

Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation



OFFICER SAFETY NEWSLETTER



Welcome

CEOSF has been busy energizing the topic of Officer Safety across the country for Building, Code, and Fire Inspectors. We have new partnerships, a certification program, and an unscripted podcast series. The Foundation looks forward to new ways to promote safety across the profession. This also includes recent support of state legislation to protect Code Enforcement Officers. Do not forget to continue to report incidents! Every single entry makes a difference on the national level. Many new code enforcement bills are using the data we collect to show legislators the dangers we face.

Our Mission Statement:

"The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation exists to promote best practices for the safety of Code Enforcement Officers throughout the United States; to provide a resource for officers; report incidents; provide up-to-date training and to encourage a high standard of professionalism within our chosen profession."

Sponsors



WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

- [ICC Agreement - 2](#)
- [President's Message - 3](#)
- [Oklahoma Officials Honored - 4](#)
- [Sovereign Citizens \(pt. 3\) - 5](#)
- [Officer Safety Certification - 6](#)
- [Recent Incidents - 7](#)
- [Officer Memorial's - 8](#)
- [Lifeline Podcast - 9](#)
- [Officer Safety Book Review - 10](#)
- [Contact Us - 11](#)

ICC & CEOSF Enter into an Agreement



In May, during Building Safety Month, the Foundation and the International Code Council were excited to share that they entered into an agreement. ICC supports our focus on safety in the profession and looks to honor the fallen at future gatherings. The Board of Directors of CEOSF were very humbled by the support and understanding of ICC.

CEOSF is now a **Supporting Organization** of ICC, which is a unique opportunity. In addition, CEOSF is now a Preferred Education Provider so our officer safety classes count as CEU credit for ICC. This will help promote officer safety training for Code Officials, Building Inspectors, and Fire Inspectors. The agreement between ICC and CEOSF is a large step in the right direction and we look forward to partnering with ICC in future activities.



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 11, 2021

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International Code Council and Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation join forces to support code officials

New agreement facilitates increased collaboration between the two organizations and will lead to additional training and resources for building safety professionals

Washington, D.C. – The International Code Council and Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation (CEOSF) signed a memorandum of understanding to share resources and exchange information in support of code official safety. The new agreement will expand career development resources for code officials and increase collaboration between the two building safety organizations.

The Code Council and CEOSF will work together to promote best practices for the safety of code officials, provide resources and up-to-date training that encourages the highest standard of professionalism throughout the building safety community, and recognize code enforcement professionals that have paid the highest price to protect their communities.

“The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation is humbled and excited to gain the support of the International Code Council,” said CEOSF President Justin Edson. “The Foundation is focused on promoting the safety of code professionals across the United States through training, sharing resources, and collecting data. This is a common passion that the Code Council and CEOSF both share. The Foundation is grateful for the support from the International Code Council and we look forward to working together to promote the safety of code professionals. The Foundation supports the Code Council’s vision and we are honored to be a ‘supporting organization’ of the Code Council.”

“The Code Council has an unwavering commitment to building safety and to those individuals who have dedicated their careers to ensuring our buildings and communities are safe by implementing the latest codes and standards,” said Code Council Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, CBO. “By signing this agreement, we are proud to help further spread awareness of the special nature and immense value of building safety professionals.”

[Week 2](#) of the virtual celebration for [Building Safety Month](#) spotlights building safety professionals with a focus on training the next generation. Through the week, the Code Council, its members and its partners, will explore the importance of mentorship and networking in the building safety industry and the value of a well-trained workforce for maintaining safe buildings and communities. Learn more about the week two theme and activities [here](#).

To learn more about the importance of code officials to our communities, visit www.iccsafe.org/about/value-of-the-code-official/. Watch the “Value of the Code Official” video [here](#).

