Course Catalogue

Montgomery County
Fire Academy

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

Kenneth E. Lawrence, Jr.  Jamila H. Winder  Joseph C. Gale
Chair  Vice Chair  Commissioner

2023
MISSION

The mission of the Montgomery County Fire Academy is to provide firefighters who protect Montgomery County with highly professional, well coordinated, cost effective fire suppression, rescue and hazardous materials training, certification and education that meets or exceeds state, local and national fire training standards; that is delivered in a positive learning environment; and, is consistent with the fire service emergency support functions set forth in the National Response Framework.

Michael O. Vest
Department of Public Safety
Director
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From John Weed’s Desk

As we welcome the start of 2023, it is worth noting numerous changes that have occurred over the past year at the Montgomery County Fire Academy.

A significant change was the retirement of Tom Garrity in July after serving 12 years as the director of the Fire Academy. Tom brought a wealth of experience from his previous 36 years at the Philadelphia Fire Department, including 17 years as Deputy Chief.

During his tenure in Montgomery County, Tom oversaw the presentation of thousands of classes to tens of thousands of firefighters, providing hundreds of thousands of hours of training. He was also responsible for numerous improvements to the facilities and led the Fire Academy through the COVID-19 pandemic, overseeing the introduction of virtual classes.

I started my new position First Deputy Director – PSTC in December with direct responsibility for Emergency Medical Services, the Fire Academy, and the Law Enforcement Division. My background includes 42 years of law enforcement experience, starting as a dispatcher in 1980 and progressing through the ranks to Deputy Chief of Police. I am also a life member of the Independent Fire Company and the Ogontz Fire Company. I have familiarity with the Public Safety Training Campus as well, where I have worked as an EVOC instructor for the Fire Academy and the Law Enforcement Division for the past 20 years.

With the generous support of our County Commissioners, the Fire Academy saw the completion of the Special Operations Training Facility, also known as ‘Rescue World,’ and it hosted its first training session in December. It includes a dedicated trench rescue prop and several props associated with vehicle rescue, including a highway-style guardrail, moveable Jersey barriers, a telephone/electric pole prop and a sloped area to simulate accidents taking place on an incline.

We’ve adjusted the minimum age requirements for the Essentials program in accordance with Act 155 of 2022, a new state law that reduced the age to 17 to participate in the live-burn Interior Firefighter module. To align with that change, we have also reduced the age to 16 and older to participate in the first three modules of the program, Introduction to the Fire Service, Fireground Support and Exterior Firefighter.

We finally emerged from the COVID 19 pandemic and the Fire Academy was able to return to its full schedule of course offerings last year. In 2022, the Fire Academy processed 5,202 registrations for 3,800 students enrolled in 309 classes. This included 40 virtual classes that served 787 students and 20 certification tests for 371 candidates at 9 different levels.

We look forward to serving the firefighters of Montgomery County and we will continue to expand and improve course offerings, our training facilities and support recruitment and retention initiatives in 2023.

John B. Weed, First Deputy Director – PSTC, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety
The Special Operations Training Center opened recently. It improves our ability to support technical rescue training, drills and exercises.

The props associated with vehicle rescue include a highway-style guardrail, moveable Jersey barriers, a telephone/electric pole prop and a sloped area to simulate accidents taking place on an incline that can also be used for low-angle rescue training.

The dedicated trench rescue prop significantly improves the safety of training for responding to trenches, open pits and similar environments. When conducted in an actual trench, such training is significantly more hazardous.
Firefighter Code of Ethics

I understand that I have the responsibility to conduct myself in a manner that reflects proper ethical behavior and integrity. In so doing, I will help foster a continuing positive public perception of the fire service. Therefore, I pledge to do the following…

- Always conduct myself, on and off duty, in a manner that reflects positively on myself, my department and the fire service in general.
- Accept responsibility for my actions and for the consequences of my actions.
- Support the concept of fairness and the value of diverse thoughts and opinions.
- Avoid situations that would adversely affect the credibility or public perception of the fire service profession.
- Be truthful and honest at all times and report instances of cheating or other dishonest acts that compromise the integrity of the fire service.
- Conduct my personal affairs in a manner that does not improperly influence the performance of my duties, or bring discredit to my organization.
- Be respectful and conscious of each member’s safety and welfare.
- Recognize that I serve in a position of public trust that requires stewardship in the honest and efficient use of publicly owned resources, including uniforms, facilities, vehicles and equipment and that these are protected from misuse and theft.
- Exercise professionalism, competence, respect and loyalty in the performance of my duties and use information, confidential or otherwise, gained by virtue of my position, only to benefit those I am entrusted to serve.
- Avoid financial investments, outside employment, outside business interests or activities that conflict with or are enhanced by my official position or have the potential to create the perception of impropriety.
- Never propose or accept personal rewards, special privileges, benefits, advancement, honors or gifts that may create a conflict of interest, or the appearance thereof.
- Never engage in activities involving alcohol or other substance use or abuse that can impair my mental state or the performance of my duties and compromise safety.
- Never discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual preference, medical condition or handicap.
- Never harass, intimidate or threaten fellow members of the service or the public and stop or report the actions of other firefighters who engage in such behaviors.
- Responsibly use social networking, electronic communications, or other media technology opportunities in a manner that does not discredit, dishonor or embarrass my organization, the fire service and the public. I also understand that failure to resolve or report inappropriate use of this media equates to condoning this behavior.

