

2026 FSWO Annual Training Symposium – Final Schedule

Wednesday October 21, 2026

08:00-17:00

BONUS DAY -- Resilient Minds -- Carissa Campbell

Thursday October 22, 2026

HOT CLASSES 8-hours – FESTI

08:00-17:00

Highrise Fire Fighting

Phil Montgomery,
Rob Wiggins & Maurice Doyle

Make Search Primary Again

Scott Hewlett, Cody Barteaux &
Steve Matthews

Auto Extrication – The Past, Present and Future

Chad Roberts, Kurtis Mantell, Marcel Perreault

HOT CLASSES 4-hours -- FESTI

08:00-12:00

Rescue Drag Bonanza

Jess Clermont

Fitness Through Flowing

Heidi Jaaskelainen, Nicole Brugger, Mya Falcon
Sierra Henderson-Muschett

12:00 13:00

Lunch

13:00-17:00

Ladder Confidence

Jess Clermont

Aircraft Rescue Firefighting: Tactics, Entry, and Live-Fire Operations

Victoria Lam

IN-CLASS SESSIONS 8-hours -- FESTI

08:00-17:00

Resilient Minds -- Pauline Spiess

IN-CLASS SESSIONS 4-hours -- FESTI

13:00-17:00

The Personal and Organizational Value of Psychology for Women in Fire Services

Dr. Casey Iwai, Dr. Lorraine Patterson & Dr. Chris Rodrigues

IN-CLASS SESSIONS 2-hours -- FESTI

08:00-09:50

Introduction to Provincial Fire and Explosion Investigations

Jennifer Woodcroft

Mindfulness as a Catalyst for Strong, Resilient Teams

Julia Long

Advanced Vehicle Technologies and Response Tactics In EV's -- OnStar

Charlene Poranganel &
Mitch Petterson

Built to Belong: Recruitment, Training, and Structure that Build Ownership in our Fire Service

Mark Saunders

10:00-12:00

How Toronto Fire Services Responds to Encampments

Susan Ing & Roman Wojarski

Data for Life: Using Evidence to Refine Firefighter Best Practices

Anthony De Benedictis

Cancer and Reproductive Health in the Fire Service

Lexi Bowman

Lead the Crew: Women Stepping into the Company Officer Role

Michele Fitzsimmons & Tracey Shields

12:00-13:00

Lunch

13:00-14:50

AutoStore Systems: A Fire Prevention and Operations Perspective

Chantelle Cosgrove

Advanced Vehicle Technologies and Response Tactics In EV's -- OnStar

Charlene Poranganel & Mitch Petterson

Small Departments, Big Leadership: Running Effective Fire Scenes with Limited Resources

Sarah Peto

15:00-17:00

Navigating Risk, Authority, and Coordination in Complex Residential Fire Safety Cases

Kalpana Rajgopalan & Jonathan O'Neil

Duty to Self: Resilience Building Strategies

Julia Long

Acting Up: Stepping into Leadership in the Fire Service

Debra Rogers

17:00-22:00 Hilton Garden Inn	 FSWO Connect: Trade Show, Speaker’s Corner & Networking Night – <i>Sponsored by: RK Rooney</i> Keynote Speaker: Dena Ali Join us Thursday evening to kick off the Symposium with networking, inspiration, and connection. Explore our Trade Show featuring industry vendors, service agencies, and exhibitors showcasing innovative products, services, and resources that support the fire service. Their sponsorship and participation play a key role in helping make this Symposium possible. Visit the booths, enter to win exciting door prizes, and bid on great items as our Silent Auction officially opens. The evening includes an inspiring keynote from Dena Ali, Battalion Chief with the Raleigh Fire Department, as she shares her powerful message on resilience, leadership, and supporting one another in the fire service. START OF SILENT AUCTION
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Friday October 23, 2026				
07:30-11:30 Hilton Garden Inn Doors Open at 7:30am. Gala starts at 8:00am	FSWO Annual Awards Gala – <i>Sponsored by OnStar</i> Keynote Speaker: Sandra Perron Canada’s first female infantry officer, Sandra Perron brings a powerful message of leadership, resilience, and breaking barriers. Drawing on her experiences in the Canadian Armed Forces and her work supporting women veterans, Sandra will share lessons on leading through adversity, building strong teams, and creating a culture where people can thrive. Sponsored by YNCU			
12:00-13:00 Hilton Garden Inn	Leadership Without Limits – Lessons from Women Who Lead First Join us for lunch and a candid conversation with accomplished women leaders from diverse backgrounds, many of whom have been among the first women to step into their roles. Hear their experiences, lessons learned, and perspectives on leadership, resilience, breaking barriers, and creating meaningful change while helping pave the way for those who follow. Captain (Ret’d) Sandra Perron (CAF), Deputy Chief Michele Fitzsimmons (FDNY), and Battalion Chief Dena Ali (Raleigh Fire Department) will be joined by other inspiring women leaders for this engaging and thought-provoking conversation.			
IN-CLASS SESSIONS 2-hours – FESTI				
13:30-15:20	When I Doubt Myself – Part 1 jona olsson	“Leading From Within™” — Nervous-System-Informed Leadership for Women in Fire Service Michelle Gibson	HazMat Isn’t Optional Anymore: Modern Threats Every Firefighter Must Understand Greg Scott	Stronger Together: FSW Groups Building a National Movement Dr. Tina Saryeddine, Tracey Shields, Sarah Peto, Anik St-Pierre, Jessica O’Dell
15:30-17:30	I’m the Boss...Where Do I Go From Here? Michele Fitzsimmons & Tracey Shields	Strength Under Fire: Understanding PTSD and the Power of Service Dogs Samantha Cooper	How Does my Union Represent me When my Union Doesn’t Represent Me? Julie Petruzzellis & Adina Kaufman	AI is Not Coming for Your Job Justin Brunner

