



## NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to Highlight Firefighter Safety Innovations and Honor the Legacy of John Miclot at FRI 2025**

**EMMITSBURG, MD (August 6, 2025)** The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) will spotlight groundbreaking safety resources, leadership education, and a heartfelt tribute to a fire service champion during **Fire-Rescue International (FRI) 2025, held August 13–15 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.**

#### ***Honoring a Legacy of Service: John Miclot to Receive Garry Briese IAFC Safety Performance Award***

During FRI 2025, the prestigious Garry Briese IAFC Safety Performance Award will be presented posthumously to John Miclot—a passionate leader and advocate for firefighter health and safety whose sudden passing in early 2025 left a lasting impact on the fire service community. **The award will be presented at the Orlando County Convention Center on Thursday, August 14 at 3:00 pm in Room W308A/B, recognizing John’s lifetime of service, innovation, and generosity.**

John brought an unmatched blend of leadership, expertise, and compassion to every role he held. As a volunteer firefighter with the Fox Chapel Fire Department and a national safety officer with the Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA), he was deeply committed to reducing line-of-duty deaths and injuries through practical, actionable safety initiatives.

A Board Member of the First Responder Center for Excellence (FRCE), John championed firefighter wellness on a national scale. His efforts ranged from strategic planning to personal engagement - including speaking at a recent two-day wellness summit at the FDNY Fire Academy, where he emphasized the essential link between fitness, health, and operational performance. The FRCE is an NFFF affiliate organization, created in 2016. Its mission is to promote quality educational awareness and research to reduce physical and psychological health and wellness issues for first responders.

“He was always willing to share his expertise, connect people and ideas, and champion our mission,” said Chief Frank Leeb, Managing Director of the FRCE. “John did not simply advise—he showed up.”

The Garry Briese IAFC Safety Performance Award honors those who go beyond expectations to advance safety in the fire service. Few have done so with the heart, humility, and effectiveness of John Miclot.

### **Advancing Safety Culture: Firefighter Survival Program Presentation**

As part of NFFF’s mission to promote firefighter survival, Danny Kistner, Director of Fire Service Programs, will open the session by introducing a new program designed to provide fire service leaders with a clear roadmap to enhance operational readiness and reduce risk. The presentation will then be led by NFFF Fellows—dedicated Advocates engaged in a 12- to 18-month Fellowship—who receive advanced instruction to communicate more effectively with peers, policymakers, regulators, and legislators. These Fellows will share key insights and strategies from the program, bringing real-world perspective and frontline experience to the discussion.

Built on four key pillars—Survival Culture and Leadership, Health and Wellness, Training and Competency, and Government and Community—this framework empowers organizations to integrate best practices, leadership development, and actionable strategies that reinforce safety and resilience at every level.

“Firefighter survival is not just about tactics—it’s about culture, leadership, and organizational strength,” said Kistner. “This program equips today’s leaders with the tools to create safer, smarter, and more capable departments.”

### **Official release of the fifth edition of the Crew Resource Management (CRM) Manual**

FRI marks the official release of the fifth edition of the Crew Resource Management (CRM) Manual, a time-tested tool designed to enhance firefighter decision-making, communication, and team performance. The new edition emphasizes a critical truth: human error remains the leading cause of preventable incidents in the fire service, especially under conditions of fatigue, routine, or high stress.

“This CRM manual draws from decades of research and tragic lessons across industries to remind us that communication breakdowns and small lapses in judgment can escalate into catastrophic outcomes,” said Victor Stagnaro, Chief Executive Officer of the NFFF. “CRM gives us the tools to stop those errors before they happen.”

CRM teaches open communication, structured leadership, and situational awareness—proven to reduce errors and improve team performance in high-risk environments.

The NFFF encourages fire departments nationwide to embrace CRM as part of their culture—building teams that think critically, act collaboratively, and speak up when it matters most.

**Visit the NFFF Booth #1206 located in West B/C at the Orlando County Convention Center**

Attendees are encouraged to stop by the NFFF Booth #1206 to:

- Pick up a copy of the new CRM Manual while quantities last
- Engage with NFFF and FRCE leadership
- Enter a raffle to win a FRCE green gear bag
- Explore tools and training to support firefighter health, safety, and family support
- Learn how to get involved in honoring America’s fallen firefighters and supporting their loved ones
- **Exhibit Hall hours:**
  - **Wednesday, August 13 from 2:00 pm – 6:00pm**
  - **Thursday, August 14 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**
  - **Friday, August 15 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

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About the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) was established by the United States Congress in 1992 to lead a national effort in honoring America’s fallen firefighters. Since then, the Foundation has created powerful programs that pay lasting tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while providing meaningful support to their families and colleagues. Through its close partnership with the fire service and its affiliate, the First Responder Center for Excellence (FRCE), the NFFF is also deeply committed to reducing firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries. To learn how you can support this important mission, visit [www.fire hero.org](http://www.fire hero.org).

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