



JOIN US FOR

# THE SKEPTIC'S NO-BS GUIDE TO FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21  
TIME: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

---

BENTON HARBOR CITY HALL  
200 E WALL  
BENTON HARBOR, MI 49022



**Troy**  
*Petersen*



**Erin**  
*McGruder*

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100

TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT, CONTACT BRIAN KAZMIERZAK

BKAZMIERZAK@BHCITY.US

# THE SKEPTIC'S NO-BS GUIDE TO FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

What is a skeptic?

skep-tic                /'skeptik/

Noun: a person inclined to question or doubt accepted opinions

During this one-day, frank and honest discussion-based workshop, we will explore your previous experiences as a student and an instructor, as well as other widely held beliefs and practices in mainstream training. We will look at "best practices" from a solid empirical study basis, rather than a "how we've always done it" lens. We will evaluate the emergency services instructor's role, responsibilities, and strategies skeptically.

Participants will define learning, then move to identify the roles of instructors and coaches. We will discuss methodologies designed to improve performance, ability, and even stress and longevity of our personnel through retrieval practice and performance standards that directly match the work. Participants will then be challenged to identify the goal of what they are delivering and to implement and manage it most effectively through deliberate practice and student-centered feedback.

## MEET THE SKEPTICS

Troy  
*Petersen*

Troy Petersen delivers performance-based training to fire departments of all sizes for Montana State Fire Training Services. He has managed the recruit training for Missouri's largest volunteer fire protection district. He retired as a Captain/Paramedic after 25 years of experience with the Kansas City (MO) Fire Department, most of which were spent in special operations and on Heavy Rescue 1 in downtown Kansas City. Petersen received multiple awards and numerous unit citations. As a FEMA USAR rescue specialist and search team manager, Petersen responded to notable events including 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the Joplin EF-5 tornado. His fire service career started in the suburban Chicago and St. Louis communities more than 35 years ago.

Erin  
*McGruder*

Erin McGruder has specialized in curriculum and instructor development for more than 10 years as a state training agency staff member. McGruder is a state advocate and Fellow for the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation. She is the Director of Education and Training for the International Society for Fire Service Instructors. She has served as a firefighter/EMT (20+ years) and a lead recruit academy instructor. She is a FEMA USAR Planning Team Manager (16 years), and was previously a disaster Live Find USAR canine trainer and handler (15 years). She holds a master's degree in public affairs and is currently pursuing a doctorate of philosophy in adult learning and leadership.