



## NEWS & UPDATES

From Ward Lyon,

Education Director for Wisconsin Technical College System

Fire Service Training

**1.** On July 9, 2024, President Biden signed into law the Fire Grants and Safety Act (S.870). After two years of advocacy by CFSI and our [National Advisory Committee members](#), the AFG and SAFER grant programs will continue to be able to deliver vital federal support to fire departments across the nation and enable them to address their baseline needs. Specifically, this bill:

- Reauthorizes the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs through fiscal year 2028,
- Reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration through fiscal year 2028, and
- Extends the sunset date for AFG and SAFER to September 30, 2030

**2.** We are excited to invite you to our latest webinar: "*NERIS Next Steps: Beta Launch, API Development, and Secondary Schema Release*," happening online on August 1, 2024, from 1pm to 2pm EST.

Hosted by the [Fire Safety Research Institute \(FSRI\)](#), part of UL Institutes, in collaboration with the [Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate \(DHS S&T\)](#) and the [United States Fire Administration \(USFA\)](#), this session will cover the latest developments in NERIS, including:

- **NERIS Beta Launch:** Overview of the onboarding of the next 50 test departments nationwide.
- **API Development:** Highlights of the Core Schema API development efforts.
- **Secondary Schema Release:** Preview of three new draft data schemas for a 30-day national engagement period.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with the NERIS development team and our government partners.

Please contact [NERIS@ul.org](mailto:NERIS@ul.org) with any additional questions.

Webinar: **August 1, 2024 | 1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. ET:** [Webinar - NERIS Webinar #4 \(cvent.com\)](#)

The May 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar is available to watch here: [Now Available: On-Demand Access to Third NERIS Webinar on Prototype and Beta Schema \(fsri.org\)](#)

**3.** Good afternoon, The CT Fire Academy has assembled a committee to develop a statewide firefighter decontamination (decon) program aimed at reducing cancer exposure by implementing on-scene decon procedures statewide.

This program will provide comprehensive guidance, a train-the-trainer program, and, if funding permits, decon supplies for every department that attends the training. We are planning to begin delivering this training in February 2025.

To date, we have developed our procedures and identified areas needing improvement based on current deployment and practice. These adjustments will be made and tested again in the first week of November. Once finalized, we will film our procedures and complete the train-the-trainer program.

One area where we need to enhance our understanding is cold weather decon. We seek your expertise, particularly if you live or work in a region that experiences cold weather and would greatly appreciate any insights or assistance you can provide. Specifically:

A. Do you have established best practices for on-scene decon during cold weather?

- Are these best practices based on local practices or backed by research?

B. Are you willing to share your findings and practices with us?

**Please email me your contact info and I will get you in touch with CT Fire Academy.** Your input will be invaluable as we strive to create a robust and effective decon program that ensures the safety and health of our firefighters across Connecticut.

4. Every day, public safety officers risk their lives to protect communities across America. To honor their commitment, Congress passed The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001, which created the [Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor](#), the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer.

The medal is awarded by the President of the United States to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life.

A "public safety officer" is a person (living or deceased) who is serving or has served in a public agency, with or without compensation, as a firefighter; law enforcement officer (including a corrections, court, or civil defense officer); or emergency services officer.

For those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, nominating a fallen officer for the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor can be a way to honor their memory.

This year's nomination period covers events that took place between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024.

**Recognize public safety officers' acts of bravery: [submit nominations for the Medal of Valor](#) by July 31, 2024, by 5:00 pm ET.**

**5.** A new First Responder's Toolbox (Terrorism Prevention Spectrum) from the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team. **Please see attachment with resources.**

**6. 2024 WTCS Conference on Race and Ethnicity**

**WisCORE  
October 24-25, 2024  
Richard T. Anderson Education Center  
Waukesha County Technical College  
800 Main Street, Pewaukee**

**7.** From NAFTD:

TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Response) is an outreach program covering North America. Since 1986, the organization has focused on assisting communities and training emergency responders to prepare for and respond to hazardous material transportation incidents. The TRANSCAER program is led by industry professionals and supported by partner agencies who are critical to the success of our mission.

Training available on site: Ethanol emergency safety training course and train the trainer courses, Resources for exercises, Video series': Are you prepared.

SITE: [About TRANSCAER | TRANSCAER](#)

Thanks,

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**PLEASE VISIT THE WSESI [Events Page](#) to download the documents referenced in this update, and additional late-breaking items. Thanks!**