

International High-Rise Operations Conference (IHROC) Announces Five-Day Research-Driven Training Event for November 9–13, 2026

Pensacola Beach, Florida — The International High-Rise Operations Conference (IHROC) is pleased to announce a five-day, research-focused training program scheduled for November 9–13, 2026. Delivered in partnership with **County Fire Tactics**, the event will bring together firefighters, instructors, researchers, and incident commanders from across North America and abroad. The aim is to advance the global understanding of high-rise firefighting operations through structured education, rigorous timed evaluations, and comprehensive data analysis.

The 2026 program is designed in response to the increasing complexity of high-rise buildings and the operational challenges that accompany them. Over the course of five days, IHROC will lead one of the most extensive performance studies to date, capturing measurable data across twelve critical high-rise operational challenges.

A Research-Driven Approach to High-Rise Operations

Participants will engage in an integrated training and research environment that includes:

- **Classroom Instruction** exploring fire dynamics, deployment models, situational factors, and operational science.
- **Hands-On Circuit Training** featuring WET and DRY evolutions across twelve scenario-specific challenges.
- **Timed Task Evaluations** examining standpipe operations, vertical movement, water supply, lithium-ion considerations, and wind-impacted fire behaviour.
- **Improvised Standpipe Operations**, including both interior and exterior coupling-drop methods.
- **Working-Group Analysis Sessions** utilizing dioramas, tactical models, and international case studies to review all collected data.

The final two days are dedicated to structured analytical work, contributing directly to future tactical models, academic research, and evidence-based best practices for high-rise firefighting.

Participants: A Profile of Today's Fire Service

IHROC welcomes firefighters from every level of experience, training background, and physical fitness profile. This diversity is intentional: meaningful research requires data that reflects the true operational realities found across the modern fire service.

A broad participant base strengthens the study, offering insight into how different departments and staffing configurations approach complex high-rise operations.

Program Highlights

Day One — Essentials (Teams of 2)

WET circuit training covering all twelve scenarios, supported by foundational instruction on high-rise firefighting principles.

Day Two — Deployment & Tactics (Teams of 3)

Four DRY tactical rotations addressing hallway stretches, wind-driven conditions, lithium-ion exposure protection, and smoke-control strategies.

Day Three — Improvised Standpipe Operations (Teams of 3)

Interior and exterior coupling-drop methods, cladding fire control concepts, and EV underground parking fire considerations.

Day Four & Day Five — Working-Group Analysis

A comprehensive, data-driven review of findings supported by international presentations and structured input for future operational development models.

Daily Media Features

- **Book Signing** — Open to all participants at the conclusion of each training day
- **Instructor Podcast** — Daily session featuring instructional staff insights
- **Participant Podcast** — Attendees share perspectives and operational experiences from their home departments

Registration Information

Registration will be managed through **County Fire Tactics**. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation. Conference fees support the venue, equipment procurement, consumables, and logistical requirements necessary to conduct hands-on evolutions safely and effectively.

About IHROC

The International High-Rise Operations Conference is committed to advancing the study and practice of high-rise firefighting. Through rigorous research, operational expertise, and hands-on evaluation, IHROC seeks to enhance firefighter readiness and improve safety outcomes for both responders and building occupants. Its mission is to strengthen high-rise firefighting capabilities worldwide through a unified, evidence-based approach.

