Texas Legislative Day
State Legislators & Staff Tour
Brayton and Bunker Up

Leadership Symposium
Coming to San Marcos, Texas
for 2015

Bridging the Language
Gap at Brayton Fire
Training Field

FireTALK
Emergency Services Training Institute ••• College Station, Texas
October 2014

Industrial Fire School
www.teex.org/videos

July Annual Schools are Huge Success with Over 3,000 Students Trained!
July is a busy time here at ESTI.

—Chief Robert Moore, ESTI Director
Chief Moore Minute

ESTI Training Opportunities

The Big Water Show
The Advanced Industrial Fire Apparatus Class

Confined Space Rescue

Testing Partnership
TEEX and SFFMA Team Up

TEEX Annual Vendor Shows
The perfect place to showcase your Company

2015 TEEX Leadership Symposium
New Location provides new Opportunities

ESTI Field Notes
Ship Gets New??? Prop #XX
Mike Rowe Show to Air???
Calendar / Upcoming Conferences

Our Fallen Heroes
2014 Annual School Photos

Check Out Our Annual Schools
2014 Annual School Photos
ARFF
Courses for airport and airport jurisdiction firefighters include the 120-hour ARFF Academy, 40-hour Aircraft Firefighting Operations, Driver/Operator and FAR Part 139 Compliance Drills.

All-Hazard Planning and Exercises
All-hazards planning includes operational and response plans for local, regional, state, and federal jurisdictions, as well as, academic institutions and the private sector. Customized all-hazards Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)-compliant, hands-on performance-oriented tabletops to full-scale field exercises and computer-aided simulations are available.

DHS/FEMA Funded Homeland Security Grant Training
A wide variety of training courses are offered ranging from tactical level Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) operational response and wide area search training to executive-level training to better prepare senior leadership for the challenges faced in disaster preparation and response. Courses are provided to local and state jurisdictions/agencies via a DHS/FEMA training grant held by TEEX.

Department of Defense Training
TEEX enables Department of Defense firefighters and contract personnel to better protect people and property within their communities by administering state-of-the-art NFPA professional education and Pro Board certification training.

Emergency Medical Training (EMS)
Courses range from CPR/first aid to paramedic and ambulance strike team leader training. Rural/Frontier EMS funding in conjunction/cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation is also offered. All EMS courses are state of Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) approved and meet National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) requirements for certification exams.

Executive Leadership Development
The TEEX Fire Officer Program, the annual TEEX Leadership Development Symposium, and the Fire Service Chief Executive Officer (FSCEO) program are included in this program.

Extension Area / National Fire Academy (NFA) / Annual Schools
TEEX is the recognized state fire training agency for the state of Texas. Appropriations from the state of Texas allow us to conduct these courses at no charge to Texas resident firefighters. Numerous NFA field and direct delivery courses are also offered. Courses include firefighting, HazMat, rescue, ICS/NIMS, wildland, ARFF, EMS, and use of the MPRI FireSim™ driving simulator.
Firefighter Recruit Academy
TEEX offers two ways to earn your firefighter certification—a traditional 12-week, face-to-face academy or our new online, blended learning academy. Both programs are committed to developing the premier candidate for success as an entry level firefighter.

Fire Officer
Certification and training are provided to meet the challenges faced by both the company and command officer utilizing our Fire Officer I, II, III, & IV courses. All courses meet NFPA 1021 training requirements.

HazMat Training
Awareness-, operations-, and technician-level training is available. Courses are also offered in incident command, transportation specialist, pipeline, illicit laboratory, and air monitoring. We offer multiple levels of Pro Board certification in accordance with NFPA 472.

ICS Training and Exercises
A broad spectrum of incident management training is offered including NIMS-compliant and equivalent courses approved by the National Integration Center. This training offers both grant-supported training and fee-based courses. Courses can be customized.

Industrial Firefighting
Industrial courses offered include exterior and interior fire brigade member as well as industrial fire brigade leader which lead to NFPA 1081 Pro Board certification. Other courses include incident management, bulk storage emergency management, driver/operator pumper and aerial, emergency operations, and incident safety officer.

International Training Services
TEEX offers training worldwide in more than 60 countries to public and private organizations and the military. International customers can set up contract classes at a location of their choice or enroll in a TEEX class at one of the TEEX Cooperative Learning Centers.

