2026 New England Hazmat Conference

April 14th, 2026

Pre-Conference

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	**Registration**		
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	**Session #1**		
Ballroom	EV Update- Where are we now?	Toby Frost	Safeware
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	**Lunch**		
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM	**After Lunch Discussion**		
Ballroom	Bomb in your Back Yard? Risk Based CNG Response	Chris Gould	Safeware

Session #1: EV Update - Where are we now?

The longer we deal with them the more we know. From effective tactics to fire gasses what are our options beyond “let it burn”. Recent studies from the US and Europe have started to identify, quantify, and adjudicate our hazards and risks. What tactics work? What are our hazards? What are the risks to responders and the public? What is next?

Session #2: Bomb in your Back Yard? Risk Based CNG Response

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) cylinders contain over 20 times the pressure of propane cylinders and have critically different construction features. Firefighters using Propane tactics for CNG truck fires are causing the CNG cylinders to fail and torpedo over a quarter mile away from the incident sending fire and shrapnel into nearby homes and businesses. These vehicles are very common and present multiple hazards that can also rapidly and unexpectedly engulf fighters and civilians in a cloud of highly pressured flame. The student will learn what to do when standing back is not an option and how to safely depressurize cylinders damaged by fire and collisions rendering them safe during overhaul, extrication or for post incident towing on public streets and roadways. In addition the class will cover how to overcome broken or malfunctioning valves during the depressurization process for both vehicles and abandoned CNG Cylinders. This is an advanced class and is geared toward those who have experience and an understanding of compressed and liquefied gas container incidents and presents lessons learned by responders and Haz Mat teams during real world incidents.

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Session #1: EV Update - Where are we now?

Toby Frost retired from the Lafayette Fire Department in Indiana as a Battalion Chief. He was a Team Leader for their HazMat Team and the founder of their Illicit Lab Response Team. He was a department instructor for fire fighters, recruits, and local industry teaching fire science, technical rescue and hazardous materials. He is a continuing lecturer at Purdue University in the School of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. He has presented across the country at hazmat conferences including the IAFC International Hazardous Materials Conference, The Hot Zone, and at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC). As a contract instructor Toby has helped train federal, state and local responders across the country and internationally. Toby serves as a HazMat Manager for FEMA -INTF-1. Toby is a principal member of the NFPA Hazardous Materials Committee. He is a current Board Member for the Indiana Alliance of Hazardous Materials Responders. BC Frost is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a BS in Fire Science Engineering Technology and of the NFA Executive Fire Officer Program. In 2018, Toby was recognized by the IAFC Hazardous Materials Committee with their “Level A” Award and in 2019, by the Hot Zone Conference with the “In the Zone Award” and in 2024 as the “Dieter Heinz Instructor of the Year”.

Session #2: Bomb in your Back Yard? Risk Based CNG Response

Chris currently resides on the west central coast of Florida and is a Battalion Chief with Southern Manatee Fire Rescue where he spent over nine years as Manatee County's Hazardous Materials Response Team Leader. He started his career in 1990 as a firefighter with Southern Manatee Fire Rescue and moved into Special Operations in 1996 specializing in hazardous materials response. Chief Gould is a member of the Tampabay Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and is an active member of the Training Sub Committee. He is a Florida Certified: Hazardous Materials Technician, Arson Investigator, Instructor, Fire Inspector II, Paramedic, Firefighter and regularly instructs various hazardous materials, CNG and drone related classes throughout the country. He holds degrees in Business Management and Fire Science and is and regularly instructors at Florida’s Annual Hazardous Material Symposium and has presented Haz Mat programs at the CBRNe World Convergence, Washington Council of Governments, and TRANSCAER among many others. He is well known as a pioneer in regards to utilizing drones for sampling and plume tracking during large scale industrial hazardous materials incidents but his expertise lies mainly with CNG response where he is often called upon to assist various jurisdictions with CNG related incidents. In 2014 drawing experience with large commercial vehicle fires he identified life threatening hazards that CNG powered vehicles pose to responders where incorrect tactics can cause these vehicles to explode with a bomb like detonation that can send shrapnel up to three quarters of a mile away. Since then he has been traveling and teaching a responder orientated CNG program that allows responders to safely mitigate these incidents and then safely dis-arm the damaged and potentially explosive CNG cylinders that remain afterward.

