

## PFD 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Combined Conference Instructor Bios:



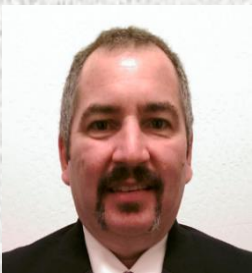
**James "Robby" Dawson** is the Southeastern Regional Director for the National Fire Protection Association. In that position he advocates for fire safety, code development and adoption, and conducts presentations nationally on topics associated with Community Risk Reduction, standards and regulations, leadership, emergency operations, and management. Robby is a 32 year veteran of the Chesterfield (Virginia) Fire and EMS Department where he served as an Assistant Chief of the Community Risk Reduction Branch. His responsibilities included the management of the fire marshals office, public education section, community relations, media and public affairs officers, and the county's Emergency Management Office. He has served on a number of boards and national codes development committees including Virginia's Fire Services Board, the International Fire Marshals Board of Directors, the International Code Council's Means of Egress Committee, and a number of NFPA Technical Committees. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond in Emergency Services Management, a Masters degree in Business Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is an Accredited Chief Fire Officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.



**Phil Higgins** has 24 years of experience in the fire service with both volunteer and career departments. He is currently an Assistant Chief with the Fairfield (CT) Fire Department where his functional assignment has him responsible for Special Operations-Rescue. He previously served with the City of Bridgeport (CT) Fire Department and the Stratfield Vol. Fire Dept. He's an original member of Connecticut's US&R team where he's been a Rescue Specialist and Rescue Squad Officer. He is certified to Fire Instructor III and, in addition to teaching for PL Vulcan, teaches for the Fairfield Regional Fire School. He holds an Associates Degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University.



**Chris Black** is a 33-year veteran of the Fire Service who possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire and Safety Engineering from Eastern KY University. He retired in 2017 as Assistant Chief of Operations for the City of Covington KY Fire Department. Chris started his fire service career as a volunteer with the Petersburg KY Fire Protection District at age 16 until stepping away as a Battalion Chief in 2021. In retirement Chris was hired as the Captain of the Training Division for the Burlington KY Fire Department and works as an associate instructor for P.L. Vulcan Fire Training Concepts. Chris also serves as a Rescue Specialist with the FEMA OHTF 1 USAR Team.



**Jeff Fecteau** represents UL Solutions Codes and Regulatory Services as a Senior Regulatory Engineer. Jeff enlisted in the US Army as a Combat Engineer and when he returned home to Phoenix, enrolled and graduated from Career One Technical Training Corporation as a Construction Electrician. In 1998 Jeff was hired by the City of Peoria, AZ, as a Combination Dwelling Inspector and within one year was promoted to Senior Electrical Inspector. In 2006, Jeff started working for the City of Bloomington, IL, as a Building Inspector III. Jeff then accepted the position of NEMA Midwest Field Representative in 2007, and in 2008 accepted a position with UL as a Staff Engineer Associate. In 2013 was promoted to Senior Regulatory Engineer and in 2018, Jeff was inducted into the UL Distinguished Member of Technical Staff

in the William Henry Merrill Society. Jeff has been very active with the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) since becoming a member in 1995. After serving as the President for the Central Arizona Chapter of IAEI in 2002 Jeff became the Education Chairperson for the Central Arizona Chapter and maintained that position until he relocated to Central, Illinois in 2006. Jeff has also been very active in Education and Electrical Safety since 1998. He taught electrical codes for Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ. and Gateway