LNG Firefighting
The TEEX LNG program provides hand-on spill control and fire suppression training to personnel involved in LNG production, transportation, storage, and response activities.

Center for Marine Training and Safety (CMTS)
The marine program offers a full spectrum of marine firefighting, rescue, safety and prevention courses, as well as land-based marine firefighting.

Oil Spill Response
Our full suite of oil/hazardous substance spill control training courses provide the information necessary to supervise employees and contractors in the control, mitigation, and management of a spill response operation.

Rescue Training (Rope, Confined Space, and Trench)
A comprehensive package of hands-on rescue training courses are designed to train emergency response personnel to safely, efficiently, and effectively perform rescues in the event of an emergency.

Simulation-Driven Jurisdictional Crisis Incident Management Training
Customized, hands-on, computer-driven simulation training is designed to reinforce and hone incident management and decision-making skills during the response to a large-scale or catastrophic incident.

Swift Water Rescue
Courses prepare students for offensive rescue situations involving floods and swift-moving water.

Texas Annual Fire Schools
Courses in the intensive, week-long training school range from basic to advanced levels and are taught by hundreds of guest instructors, each experienced in specific areas of emergency response. Specific schools are offered for ARFF, Municipal, Industrial, and Spanish-speaking firefighters, as well as fire officers.

Urban Search and Rescue
TEEX offers a full complement of structural collapse courses, technical rescue courses, medical and hazardous materials training, command and ICS training, technical and canine search courses, as well as disaster canine weekend workshops for search and rescue dogs and handlers.
Several Texas Legislators and more than 30 Legislative staff members participated in the Annual Legislative Day at the Municipal Fire School on July 23. The event was sponsored by the State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association (SFFMA), the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS).


“We always look forward to opportunities, especially with legislators, to show the great training going on at the fire field...
and Staff Bunker Up!

and elsewhere in the agency, commented TEEX Director Gary Sera. “These opportunities are invaluable for helping key audiences understand exactly what TEEX does.”

The group traveled from Austin or their home jurisdiction to College Station where they viewed firefighting apparatus, the TFS mobile incident command center and equipment used by Texas Task Force 1. They then toured the TFS Emergency Operations Center and heard overviews from TFS and TEEX officials.

Following lunch with agency officials, they toured Brayton Fire Training Field and Disaster City®. While there, they viewed the hands-on training under way at the 85th Municipal Fire Training School, met with constituents from their districts and had the opportunity to bunker out and fight a controlled fire on one of the props. They also viewed a side-by-side burn demonstration of a residential interior mockup with and without a fire sprinkler system.

“Our third legislative day, held every other year during non-legislative years, highlights the accomplishments we have made in emergency services,” said Chris Barron, Executive Director of the SFFMA. “This event brings the lawmakers together with the emergency responders to learn about our profession, the challenges we face, and the tools and equipment used to put out fires and train firefighters. This type of event benefits everyone from the local level to the state agencies and those making the laws that affect us.”

—Janet Frye
TEEX Communications Coordinator

Visitors came from the Texas State Legislature offices of XXXX
In July, a group of instructors, vendors, and eager students convened for the **52nd Industrial Fire School**, an annual week-long event conducted at the TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field. During the Industrial School, students who work in an industrial setting get to train on critical skills needed to manage emergencies at their work sites. Many different classroom and field sessions provide training on a range of subjects including leadership, firefighting, hazardous materials, rescue, and apparatus operations.

One of the newer programs in the school is the **Advanced Industrial Fire Apparatus Practices class**. The basic class covers objectives for new apparatus operators. This advanced class, however, is designed to help the experienced operator understand and manage more complicated, higher-flow operations with bigger pumps, larger-diameter hose, and high-volume delivery nozzles.