President's Message

I am so thrilled to see the momentum behind the Foundation's mission! To think this Foundation started less than a year ago with a mission to promote officer safety, provide resources, and is now teamed up with the International Code Council is truly remarkable. I have to commend our Board of Directors and Marketing Director for their hard work to keep this Foundation moving forward. We all volunteer our time and no one makes a profit from this non-profit charitable Foundation. We just believe passionately that Officer Safety needs to be a major topic of discussion.

Since the last newsletter we have had our National Discussion on Officer Safety, launched the Lifeline Podcast series, and started an international Code Official Safety Specialist (COSS) certification program. CEOSF is grateful for the ongoing support by all of you whether it is donating to the Foundation, signing up for classes, or sharing our information.

I look forward to our future events with the International Code Council and promoting officer safety for all inspectors. In June, I was invited to present to the ICC's national Chapter Leadership Academy for all Chapter leaders. I discussed the Foundation, its mission, and our certification program. Since that class, I am happy to report that several ICC Chapters are reaching out in support.

Keep in mind who we are - non-profit volunteers who want to offer the highest level of training to our profession. You might see other Officer Safety classes out there, but look at the experience and topic. They profit from those classes where ours goes back into the Foundation. Our Lead Instructor, Scott Kirshner, has 30+ years instructing on topics related to safety. He has a Master's Degree and numerous certifications, not just one or two. Just being a Code Enforcement Officer with years of experience does not compare to the knowledge and research that Scott has done over three decades. He has also worked in Community Development and understands the profession. He is also author of the book "Officer Survival for Code Enforcement Officers." At the end of the day, CEOSF has launched the first-ever Code Official Safety Specialist certification program with workbooks and ICC ceu's. Would you rather pay for education that goes back into this profession or someone's pocket? Sign-up for the July 124th class at www.codeofficersafety.org/certification



Justin Edson
CEOSF President



REPORT INCIDENTS



REPORT DEATH'S



FIND RESOURCES



REVIEW STATS

www.CodeOfficerSafety.org

CEOSF Honor's Officials in Oklahoma

The Foundation honored two professionals at the Oklahoma Code Enforcement Association Conference in May for their efforts to promote Officer Safety. Board Member Travis D. Guess presented both recipients with Certificates of Recognition and challenge coins in coordination with the OCEA Board. Thank you OCEA for your support!

Kevin McCullough - Took the initiative to contact different law enforcement agencies throughout the State for body armor they were not using in order to donate them to Code Enforcement Officers who needed them. He was able to distribute 40 vests to officers in need.

Maverick Fritsche - For efforts made to create State legislation to protect Code Enforcement Officers. Bill 1134 would make it a felony or misdemeanor to attack a Code Enforcement Officer.

We thank these two professionals for their commitment to keep others safe and promote officer safety in their state. It is so important to honor those who take steps to push this profession forward to a safer and more defined role. CEOSF is on the look out for other professionals across the United States to honor for their contributions to officer safety. Please email us with information at info@codeofficersafety.org.



CEOSF Board Member Travis D. Guess (left) presents Kevin McCullough (right) with his certificate and challenge coin.



CEOSF Board Member Travis D. Guess (left) presents Maverick Fritsche (right) with his certificate and challenge coin. OCEA also shared CEOSF statistics and website information in the foreground.

Understanding The Sovereign Citizen Threat (Pt. 3)

by Kirk Palmer, Master Code Officer (GA)

In our last installment, I discussed the “Leaderless Resistance” aka “Phantom Cell” strategy that Sovereigns and many other extremist groups employ to carry out their activities. In this installment, I will outline the incident that put Sovereign Citizens firmly on Law Enforcement’s Radar.

The incident has become known as the West Memphis (Arkansas) Incident... On May 20 2010, Officers Bill Evans and Brandon Paudert were patrolling I-40 near West Memphis, Arkansas as part of a drug interdiction operation. At 1136 hours, they initiated a traffic stop with a benign looking White Dodge Caravan that displayed an “unusual” Ohio license plate (Sovereigns often display self-styled license plates)... This “routine” traffic stop set in motion a tragic chain of events that lasted for approximately 174 minutes... During this time, two officers were murdered, two suspects were killed and two other officers were injured...