~ Developed by the National Society of Executive Fire Officers
Rules and Regulations.

Thousands of students, instructors and other visitors attend training, exercises, drills and meetings at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus every year. In order to provide an environment that is conducive to learning and to maintain individual safety and privacy, it is necessary to enforce these minimal rules and regulations:

1. The use of cameras, video tape, digital recording or similar electronic transmissions of images, of individuals, the grounds, etc. as well as images by cell phone requires prior permission from the Deputy Director of Public Safety, Fire Programs.

2. Firearms, offensive weapons, or explosive material may not be brought onto the facility property without authorization. This does not apply to those who utilize firearms as part of their employment, such as police officers.

3. The County reserves the right to search persons and vehicles on the property.

4. The County may restrict access to the facility based on qualifications, credentials or conduct.

5. Parking is restricted to designated parking spaces.

6. Students may not use tobacco products in the buildings or on the grounds except in designated areas.

7. Groups requesting use of the facility are required to complete an application process.

8. Dress code is to be in accordance with the nature of the class. Classroom attire should be business casual.

9. The instructor may prohibit communication during class using cell phone or computer. Cell phones should be placed on vibrate during class.

10. The PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy will be enforced for all courses or curricula that require the student to use self-contained breathing apparatus. A trimmed moustache is permitted.

11. Students are expected to arrive for class on time. Repeated lateness may result in the student being removed from the class. Students who arrive late for a live-fire class or skills testing and miss safety briefings or equipment checks at the start of class will not be allowed to attend that class.
Registering for Training at the Montgomery County Fire Academy.

Individuals wishing to attend a Montgomery County Fire Academy training program must complete and submit a Student Registration Form. The Student Registration form is available online at the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety webpage/Fire Academy Forms.

The Student Registration Form must be submitted as a hard copy or as a scanned copy attached to an e-mail. Registrations must have the signature approval of the student’s fire company, ambulance company, rescue company or employer who approves the student for training and attests to the requirements of age and Worker’s Compensation insurance.

If pre-requisite training is required in order to register for training, the MCFA may require the student to provide proof of the pre-requisite training prior to registration. Students must register at least 10 calendar days prior to the scheduled start date of training. Registrations received less than 10 days before the start date of training are accepted at the discretion of the Training Coordinator.

Students will be accepted on the timeliness of their application, i.e. the first to apply is the first to be accepted. MCFA may limit the number of students in any class based upon the constraints of the training. MCFA reserves the right to reserve seats in any class for Montgomery County firefighters or Montgomery County public safety organizations whose employees require this training. MCFA may deny training to anyone who is being prosecuted for or convicted of arson or a related crime, who is on probation for a criminal offense or who has been convicted of a felony.

MCFA may waive the requirement for Fire Chief/Employer approval.

Students are sent email confirmations of registration in a particular class. An email attachment lists the location, dates and times of each session. Students who do not receive a confirmation within ten days of submission should call (610-278-3500) or email (Cynthia.Myers@montgomerycountypa.gov) the Fire Academy Registrar to confirm they are registered. Students who are not registered cannot attend class.

Payment.

Checks should be made payable to the Montgomery County Treasurer.

In order for the MCFA to bill a student’s fire company, ambulance company, rescue company or employer the student must have the approval of their chief, training officer or employer, either as a signature on the Company Authorization line of the application form or with an e-mail from the chief, training officer, employer or the individual with this authority.

Training courses and facility use may be denied to individuals or fire companies whose account is past due by 180 days or more.

Reimbursement

Students who wish to withdraw from a training program must notify the registrar Cynthia Myers either by phone (610-278-3500), by e-mail (Cynthia.Myers@montgomerycountypa.gov), with a fax or a letter. Fire Company officers may withdraw members using the same procedure.

Montgomery County will refund fees for cancelled training as long as the MCFA is notified prior to the scheduled start of the training. Courses may be cancelled for inadequate registration. Should the MCFA cancel training for any reason students will receive full reimbursement.
Use of Training Grounds

Fire Companies that would like to use the burn building, drill tower, smoke house, pump pad or special operations training facility should submit their request on the MCFA web site using the Facility Request Form.

In Station Training

Fire companies that request training at their station should submit their request on the MCFA web site using the Training at Your Station Form. Requests must be submitted four to six weeks prior to the start date of the class.

Online Classes

Students taking online classes must sign in to the session individually using the same name they used to register for the class. Students must keep their camera on during class and keep their computer or device muted unless interacting with the instructor or other students.

Course Certificates

Students will be handed course certificates at the end of class whenever possible. Those certificates which are test dependent will be mailed to the fire house in a clearly marked envelope. Certificates are mailed about once a month toward the end of the month. Certification certificates will be mailed to the student’s home address.

EMS Continuing Education Credit

Students that desire continuing education credits for courses they attend at the fire academy should copy their certificate and submit it to the Montgomery County EMS Institute for credit by endorsement.
Weather Related Closing

In the event weather conditions are poor, students should check the Department of Public Safety Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mcpublicsafety or Twitter: https://twitter.com/MCpublicsafety. Off site classes will be cancelled as well.

Course Equivalencies:

Interior Firefighter — Firefighter I Certification (ProBoard/IFSAC)

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Montgomery County Fire Academy

**Advanced Fire Police (FIPA)**

**Hours:** 16  
**Prerequisite:** At least 18 years of age, Basic Fire Police (BFPO)  
**MCFA # ** 1571  
**Manual:** Issued in class  
**Auxiliary equipment:** pen/pencil & notebook; manual each class  
**Certificate:** MCFA  
**Limit:** 35 students

Advanced Fire Police reviews topics from the Basic Fire Police (FIFO) course and also introduces the student to issues of leadership, training responsibilities, report writing, court testimony and public relations. This course is designed for the Fire Police officer who wishes to fully explore the roll of the fire police in the fire service.

**Advanced Line Systems Rescue (ALSR) — PA Fish and Boat Commission**

**Hours:** 16  
**Prerequisite:** At least 18 years of age, Water Rescue and Emergency Response (WRER), Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue (ROBR) strongly recommended  
**MCFA # ** 1332  
**Manual:** Issued in class  
**Auxiliary equipment:** pen/pencil & notebook; manual each class; moving water practical requires dry suit, type V PFD, knife, whistle, throw bag, water rescue helmet, and two locking carabiners  
**Certificate:** PA Fish and Boat Commission  
**Limit:** 12 Students  
**DOH Con Ed:** 0 Clinical Patient Care; 16 Other

This 16-hour course includes classroom and practical hands-on training in line-system water rescue techniques such as Moveable Control Point, Z-drag, Zip Line, and dynamic ferry. Tethered and untethered go-rescue techniques using Type V PFDs are also addressed. Students will need to demonstrate swim proficiency by completing 200 yards in under 12 minutes to continue to the open water practical.
Aerial Apparatus Operations (AELA)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Introduction to the Fire Service* and 18 years old
MCFA # 1180
Fire Companies of students in this course may be asked to provide an aerial apparatus for the practical portion of the class.
Certificate: PSFA  Limit: 24 students

This course will introduce the student to the basic operating principles of fire service aerial equipment. Students attending this course will be introduced to the operational theory of aerials, aerial towers, and elevated platforms. Basic system design, safety, spotting/stabilization, operation, and elevated master stream operations are all covered. Students may be asked to provide apparatus for the practical portion.

Aircraft Crash Rescue Short Course (ACFR)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Interior Firefighter or the equivalent* and 18 years old
MCFA # 1157
Manual: Handouts  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA  Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care; 6.5 Other

When an aircraft crashes, quick and decisive action can save lives. Designed for the experienced structural Firefighter, this course will deal with those conditions that make an aircraft incident different from the ‘normal’ fire incident and demonstrate effective ways to deal with aircraft incidents using typical municipal fire department resources. This course is especially aimed at ‘off-airfield’ municipal or volunteer firefighters who have airports within their jurisdiction and is presented in a classroom. This course provides instruction in extinguishing and controlling fires, rescue and evacuation techniques, and dealing with emergency situations resulting from an aircraft crash.
Arson Awareness for Emergency Response Personnel (AAEP)
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: At least 16 years of age, Introduction to the Fire Service or the equivalent*
MCFA # 1006 Available online
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: None
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care; 0.5 Other

Not all fires are accidental and the actions and observations of firefighters at the scene can greatly assist fire investigators. This course is appropriate for all emergency responders who might arrive first on the scene of a fire. The instructor will prepare first responders to observe and act in such a manner as to help fire investigators determine cause and origin of fires and, where applicable investigate and successfully prosecute cases of arson.

Arson Detection for the First Responder (ADFR) NFA course
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 16 years of age, Introduction to the Fire Service or the equivalent*
MCFA # 1007
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care ; 0.5 Other

Upon successful completion the student will be able to provide a more definitive understanding of the important role of the first responder in fire and arson investigation. This 16 hour course provides essential knowledge to enable them to recognize evidence of an intentionally set fire, how to preserve evidence, and how to properly report the information to appropriate officials.
Basement and Garage Fires
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Interior Firefighter*
MCFA # 5003 Available online
Manual: None Auxiliary equipment: notebook, pen/pencil
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 30 students

The modern residential basement and garage may be packed with electronic equipment and furnishings. A basement or garage fire can present serious challenges for responding firefighting crews. This course addresses the important issues such as size up, strategy, tactics deployment and safety that fire officers and firefighters must address at both a basement fire and at a garage fire.

