2016 KANSAS TECHNICAL RESCUE CONFERENCE

INSTRUCTOR BIOS

(Listed by HOT Track)
Kelly Benton graduated from WSU with a BA in Business Management and began a 20 year career in the technical field working for Thorn Americas. During that time she developed, maintained and annually tested the business recovery plan. With a decision to leave the technical industry, Kelly moved into the non-profit arena and held the Membership Services Director position for the Sedgwick County Zoo for 8 years. She has been an animal advocate/volunteer in the community for over 23 years with the Kansas Humane Society. Kelly joined the animal response team in April 2009 after attending a table top exercise hosted by Dr. Christen Skaer of the Kansas State Animal Response Team (KS SART) and Eric Thompson of Code 3 Associates. In 2011, she assumed the role of Unit Coordinator for KS SART as a contractor. Kelly realized this was an opportunity to combine her experience in recovery planning with her passion for animals and joined this incredible organization to make a difference for people and their pets impacted by disasters.
ERIC THOMPSON – CODE 3 ASSOCIATES
ANIMAL RESCUE

Eric Thompson is a graduate of Kansas University with a B.G.S. in Environmental Science and graduated the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center with his Police commission. Currently Eric is working as the national Director of Disaster Response for Code 3 Associates; and serves as the Chair position for the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC). Eric also teaches and provides technical large animal rescue operations for the Emergency Equine Response Unit (EERU) based in Kansas City. Eric is certified as a Swiftwater and Technical Rope Rescue Technician and also in water, mud, rock, ice, fire and trailer rescues of animals. Eric has received over 25 certificates of achievement from FEMA in regards to disaster response and planning; and is working with several States as a disaster planning consultant by incorporating animal related operations into existing Emergency Support Functions. Eric also instructs technical small Animal Search & Rescue classes (Swiftwater/Flood Ops/Ropes) that meet the new NFPA 1670 guidelines for fire departments and first responders.
ROBYN KEITER – CODE 3 ASSOCIATES
ANIMAL RESCUE

Robyn Keiter has been a Certified Veterinary Technician for 14 years. She graduated from Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City with a degree in Animal Technology. After graduating, Robyn worked several years at the Denver Dumb Friends League, a large-scale animal shelter in Castle Rock, Colorado. In 2004, she joined the team at Animal Emergency & Specialty Center in Parker, Colorado where she served as an Emergency Veterinary Technician until 2015. Robyn obtained a bachelor’s degree in Business from the University of Colorado-Denver in 2008. She was on the teaching staff at Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology from 2011 to 2015, where she taught advanced CPR and veterinary sciences among other subjects. In early 2016, she made a move back to the Kansas City area and now works as a Technical specialist in the Pharmacovigilance department of Bayer Animal Health. She also serves as Director of Veterinary Services for EERU/ASAR where she teaches courses in CPR and pet first aid.
Carla Lewis is currently an Animal Control Officer in Leawood, Kansas; and is the President of the Kansas Animal Control Association. Carla graduated from Kansas State University majoring in Wildlife Biology; and worked as a Zookeeper at the Kansas City Zoo. Carla adapted her exotic and companion animal experience to disaster and technical animal rescue response in 2012; and is the current Vice President for the Johnson County Animal Response team. In addition, Carla is a Midwest Regional Team Leader for Code 3 Associates; and an instructor/responder for the Emergency Equine Response Unit in the Kansas City metro area. Carla is certified in: Swiftwater rescue, Boat operations, Ice rescue, Technical rope rescue and Technical large animal rescue. Carla recently joined the Asartraining.com instructor team with expertise in companion animal handling, capture, restraint/packaging, handling aggressive animals, exotics, and technical large animal rescue, and NFPA 1670 skills.
Jason Hudson has been a member of the Manhattan Fire Department for 15 years, and currently holds the rank of Battalion Chief. He has been active in high angle rescue, shift coordinator for RIT, a member of the MFD Technical Rescue Team and has deployed with the Kansas Army National Guard to Louisiana for Hurricane Gustav. Jason is currently one of the department's instructors for technical and wide area search. In addition, Jason has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Kansas State University.
Chris Stansberry is a 10-year veteran with the Salina Fire Department, holding the rank of Fire Engineer; he is currently assigned as the Driver on Quint 3. Chris is a member of the SFD Technical Rescue Team, as well as a Technical Search Specialist/Planning Team Member on Kansas TF8. Chris holds certifications in Technical Search, Wide Area Search, Trench Rescue, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Structural Collapse Rescue, Hazmat Technician and Ice Rescue Technician Instructor.
HEATHER JONES – KSARDA
ADVANCED SEARCH OPERATIONS

