



Session 2C:

Photovoltaic/Energy Storage Systems Safety for First Responders

This program will review emergencies associated with Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Systems, centering on a review of an incident that occurred in Arizona in April, 2019 that injured several firefighters as they surveyed and metered the scene prior to entry into a battery enclosure. The program will also cover the main components of NFPA's first responder training for operations involving PV and BESS equipment.



Robert Duval
Senior Fire Investigation
National Fire Protection Association

Robert Duval is the NFPA's Senior Fire Investigator responsible for conducting investigations of significant incidents to gather "lessons learned" to improve NFPA codes and standards. He has conducted investigations into several incidents involving fatalities including the tragic Rhode Island nightclub fire that killed 100; the Hartford, CT nursing home fire that resulted in 16 deaths; and a residential hotel fire in Reno, NV that claimed 12 lives, as well as a hotel/ casino fire in Las Vegas that resulted in over \$100 million in damages. He was also a member of the FEMA Building Performance and Assessment Team (BPAT) that studied the World Trade Center disaster.

Mr. Duval was named the New England Regional Manager for NFPA in 2003. In this role, he interfaces with fire and building officials in the New England states regarding code related issues. He holds the rank of Chief of the Atwood Hose Fire Company in his hometown of Wauregan, CT and recently retired from the Connecticut Fire Academy after 20 years as a Staff Instructor. He also serves as a Communications Specialist with the State of Connecticut Urban Search and Rescue Team. Mr. Duval holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Northeastern University in Boston, MA.

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