Basic Fire Police (BFPO)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: 18 years of age; IS-100.B or ICS -100 or Introduction to Incident Command System
MCFA # 1570
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: helmet, eye protection, reflective vest, proper footwear for outside activities, whistle, flashlight, gloves, PPE for weather as appropriate, pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 35 students

To prepare persons selected as fire police officers to operate and preform the basic duties of the position. This course provides instruction on the proper method to the appointed, the laws pertaining to fire police, their powers and expected duties. The course is a combination of lecture, discussion, demonstration and supervised hands on practice. During this class students will participate in skills outside of the classroom.
Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue (ROBR)

Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age and Introduction to the Fire Service or the equivalent*
MCFA # 1360

Manual: Issued in class  
Auxiliary equipment: Hard hat or helmet with chin strap, gloves, eye protection, work boots (no sneakers), Class III harness, long pants, and long sleeve shirt.

Certificate: PSFA  
Limit: 32 students

DOH Con Ed: 2 Clinical Patient Care ; 0 Other

Participants in this course will be introduced to characteristics of rope, rope hardware and various knots and hitches. Students will participate in patient packaging and stokes basket handling exercises. Students learn basic haul and lowering systems and their practical uses. Most of the program is hands on and time is allotted for practice to build proficiency. The goal of this course is to provide rope and basic rigging experience for anyone interested in rope rescue, but particularly those who do not want to, or are unable to rappel.

Bus Rescue

Hours: 16
Prerequisite:  At least 18 years of age, PA Dept. of Health BVR-Technician or IFSAC/ProBoard NFPA 1006 Rescue Technician - Vehicle
MCFA # 1319

Manual: Issued in class  
Auxiliary equipment: pen & notebook; FTOG or extrication jumpsuit, gloves, safety toe boots, eye & ear protection, helmet.

Certificate: MCFA  
Limit: 24 students

Operating at the scene of a bus accident can be quite different than operating at your standard motor vehicle crash. This program is designed to familiarize the student with the complexities of rescue operations involving extractions from school buses. The course will review the various types of buses, their construction features and differences. Participants will be introduced to the methods for stabilization, access, hazard recognition and control, triage, victim disentanglement and preparation for patient care, packaging and removal. The program will begin in a classroom followed by practical skills involving a school bus. Organizations requesting this course must be able to provide one or more buses for the practical exercises.
Carbon Monoxide Detector Responses (CORE)
Hours: 3
Prerequisite: Introduction to the Fire Service or equivalent
MCFA # 1678
Manual: None  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA  Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 0.5 Clinical Patient Care; 1 Other

During the winter firefighters in Pennsylvania will be called to the scene of a carbon monoxide incident. Without the ability to quickly determine the nature of the incident, the first responder can become part of the problem. This course prepares the students to effectively and safely respond to these carbon monoxide emergencies. Topics covered include the hazards of carbon monoxide, typical carbon monoxide sources in residential occupancies, carbon monoxide detector design, and fire service monitoring equipment and suggested response and investigation procedures.

Chimney Fires & Heating Related Emergencies
Hours: 2
Prerequisite: Introduction to the Fire Service or equivalent
MCFA # 1133  Available online
Manual: None  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 50 students

Chimney fires and other heating unit related emergencies are an unusual problem for fire departments. As in any emergency, size up of the situation is key. These types of fires are challenging due to the diversity of systems in use. The focus of the class will be on chimney fires and wood burning systems. Other heating units will also be addressed to enhance student’s general knowledge of various types of heating systems.

Confined Space Awareness
Hours: 3
Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age
MCFA # 1325  Available for online delivery
Manual: Issued in class  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 50 students

This course is recommended for all emergency service responders and is specifically designed for first responders to confined space incidents. Students attending this program will be introduced to OSHA 29CFR1910.146 (Permit Required Confined Spaces) as well as other consensus based standards. Sixty percent of all confined space fatalities are rescuers. Using the lecture format, the instructor provides the student with skills needed to size-up the situation and institute basic procedures until trained personnel with the proper equipment arrive. Students will learn how to make the scene safe for the rescuers and victims, identify basic confined space entry and rescue equipment, and relate what the rescue teams will need upon arrival.
Confined Space Rescue (CSR)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Confined Space Awareness and Interior Firefighter or equivalent discipline-specific training in occupational/construction safety including SCBA use, Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue (ROBR).
MCFA # 1313
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook, hard hat w/chin strap, work boots (no sneakers), eye protection, SCBA, work clothes that can be soiled (coveralls recommended), work gloves, elbow and knee pads (recommended).
Certificate: PSFA
Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 6.5 Clinical Patient Care; 1 Other

This 16-hour program deals primarily with rescues involving confined spaces. Subjects include OSHA 29CFR1910.146 (Permit Required Confined Spaces), definitions, regulations, identification, needs, psychology, and techniques of rescues. Students will apply sophisticated rescue techniques in confined spaces.
NOTE: In order to receive a certificate the students will be required to enter a non-permit required confined space and demonstrate basic competencies in rescue practices.