A typical fire truck used in a municipal setting is rated at 1,250 to 2,000 gallons per minute (GPM) and carries 500 to 1,000 gallons of water on board. A typical industrial fire truck is rated at 3,000 GPM and usually carries a large quantity of fire fighting foam concentrate instead of water (although some do carry water as well). The basic apparatus operations class targets smaller fire trucks, both with and without foam proportioning capability. The advanced apparatus operations class focuses on industrial style high-capacity trucks that have foam proportioning capability.
The advanced program covers the operation of high-volume mobile apparatus at 3,000 GPM, fixed and trailer mounted pumps up to 6,000 GPM, use of extra-large-diameter hose from 5” all the way up to 12” and the related hydraulics, aerial operations and foam-proportioning systems, and equipment needed to proportion foam at high flow rates.

This program could not happen without the remarkable support provided by industry vendors. TEEX is able to provide some equipment needed for the class, but the majority is offered up by leading vendors in the industry. This class requires several high-capacity fire trucks, all preferably with foam proportioning systems, mobile fire pump trailers, portable high-volume delivery nozzles, extra-large-diameter hose and other related foam-proportioning equipment. Along with this equipment comes a team of experienced professional instructors eager to share their knowledge with the students.

The first two days of the class includes a review of basic apparatus operations, field exercises to set up all of the training evolution stations, a module on high-flow hydraulics and overcoming friction loss using extra-large-diameter or multiple hose lines, a module on big pump operations, and field exercises rotating through different evolutions running all of the equipment. Day three targets foam proportioning concepts and equipment, as well as aerial operations. Field exercises include setup and operation of foam-proportioning equipment as well as use of apparatus-mounted proportioning systems.

The fourth day of the class culminates in a compilation exercise where students use all of the skills learned in the first three days to plan, set up, and run a large-flow operation, utilizing all of the equipment to generate as large a flow possible. Actual foam concentrate can’t be used due to potential contamination of the water supply, so colored water is used to simulate foam concentrate. The compilation exercise has been nicknamed “The Big Water Show,” and often generates quite a crowd of onlookers wanting to see the flow delivery. These exercises typically generate flows of twenty to twenty-five thousand gallons per minute! It is quite a sight to see that much water flowing at one time aimed at one target. The exercise is run multiple times with students rotating through the various equipment stations. Select students are utilized in the Operations Section Chief role to direct each evolution.

In closing, if you have an interest in learning the concepts of advanced apparatus operations with large flow capability, this is the class for you! We are not aware that training of this type is being conducted anywhere else in the world. For information and dates for the 2015 Industrial School or any other future session, please check the TEEX web site for information. We’d love to see you there!
Rescue operations place special demands on the Emergency Response Team (ERT). The ERT must balance the complexities of site management with the intricacies of victim management to stabilize both in an effective and efficient manner while maintaining the safety of responding personnel. Every situation presents unique challenges that can be overwhelming without a methodical, pre-determined series of response actions designed to guide the officers’ thought processes and decision-making.

The environment and victim condition(s) demand different strategies, and the first arriving officer’s responsibilities include staging, size-up, and identifying response options. Officers must survey the scene by assessing the scope of needed rescue operations and safety precautions, while identifying available resources such as personnel, equipment, mutual aid, and agreements with private sector entities that include construction and demolition companies and hardware or lumber suppliers. Faced with this array of information, priorities, and options, officers must rely on incident management systems to direct their thought processes and guide their decisions.

Scene Size Up

Size up at any scene is the first step of evaluation that will determine the response action, and will continue throughout the response as changes in the environment, personnel, equipment, and victims evolve. Life safety is always the first priority to ensure minimal risk to the officer, response team members, and victims at the site.

The first series of decisions is to identify the goals for the operation and the tasks required to accomplish those goals. The ultimate goals are rescue and life safety, but to determine the specific goals to accomplish rescue, information must first be collected about the location of victims and hazards in the environment, the nature of the victim’s injuries, and the ever-changing nature of these mitigating factors. Information gathering includes observing the scene, talking to witnesses (and victims when possible), and determining the validity of information. Witnesses can provide crucial information, and officers will have a better
understanding of the challenges they face, such as hazards or victims injuries, if they understand from witnesses how the scene came to its current configuration.

Safety Considerations

Confined spaces present a variety of hazards to rescuers, many of which are obvious. The space may have limited entry and exit; there may be equipment such as motors, gears or agitators that hinder movement and could cause physical harm; it could contain grain, water, or other material that could shift and engulf the rescuer (the second-leading cause of death in confined space); or it may be poorly lit, have slippery surfaces, or impede communication between rescuers. But it’s the hidden dangers that are the most threatening and the easiest to forget or ignore.

