


Chief Dennis Compton

Mesa Fire Department, Retired

Biographical Sketch



Chief Dennis Compton is a well-known speaker and the author of several books including a three-part series titled *When in Doubt, Lead*, another titled *Mental Aspects of Performance for Firefighters and Fire Officers*, and many articles for various publications. He is also the Co-Editor of the current edition of the textbook titled *Managing Fire and Rescue Services*. He is a respected advisor to the fire service and other disciplines as well.

Dennis was the Fire Chief in Mesa, Arizona for five years and Assistant Fire Chief in Phoenix, Arizona, where he served for twenty-seven years. Chief Compton has served as Chairman of the Executive Board of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) and Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Institute's National Advisory Committee. He is currently Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Board of Directors and Chairman of the Home Safety Council Board of Directors.

Chief Compton was selected as the 1991 George D. Post National Fire Service Instructor of the Year, and the American Fire Sprinkler Association's Fire Service Person of the Year in 2000. Dennis was also named the 2001 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the University of Phoenix, and received the 2003 Mason Lankford National Fire Service Leadership Award. He also received the 2007 Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2009 Arizona Fire Chiefs Association Lifetime Achievement Award, and is a charter member of the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame.