing</b> Bruce Bjorge, Director of Sales – Fire, Lexipol		
5:30-6:30	<b>Cocktail Hour - Juniper Room (22nd floor)</b>		
6:30 - 10:00	<b>Awards Banquet - Juniper Room (22nd floor)</b>		
<b>Saturday, October 14, 2023</b>			
7:30-9:00	<b>Breakfast - grab and go in the hotel lobby</b>		
9:00	<b>Wildland Committee Meeting - Conference Room 1 (3rd floor)</b>		
9:00 - 3:00	<b>Hands-on Training (meet the buses in the front of the hotel at 8:30 am)</b> <b>Must commit to the entire day.</b> Rope Rappelling (am) or Extrication (am) Fire Behavior Burns - Live Burn Flash Can (pm)		