The timeline:

1136 hours – Traffic Stop initiated;

1146 hours – Jerry Kane (Van Driver) inundates Officer Evans with a stack of paperwork (Sovereign tactic) and begins to argue with the officer;

1148 hours – Joseph “Joe” Kane (Passenger) exits the vehicle with a fully automatic AK-47 and opens fire;

1149 hours – The Kane’s flee the scene leaving two dying officers behind;

1241 hours – The Kane’s enter a West Memphis, Arkansas Walmart parking lot. Jerry Kane is seen on surveillance video removing the license plate from the van;



1320 hours – The Kane’s are spotted by Arkansas Wildlife Officer Michael K. Neal after he sees them engaged with two other officers, Crittenden County Sheriff Dick Busby and W.A. Wren, Chief of Enforcement for West Memphis. Officer Neal, although outgunned, chooses to move out against the two cop killers. He later stated he thought the other officers had been killed (mercifully, they survived). He courageously rams the Kane’s van to prevent escape and then begins firing through his Truck’s windshield at the Kane’s van. The Kane’s fire over a dozen rounds at Officer Neal, who is unharmed. As more backup arrives, a massive gun battle ensues...

1345 hours – The gun battle ends with the deaths of Sovereign Citizens Jerry and Joe Kane.

Later, Chief Bob Paudert, Father of Brandon Paudert stated: “Bill and Brandon... didn’t understand who or what they were dealing with...”

Prior to this incident, while giving a “mortgage elimination technique” seminar, Jerry Kane was recorded on video stating: “I don’t want to kill anybody... but if they keep messing with me, that’s what it’s going to come down to...” The Kane’s were reputedly members of, or associates of the Sovereign Citizen group RuSA. The lesson to be learned from this tragic incident is this: Sovereign Citizens are extremely dangerous and will kill you given the opportunity. Since the Murrah Federal Building bombing in 1995, Thirty-Two Law Enforcement Officers have been killed by radical right extremists... Next time we will examine the Sovereign Citizen group that is considered to be the most dangerous: RuSA Rangers. Until then, stay alert and don’t get hurt!

About the Author

Kirk Palmer is a Master Code Officer (GA) with 26 years of law enforcement experience. He has certification as a POST Advanced Level Officer and POST Field Training Officer. He specializes in extremist groups and gangs and is an instructor for the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement. Kirk serves as the Sergeant at Arms for the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement (GACE).

Code Official Safety Specialist (COSS)

The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation is proud to offer the first-ever international Safety Specialist certification program designed specifically for Code, Building, Fire, and Housing professionals. As the national leader on Code Official officer safety and recognized by the International Code Council (ICC) as a Supporting Organization and Preferred Education Provider, the Foundation is excited to launch this international certification.

The Code Official Safety Specialist (COSS) certification is the first and only certification program offered to code professionals which specifically focuses on officer safety. The goal of this certification program is to provide Code Enforcement Officers, Building Inspectors, Fire Inspectors, Health Inspectors, and Housing Inspectors a minimum level of training and to provide foundational officer safety skills that lead to a certification. The Code Official Safety Specialist Certification sets the standard on officer safety and survival in the code enforcement profession.

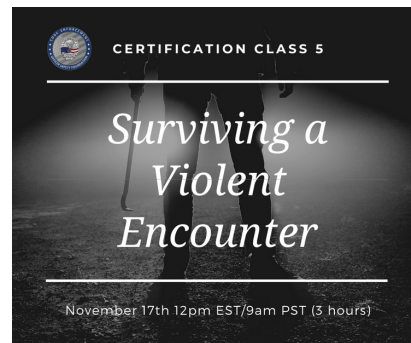
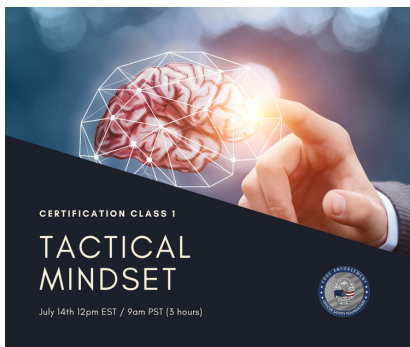
Upon successful completion of each course, which includes a quiz, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion. Participants who successfully complete the required 5 courses will receive an official certified Code Official Safety Specialist certificate and is then granted authorization by the Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation to use the acronym "COSS" after their name on business cards and correspondence. All required classes for the COSS certification need to be completed within a 12-month period.