Confined Space Rescue – Practical
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Confined Space Rescue (CSR) or equivalent discipline-specific training in occupational/construction safety including SCBA use.
MCFA # 1312
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook, hard hat w/chin strap, work boots (no sneakers), eye protection, SCBA, Class III harness, work clothes that can be soiled (coveralls recommended), work gloves, elbow and knee pad (recommended)
Certificate: MCFA
Limit: 24 students

Firefighters today respond to a variety of hazardous situations that include confined space rescue. This course is designed to provide firefighters who have completed a 16-hour Confined Space Rescue course the opportunity to maintain and improve their confined space skills and introduce new members of their company to the technical requirements, the challenges and the dangers of confined space rescue. Students will operate in teams using the state-of-the-art rescue trailer or confined space simulator to practice and improve their confined space rescue techniques.

Decision Making for Initial Company Operations NFA (DCMO)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Interior Firefighter and two years fire service experience
MCFA # 1539
Manual: Handouts
Certificate: NFA
Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Limit: 24 students

This course provides the student with information on using the Command Sequence to make correct tactical decisions on the fire ground and provides the student with the newest information on how light-weight residential construction might influence a company officer’s decisions. This course uses sophisticated digital fire scenes so that students can work in groups to complete tactical assignments using the new National Fire Academy Primary Factors Chart.
Driver Operator Pumper Certification Preparation Course
Hours 20
Prerequisite: Pump Operator I & II, EVOT, valid Vehicle Operator License, approved emergency vehicle operator for organization represented and an emergency vehicle for the practical portion.
MCFA # 1244
Auxiliary equipment: NFPA compliant pumper and pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: Driver Operator –Pumper Certification IFSAC/Pro-Board
Limit: 14 students

This course is designed to assist firefighters develop the knowledge, skills and abilities required to drive and operate a pumper safely and to successfully test for Driver Operator - Pumper certification. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy's Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.
Electrical Emergencies (ELFS)
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: None
MCFA # 1684
Manual: None Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 35 students
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care; 1.5 Other

The goal of this course is to educate emergency response personnel to the dangers of electricity and establish proper guidelines for handling electrical emergencies. It reviews firefighting practices around energized equipment, as well as do's and don'ts in dealing with electricity.

Emergency Boat Operations & Rescue - (EBOR) PA Fish & Boat Commission
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Water Rescue & Emergency Response (WRER), Boating Safety Education Certificate
MCFA # 1333
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: Moving water practical requires one of the following; long pants, wet or dry suit. (No Gumby, Immersion or Ice Suits) Type III or IV USCG approved personal flotation device, knife, whistle, two locking carabiners, 50' throw bag & water rescue helmet.
Certificate: PA Fish & Boat Commission Limit: 12 students
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care; 16 Other

This course is designed to familiarize students with the proper procedures used in basic water safety and safe boat handling skills. Course components include classroom and practical hands-on training in: boat selection, rescue craft outfitting, boat handling, moving-water tactics, emergency boat procedures, and boat rescue techniques. This course is presented on request to response agencies operating boats. The sponsoring agency must be able to provide boats meeting all PA Fish & Boat and USCG requirements.
Emergency Vehicle Operator Training (EVOT)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, valid PA driver’s license, approved emergency vehicle operator for organization represented, and an emergency vehicle for the practical portion.
MCFA # 1069
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: Emergency vehicle and pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA listing vehicle type Limit: 24 students

A large number of emergency service personnel and civilians are injured and killed each year as a result of inappropriately driven emergency vehicles. Participants in this course will have the opportunity to gain and/or verify a broad range of competencies associated with emergency vehicle driving. These competencies include basic understanding of emergency vehicle operations as well as the skills necessary for practical and safe application of driving on a competency course. Students must be able to provide and operate an emergency vehicle for the practical portion of the class.

Employee Safety & Extinguisher Training (ISET)
Hours: 3
Prerequisite: None
MCFA # 1401
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: Long sleeve clothing, gloves and eye protection.
Certificate: PSFA
Limit: 24 students

This course provides the employee with information concerning safety in the workplace. It also provides the student with hands-on training in the use of portable fire extinguishers.