• Heather Jones is a Firefighter/Paramedic who has been part of KSARDA for 9 years. She has been a member of KS-TF K9 since it's inception and also served as a Canine Search Specialist for Missouri Task Force 1 for 4 years. Heather and her K9 Brock are a certified FEMA Type 1 team and a NASAR Canine SARTECH 1 Area team who have deployed numerous times including Joplin, Chapman, and the Atchison grain elevator explosion. She enjoys learning all aspects of search and rescue and helping others learn the about K9 SAR whenever she can.
Heather Swift joined KSARDA in 2003 and has served on KSARDA's Board of Directors since early 2010. She is also the K9 Coordinator for the Kansas Task Force K9 Unit, serves on the State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) K9 Sub-Committee, as well as the Kansas ESF-9 working group board. Heather is also an evaluator for the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR). She has deployed on several searches, including the May 2007 Greensburg Tornado disaster, the June 2008 Chapman tornado disaster, the 2011 Cushion, Oklahoma, tornado, among others. Heather is also a presenter for KSARDA children's education program, *Lost But Found, Safe and Sound.*
Gregg Bollella is a Captain for Johnson County EMS: MED-ACT in metropolitan Kansas City. He has been involved in emergency services for over twenty five years as a volunteer and career EMT/FF, Hazardous Materials technician, disaster medical specialist, paramedic, educator and administrator. His education and career have exposed him to EMS systems in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kansas and China. Gregg holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management and Human Relations from Mid-America Nazarene University and an Executive MBA from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS. Gregg serves as the Medical Manager for Kansas TF3 and has presented at conferences across the country and China.
Anthony Sellen is a professional Lieutenant Paramedic with Johnson County Med-Act. His experience includes 16 years as a Paramedic and 6 years with a fire service in southern Germany. Over the years, Anthony has developed a passion for disaster preparedness, education and medical response. Currently, Anthony is the Disaster Medical Specialist instructor for Med-Act’s Special Operations Group. While acting as the Disaster Medical Specialist lead instructor, he is responsible for the planning and execution of all DMS education. He currently lives in Shawnee, Kansas and is married to his wife Brooke with two children.
Bill Schneider is a Fire Captain with the Olathe Fire Department, joining the department in 1987. He has been teaching technical rescue operations since 1995 and holds technician certifications in Structural Collapse Rescue, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Rope Rescue, Swift-water/Boat Rescue, and Hazardous Materials. Besides teaching locally, Captain Schneider is also a certified adjunct instructor for KFRTI. Bill deployed to Biloxi, Miss. in 2005 as part of an Incident Management Team, and to Greensburg, Kansas in 2007 as part of a technical rescue team. In May 2014 Captain Schneider was one of three Americans selected to attend a rescue conference and 24 hour exercise in Badolato, Italy.
Kevin Weyand is a 22 year veteran of the fire service, having spent the last 17 years with the Olathe Fire Department. He has been on the OFD Technical Rescue Team since 2002 and was a Captain on the Heavy Rescue for 12 years, before being promoted to Battalion Chief in July 2016. Kevin is certified at the technician level in High Angle Rope Rescue, Tower Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Structural Collapse Rescue, Trench Rescue, Vehicle Extrication, Swift Water/Boat Ops, and Hazardous Materials. In addition, he is an IFSAC instructor and T-T-T for Structural Collapse, Rope & Tower Rescue, and Confined Space Rescue in both Kansas and Missouri.
Dirk Christian has over 28 years of public safety experience and currently serves as the Fire Chief for Shawnee County Fire District #4, west of Topeka, Kansas. Dirk is a Lead Instructor for Structure Collapse Rescue, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Hazardous Materials for the KFRTI. In addition, Chief Christian teaches for several private contractors and is a recognized SUSAR Lead Instructor for US&R WMD, Hazardous Materials, and Rescue Specialist curriculums. Dirk has served on the national State Urban Search & Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) Executive Board of Directors for the past 6 years. Chief Christian also holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Kansas National Guard and previously commanded the 73rd Civil Support Team (WMD). Dirk is a member of Kansas TF2 and has deployed to multiple state and national level disasters and special security events.
Chad Small has been with the Chanute Fire Department since 1999 and currently holds the rank of Lieutenant. He has been a member of Chanute’s Technical Rescue Team since 2001 and a member of Kansas TF4 since its inception in 2007. Chad holds technician certifications in swiftwater rescue, structural collapse rescue, rope rescue, trench rescue, and confined space rescue. Lt. Small has responded to several major disasters including the Joplin tornado and Southeast Kansas floods.
Scott Kleinschmidt is a 20 year veteran with the Wichita Fire Department, currently assigned to Truck Company 2 on the city’s south side. Prior to promotion Scott was assigned to the city’s Rescue Company and is a Rescue Technician/Manager with the regional US&R task force, Kansas TF5. He is a department instructor/coordinator in Truck Company operations and co-authored the department’s current SOP’s for Truck Company Operations. Lieutenant Kleinschmidt is an adjunct instructor for the department’s training division providing recruit instruction and hands on training to suppression companies throughout the city. He provides lecture and hands on training in Truck Company, Rescue Company, and reduced staffed fire ground operations at the local, state, and national level. Lieutenant Kleinschmidt is a past FDIC presenter and contributing author to Fire Engineering magazine.