ONLY for the discounted price of \$200 for all 5 classes.

Or \$50 each if signed up individually.

- **Tactical Mindset - July 14th (3 hours)**
- **Fear Management - August 11th (3 hours)**
- **Verbal De-escalation - September 15th (3 hours)**
- **3 Phases of a Contact - October 13th (3 hours)**
- **Surviving a Violent Encounter - November 17th (3 hours)**

GET CERTIFIED





Cast Your Historic Vote!

CEOSF is taking the initiative to finally solidify a thin line flag color for ALL Life Safety Inspectors across the country. There are three colors to choose from and we are excited to see the amount of votes coming in. This color will represent all Code Enforcement, Building, Housing, Health, and Fire Inspectors for their efforts to keep their communities safe. The time is now to be represented!

Cast your vote: www.codeofficersafety.org/thinline

Recent Incidents

June 12th (PA) - A resident showed up to my personal residence and asked if I was [my name]. Resident then pulled out notice issued to her and wanted to discuss. I told her I do not discuss work at my home and this can be discussed on Monday. I called PD about the incident.

June 10th (PA) - A Code Enforcement Officer went by a property for a follow-up inspection. During the conversation at the property, the owner pulled out a gun and the Code Enforcement Officer was able to run away. The Officer called the Police for help. The owner ran inside the home and several explosions were heard that caused a structure fire. Three total homes were burned and the suspect was found in the rumble.

June 9th (NY) - I encountered a situation on June 9th of this month where I responded to a property to investigate a complaint that was given by the Mayor of our Village and upon arrival I met with owner of the property and advised him of several issues like unregistered cars, car parts everywhere, porch falling down etc. After informing the owner he flipped out stating "Does he know how quick I can make a phone call and somebody disappears like that, I'm freaking sick of him, tell him get the f--- off my back or I will come down there and nobody is going to come out of that building alive, I aint f---ing playing with him I'm f---ing dying, I will kill him and I'll kill his f---ing family, tell him back the f--- off I'm in no f---ing mood for his s---, I don't bother nobody this is a federally regulated premise I can put a f---ing atom bomb here he cant regulate this f---ing place, he's an a-----e he's a f---ing drunk I will crucify him I'll have the Department of Justice crawl so far up his f---ing ass for harassing me that motherf----- wont take a s--t without somebody watching him, this is a federally regulated premise what goes on here is there f---ing business not him". The police were notified and heard the recording and got an arrest warrant after I signed a deposition stating what took place and they locked him up for terroristic threats but he was released on bail shortly after. Scary part of all of this is that the guy just found out he has lung cancer so he really has nothing to live for and to top it all off he has a Federal Firearms License and has large supplies of ammunition, automatic weapons and tons of parts to manufacture firearms. An order of protection is just a piece of paper and to guy with everything he's got going on in his life he could care less what happens to him.

May 15th (CA) - Doing an inspection on a small cul-de-sac I had been at the residence approximately 25 minutes explaining to the occupant the areas that still needed attention, I thought I was thorough with my directions but the occupant followed me back to my truck, I got in and closed the door he continued to talk about the property. I'm always aware of things going on around me and didn't see anyone else on the street and then I heard the loudest bang, the man at my window ducked down to the ground in the split second I thought someone was firing a gun at us. My truck shook violently and my entire body vibrated from what I later realized was an explosive thrown at the rear of my truck. I was in a marked truck and in full uniform. I feel this was an assault directed at me (nobody else out on the street but me and the occupant I was dealing with) I could only guess it came from the neighboring property which I had a case with 2 years ago. I immediately called the police who went out they found the evidence and gave the man who threw the explosives a notice to appear.

