



Maryland Fire Chiefs Association



Presents:

LEADERSHIP TRAINING WEEKEND 2026

Ocean City, MD

Date: Saturday, December 12, 2026

Sunday, December 13, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM (*Lunch will be provided*)

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Holiday Inn
6700 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: The programs are designed for chief officers, company officers and those aspiring to move into a leadership role within their department.

WHY ATTEND: The programs are facilitated by today's fire service leaders with real life experiences and expertise and because you won't want to miss this educational opportunity...

Saturday, December 12, 2026

8:00 AM

Leadership From the Bottom Up! – Dr. Candace Ashby

This fun and engaging personal and professional development class will lay out a one size fits all approach to becoming a better leader. The audience will be taken on a journey on having the right mindset will help you overcome obstacles and make you better! This class also serves as a swift kick in the pants reminder to show up better today than yesterday! No matter your time or rank, you will walk away from this class fired up to be the rockstar you were meant to be and help drive positive change in yourself, your crew, and your organization! This no-nonsense candid conversation discusses real issues plaguing organizations along with tactics on how to improve leadership, communications, build morale, increase productivity, enhance innovation, and provide better customer service!



Speaker Bio: Dr. Candace Ashby is a career firefighter with over 35 years of fire service experience and is a Battalion Chief with the Indianapolis Fire Department. Her educational background includes a Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership. She is President of Key Fire Investigations and ELITE Public Safety Consulting. Dr. Ashby enjoys making a positive impact on the fire service through coaching, mentoring, and leading positive change.

Sunday, December 13, 2026

8:00 AM

The Challenge of Command: Leadership Lessons from the Battle of Gettysburg for the Fire Service – Chief Raymond O’Brocki (Ret.)

The Battle of Gettysburg was the largest battle in the history of North America. The battle, literally, determined the outcome of the American Civil War. The stakes were high and the leaders on both sides were operating under tremendous stress, with limited information. Today's incident commanders also operate in a high stake's environment under conditions of stress. This course seeks to examine the leadership decisions made by the people executing the battle, from both sides, and to take from those decisions universal leadership principals that are still important today.

Southpark Construction Site Fire: Anatomy of a Tragedy – Chief Raymond O’Brocki (Ret.)

This course provides an in-depth analysis of fire risks and hazards in construction sites, using real-world case studies, including the Southpark Construction Site Fire. Participants will learn about the critical role of NFPA 241 in preventing fire-related disasters and how proper planning, training, and adherence to fire safety regulations can mitigate risks. Key topics include sources of ignition and fuel, fire safety planning, emergency response strategies, fire prevention measures, and compliance with model codes. This course is ideal for construction professionals, fire safety managers, and regulatory officials seeking to enhance their knowledge of fire prevention and protection strategies in construction environments.



Speaker Bio: Raymond O’Brocki, CBO, is the Director of Fire Service Relations for the American Wood Council. Before that he was the Chief Building Official for the City of Rockville, MD. He retired as the Assistant Fire Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department in 2013. He was appointed fire marshal for Baltimore City in 2008. O’Brocki is the administrator of the Construction Fire Safety Coalition. O’Brocki has served on several building and fire code technical committees. He is an adjunct instructor at the National Fire Academy and has presented at various venues around the U.S. O’Brocki is a graduate of the University of Baltimore

School of Law and a licensed attorney. Ray enjoys spending time with his three children on the beach in Fenwick Island, Delaware.

Registration: Registration is open to all interested people but will be limited to 100 registrants. Register online at the [MFRI Seminars Page](#). For special accommodations, questions or a need to cancel, please email seminars@mfri.org or call (301) 226-9971 or (800) 275-6374, ext. 9971).

Hotel: The Holiday Inn Hotel has set a group of rooms aside at a rate of \$99/night (plus taxes/fees) for attendees planning to stay in Ocean City. To make reservations, attendees can call (888) 465-4329 and request the special **Maryland Fire Chiefs** group rates. Attendees may also click on or copy the following link and paste in into a new browser to make their reservations online:

Attendees are responsible for all lodging costs. **All reservations must be made by November 12, 2026.**

[Ocean City Holiday Inn Registration Link – Click Here](#)

[REGISTER AT MFRI’S SEMINAR PAGE](#)

Make it a family “get away.” Come for a great training weekend and enjoy Ocean City in its full holiday spirit, including Winterfest of Lights.