



NEHWS 2025

First Responder Health & Wellness Symposium

Advancing Safety and Wellness in Emergency Services

Join us for an impactful symposium bringing together experts and leaders in first responder health, wellness, and safety. This essential gathering will provide valuable insights and strategies for protecting our most valuable resource - our personnel.

Hosted by: The New England Association of Fire Chiefs Division of the IAFC

Date: March 18, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Florian Hall

55 Hallet St, Boston, MA 02122

Open to: Police, Fire, and EMS Personnel

Admission: \$10 (includes lunch catered by Fasano's Catering)

Invest in your department's future by joining fellow leaders in addressing critical health and wellness challenges.

[Health & Wellness Symposium by New England Association of Fire Chiefs Tickets, Tue, Mar 18, 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Space is limited - Reserve your spot today

Proudly Sponsored by: United Diagnostic Services LLC



UDS provides proven ultrasound-based early detection screenings to nearly 25,000 first responders across 300 departments/locals, including partnerships with IAFC, IAFF, and FOP. Our non-invasive tests identify conditions like cardiovascular disease and occupational cancers, with 68% of participants needing follow-up or immediate care.

Our screenings cover nine critical areas, including the heart, carotid arteries, thyroid, liver, kidneys, and more. The service includes onsite delivery, detailed reports from specialists, and follow-up consultations.

[UDS Program Overview](#)

[Testimonial Video](#)



Ray Lankin – Founder & CEO, United Diagnostic Services, LLC providing ACR, ICAEL, and AIUM-accredited diagnostic imaging services across 42 states and Canada. UDS specializes in hospital-grade imaging services including Ultrasound, CT, MRI, Digital Mammography, and cardiovascular testing. The company serves major healthcare networks like Montefiore and NYU hospitals while pioneering early detection programs for first responders. UDS combines

AI-enhanced technology with highly trained technicians to deliver accurate diagnostics in hospital, remote, and mobile settings, supported by flexible equipment leasing options.



Captain Ron Kuley (ret) Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department served 31 years with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, specializing in hazardous materials response. As President of IAFF Local 2068, he represented 2,000 firefighters and paramedics and served on Virginia Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue. A Harvard University Executive Leadership graduate, he led the IAFF-MDA program from 2000-2014, increasing annual fundraising from \$6M to \$30M. Currently, he serves as Executive Officer to the International Association of

Fire Chiefs President and consults through Kuley Strategic Advisors, LLC, helping organizations achieve sustainable growth through strategic partnerships.

How Full is Your Bucket? mental & career survival for public safety professionals

This will be a quick hit discussion on how to mentally survive today's public service professions. Topics covered will include but are not limited to: the unavoidable physiological and psychological impact of a long-term public safety career, the avoidable stuff you're doing to yourself and how to start fixing it, sleep, sex, good food and other things you're not getting enough of, healthy relationships with family, coworkers, command, etc, compassion fatigue/burnout, booze and bad habits that aren't working.



Nicole L Sawyer, PsyD is a licensed clinical psychologist in Exeter, New Hampshire. She has been in clinical practice since 2005 and works exclusively with public safety professionals and first responder agencies. Dr. Sawyer currently serves as the supporting psychologist for the NH State Police Peer Support Unit, she provides clinical support for various Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams across the state and is an instructor for the NAMI-NH Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) program. She is the professional crisis intervention specialist for the Seacoast Emergency Response Team (SERT), the Strafford County Regional Tactical Operations Unit (SCRTOU), and the NH State Police SWAT (NHSP-CNU), responding alongside law enforcement and Crisis Negotiation Teams (CNT). In addition to her field roles, she provides psychological consultation, assessment, and evaluation for state and local agencies across NH. Dr. Sawyer is known best for her straight-talking and candid trainings and workshops; taking a direct approach to the psychological challenges faced by public safety professionals and first responders over the course of their careers, as well as the challenges of crisis intervention in the community.



Jennifer Taylor, PhD, MPH, CPPS

Director of the Center for Firefighter Injury Research and Safety Trends (FIRST)

Dr. Jennifer Taylor is the Director of the Center for Firefighter Injury Research & Safety Trends (FIRST) and Professor of Environmental & Occupational Health. FIRST is a research, education, and practice enterprise at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA, comprised of data scientists, epidemiologists, organizational scientists, and psychologists. FIRST supports first responders through objective data collection and analysis on safety culture, stress, mental health, and injury. Dr. Taylor received her PhD in Health Policy and Management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and holds the Certified Professional in Patient Safety board certification. She is both a country girl and a city kid, having a small farm on rural Maryland's Eastern Shore, and a townhouse close to the best cheesesteak place in Philadelphia, PA. Jenn is known for her military precision in packing people, dogs, and stuff into her F-150 for all-day beach excursions, and is actively seeking therapy for what is becoming an unhealthy love affair with John Deere.



Bart McCool End Use Marketing Manager, TenCate Protective Fabrics USA . – Innovative look at Thermal Protection

Bart McCool began his career as a firefighter-paramedic with the City of Springfield Fire and Life Safety Department in 1993. Following his promotion to Captain he led the department's PPE program, ensuring compliance with NFPA 1851 standards and advocating for firefighter education on protective gear.

After leaving the fire service, Bart continued his advocacy as a PPE Specialist for L.N. Curtis & Sons and the Department of Defense Fire Department. In 2015, he joined TenCate Protective Fabrics as a Business Development Manager, conducting risk assessments and helping fire departments select the best PPE for their operational needs. Recognized as a leading expert on firefighter protective gear, he is widely sought after for his PPE selection, maintenance, and safety presentations.



Ed Ashegh Sales Manager at Industrial Protection Services

Program Description:

This will be a brief discussion focusing on two important considerations relating to Bunker Gear Selection: Heat Stress and PFAS-free Moisture Barriers. Topics will include:

1. How Heat Stress affects the user
2. Understanding Composites Performance Metrics
3. New PFAS-free Moisture Barriers.

Ed has been with Industrial Protection Services for the past 25 years, transitioning from a service technician to a sales representative, and currently holding the position of Sales Manager. He is deeply passionate about collaborating with all members of the IPS Sales Team and delivering high-quality solutions to our valued customers.