Community College, Phoenix, AZ, for eight years, the 2nd year apprenticeship program for the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) in Phoenix for four years, as well as numerous seminars for the Central Arizona Chapter of IAEL, the Arizona Building Officials (AZBO), Phoenix Chapter of Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) and the Phoenix Chapter of American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI). Jeff has provided training to inspector and contractor organizations, including 8 years as an adjunct faculty instructor at two community colleges. Jeff has been involved with IREC, NREL, Solar 3.0, SolarAPP+ and the International Association of Electrical Inspectors as an instructor on code compliant PV installations as well as an SME for the development of presentations such as the PVOT program. Jeff has authored several technical papers that address code compliant installations of PV equipment such as inverters and PV rapid shutdown systems. Currently Jeff represents UL as a Code Panel Member for the National Electrical Code (NEC) on CMP 8 (previously a member of CMP 9), IAPMO on the Uniform Solar Energy and Hydronics Code, as well as on NFPA 70B (Standard for Electrical Equipment Maintenance). Jeff is currently approved as a CEU accredited instructor in Arizona, Texas, Minnesota, Louisiana, Michigan, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. Jeff has been recognized by UL and inducted into the society of Distinguished Members of Technical Staff. Jeff is a Certified Building Official (CBO), Certified Electrical Code Official (ECO) and currently maintains twenty-three International Code Council (ICC) inspection certifications and two IAEL electrical inspection certifications.



**Rich Walke** is the Technical Director of Creative Technology Inc., providing consulting and training services for the fire protection and code enforcement communities. Previously, Rich had been employed by UL for 43 years, focusing on fire-resistance-rated construction and the protection of breaches in those assemblies. During that time, Rich was involved in testing, standards development, code development, and providing technical assistance and training to architects, engineer, contractors and code officials. Rich had the honor of serving on the Fire Safety Committee at the ICC Committee Action Hearings in Memphis in April of 2015 and in Columbus in April of 2018. He was also a member of the NFPA 101/5000 Fire Protection Features Committee and the NFPA 220/221 Building Construction Committee. Rich received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Valparaiso University in 1976.



**Ron Ritchey** began his career with the National Fire Sprinkler Association in 2016 after retiring from the Lafayette Fire Department (Indiana) with 23 years of service, sixteen of those years as Assistant Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau. He currently provides membership services for five states in the Great Lakes Region and develops and provides NFSA training seminars for code officials, code consultants, building owners, and design professionals throughout the country. Mr. Ritchey holds numerous state and national certifications, and his formal education includes earning an Associate's Degree in Public Safety and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Ron currently serves on several technical committees including the International Code Council's Fire Code Interpretation Committee (ICC-FCIC); the following National Fire Protection Association Committees- NFPA 1 Fire Code-Special Equipment, Processes, and Hazardous Materials (FCC-HAZ); NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, Residential Occupancies (SAF-RES); and NFPA 5000 Building Code, Building Code, Residential (BLD-RES). Ron is a member of the National Fire Protection Association, the International Code Council, numerous Fire Chief and Fire Inspector associations, and is a Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS).



**Brian Biggs** is the Southeast Regional Manager for the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA). Brian has been with the NFSA since 2018 and serves in several rolls within the association. Brian has been in the Fire Service for 29 years and has served from Firefighter to Deputy Fire Chief at the Ashland City Fire Department in Tennessee, where he still serves as the Assistant Chief. In 2001 Brian was a very instrumental part in Ashland City adopting a Zero square foot Sprinkler Ordinance that is still in effect today. Brian has served on the Volunteer & Career side of the Fire Department. Brian is still very active in the fire service in TN he is currently the Vice President of the TN Fire Chiefs Association, Chairman of the TN Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards & Education & Chairman of the Cheatham County 911 Communications District. Brian still resides in his hometown in Tennessee.



**Warren Olsen** has spent more than 48 years in fire protection. He is a retired Battalion Chief from the Hoffman Estates Fire Department which is located in suburban Chicago where he served for more than 30 years. Since 1979 he has also worked as a fire protection consultant. Currently, he is a senior Building and Life Safety Consultant for the consulting firm of Fire Safety Consultants which is located in Elgin, IL. Warren is a Certified Fire Protection Specialist and a Certified Building Code Official. Warren is the past chairperson of Chapter 26, Technical Committee on Supervising Station Alarm Systems for NFPA 72, and also serves on Chapter 18, Notification Appliances, NFPA 3

and NFPA 4. He teaches National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code and Water-Based Sprinkler System Inspection seminars nationally and internationally for NFPA.



