

# Training Opportunities

## National Fire Academy and Emergency Management Institute

**National Fire Academy** in Emmitsburg, MD has several programs.

The NFA offers 6 and 10 day classes throughout the year. You can go to one class per year with free room and travel. The meal plan is \$175 for the cafeteria plan (6 day class). They have several arson investigation, community fire safety, and prevention classes, as well as a special operations program management, training program management, etc. The classes have firefighters from all over the country. The networking is awesome.

There are two application periods per year for the “semesters. Apply in June for classes in October-March. Apply in Nov/Dec for classes to be taken in April-Sept. Classes that don’t fill up will be posted on line with a first come, first served application process.

Most classes have 20-25 students. They will be a mix from all around the US; career, volunteer, large and small FDs.

Recommended 6 day Courses for Company Officers:

Command and Control of Incident Operations R0831; Command and Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards R0825; Command and Control Decision Making at Multiple Alarm Incidents R0297; Emergency Medical Services: Incident Operations R0147; Management Strategies for Success R0824

The Managing Fire Officer (MFO) program is for company officers. It is a two-year program, two weeks per year. It is specifically for officers who are eager for additional responsibility and want to be involved in projects that will prepare them for higher rank.

The king of the programs is Executive Fire Officer (EFO). It is a 4-year program. You attend a two week on campus course each year, and complete a research paper for each year. This is becoming the most demanded qualification for fire chiefs. Prerequisite is a bachelor’s degree. Other than the meal plan, it is free.

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/index.html>

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/apply.html>

NFA also offers classes within the state of Arkansas. These are called “Direct Deliveries” and the schedule is published regularly in FireMail from AFA. These classes are free. Examples include Decision Making for Initial Company Operations; Leadership in Supervision; Shaping the Future; and Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction.

**The Emergency Management Institute** is on the campus of NFA in Emmitsburg. Same setup, you only pay for food. You can take more than one class per year if you are selected. All EM courses though. You could get certified as an Emergency Manager for the cost of meals if you go to enough classes. Also have a bunch of online courses.

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<https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/>

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftraining.fema.gov%2FEMICourses%2Fdocs%2FFY16%2520Catalog.pdf>

## **Oklahoma State University Fire Service Training**

OSU offers several courses throughout the year, several of which provide IFSAC certification. Locations vary.

<http://www.osufst.org/>

<https://my.osufst.org/schedule>

## **Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM)**

ADEM provides hazmat, active shooter, incident command, and emergency management training for free to Arkansas first responders. Courses are found on their website here:

<https://www.adem.arkansas.gov/training>

## **National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC)**

Includes several organizations that provide emergency responder training, mostly related to combating terrorism and natural disasters. Each State receives a certain number of class slots, so if you are interested in a class at any of these we have to go through ADEM.

### **-SERTC (Security and Emergency Response Center)**

Offers online and resident courses on various subjects, most hazmat related. Online courses range from free to a \$50 fee. Resident classes can be free if grant funded. ADEM and Kansas City Southern Railroad are common sponsors. In Pueblo, CO.

<http://sertc.org/>

### **-Center for Domestic Preparedness**

Offers resident courses on various subjects, most fire service courses are advanced hazmat or infectious disease related. In Anniston, AL.

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/find-training>

### **-Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center**

In Socorro, NM, EMRTC provides resident first responder training on dealing with explosives.

<http://www.emrtc.nmt.edu/training/>

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## **-Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)**

DHS/FEMA funded courses delivered via web or on site. Most are related to CBRNE Terrorism.

<https://teex.org/Pages/Course-Catalog.aspx?catID=603&level=1&catName=DHS/FEMA-Funded>

## **-Center for Radiological Nuclear Training (CTOS)**

Offers local and resident radiological training from its campus in Las Vegas, NV.