Every confined space should be considered dangerous until proven otherwise and precautions are taken to mitigate the potential hazards.

Asphyxiation is the leading cause of death in confined spaces because the atmosphere is easily corrupted and atmospheric hazards are impossible to detect without monitoring equipment.

Rescuers often rely on their senses to evaluate and identify hazards,
practice that is fundamentally flawed. Even when the physical senses may detect atmospheric hazards, the contact necessary for detection alone is often fatal. The only safe and reliable means for testing the atmosphere of a confined space is to use equipment designed for that purpose, and training rescuers to use the device.

Proper atmospheric testing requires deliberation and care. Approximately one-third of all confined-space fatalities occur after the space has been tested and determined safe for entry. Quick tests at the point of ingress are insufficient.

**Methodical Response**

Above all, proper and regular training equips rescuers with the presence of mind to apply calm mental calculation to any rescue incident. Rescue scenes often are cluttered and confusing, and can present responders with a rush of information that can be overwhelming without a clearly established plan. Rescuers often fall prey to the idea that time taken to think through the operation is lost time, but without adequate understanding of the dangers imperiling the victim, the rescuer risks becoming a victim.

Confined space incidents demand a systematic approach from rescuers, who must proceed carefully through the phases of recognition, evaluation, and control. This involves not only rescuers interviewing witnesses about the equipment and conditions that led to the situation at hand, but assessing the perimeter to determine which hazardous conditions can become immediately dangerous, identifying which conditions may be deteriorating or capable of deteriorating, and taking steps to secure the area against all of these threats.

Once the area around the confined space is secured, rescuers can begin to assess the space itself by analyzing the configuration of the confines; identifying products that may be stored in the space, as well as any mechanical or structural hazards the space presents; and locating important documentation such as entry permits and checklists, hot work permits, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), and a diagram of the space. As with the perimeter, the stability of the confined space must be ensured, and the responders must make sure the proper personnel and equipment are on scene for the operation.

After all of these efforts to secure the scene and protect rescuers, responders must finally stop and determine if their precautions and risk mitigation are enough. If not — and this is a decision responders are reluctant to make — operations may need to shift from rescue to recovery.

A successful rescue operation depends first on the degree to which the rescuers have been trained to recognize on-scene hazards, to evaluate them and their impact on ensuing operations, and to control the scene’s variables for the protection of all personnel. All of this precedes the actual efforts to gain access and stabilize, package, and extricate the victim.

Only training can equip the rescuer with the mental tools that enable methodical, careful analysis of the scene to override rash action. Only training can equip the rescuer with the knowledge to take full advantage of the life-saving monitors and equipment available to them. And only training can provide the rescuer the patience necessary to remember that the conditions that overcame the victim can, and will, overcome the rescuer without diligent attention to life safety.
The State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association (SFFMA) of Texas offers a volunteer firefighter certification program that is designed to allow individuals to work at their own pace to obtain their Firefighter I and II certification. Currently, SFFMA certifies approximately 1,100 individuals to the Firefighter I and II levels each year. Beginning this year, however, SFFMA has entered into an agreement with TEEX/ESTI to provide third-party oversight of their test bank development and exam administration process.

The Certification and Assessment Office at ESTI is well-acquainted with the challenge of building new testing materials from the ground up. The staff of 6 full-time employees manages the entire process for all 46 NFPA levels of Pro Board certification offered at ESTI. Last year, they administered 556 testing sessions in multiple languages around the world, and issued over 9100 Pro Board certifications.

In April, ESTI certification staff worked with SFFMA subject matter experts to validate over 500 test questions and generate 20 test versions for the NFPA 1001 standard. In addition to the NFPA 1001 tests, the development team validated test banks and generated tests for NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and Product Control. By using development procedures similar to those used for Pro Board certification, ESTI and SFFMA were able to produce valid and reliable testing instruments that will ensure individuals are being tested on all the job performance requirements designated in the 472 and 1001 NFPA Standards.

