



March 11, 2021

Every June we look forward to the firefighters of the Commonwealth descending upon Lexington to experience a great week of training at the Kentucky State Fire School. As one of the longest running fire schools in the nation, we are proud of the thousands of firefighters who have taken the time to participate in furthering their skills and knowledge in the fire service, ultimately making their community a safer place.

In 2020, the school was forced to cancel for the very first time in 90 years due to the complexities surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. And now, as we look to the 2021 edition of the school, COVID-19 is still not in our rearview mirror. The committee has explored numerous ways this school could be kept as an in-person event. It is the feelings of the committee that hosting this school on a virtual platform would go against with the school's motto of "Learn By Doing". It is important that this school include hands on classes and it would not feel right to host this school without doing so.

However, due to logistics and planning as well as cancellation deadlines set by venues we are working with, a decision about hosting this school must be made based on today's COVID mandates and restrictions. Therefore, it is with great regret that the Kentucky State Fire School committee is announcing the cancellation of the 2021 school.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly and there are several overriding concerns that have caused us to make this decision at this time. First is the primary concern to prioritize the health and safety of all of our attendees. Second is the uncertainty surrounding state and local pandemic restrictions and regulations as to what they will be in June. There are variables and unknowns three months in the future that cannot be answered today. As you are well aware after the past year, the virus and the impact surrounding it is a fluid situation, even more so now as new virus variants have entered the mix.

We understand this announcement will affect firefighters across the state who depend on the quality instruction at State Fire School to continue their education and provide the best service to their community and apologize for any issues this may have created for your department. The State Fire School committee remains committed to excellence in fire training in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and hope that you will consider being a part of the grand tradition of the Kentucky State Fire School once we are safely able to resume this event. We will continue to work hard to ensure this fire school is one of the pre-eminent destinations for fire training in Kentucky. We are deeply disappointed to make this announcement, but look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Thank you for your understanding and stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

*State Fire School Committee*

*Kentucky Fire Commission*

*Kentucky Firefighters Association*

*Lexington Fire Department*