<http://ctosnnsa.org/index.htm>

## **Conferences**

### **Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC)**

FDIC is the oldest and largest fire service conference. It is held every April in Indianapolis, Indiana and is sponsored by *Fire Engineering* magazine. The conference begins with Hand's On Training (HOT) classes on Monday and Tuesday. These cost approximately \$600/day and are in addition to the cost of the regular conference, which is approximately \$650. The conference classes and events start on Wednesday and run through Saturday at noon. Most classes are 1.5-2 hours in length. The exhibit floor covers the convention center as well as the football stadium and outdoor space between them, representing every major and minor manufacturer of fire equipment. There are several social functions at the end of each day.

<http://www.fdic.com/index.html>

### **Fire Rescue International (FRI)**

FRI is the annual conference for the International Association of Fire Chiefs. It is held every July or August and the location varies. Cost of the conference is approximately \$650. The conference classes and events start on Wednesday and run through Saturday at noon. Most classes are 1.5-2 hours in length. The exhibit floor covers the convention center, representing every major and minor manufacturer of fire equipment. There are several social functions during lunch hours and at the end of each day.

<http://events.iafc.org/micrositeFRIconf/>

**Other conferences** include the annual Arkansas Fire Chief's Convention, Fire-Rescue Med (Henderson, NV), IAFC Hazmat Conference (Baltimore), Hot Zone (Houston), NFPA Conference & Expo (location varies), Firehouse World (San Diego), Firehouse Expo (Nashville), EMS World (Las Vegas)

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## Firefighter Training Companies

Dozens of firefighter-owned training companies present various programs throughout the US. Some that are well known include **Task Force 1, Nozzle Forward, Brothers in Battle, Rise Above Fire Training, Vent-Enter-Search**, etc. Most of these companies are on Facebook and travel the country for various classes, seminars, and weekend conferences. Some of these include the Andy Fredericks Training Days in VA, Art of Firemanship Conference in PA, Firemanship Conference in OR, Orlando Fire Conference (FL), and the list goes on. All require some cost for registration and travel.

## Web-based Training

### **Blue Card Hazard Zone Management**

This class was put together by Chief Brunacini and his sons from Phoenix. The program's intent is to prepare company officers and Battalion Chiefs for acting as incident commanders at Type I and II incidents. It includes 50 hours of online training followed by 3 days in class. The classroom portion includes two days of simulations, where each student rotates through the various positions, from first due company officer to battalion level command. The program emphasizes firefighter safety, including size-up, communications, RIT operations, and transfer of command. Currently, the closest training center for the classroom portion is in Midwest City, OK, a 3 hour drive.

<http://bshifter.com/>

### **Underwriters Laboratory Fire Safety Research Institute-UL-FSRI**

UL-FSRI conducts experiments for the fire service on fire behavior, tactics and equipment. Visitors to their facility in Illinois are always welcome to witness the testing and discuss their programs. They work with the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) to provide online training courses to distribute the results of their testing. Some of their classes include: Firefighter Safety and Photovoltaic (PV) Systems; Horizontal Ventilation in Legacy and Contemporary Residential Construction; Effectiveness of Fire Service Vertical Ventilation and Suppression Tactics in Single Family Homes; Residential Attic and Exterior Fire Hazards; Positive Pressure Attack. <http://ulfirefightersafety.org/>

### ***Fire Engineering Website***

*Fire Engineering* has dozens of instructional videos as well as the archive of all of its magazine articles. You will need to register on the site but it is free and you do not require a subscription. <http://www.fireengineering.com/video.html>

### **National Fire Academy Web based Courses**

Include fire simulations as well as traditional academic style courses.,

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html>

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## **A-Train**

Dozens of Emergency Management, Health Care, Fire, and Terrorism related on-line courses. Links to many other agencies. <https://ar.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>

## **IAFC Hazmat Fusion Center**

On line courses and some grant funded seminars available.  
<http://www.hazmatfc.org/hazmatfusioncenter/trainingandresources.html>

## **YouTube**

YouTube has a wealth of videos that can be used for training, from all over the world. Quality and legitimacy can be suspect. Tactics may be poor, mistakes caught on video, and there is no guarantee that the person demonstrating a skill has any legitimate ability or experience in doing so. Watch with a critical eye!