The test administration is a key component to ensuring a fair and consistent testing process. ESTI’s Regional Coordinators will be responsible for administering the tests in an impartial manner and keeping the tests secure at all times. The Regional Coordinators have been trained by the ESTI Certification and Assessment Office and will follow similar procedures used for administering Pro Board exams. All tests will be scored by ESTI’s certification staff and results will be forwarded to the SFFMA Certification Administrator to release to the individuals.

Testing for the new NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II certification program will take place on a quarterly basis in eight regions of the state. ESTI and SFFMA are currently establishing a testing schedule to include test dates, times and locations. An individual’s eligibility requirements will have to be reviewed and approved by the SFFMA Certification Administrator prior to registering for any testing session. More information regarding SFFMA testing can be found at www.sffma.org.

—Christina Foley,
ESTI Certification and Assessment Program Manager
Showcase Your Company!

The Reed Arena floor was filled to the brim with a variety of fire apparatus equipment during the 2014 Municipal Vendor Show.
TEEX Annual Vendor Shows Provide an Excellent Opportunity to Showcase Your Products to First Responders

It was another awesome year for ESTI’s Annual School Vendor Shows! A special thank-you to all those vendors who choose to come and support ESTI by purchasing a vendor space. Each year, on the Sunday before each week of Annual School (Spanish, Industrial, and Municipal), student registration kicks off in conjunction with a vendor show.

The Marketing Office spends several months coordinating and preparing for these shows, including coordinating all correspondence with registered vendors, managing payment receipts, and designing all of the banners, signage, exhibitor manuals, and badges.

The Spanish Annual School Vendor Show is held at the Henry D. Smith Building. Anywhere from 15-20 vendors line the walls of Room 122. As students register, they can visit the vendors to purchase PPE for the week, find souvenirs, or check out the latest products being used by the fire service. On the following Sunday, the Industrial Annual School Vendor Show is also held at the HDS Building. While significantly smaller, this vendor show highlights products that cater to clients from the Industrial audience.

Lastly, the Municipal Annual School Vendor Show is by far the largest of the three shows, featuring over 200 vendors, and is located at Reed Arena on the Texas A&M University Campus. Apparatus vendors crowd the parking lot and the floor of Reed Arena. Vendors selling merchandise wind their way around the concourse level and also fill up a room on the lower level. While the Marketing staff provides on-site coordination for the Spanish and Industrial Shows, the Municipal Show could not be successful without a large team of others from different departments within ESTI to ensure quality customer service during the show. This year, there were close to 5,000 visitors in attendance!

If you’re interested in being a vendor at one of these shows, it’s already time to begin working through the registration process for next year. Past vendors have a window during which they can claim the space they held this year; deposits are due by the end of October. On November 1, any unclaimed spaces are released for those on the waiting list or any potential new vendors. Anyone wishing to purchase space at the vendor show can call Courtney Hranicky at 979-845-0935.

—Courtney Hranicky,
ESTI Project Administrator

### 2015 Annual School Vendor Show

**Exhibitor Deadlines**

**Pre-Registration Deposit Due**
October 31, 2014 (past vendors only)

**Registration Opens**
November 1, 2014 (new vendors)

**Full Payment Due**
March 31, 2015

### 2015 Show Dates

**Spanish Show**
July 5, 2015

**Industrial Show**
July 12, 2015

**Municipal Show**
July 19, 2015
January is right around the corner and we are excited about the upcoming TEEX Leadership Development Symposium on January 12–14, 2015.

This year brings a few big changes—and one of the biggest is the new location. After five successful years in Frisco, Texas, we decided to make a move to San Marcos in central Texas. We are excited to have San Marcos Fire Department as our host, as well as the partnership of San Antonio, Austin, Round Rock, and Seguin Fire Departments. Working with a team of departments is another change that we are enjoying and we look forward to sharing that sense of teamwork throughout the symposium.

This year’s theme is “Breaking Barriers.” If you’ve seen our video, you know that barriers can exist anywhere from finances to population growth to traditions and culture. We are excited to have great speakers lined up to address various types of barriers leaders face and will be posting the final list on our website soon.

