

# Treating Fire Service Members in Behavioral Health Settings

**October 12-13, 2023**

Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute  
University of Maryland  
4500 Campus Dr,  
College Park, MD 20740  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Hosted by the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland**

This is a two-day, in-person training designed for mental health clinicians who are interested in working with fire service members. This training is ideal for licensed mental health clinicians working in private practice, behavioral health treatment programs, employee assistance programs, or those interested in collaboration with fire department peer support teams. Clinicians will develop best practices for working with fire service members through a combination of traditional classroom instruction and hands-on fireground training.

## This training will teach clinicians to:

- Understand common behavioral health challenges in the fire service and barriers to help.
- Identify foundational principles for treating fire service members.
- Build a successful therapeutic alliance with a fire service client.
- Apply best practices to achieve positive treatment outcomes with a fire service client.
- Establish an effective connection with your local fire department or union.
- Gain direct exposure to the physical and psychological stress of fire and rescue operations through live fireground training.

## Brought to you by the IAFF

This course is delivered by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the largest labor union for fire service professionals representing over 336,000 members in the United States and Canada. The classroom portion will be delivered by a licensed mental health clinician and a professional fire fighter with seasoned behavioral health experience.

## What to Expect

This experience will safely expose clinicians to fire and rescue operations through participation in live, simulated training on the fire ground. Students will participate in four different fire and rescue scenarios and will be provided required personal protective equipment. By spending the day in a fire fighter's shoes, clinicians will be uniquely prepared to understand the fire service client's daily experience and occupational stressors.

## Training Prerequisite

Prior to attending this training, clinicians must complete the online prerequisite, [\*Understanding the Fire Service for Mental Health Clinicians\*](#). This is a free two-hour, online, self-paced course that is approved for 1.5 credits from the National Association of Social Work (NASW).



This program is  
Approved by the National  
Association of Social  
Workers (Approval #  
886882120-9897) for  
13 continuing education  
contact hours.



This program has been approved by the  
Maryland State Board of Professional  
Counselors and Therapists to satisfy  
13 Category A continuing education  
requirements effective,  
4/11/2023-4/11/2025.

## Preregistration is required

[Click here to register](#)

Cost: \$200

Deadline: Oct. 4, 2023

Lunch is provided

## Questions?

Host Point of Contact: **Mike Wells (mwells71@gmail.com)**

IAFF Instructor Team: **behavioralhealth@iaff.org**

[www.iaff.org/behavioral-health](http://www.iaff.org/behavioral-health)

Last Updated August 28, 2023.