Engine Company Operations (ECOP)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Interior Firefighter or equivalent *
MCFA # 1125
Manual: Handouts
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA for practical exercises
Certificate: PSFA
Limit: 24 students

This course provides instruction in the duties and responsibilities of an engine company. Topics covered are positioning of apparatus, use of attack and back-up lines, search and rescue, and water supply. This course will discuss fire behavior and spread in structures, methods of calculating needed fire flow as well as organizing and equipping an engine company. Classroom lecture is followed by a series of “hands on” drills involving various engine company evolutions. Students may be asked to provide apparatus for the practical portion.
The PA Entry Level Firefighter Curriculum

The PA Entry Level Firefighter curriculum is composed of four separate courses that together require 188 hours of both classroom and hands-on training. The training at times is rigorous and includes two days of live-smoke and live-fire training. Students must be in good physical condition and must provide the Montgomery County Fire Academy with a medical release form prior to starting the second course.

All students in basic fire training will be required to wear a Class B uniform, either their fire company Class B uniform or the Fire Academy uniform. A Class B uniform consists of a collared shirt, long pants, belt, shoes and socks. The Fire Academy will only issue uniforms to new students, i.e. students in Introduction to the Fire Service. Students returning to complete basic fire training after 2016 are responsible for purchasing their own uniforms.

It is required that you take these courses sequentially and strongly suggested that you schedule your training so that you may take the four courses as soon as they are offered. Students who have already completed training included in the curriculum, such as First Aid, CPR, Hazardous Materials Awareness or Hazardous Materials Operations and wish an exemption for this training must provide documentation at the start of the course. Students who successfully complete this curriculum may test for Firefighter I Certification.

Students who enroll in the PA Entry Level Firefighter program must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache. This policy is enforced from day 2 of Introduction to the Fire Service until the completion of the program, including the certification testing.

The four courses required to complete the PA Entry Level Firefighter curriculum are:

**Introduction to the Fire Service (ELIS)**

**Hours:** 20

**Prerequisite:** 16 years of age by the first day of class

**MCFA # 4001**  
Available as a hybrid class

Manual: Issued in class  
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG, manual, pen/pencil & notebook

Certificate: PSFA  
Limit: 30 students

This course provides students with an introduction to fire service training including an overview of fire service history & tradition, fire service organization, firefighter safety, personal protective equipment, utility safety, operation of personal owned vehicles, highway scene safety, tools, emergency lighting and Hazardous Materials Awareness. *Includes 4 hours of Hazardous Materials Awareness Training required for Fire Ground Support.*
Fire Ground Support (ELFG)

Hours: 32  
Prerequisite: At least 16 years of age, Introduction to the Fire Service, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Medical Release form.

MCFA # 4002

Manual: Issued in first of four classes  
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG, SCBA, manual, pen/pencil & notebook

Certificate: PSFA  
Limit: 30 students

This course is designed to introduce new firefighters to fireground operation that support fire suppression activities such as water supply, fire hose and appliances, ropes and knots, self-contained breathing apparatus, fire behavior and alarms. This is the second course in the PA Entry Level Fire Training curriculum.

Exterior Firefighter (ELEF)

Hours: 72  
Prerequisite: At least 16 years of age, Fire Ground Support, IS 700, and IS 100

MCFA # 4003

Manual: Issued in first of four classes  
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG, SCBA, manual, pen/pencil & notebook

Certificate: PSFA  
Limit: 30 students

Using lecture, interactive discussion and hands-on training this course introduces students to exterior fire ground skills. This training involves raising ladders, building construction, forcible entry, fire extinguishers, self-contained breathing apparatus, fire streams, hose advancement, First Aid, CPR and Hazardous Materials Operations. This is the third course in the PA Entry Level Fire Training curriculum.

*Includes 24 hours of Hazardous Materials Operations training required for Interior Firefighter as well as 8 hours of CPR and Basic First Aid required for FF I Certification testing.

Interior Firefighter (ELIF)

Hours: 48 plus certification testing

Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age*, Exterior Firefighter, and Hazardous Material Operations (current)

MCFA # 4004

Manual: Issued in first of four classes  
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG, SCBA, manual every class, pen & notebook

Certificate: PSFA  
Limit: 30 students

This course is designed to prepare the student for interior fireground operations that include the use of self-contained breathing apparatus during interior firefighting, rescue, ventilation, fire suppression, salvage and firefighter survival. This is the fourth and final course in the PA Entry Level Fire Training curriculum.

Testing for Firefighter I certification is offered at the end of the course.