Larry Hemphill has spent over 30 years in the fire service, currently serving as the Division Chief of Training for the Salina Fire Department. Larry holds an Associate’s degree in Fire Science from Hutchinson Community College and has been a certified instructor for over 18 years, logging well over 12,000 hours of instruction in various rescue disciplines. Larry currently holds Instructor and Technician Level certifications in Structural Collapse Rescue, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Swiftwater Rescue. Larry serves as the Program Manager and a Task Force Leader for Kansas TF8. He has deployed to several disasters in Kansas, including the 2008 Chapman Tornado, where he served as the Rescue Team Manager.
Chad Winton is a Captain with the Wichita Fire Department. He has his Associates degree in Fire Science and is pursuing his Bachelors of Science degree in Occupational Health and Safety. Chad is the Rescue Coordinator, instructor, and lecturer with the Hutchinson Community College Fire Science program, an instructor with Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute, Industrial Safety Operations Company, and adjuncts with the Wichita Fire Department Training Division. Chad is a 17 year member of the WFD Technical Rescue Team, operated as the K9 Team Chief and handler for Sedgwick County Emergency Management, and is presently a Rescue Specialist/Rescue Manager on Kansas Task Force 5. Chad also instructs on fire tactics and rescue company disciplines at the local, state, and national levels, drawing from 19 years of experience working in some of the busiest companies in the state.
Tony Tracy is a Captain and Paramedic with Sedgwick County Fire District #1, where he has served since 1993. Tony has been on the Technical Rescue Team since its inception in 1996, as one of the team’s founding members. Captain Tracy holds numerous certifications including Structural Collapse Rescue, Technical Search Specialist, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Advanced Extrication, Advanced Rope Rescue, Ice Rescue, and Advanced Swift Water Rescue Technician. Tony serves as a Squad Officer on Kansas TF-5 and has responded to numerous disasters across the state over the past several years. He enjoys teaching many disciplines of technical rescue across the state.
Kevin McDonald is a 14 year veteran with the Salina Fire Department, holding the rank of Fire Engineer. He is currently assigned as the Driver on Rescue 1, which responds to all injury accidents and technical rescue incidents in Salina and Saline County. Fire Engineer McDonald is a certified instructor in Rope Rescue through Hutchinson Community College and KFRTI. Kevin instructs rope rescue, structural collapse rescue, wide area search, and vehicle extrication/vehicle safety for the Salina Fire Department.
Pete Rowley has been with the Winfield Fire/EMS Department for 8 years and currently holds the rank of Fire Engineer/EMT. He holds technician certifications in Structural Collapse Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Advanced High Angle Rescue, and Ice Rescue. Pete instructs Ropes Rescue and Confined Space Rescue at Hutchinson Community College and has recently started assisting as a Structural Collapse Rescue instructor for the OSFM.
Captain Keith Lindemann is a 30 year veteran with the Salina Fire Department, currently assigned to RESCUE-1. R1 responds to working fires, injury accidents, and technical rescue incidents in Salina and Saline County, which encompasses about 90 square miles. Captain Lindemann has held many positions on both volunteer and paid departments during his career. He is a member of Kansas TF-8 and serves as a Task Force Leader. Keith is an EMT, Certified Fire Investigator, and is IFSAC certified as Fire Officer I & II, and Fire Instructor I & II. Keith instructs on several topics including, Basic and Advanced Extrication Techniques; Truck and Bus Extrication; Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Safety; Occupant Safety Systems; New Vehicle Technologies; and Roadway and Incident Scene Safety for Responders. Besides serving as an instructor for the Salina FD, Keith teaches for Midwest Search & Rescue, Five Star Fire Training/On Scene Training Associates, and KFRTI.
Dru Kellerby is currently a Lieutenant with Sedgwick County Fire District #1. He has spent 14 years at Station 37 as a member of the technical rescue team. Dru is a certified technician in Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Swift Water, Dive Master, Structural Collapse, and Vehicle Extrication. He spent time deployed at Hurricane Katrina as a member of a body recovery team, as well as responding to the Greensburg tornado. In addition, Dru has been involved in teaching in all of the areas above. Dru enjoys every aspect of technical rescue and looks forward to working with a group of “like minded” individuals from around the state.
Curt Searcy has been a member of the Shawnee Fire Department since 1995. He currently holds the rank of Captain. Curt has been in charge of training for the Technical Rescue Team for the last five years and is now the chair of this committee. He holds numerous certificates including Advanced Extrication, Rope Rescue, Structural Collapse, Search Specialist, and Confined Space. Curt is a member of KS-TF3. He deployed to Gulfport MS. in 2005 for Hurricane Katrina where he worked with Gulfport Fire and the Mississippi Coroner's office on a body recovery team.
Josh Rogers is a Paramedic/Firefighter with the Salina Fire Department. Josh has extensive training and experience in technical rescue and vehicle extrication and teaches vehicle extrication for KFRTI, KSSFFA, and Okie Extrication. Josh combines patient care and safe handling with effective extrication to better improve long term survivability of traumatic injuries.