Another exciting change for 2015 is the introduction of sponsorship opportunities. For many years we have enjoyed a tremendous amount of support from Pierce Manufacturing and Siddons-Martin Apparatus. We could not have grown the symposium into what it is today without their gracious support and we are happy to have them as our title sponsors once again in 2015. However, this year we are also opening up other opportunities:

• “Diamond Plate” sponsors receive a Hospitality Suite on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday
• “Wise Words” sponsorships assist with Speaker Fees
• General sponsorships help with operational expenses

If you or your company is interested in supporting the symposium or would like more information, please contact: Brandi Plunkett at 979-458-4140 or brandi.plunkett@teex.tamu.edu

Chris Lyon at 979-458-2819 or christopher.lyon@teex.tamu.edu

We are proud to offer the symposium registration free for all Texas emergency responders and only $150 for those from out-of-state. You must register to get CE credit. To register, visit www.teex.com/leadership and click on the Leadership Development Symposium.

The symposium will be held at the San Marcos Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center located off I-35. Reservations for rooms are available for $119 per night. See link below. Be sure to make your reservations soon because the hotel is usually full by October.

For a list of other area hotels, please check with the San Marcos Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.toursanmarcos.com

—Dr. Brandi Plunkett, ESTI Program Director, Leadership Development
The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)—Leadership Development Program is looking for partners who are as committed as we are to bringing the best leadership training in the country to emergency response professionals around the world…and WE WANT YOU!

The TEEX Leadership Development Symposium has quickly become one of the top conferences for Emergency Response professionals. Bringing nationally recognized leaders in the fire service, along with business experts, university professors and military greats—the symposium provides the very best training available. Best of all, it is easily accessible—free for Texas emergency responders and $150 for everyone else.

Take this opportunity to serve those who serve others! Please join us as a sponsor for the TEEX Leadership Development Symposium today!

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” —John F. Kennedy

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Limited Number Available

- Logo printed in Attendee Program ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
- Logo included on Hallway Signage ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
- Logo on daily PowerPoint Announcements ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
- Hospitality Suite for hosting Networking Event one night during Symposium ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
- Networking Space with table to meet and greet attendees and pass out information ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
- Logo included on Speaker Signage ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
- Sponsor Mentioned in Press Release ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
- Sponsor Presentation to Attendees (15 minutes) ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
- Logo printed on Attendee Badges ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔
field notes
What’s happening here at ESTI

The Ship Changes for Courses

—Kirk Richardson, ESTI Title

Visitors to

ESTI’s own construction crew has been performing the renovations ?????

Plans Underway for New Rescue Building

In May,
Mike Rowe’s show “Somebody’s Gotta Do It” Visits Firefield

Mike Rowe’s new show “Somebody’s got to do it” filmed an episode here at TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field earlier this year. The episode is scheduled to air on CNN this fall, although a specific date has not been set. Visit http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/us/original-series-mike-rowe-somebodys-gotta-do-it to find out more about the show.

Filming took place on the Firefield, Disaster City, and the EOTC with Mike discovering the tough jobs of being a firefighter, rescue?

Mike Rowe speaks with Billy Parker about his lifelong career as an Emergency Responder???

Visit us at these upcoming Conferences

- **HotZone**
  - Oct 16–19
  - Fort Worth, TX
- **State Urban Search & Rescue**
  - Nov 11–13
  - Virginia Beach, VA
- **IAEM**
  - Nov 14–19
  - San Antonio, TX
- **National League of Cities**
  - Nov 18–22
  - Austin, TX
- **Texas EMS Conference**
  - Nov 23–26
  - Fort Worth, TX
- **Clean Gulf**
  - Dec 2–4
  - San Antonio, TX

JAN 12–14
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM
Registration is now open for the annual symposium. Go to www.teex.org/leadership to learn more and to register.
field notes
What’s happening here at ESTI

Extension Trailers Wrap Up an Updated Look
The Extension Program’s trailers have a new look! ESTI’s Marketing Office has been working to create a more consistent look across the field whether on a trailer or on marketing collateral. The new graphics design incorporates the new TEEX logo with the steel-look campaign created for the newly designed ESTI marketing materials. The back of the trailer features the new Extension Regionalization Map.