*With proper permissions
**Step 1**
MCFA Introduction to the Fire Service includes

- Introduction to the Fire Service 16 Hours & Hazardous Materials Awareness 4 Hours (ProBoard & IFSAC Certification available)

**Step 2**

- Fire Ground Support 32 Hours

Students complete IS 700 & IS 100 at http://training.fema.gov/IS/Nims.asp

**Step 3**
MCFA Exterior Firefighter includes

- Exterior Firefighter 40 Hours
- Hazardous Materials Operations 24 Hours (ProBoard & IFSAC Certification available as a separate course)
- First Aid/CPR 8 Hours

**Step 4**
MCFA Interior Fire Fighter includes

- Interior Firefighter 48 Hours
- Certification Firefighter I Written & Skills 10 Hours
Fire Dynamics: Fundamentals (FDF)
Hours: 3
Prerequisite: Exterior Fire Fighter
MCFA # 7021 Available for online delivery
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: pen and notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 30 students

The course provides the firefighter with a basic understanding of the evidence based research, conducted by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and other fire service organizations. This course introduces new terminology related to fire dynamics, legacy versus modern fuel loads, new construction techniques, flow paths, door control, and ventilation that all impact fire ground operations.

Fire Dynamics: Strategy and Tactics (FDST)
Hours: 3
Prerequisite: Fire Dynamics: Fundamentals
MCFA # 7022 Available for online delivery
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: pen and notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 30 students

This course provides the firefighter the basic knowledge of strategy and tactics and how to apply the evidence based fire research conducted by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and other fire service organizations to fire ground operations. This course introduces new terminology related to fire dynamics, ventilation, flow paths, door control, transitional fire attack, basement fires, and new concepts for developing strategy and tactics.
Firefighter I Certification Prep  
**Hours**: 32  
**Prerequisite**: Interior Firefighter or equivalent* and all certification requirements

**MCFA # 1121**

Manual: None   Students may wish to purchase the IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting 7th edition.  
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA, pen/pencil & notebook  
Certificate: Firefighter I Certification IFSAC-ProBoard  
Limit: 25 students

This course will refresh and reinforce the basic knowledge and skills of a firefighter while at the same time help students to test successfully in the Firefighter I Certification and perform more effectively and safely as a firefighter on the fire ground. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.

**Certification Prerequisites:**
1. Hazardous Materials Operations Level or Hazardous Materials Operations Refresher dated within one year of test date AND
2. CPR card current on date of testing per PA State Fire Academy requirements AND
3. Standard first aid card current on date of testing per PA State Fire Academy requirements AND
4. Basic fire training – Interior Firefighter or equivalent*

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**Basic Fire Training***  

**Hazardous Materials Operations or a refresher certificate dated less than one year from test date.**

**CPR & First Aid cards valid on date of testing***

**Firefighter I Prep class which includes:**  
Firefighter I certification written test  
Firefighter I certification skills testing

*see Candidate Handbook
Firefighter II Certification Prep
Hours: 32
Prerequisite: Firefighter I Certification, Vehicle Rescue Operations, Hazardous Materials Operations (current)
MCFA # 1122
Manual: Students may wish to purchase the IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting 7th edition.
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA, pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: Firefighter II Certification IFSAC-ProBoard
Limit: 25 students

This course will help prepare students to participate successfully in the Firefighter II Certification and to perform more effectively as a firefighter on the fire grounds. It will refresh and reinforce the more advanced knowledge and skills of a firefighter such as sprinkler systems, building construction, combustible gas and combustible liquid fire control and pre-fire planning. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.

Certification Prerequisites:
1. Certification FF I AND
3. NFPA 1670 Vehicle Rescue Awareness & Operations OR PA DOH Vehicle Rescue Technician OR Rescue Technician Vehicle Level I or higher certification
4. ICS or NIMS 100 & 200*

*see Candidate Handbook
Fire Fighter Survival (SURV)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Interior Firefighter or equivalent* (recommended Rapid Intervention Team, Incident Command System). Student must be physically able to crawl, climb and descend ladders, slide on rope, and support own body weight while hanging by arms.
MCFA # 1109
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA, pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA
Limit: 24 students

A physically demanding, comprehensive program dealing with the necessary knowledge and skills relative to rescue procedures needed for self-rescue. Emphasis will be placed on search techniques, communications, accountability/location and self-rescue procedures. Students must be in good physical condition to successfully perform all practical exercises. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.

Fire Instructor
Hours: 24
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age
MCFA # 1728
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: Fire Service Instructor I Certification IFSAC-ProBoard
Limit: 24 students

This course is designed to instruct practical teaching techniques and skills to those who aspire to become fire company training officers and is a pre-requisite course for Fire Officer I. Certification testing for Instructor I will be offered at the end of the course. Certification Prerequisites: None

Fire Officer I
Hours: 36
Prerequisite: Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Operations, ICS (16 hrs.) or NIMS 100 & 200, Instructor I Certification.
MCFA # 1731
Manual: Issued in class
Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Fire Officer I Certification IFSAC-ProBoard
Limit: 25 students

This is a comprehensive course that addresses job performance requirements for Fire Officer I. The course will include lessons from the IFSTA Company Officer course relevant to Fire Officer I. Supplemental instruction will address Fire Officer job performance requirements that are not addressed in the IFSTA Fire Officer I course. Participants will be required to complete practical activity sheets and job sheets. Certification Prerequisites: See Candidate Handbook
Fire Officer I Path

