



Firefighter Tactics & Strategies to Safely Mitigate a Residential Structure Fire involving Solar Panels and Energy Storage Systems

Richard Birt, Captain (Retired)

Las Vegas Fire and Rescue

The basic firefighter strategies and tactics needed to mitigate a residential structure fire have changed with the installation of thousands of solar panel and battery storage systems in homes across the United States. As such, firefighters need updated training that addresses the presence of this technology. This class teaches a “bread-and-butter” approach to mitigating a residential structure fire involving solar panel and battery storage systems.



Captain Richard Birt retired in January 2021 from Las Vegas Fire and Rescue after a 30-year career in the fire service. Captain Birt and his family lived in a home for 13 years that was not connected to the electrical grid and was powered by a solar panel and battery system that Richard designed and installed himself.

A long-time advocate of renewable energy, Captain Birt was instrumental in the fight to keep the solar industry alive in Nevada. Captain Birt is also the founder of Solar And Fire Education (SAFE) which provides free training to firefighters across the country. The mission of S.A.F.E. is to teach firefighters how to safely mitigate a residential structure fire involving solar panels and batteries, and how renewable energy can help communities across the country become more resilient to power outages caused by grid failures.

Boulder County Regional Fire Training Center

6055 Reservoir Road, Boulder, Colorado 80301

***FREE* Reserved Seating at any 3-Hour Training**

Saturday, 1/29/22... 0900-1200

Monday, 1/31/22... 0900-1200

Tuesday, 2/1/22... 0900-1200

Register at www.BoCoFire.org

Captain Birt spearheaded a disaster relief effort in Puerto Rico after hurricane Maria. The mission resulted in the installation of 15 microgrids on strategically placed fire stations across the island. These microgrids enabled the emergency services to stay operational and save countless lives even after the complete destruction of Puerto Rico’s electrical grid. Captain Birt was awarded the Medal of Honor from his fire department for his work in Puerto Rico and continues his disaster relief work as a technical advisor for the non-profits Solar Responders and Empowered by Light.

<https://tinyurl.com/Birt1>



<https://tinyurl.com/Birt2>