Chief Moore Joins in the Ice Bucket Challenge
Mike Rowe’s new show “Name” filmed an episode here at TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field. Filming took place in Disaster City and the EOTC. Look for the show to air on ??????
J-Lo and J-Mo Team Up to Deliver a course for Texas A&M University

—Jason Moats, Ph.D.,
ESTI Program Director

For the third straight year, the Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI) and the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center (MKOPSC) have teamed up to deliver Texas A&M University’s Fire Protection Engineering Concepts for Industrial Facilities (SENG422/677). This face-to-face and distance course is aimed at undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students, and addresses fire protection design concepts and considerations for chemical, petrochemical, and hydrocarbon processing facilities. Throughout the course, students are educated in fire hazard analysis processes, fire risk assessment processes, design features of fire protection appliances and systems, as well as emergency response procedures for industrial processing facilities. The course also addresses fire protection program design considerations for various types of facilities and manufacturing processes, and students are required to participate in an applied project or write a research paper on a fire protection system or system element.

This course was started in 2010 by Dr. Tom Sturtevant, a member of TEEX’s Urban Search and Rescue Division at that time. In 2012, after Sturtevant left TEEX to take over as the Dean of the College of Aviation and Public Services at Utah Valley University, the MKOPSC asked ESTI to deliver the course. That is when Jason Loyd, Training Manager for ESTI’s Online Recruit Academy Program, and Dr. Jason Moats, Program Director for ESTI’s WMD program, were tapped to teach the course. In addition to “J-Lo and J-Mo,” the course draws on the experience of numerous guest instructors, including Harvie Cheshire, Gordon Lohmeyer, Rick Lewis, Gerald Burnett and Howard Meek, to help educate students on a myriad of topics associated with industrial fire protection.

The partnership between the MKOPSC and ESTI provides unique experiential learning opportunities to the students. During this course, which is part of TAMU’s Dwight Look College of Engineering Safety Engineering Certificate program (LINK: http://engineering.tamu.edu/academics/certificates/safety), students are able to interact with practicing industrial safety professionals, observe several demonstrations used to express the concepts and principles of the course, and participate in live-fire evolutions that provide them with invaluable experience. This sort of hands-on supplement to the curriculum cannot be matched by any other institution in the country.
Every year in early July hundreds of firefighters and emergency response professionals from all over Latin America come to TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field to spend a week at Spanish School. Some are sent by their employers: oil refineries, bottling plants, container ports and airports, and fire departments. But many pay their own way, thereby demonstrating both their devotion to duty and the high esteem in which the TEEX Fire School is held throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

A couple of hundred of those Latin Americans are guest instructors who spend the week teaching classroom courses and hands-on exercises. All instruction is therefore in Spanish; though some of the visitors are comfortable in English, and some members of the TEEX team can communicate perfectly well in Spanish, not everyone can bridge the language gap. There are, however, several occasions during the week when communication presents something of a challenge, and that’s where I come in.

I am a professional translator (written language) and interpreter (spoken language), working in English and Spanish. Though there is some translation work involved, most of what I do during Spanish School falls under the heading of interpretation, either at one of the training props or at meetings and consultations of one kind or another. Every day there is a morning and an afternoon briefing session at the Command Post. At these meetings the TEEX Leadership Group addresses the standing-room-only crowd of Latin American advisors, Operations Chiefs, Group Supervisors, and Task Force Leaders, as well as TEEX liaisons, supervisors, and support staff. As Chief Moore, or one of the other Chiefs speaks in English, I interpret what he says into Spanish, and when a Spanish-speaker wishes to say something, I interpret in the other direction. As Chief Moore, or one of the other Chiefs speaks in English, I interpret what he says into Spanish, and when a Spanish-speaker wishes to say something, I interpret in the other direction. We use what is called the ‘consecutive mode’ (as opposed to the ‘simultaneous mode’ that would require transmitters and headsets – think the United Nations), which involves the speaker talking in relatively short spurts then pausing to give me time to interpret what has been said. A speaker will sometimes get a little carried away and forget to pause, which is why I always have a pen and notebook handy to take notes rather than rely entirely on memory.

A constant challenge for an interpreter is the use of technical terms or jargon specific to, in this case, the firefighting world. The object of good interpretation is to communicate clearly whatever is being said, and when I first started coming to the Spanish School I would hear many words and acronyms that made no sense to me at all. Several years have passed since then, however, and most of the time I have a pretty good idea of what’s being discussed, which allows me to do a better job of transferring information from one language to another. But I learn something new every year, which is one of the many reasons I enjoy this assignment so much.

