

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

Dare 2 Command – Company Officer
Dr. Katherine Lamb & Debra Rogers

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 –
Sponsored by: RK Rooney

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

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 – *Sponsored by OnStar*

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



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
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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!
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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 – Chief Officer Dr. Kathrine Lamb and 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 Berney	Small Departments, Big Leadership: Running Effective Fire Scenes with Limited Resources Sarah Peto	Women in Fire Services: Integration, Retention, and Advancement across Western Countries Anik St-Pierre	Tending the Hearth Fire: Self-Compassion for Your Spirit DiAnna Ritola	A Firefighter’s Guide to Building Construction Basics Jess Clermont
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