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April 15th, 2026

Conference Day 1

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

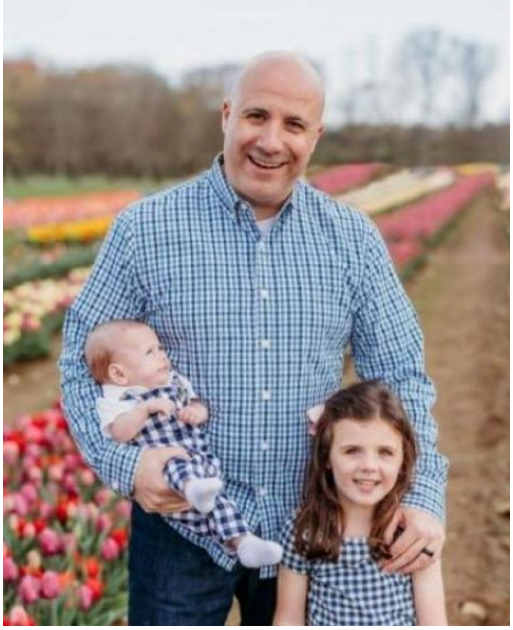
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	**Registration**		
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	**Opening Remarks**		
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	**Keynote Address**		
	Hazmat History Roundtable	Mark Sicuso & Friends	Electric Boat Fire Dept.
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	**Morning Break / Exhibitor Hall**		
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	**Breakout #1**		
Ballroom	HazMat Roundtable (there's more than one way)	Robert Coschignano / Derek Schaumann	HazMat 101 Consultants
Breakout Rm #1	Why does everyone hate radiation?	Joseph Pordash	Washington County Dept. of Public Safety
Breakout Rm #2	Enhancing HazMat Decision-Making Using Artificial Intelligence	Rich Gatanis	Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District
Breakout Rm #3	Completing the Puzzle of Classification and Identification	James Leer	Somerset Regional VFD
Breakout Rm #4	TBD	TBD	TBD
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	**Breakout #2**		
Ballroom	How Not to Suck When Teaching Hazmat	Bobby Salvesen / Mike Monoco	The Haz Mat Guys
Breakout Rm #1	Click vs. Competence: How We Learn	Robert Coschignano / Derek Schaumann	HazMat 101 Consultants
Breakout Rm #2	Radiation Nation: Surviving the Glow	William Lorenzen	RADresponse, LLC
Breakout Rm #3	State of Matter Decision Making	Kevin Ryan	Baltimore City FD Hazmat
Breakout Rm #4	TBD	TBD	TBD
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	**Lunch**		
1:15 PM - 2:00 PM	**After Lunch Discussion**		
Ballroom	History of the Massachusetts State HazMat Team	Josh Shanley	Mass DFS
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	**Breakout #3**		
Ballroom	Pseudoscience and Myths of Haz Mat V3.0	Bobby Salvesen / Mike Monoco	The Haz Mat Guys
Breakout Rm #1	How do we teach these kids? I've never heard of a Pokémon.	Joseph Pordash	Washington County Dept. of Public Safety
Breakout Rm #2	Natural Gas Emergencies	Jeffrey Zientek	HIRT LLC-Hazmat Resp.
Breakout Rm #3	From Meter to Mindset: Training HazMat Instructors to Build Confident Meter Users	Christopher Albro	Ocean State Safety
Breakout Rm #4	TBD	TBD	TBD
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	**Breakout #4**		
Ballroom	Firefighter Exposures and Post Fire Decon	Dr. Christina Baxter	Safeware
Breakout Rm #1	The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly of the hazmat incident	Jeffrey Zientek	HIRT LLC-Hazmat Resp.
Breakout Rm #2	Instructor "Rehab": Enhancing Firefighter Instruction Through Effective Learning Objectives.	Joseph Scaglione / Albe Bassett	Meriden Fire Dept / New Canaan Fire Dept
Breakout Rm #3	"Frickin' Laser"- Remote Methane Leak Detection	James Leer	Somerset Regional VFD
Breakout Rm #4	TBD	TBD	TBD

2026 New England Hazmat Conference

April 15th, 2026

Keynote Speaker

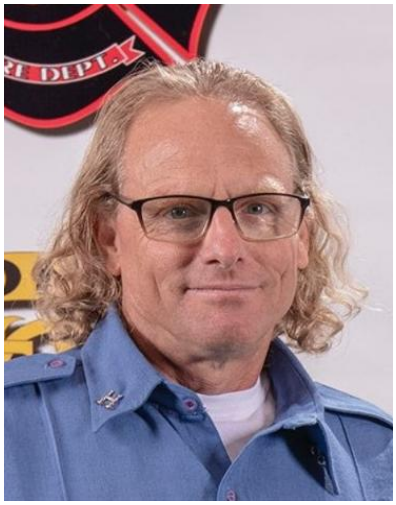
Ketnote Address: Hazmat History Roundtable Discussion