I mentioned that there was some translation involved. The daily briefing sessions generate status reports that are updated every afternoon, and one of my final duties of the day is to translate these documents into Spanish so that the Latin American teams can read them the following morning.

The most moving part of Spanish School is the Instructors’ Memorial Ceremony on Wednesday morning, and on this occasion I work as both a translator and an interpreter. The ceremony is so important to be left to impromptu speeches and off-the-cuff interpretations, so they are scripted in advance. I translate
Each year since 1930, the Brayton Fire Training School has hosted thousands of students and guest instructors for three hot weeks of Annual Schools in July. These schools are so large that they could not be taught without the selfless and committed volunteer guest instructors. Many of these men and women have been volunteering a week of their time for more than 30 years. They are veteran firefighters, officers, and chiefs from around the country; they not only teach, but also develop curriculum, help with student issues, and support outside events during the week. They are the heart and soul of TEEX’s busiest three weeks of the year and the Annual Schools could not run without them.

In honor of these special men and women, a memorial wall was designed and built at the front of Brayton Fire Training Field so that it would be the first thing visible upon arrival. The names of instructors who have given ten or more years of volunteer service to the fire school since 1929 are inscribed on the wall as a lasting memorial to their commitment to the education and training of firefighters from around the world. Built out of Texas granite, the memorial wall was completed in 2000 and expanded in 2012 to 17 sections to provide space for future names.

The Fallen Hero Statue was added in 2013. It is a place of reverence, where hats are to be removed and silence is observed. It is not uncommon to see a family member or friend standing at the wall in silent contemplation or to see someone tracing a name onto a piece of paper.

All construction and upkeep of the Memorial Wall area is solely dependent upon the generous donations and gifts from guest instructors, firefighters, families, citizens, companies, and associations.

Each year during each of the three schools, a memorial service is held to honor those guest instructors whose names have been added during the past year. Family members and friends come to College Station to stand in honor of their lost family member and witness the somber entrance of the Honor Guard, the posting of the colors, the lowering of the flag, the lone trumpet playing Amazing Grace, and the “555” ringing of the bell. As the bagpipers begin to play, one bagpiper slowly walks away and the music fades in the distance.

There is silence among the hundreds of witnesses as each thinks about the risks and dangers of the job they hold and the sacrifices made by so many who went before them.

Last year, Mr. Tony Beckwith, one of our special friends and a supporter who has been with the Annual Schools program for many years, offered up a poem he wrote which paid homage to those whose names filled the walls of the memorial. Upon reading it, Chief Robert Moore knew it was special and insisted that it be added to the memorial space, which was done this spring. We thank you, Mr. Beckwith, for sharing your gift of writing and for your love of the school. Your words represent what so many of us feel; now cast in bronze and permanently placed in front of the wall to be shared by all.

My Fallen Heroes

—Dr. Brandi Plunkett, ESTI Program Director, Leadership, Marketing, Curriculum, Certification, Evaluation
2014 ANNUAL SCHOOLS

With three summer Annual Fire Schools happening in July, the firefield is the hottest place to be!

48th Annual Spanish School

The 48ª Escuela para Bomberos en Español on July 6–11 drew 649 students from 17 countries for a week of challenging training in firefighting, rescue, and hazardous materials as well as instructor training—all conducted in the Spanish language. Seventeen courses were offered with the assistance of 195 guest instructors.

52nd Annual Industrial School

Attendees of the Industrial Fire School included 688 industrial firefighters and safety officers. Members of industrial emergency response brigades, attendees came from some of the world’s largest oil & gas and chemical companies from 30 states and 12 countries. Twenty-one course were offered with the assistance of 231 guest instructors.
85th Annual Municipal School

Cooler than usual weather fueled with some hot training drew 1,762 students and 533 guest instructors and safety officers for the 2014 Municipal Fire Training School. Students came from over 529 Texas cities and 184 counties as well as from 14 other states and two other countries.

—Janet Frye
TEEX Communications Coordinator

Did You Know?

The oldest student at the Municipal Fire School was 78 and the oldest student participating in a Firefighting course turned 70 July 20. Just goes to show that you’re never too old to learn!