FIRE SERVICE
CLINICIAN AWARENESS PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

MARION COUNTY FIRE WELLNESS CENTER
2730 EAST SILVER SPRINGS BLVD
OCALA, FL 34470-7006

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This training is designed for master's and doctoral level licensed mental health clinicians who are interested in providing mental health services (consultation, crisis intervention, evidence based treatments) to firefighters and paramedics/emergency medical technicians. The online portion of the training is approved by the American Psychological Association and the National Board of Certified Counselors for 4.25 CE credits. It will provide intermediate training in firefighter culture, the effects of chronic occupational exposure to trauma on the physical and mental health of firefighters, efficacious treatments, and the clinician's role as a mental health professional for first responders. The course includes videos of mental health professionals and firefighters discussing various aspects of their job, culture, and challenges. This course is not designed to teach trauma interventions but examines how evidence-based treatments can be applied to working with the fire service. The content is drawn from the peer-reviewed literature on trauma and its aftermath as applied to first responders. In the "hands-on" training, you will experience what it is like to wear bunker gear, (mask, air tank, gloves, boots, and hood.) You will then be put through 2-3 fire scenarios. Example scenarios include a search and rescue, watch live burns, and an EMS scenario, which might include performing CPR. Additionally, you will visit a fire house to discuss various topics in different rooms of the fire station.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS

Deborah Beidel, Ph.D., ABPP, Executive Director, UCF Restores
Clinical Director, Florida Firefighters Safety & Health Collaborative

Deborah C. Beidel, Ph.D., ABPP is Trustee Chair and Pegasus Professor of Psychology and Medical Education and Director of UCF RESTORES at the University of Central Florida. Internationally recognized as a leader in the area of traumatic stress, her use of virtual reality to treat people suffering from PTSD has led to the development of treatments that are 2 to 3 times more effective than standard treatments. Dr. Beidel is the author of over 300 scientific publications including journal articles, book chapters, and books on the treatment of anxiety disorders and posttraumatic stress disorder. She has received over $31 million dollars in federal research funding, developing effective treatments for anxiety and PTSD and then disseminating them into standard clinical practice. Her most recent work has involved leading a team of scientists and clinicians to develop a new virtual reality system that allows clinicians to more easily use virtual reality to treat veterans, active-duty personnel, first responders, and survivors of mass shootings with PTSD.

Rob Neuberger, Lieutenant, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue
C.A.P. Coordinator, Florida Firefighters Safety & Health Collaborative

Rob began his career in Fire/EMS in 2000, and is in his 25th year of service with St. Petersburg Fire Rescue. He became a Paramedic in 2007 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2016. Rob has been serving the Safety & Training division since 2017 and is the Peer Support Team Coordinator. Rob was also named the 2020 Fire Officer of the Year for his department. He holds many certifications through the State of Florida including Instructor, Live Training Instructor, Incident Safety Officer, Public Information Officer, and Fire Officer 2. Rob has always been an advocate for behavioral health and mental wellness and was instrumental in developing the behavioral health program as well as the Peer Support Team in St. Petersburg and even extending to other nearby agencies.

ONLINE TRAINING Click https://www.supportingfirefightermentalwellness.com/ to start your online training

You must complete the online training and submit a copy of your certificate when you register for the "hands on" training. After completing the online training participants will be able to: Describe the nature of trauma, risk factors for developing psychological disorders in the aftermath of trauma, and the natural course of recovery. List the specific mental health concerns that firefighters experience. Recognize culturally appropriate language and terms. Discuss how work schedules and occupational dangers of the profession precipitate additional stress. Identify evidence-based psychological treatments for trauma.

HANDS ON SCENARIOS & FIREHOUSE

After completion of both days of the course and 10 hours of ride along with a fire department, clinicians will qualify to register on redlinerescue.org a website matching clinicians with fire service personnel seeking behavioral health services.

Redline Rescue is a website sponsored by UCF RESTORES that is dedicated to the mission of first responder mental wellness, connecting first responders with the support they need and deserve.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

CE Approval Statements

American Psychological Association (APA)

3C Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. 3C Institute maintains responsibility for this program and contents. **National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)**

3C Institute has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6332. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. 3C Institute is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

Cost: No charge for online training; $125 for hands-on training

REGISTRATION

Scan the QR Code or go to https://floridafirefightersafety.org/mental-wellness/clinician-awareness-program/ to register.

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