



## Final Four Fire Chief Candidates Interview in Lincoln

By: Joe McHale - Email

Updated: Wed 6:34 PM, Nov 11, 2015



**LINCOLN, Neb.--** The four finalists for Lincoln's next fire chief interviewed in the Capital City Wednesday. The candidates sat through two panels, answering hours of questions ranging from diversity and training, to innovation and [technology](#).

Members of a committee that selected the finalists were Public Safety Director Tom Casady, [Health](#) Director Judy Halstead, Human Resources Director Doug McDaniel and Mayoral Aide Molly Burton.

Mayor Chris Beutler will make the final decision on who to hire.

Below is a list of the four finalists and some of their accomplishments.

Perry Guido

Bellevue Fire Chief since 2009 and former Assistant Fire Chief in Omaha.

John Rukavina


Director and Principal of Public Fire Safety [Services](#) in Asheville, North Carolina, where he was Fire Chief for 14 years.


Began his fire service career as a firefighter in Roseville, Minnesota in 1972.

Law degree from the University of Minnesota School of Law in 1976, practiced law briefly, then joined the staff of the University of Minnesota's Fire [Information](#), Research and Education (FIRE) Center. St. Paul Fire in 1980, was appointed Fire Chief in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1984, interim City Manager of St.

Joseph in early 1986, and then Fire Chief of Asheville, North Carolina from November, 1986 until May, 2000.

Jerome Schirmer


Assistant Chief - Operations/Emergency Services for the Superstition Fire and Medical  District in Arizona.

Prior to SFMD, Chief Schirmer served 28 years at Mesa Fire & Medical Department and during that time worked as a Firefighter, Paramedic, Fire Engineer , Fire Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief. Chief Schirmer also worked in the Special Operations and Training Division with the Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials response teams. He was also a Tactical Medic with the TEMS Team.

Additionally, Chief Schirmer served as faculty, as an instructor for the Mesa Community College Fire Science and EMT Program, instructing paramedicine and fire science courses.

Thomas Solberg

First (full-time) Fire Chief for Pleasant Hill, Iowa and was the Director of the Fire Service Training School at Montana State University.

He was also Fire Chief for the Peoria, Arizona Fire Department for three years, and he served the Lee's Summit, Missouri Fire Department for 30 years, the last nine years as Fire Chief. Mr. Solberg has a master's degree in Management, a bachelor's degree in Business Administration  and an associate degree in Business, all from Baker University in Kansas.

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