

## **The Fire that Burns Within: Fire Service Suicide – The Reality**

There is a growing concern that suicides are affecting the fire service at higher levels than ever before. The Center for Public Safety Innovation at St. Petersburg College has been grant funded to develop a suicide prevention Training of Trainers course. The eight-hour course provides an overview of the suicide issue globally, in the United States and breaks down the problem at the local level. The suicide prevention course is broken into five modules that include information about suicidal behaviors and communication, prevention efforts, protocol and policy development, issues revolving stigma and how to care for survivors.

This training is designed for the fire service trainers, chaplains and EAP representatives who wish to teach a block of instruction on suicide prevention and intervention techniques within a fire service setting.

### **Vetting Process**

Because this is an important project, there will be a vetting process for those interested in attending. It is important that the appropriate people attend this training as they will be asked to provide this training to staff at their agencies. Criteria for those attending are:

1. Preferably already a trainer.
2. Involved in a peer support program (not necessary, but definitely a plus).
3. Understands the importance of awareness, education and prevention of suicide within the fire service.

Requirements on the part of the agency:

1. Letter of recommendation from Supervisor/Chief.
2. Support of the agency on the importance of this project.
3. Assurance that the trainer will be given every opportunity to educate staff on awareness and prevention of fire service suicide.
4. Assurance that the trainer will provide CPSI with information on these in-house trainings, ie. date and how many staff attended training so that CPSI can report back to the funder.

### **Registration Information and questions regarding the course:**

Contact Laura Heisler at:

[Heisler.laura@spcollege.edu](mailto:Heisler.laura@spcollege.edu)

or 727-341-4437

**Hosted by  
Dunedin Fire and Rescue**



**Lunch will be provided on site courtesy of Star and Shield**

**Training available at no charge to participants through:**

