



# In-Person Firefighter/EMS Disability Awareness Train the Trainer Program Amherst, New York May 30th-31st, 2023



The Niagara University First Responder Disability Awareness Training (NU FRDAT) program is pleased to announce an in-person Firefighter/EMS Disability Awareness Train the Trainer for **New York State firefighters and EMS personnel**.

The ability to respond to individuals with disabilities has posed varying challenges to first responders across the country and high-profile cases have exposed the need for more involved awareness and education. As the population increases and more individuals are active in the community, the need to ensure accurate and appropriate response is critical. Developed with input from firefighters and EMS personnel from Missouri, New York and FDNY, it both sensitizes and educates firefighter/EMS personnel on how to effectively recognize, identify, approach, interact and respond (RIAIR MODEL) to various disabilities they will encounter in their line of duty.

Topics include, but are not limited to, disabilities defined & appropriate response, fire safety planning, etiquette and interaction skills, abuse recognition and response, challenging behaviors, service animals, emergency planning and preparedness, and people/identify first language.

**These trainings are open to both those who intend to train the program and those wanting to educate themselves on this important topic.** Attendees that do not plan to train the program will NOT receive the training manual or PowerPoint, but other resources will be provided. You must be able to attend both days in order to receive credit.

**About the Trainer:** David Whalen has been in the field of disabilities since 1986, founding Disability Awareness Training in 2004. He has conducted 600 training sessions, 250 of them for first and emergency responders. He has held numerous leadership positions serving individuals with developmental and other disabilities including 17 years at Niagara County ARC and Board Chair of Parent Network of WNY. Dave is a certified ADA trainer through the Region II Northeast ADA center. Dave is a member of the National Fire Protection Association's Disability Accessibility Review and Advisory Committee. He serves in a similar role as consultant to the Fire Department of New York, which trains all their personnel on this program. He is a 2007 Partners in Policy making graduate and the father of 25 year-old twins, his son has developmental disabilities.

**Date: May 30th & 31st, 2023**

**Time: 9:00am-5:00pm each day**

**Place: Amherst Police Training Facility,  
4220 Bailey Ave. Amherst, NY 14226**

**REGISTER at <http://frdat.niagara.edu/> or [CLICK HERE](#)**

**For more information, please contact:**

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