## **Facebook**

There are dozens of fire training related pages on Facebook. Most of the training companies referenced above have a Facebook page as well. Some others worth following:

*Engine Company Specialist*  
*The First Line*  
*Truck Floor Training*  
*Redefining the Engine Company*  
*Kill the Flashover*  
*Arkansas Fire News*  
*Fire Training Toolbox*  
*Statter 911*  
*The Hazmat Guys*  
*Hazmat Nation*

*Fully Involved*  
*Dixie Firemanship*  
*Step Up and Lead*  
*Hustle & Flow*  
*First-In Firefighter*  
*Fit to Fight Fire*  
*The Fire Asylum*  
*Firefighter Close Calls*

## **Executive Development**

### **IAFC Fire Service Executive Development Program**

This program is funded by Motorola and sponsored by the IAFC. It is directed at new or future fire chiefs who want to provide leadership to the fire service beyond their own department. 20 people selected from around the country, and they make selections with variety and diversity in mind. The application requires a letter from the Chief or a superior supporting your application, and a letter explaining what you expected to gain from the program. Application period is in December.

There are 4 trips involved in the year long program. The first is a 6 day week at a conference center for orientation. There are two 4 day meetings later in the year. Cost of travel, room, and

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food are all covered. They sign you up for the IAFC Forums and give you a page restricted to your class and alumni so you can work together. There is also a project whose requirements remain a mystery to me so far. FD or the student are responsible for time off.

Students in the program are also required to attend the IAFC Conference, FRI (Fire Rescue International), which takes place every Aug but the location varies. The cost is on the student or their dept.

<http://www.iafc.org/FSEDI?navItemNumber=7372>

## **Professional Credentialing**

The Center for Public Safety Excellence has a credentialing program for agencies as well as individual members seeking designation as a Fire Officer (FO), Fire Marshal (FM), Chief Training Officer (CTO), Chief EMS Officer (CEMSO), and Chief Fire Officer (CFO). The process requires submission of a large application and resume package, peer review, and payment of fees. The application is a superb document to use for reviewing your qualifications and experience to find any holes in your resume. The CFO designation has become a “must have” for prospective fire chiefs.

[http://www.cpse.org/professional-credentialing/designations/chief-fire-officer-\(cfo\).aspx](http://www.cpse.org/professional-credentialing/designations/chief-fire-officer-(cfo).aspx)

## **Professional Reading**

As professional firefighters and officers, there are many books available to us that speak to our occupation, and many others related to basic supervisory skills. The SSFD has established a professional reading list to provide background on the fire service at large, introduce you to significant events that have shaped our current environment, stimulate critical thinking skills, and hopefully stir your curiosity to learn more. The list is separated into sections by rank, and each rank includes books on fire service history, fires that influenced major change, leadership, and fireground tactics and strategy.

Professional reading also includes the journals and magazines related to our profession. Some of the most available:

*Fire Engineering*  
*Firehouse*  
*Fire Rescue*  
*JEMS*

*NFPA Journal*  
*FireApparatus and Emergency Equipment*  
*Fire Nuggets*-web only

## **Career Coaching**

A wide variety of companies and individuals provide training and coaching on interview skills, assessment centers, and resume writing. Costs vary. These may be very helpful, but are often costly. Before paying for coaching from someone unfamiliar with your department and its

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policies, leadership philosophy, and culture, take advantage of the resources that you have at hand:

- Officers and Chiefs of your Department
- Officers, Chiefs, and instructors from neighboring Fire Departments
- Peers and friends both on the job and in other occupations.
- Peers and friends from other Fire Departments across the country that you have met at NFA or other outside classes.
- Reach out via email or phone to the writers of articles that helped you learn something.

Any leader worth his/her salt will be happy to assist you in making yourself better and more competitive.

Two recommended career coaching websites:

Steve Prziborowski at <https://www.code3firetraining.com/>

Pete Lamb at [firefightingtoday.com](http://firefightingtoday.com)