Thank You Partners!

CEOSF wants to thank all of our partner associations and sponsors! We appreciate state associations supporting the Foundation and the topic of officer safety for their members. It is important to recognize these associations for their commitment to their membership and keeping them safe. It is exciting to gain the support of the International Code Council (ICC). The Board of Directors met with their executives and were thrilled to hear of ICC's passion for the safety of the professionals in the building safety industry.



In Memory

From July through September we remember and honor those who have died serving their communities.

July 22nd – **LISA MARIE MELANCON**, Washington
(11th anniversary - Murder)

August 5th – **DAVID FLEETWOOD**, Pennsylvania
(8th anniversary - Murder)

August 9th – **JILL ROBINSON**, Utah
(3rd anniversary - Murder)

August 19th – **CYNTHIA VOLPE**, California
(29th anniversary - Murder)

August 20th – **CHARLES "CHIP" CASE**, Georgia
(1st anniversary - Murder)

August 21st – **KATHY ANN COX**, Georgia
(13th anniversary - Vehicle Accident)

August 31st – **JEFF ZIEGLER**, Ohio
(1st anniversary - Medical)



Lifeline Podcast Series

CEOSF launched a new podcast series called Lifeline. The goal is to be a lifeline of information to all Building, Code, and Fire Inspectors as we discuss safety concerns. The series releases a new episode every Friday on our website or on Apple Podcast if you search "CEOSF". If you have a topic you would like discussed or would like to be on an episode, please reach out to Justin at justin@codeofficersafety.org



CEOSF Lifeline Host Justin Edson discusses a variety of topics with guests on the series. Episodes include discussions on pushing new legislation, meeting family members of the fallen, what to look out for in training, safety concerns from a solo female code officers, and how Fire Marshals passed strong legislation.

<https://www.codeofficersafety.org/lifelinepodcast>

	Safety Concerns	51:50
	Lets Talk Legislation	31:36
	Quality Training	1:07:50
	Families of the Fallen	24:09

Donate Today to help our Mission!

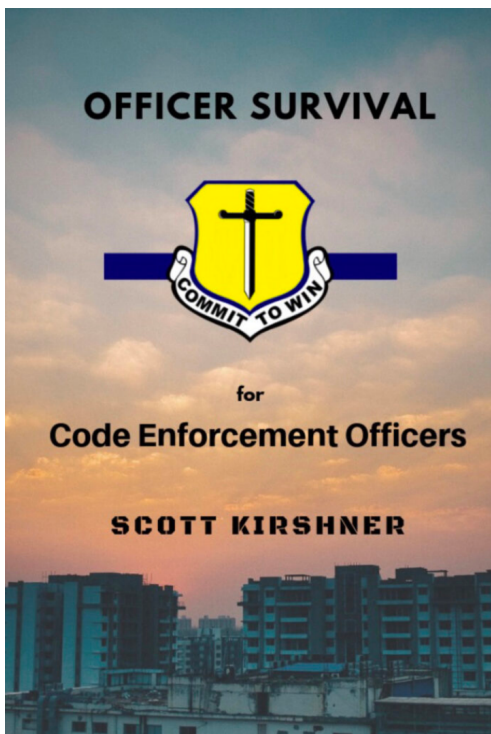
Did you know our Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization? All donations made to the Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation are tax deductible! What better way to help purchase vests for officers in need, keep the Foundation moving forward, and honoring the fallen? Any amount will help us keep the website up and contribute to our next body armor donation. We would recommend making **monthly** automatic donations of \$10 (the price of lunch). Visit www.codeofficersafety.org/donate

We are also seeking private corporations or other organizations interested in making donations! We have donor level packages that promote you as a Foundation supporter for the generous donation you make. By donating at these levels you can reach thousands of Code Enforcement professionals across the entire country. Show your support today. Large donations and corporate sponsors, please contact President Justin Edson at justin@codeofficersafety.org