Mark is a 23 year veteran of the Fire Service. He is a currently Fire Chief for the Electric Boat Fire Department in Groton, CT. He retires as Lieutenant/Acting Captain assigned to Engine 3 and in command of the Norwich Fire Hazmat Operations July 2003. He holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of New Haven in Fire Science Administration and Arson Investigation and a Master of Public Administration from the University of New Haven. Mark is a credentialed Fire Officer from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Mark holds his member grade (MIFireE) from Instituiton of Fire Engineers USA Chapter. Mark is a HazMat manager/Safety Officer for MATF-1 a FEMA Urban Search and Rescue team. He is also alternate on FEMA US&R Incident Support Team as a HazMat Specialist. He has deployed to numerous federal disasters as a hazmat Specialist/Manager/IST Member He is currently the Co-Chair of the Region 4 (Cerrit) Hazardous Materials response team. Mark is an Adjunct instructor at the Massachusetts Fire Academy and the co-owner of All Hands Operating Training. Mark has instructed nationally and holds numerous Fire Service Certifications/Qualifications.

Roundtable Participants

Bobby Salvesen



Jeffrey Zientek

Robert Coschignano

2026 New England Hazmat Conference

April 16th, 2026

Conference Day 2

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	**Registration**		
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM	**Opening Remarks**		
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	**Opening Presentation**		
	Emerging Threats	Christina Baxter	Safeware
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Morning Break / Exhibitor Hall		
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	**Breakout #1**		
Ballroom	The Taylor Swift Effect: Terrorism & Hazmat Response Challenges for Event Venues	Adam McFadden	Firehouse Training
Breakout Rm #1	Bomb in your Back Yard? Risk Based CNG Response	Chris Gould	Safeware
Breakout Rm #2			
Breakout Rm #3	The Hidden Language of Hazmat Meters: Are You Fluent?	Bobby Salvesen	The Haz Mat Guys
Breakout Rm #4	Instructor Rehab! Building Your Hazmat Training Program from the Learning Objectives to the Training Grounds. Part 1	Joseph Scaglione / Albe Bassett	Meriden Fire Dept / New Canaan Fire Dept
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM	**Breakout #2**		
Ballroom	The new transportation emergency- Hydrogen	Dr. Christina Baxter	Safeware
Breakout Rm #1	Hazmat with Intent- Terrorism & Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Response Tactics for the Emergency Services	Adam McFadden	Firehouse Training
Breakout Rm #2	NFPA Hazmat Standards Update	Rick Edinger	Chesterfield FD (ret.)
Breakout Rm #3	HazMatIQ FRO	Robert Suarez	HazMatIQ
Breakout Rm #4	Instructor Rehab! Building Your Hazmat Training Program from the Learning Objectives to the Training Grounds. Part 2	Joseph Scaglione / Albe Bassett	Meriden Fire Dept / New Canaan Fire Dept
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	**Lunch**		
1:15 PM - 2:00 PM	**After Lunch Discussion**		
Ballroom	TBD	TBD	TBD
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM	**Breakout #3**		
Ballroom	Advanced Tech Ref	Bobby Salvesen	The Haz Mat Guys
Breakout Rm #1	The Human Canary: Using Patients as Early Warning Indicators on HazMat Scenes.	Edward Perez	On the line Training Solutions Inc
Breakout Rm #2	The Hazmat Mindset: Building the Future Responder Adapting, Leading, and Thriving Amid the Next Generation of Hazmat Challenges	Michael Wallace	The Wallace Company
Breakout Rm #3	Leading and Managing a Hazmat Response Program	Rick Edinger	Chesterfield FD (ret.)
Breakout Rm #4	TBD	TBD	TBD
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	**Breakout #4**		
Ballroom	Illicit Labs- Now What are they making?	Toby Frost	Safeware
Breakout Rm #1	Chemical Neutralization of Explosives	Robert McClure	RAM, Inc.
Breakout Rm #2	BatteryIQ EV Response Tactics	Robert Suarez	HazMatIQ
Breakout Rm #3	The HazMAt Rookie: Transition from the class into the field	Edward Perez	On The Lines Training Solutions Inc
Breakout Rm #4	What's More Toxic? Chernobyl, My Last Relationship, or My Fire Department?	Joseph Pordash	Washington County Dept. of Public Safety