**Brian Alwes** is an ATF Special Agent and Certified Fire Investigator. Alwes obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice & criminology from the University of Missouri, Kansas City in 2004. Later that year, SA/CFI Alwes was hired by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) as an Industry Operations Investigator. In 2007, SA/CFI Alwes accepted a position as a Special Agent with ATF. Throughout his career, SA/CFI Alwes responded to fire and explosion incidents. Then in 2014, SA/CFI Alwes became a part-time member of ATF's National Response Team. And in 2015, SA/CFI Alwes entered ATF's Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) program. In 2017, SA/CFI Alwes was

selected as a member of ATF's International Response Team. Then in 2018, SA/CFI Alwes was selected as a full-time member of ATF's National Response Team. In 2020, SA/CFI Alwes obtained a master's degree in forensic science from Oklahoma State University. Then in 2021, SA/CFI Alwes became ATF's CFI Candidate Coordinator. During that same year SA/CFI Alwes began coordinating ATF's Advanced Origin and Cause/Courtroom Testimony (AOCCT) class at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCETR). SA/CFI Alwes is currently detailed to NCETR as the Acting Project Officer for ATF's CFI Program. SA/CFI Alwes has attended numerous trainings related to fire and explosion investigation throughout his career. SA/CFI Alwes has also taught fire investigation and related topics at numerous locations, including locally, at the state level, at ATF's NCETR facility in Huntsville, AL, at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA, at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, and at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok, Thailand. SA/CFI Alwes has received several awards and/or commendations related to fire and explosion investigation throughout his career, including receiving ATF's Distinguished Service Medal twice.

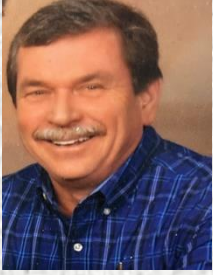


**Ken Pitney** is a Special Agent Certified Fire Investigator. Special Agent Pitney joined the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) in 2013 after spending 14 years in the Army. He completed 3 overseas combat deployments with the military. Special Agent Pitney served in the ATF's Puerto Rico Field Office, Cincinnati Field Office, and Dayton Satellite Office. Special Agent Pitney has been in the ATF Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) program since 2021 and also is an IAAI CFI.



**Russell "Rusty" Scaggs** has over 23 years in the plumbing and mechanical fields and holds a Kentucky Masters and Journeyman License as well as an Ohio Contractors License. Scaggs has also held a backflow certification and was certified in med-gas installation and braising. For the past five years, Scaggs has been working in the process piping area for Proctor & Gamble, Johnson Controls, and B.A.S.F. as a Piping Foreman for E.G.C. Construction. Prior to that, Scaggs focused primarily on multi-family residential, single-family residential, and light commercial plumbing. At one time, Scaggs owned his own plumbing company and employed

three to eight Journeyman and Apprentice Plumbers. In a Lead and Foreman Position, Scaggs has ran crews of two to over fifteen personnel. Scaggs has been employed for the past 18 months by Rheem Manufacturing as the Regional Plumber Support Manager for the Great Lakes region.



**Bruce Chester** began his plumbing career in 1980 with the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 184 and obtained his journeyman's license in 1983 and his master's plumbing license in 1986. Chester became a partner in Chester O'Donley in 1994 and became owner of the business in 1998. Chester has served on the AGC Board of Directors since 1996 and was a member of the HVAC Board of Directors for 10 years. Today Chester is the President of Chester Mechanical, Inc and has had the privilege to work with many great contractors and skilled craftsman during his career. Chester has been married to his wife Kim for 40 years, has 2 children and 1 AWESOME grandson!