"Officer Survival for Code Enforcement Officers"

by Justin Edson, CCEA

There are not many books or resources out there related to Code Enforcement, let alone officer safety. I wanted to share my review of this book written by Scott Kirshner, M.Ed., SAS-AP. "Officer Survival for Code Enforcement Officers" stands alone on the market for a book that discusses officer safety for field inspectors. Other books might touch on the subject, but this book dive's deep. Not only am I aware of many supervisors who bought this book for their team, but I know of at least one state association that bought a copy of this book for hundreds of their members.



This book makes you think outside your routine. As Building Inspectors, Fire Inspectors, or Code Enforcement Officers; we find ourselves interacting with dozens of people a day explaining how to achieve compliance with codes. Sure we are not chasing suspects down or arresting drug dealers, but you would be in a bubble to believe our job is perfectly safe. I have worked for different cities as a Code Enforcement Officer, Manager, and Building Manager. I have been right next to Police Officers as we addressed homeless camps, went into vacant structures, or when I posted a structure as unsafe. I have been threatened for shutting down a business or removing someone from their home for unsafe conditions. I have had a Detective Sergeant call me and say that they received a complaint that a business owner I shut down for having an illegal business, was going to go "postal". You bet I checked every car behind me, watched where I parked, and kept my head on a swivel. As code officials tasked with enforcing life safety codes, we have an impact on peoples lives. Sometimes this impact can be negative to the person and depending on their current emotional or mental state, might be the trigger that sets them off. We have to be mindful of cues and how we interact with folks. There are great self-assessment questions throughout this book to help guage your mindset.

"Officer Survival for Code Enforcement Officers" is a resourceful tool for all inspectors. Scott Kirshner discusses mindset and even first aid! As he states, "job titles and authority do not protect you against violence." Sometimes the attacks are ambushes, but others may show signs leading up to violence. The exercises he has in this book help you think about yourself and your safety. It was a very easy read that kept me engaged and I completed it in a weekend. Scott spent time working with a Community Development team and saw what they faced. This ignited his interest in publishing this great book. Do Police Officers and Fire Fighters go to continued education and read books on their profession? Yes! Find the time to read this book, think about your safety, and apply this knowledge when you go to work everyday. I cannot say enough that complacency and thinking our job is not dangerous is a pure fallacy and a threat to your safety. This book is on sale on Amazon for under \$13.00, it is a no brainer to pick it up! Purchase it here: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

About the Author

Justin Edson is a Certified Code Enforcement Administrator with nearly 15 years of experience in law enforcement. He is a Code Enforcement Manager in California and serves on the state associations Board of Directors. He is also a state Certified Code Enforcement Officer, Situational Awareness Specialist (SAS), and POST Field Training Officer.

Contact Us



Newsletter

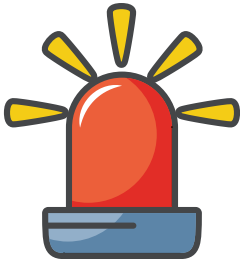
Please contact us if you have a question regarding our newsletter, would like to see a specific topic in the next one, or would like to be a contributor.

For general questions & newsletter requests: info@CodeOfficerSafety.org



Partnerships

If you would like to become a recognized partner as an association that supports us or as a donor, then please contact Justin Edson at justin@codeofficersafety.org



Body Armor Donation Requests

Are you a Code Enforcement Officer in need of body armor and either can't afford it or your agency does not provide one? Please email us about your situation to see if we can donate a vest at info@CodeOfficerSafety.org



Remember to Report

The data we collect is dependent on you reporting incidents when they occur. The data is used by state associations and jurisdictions to make a case on officer safety legislation and equipment. Whether you were threatened, assaulted, stalked, or attacked by an animal; it is all important data. We keep your information and agency information private.

www.CodeOfficerSafety.org