HOT CLASSES 4 hours - FESTI					
13:30-17:30	Unlocking Access – Tactical Through the Lock Paul Terpstra	Rural Water Setups Miranda Hussey & Kent Gallant	Amber's Playbook: Building the Female Tactical Athlete Amber Bowman & TJ Johnston	Auto Extrication – The Past, Present and Future Chad Roberts, Kurtis Mantell, Marcel Perreault	Modern Fire Dynamics and Suppression Techniques Nicole Brugger, Heidi Jaaskelainen, Nicole Bird & Katrina Dos Santos
19:00-23:00 Hilton Garden Inn	FSWO Unplugged: Leadership, Laughter & Connection Join us for an interactive evening designed to educate, encourage, and empower women in the fire service. Guided by a professional leadership facilitator, this engaging and lighthearted session will inspire meaningful conversations, strengthen connections, and offer plenty of laughs along the way. You'll also have opportunities to win exciting prizes, participate in our Live and Silent Auctions, and enjoy an evening of networking with colleagues from across the fire service. Don't miss this memorable FSWO tradition!				

Saturday October 24, 2026					
HOT CLASSES 8-hours – FESTI					
08:00-17:00	Make Search Primary Again Scott Hewlett, Cody Barteaux & Steve Matthews	Live Fire: Purpose Under Pressure Phil Montgomery, Amber Bowman & Linz Swick		Introduction to Technical Rope Rescue Dave Humphrys	
HOT CLASSES 4-hours – FESTI					
08:00-12:00	This is my Halligan Jess Clermont			Machine Rescue Andrew Brassard & RSI Instructors	
12:00-13:00	Lunch				
13:00-17:00	Thermal Imaging- Beyond the Image Cheryl Hunt & Mark Saunders			Forcible Entry Techniques for Commercial Doors Andrew Brassard	
IN CLASS SESSIONS 2-hours – FESTI					
08:00-09:50	Risk Realities: The Risk Perception Gap Sean Henderson	Supporting the Reproductive Journey of Female Firefighters: Challenges, Strategies, and Solutions Tithi Joshi	Dare 2 Command – Company Officer Dr. Katherine Lamb & Debra Rogers	You Can’t Say That! – and Other Communication Myths that Keep us from Connection DiAnna Ritola	Train Like an Athlete Natalie Botzang
10:00-12:00	Advancing Women Firefighter Health in Canada: Building Research Priorities and a National Research Network Dr. Robin Campbell Bromhead & Dr. Joy MacDermid	Large Animal Emergency Rescue Wendy McIsaac	When I Doubt Myself – Part 2 jona olsson	Operationalizing Mental Health in Incident Command Laurie Vandeschoot	Beyond the Ranks: Leadership Across the Fire Service Panel Julie Petruzzellis , Adina Kaufman, Kristy Lynn Pankhurst & Mark Saunders
12:00-13:00	Lunch				
13:00-14:50	Barrier to Entry: Navigating the Hiring Process with Intention Jessica Crombie & Mike Bernev	Dare 2 Command – Chief Officer Dr. Kathrine Lamb and Debra Rogers	Women in Fire Services: Integration, Retention, and Advancement across Western Countries	Tending the Hearth Fire: Self-Compassion for Your Spirit DiAnna Ritola	A Firefighter’s Guide to Building Construction Basics Jess Clermont

			Anik St-Pierre		
15:00-17:00	Influence Without Authority: Career Growth Beyond Seniority Jessica Crombie & Mike Berney	Burned Out or Breaking Down: The Gut-Hormone Connection Firefighters Can't Ignore Sonia Issa		Supporting Patients in Crisis Nina Halstead	Big Box Fireground Tactics Jess Clermont