Hazardous Materials Operations / Refresher

Firefighter II Certification

ICS course or NIMS 100 & 200*

Instructor I Certification

Fire Officer I Certification

Fire Officer II Path

Fire Officer I Certification

Hazardous Materials Operations / Refresher

ICS course or NIMS 100 & 200*

Fire Officer II Certification

* see Candidate Handbook
Fire Officer II
Hours: 32
Prerequisite: Fire Officer I certification and Fire Service Instructor I certification
MCFA # 1732
Manual: Issued in Fire Officer I  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA; Fire Officer II Certification IFSAC-ProBoard
Limit: 25 students

The Fire Officer II program is designed as a sequel to the Fire Officer I course. It expounds upon the administrative and operations readiness challenges that a mid-level supervisor encounters on a daily basis. Fire Officer II provides officers, as well as aspiring officer candidate’s, objective-based course of instruction that addresses the component Job Performance Requirement (JPR) structure of the NFPA 1021, standard for the Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, 2014 edition.
Certification Prerequisites: See Candidate Handbook

Fire Safety Orientation
Hours: 1
Prerequisite: None  Available for online delivery
MCFA # 1401
Manual: None  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 25 students

This course provides students with basic fire safety information that will improve the students understanding fire prevention and fire safety for the home and the office. This course provides the student the opportunity to use a digital fire extinguisher simulator.

Flammable Gas
Hours: 7
Prerequisite: Interior Fire Fighter or equivalent*
MCFA# 1632
Manual: None  Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 25 students

This course provides skill development necessary to effectively deal with fires involving flammable gases. The program focuses on the physical and chemical properties of common flammable gases and the fire attack techniques. This eight hour program includes classroom and hands-on live firefighting exercises on multiple live-fire props.

Foam Fire Fighting Basic (National Foam) (NFBB)
Hours: 7
Prerequisite: Interior Firefighter or equivalent*
MCFA # 1155
Manual: None  Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA
Certificate: PSFA  Limit: 25 students

A student in this course will be introduced to basic information concerning the use of foam as a flammable liquid fire extinguishing agent and as a vapor suppression agent. This module is targeted at the first responder who will be faced with the task of fire suppression. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.
Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMA)
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: 16 years old  
MCFA # 1636
Manual: Issued in class  
Certificate: PSFA
Available for online delivery
Auxiliary Equipment: Pen and notebook.
Limit: 30 students

This course will provide instruction in the basic skills of identifying and recognizing hazardous materials and the associated hazard characteristics. The goal of this program is to provide the First Responder with the training needed to comply with NFPA 472 Chapter 4 Competencies for the First Responder at the Awareness Level, and 29 CFR 1910.120 OSHA’s Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, (HAZWOPER), First Responder Awareness Level.

Hazardous Materials Awareness Certification Preparation
Hours: 5
Prerequisites: None
MCFA # 1606
Manual: None  
Certificate: Hazardous Material Awareness Certification IFSAC-ProBoard
Auxiliary Equipment: notebook, pen/pencil
Limit: 30 students

This course will refresh and reinforce the basic knowledge and skills of a Hazardous Materials Awareness responder while at the same time help students to prepare to test successfully in the Hazardous Materials Awareness Certification. Students will be able to perform more effectively and safely during a hazardous material incident. Hazardous Materials Awareness Refresher training included as part of the class. Student should have experience in using the DOT Emergency Response Guide.
Certification Prerequisites:
1. Hazardous Materials Awareness or Refresher dated within one year of test date.
Hazardous Materials Awareness Refresher (HMAR)
Hours: 2
Prerequisite: Hazardous Materials Awareness
MCFA # 1637
Manual: Issued in class  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA  Limit: 50 students
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care ; 1.5 Other

The primary target audiences for this course are the First Responders who have had the Hazardous Materials Awareness Level 472 course. Students will learn and adapt the knowledge and skill requirements for effective scene and response management.

Hazardous Materials Operations (HMO)
Hours: 32
Prerequisite: Hazardous Materials Awareness level training & 17 years old
MCFA # 1638
Manual: Issued in class  Auxiliary equipment: manual every class, pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA/HazMat Operations Certification  Limit: 35 students

Students completing this course will be able to safely and effectively control, manage, and mitigate a hazardous materials release using first due resources until the arrival of additional specialized units.

This program was designed to educate the student in hazardous materials responses and to prepare the student for professional certification testing in accordance with NFPA 472 Operations Level. The primary target audiences for this course are the First Responders charged with response actions associated with hazardous materials releases. Students will learn and adapt the knowledge and skill requirements for effective scene and response management. The goal of this program is to provide the First Responder with the training needed to comply with NFPA 472 Chapter 5 Competencies for the First Responder at the Operational Level, and 29 CFR 1910.120 OSHA’s Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, (HAZWOPER).

First Responder Operations Level. Certification at the HazMat Operations level is offered as part of the class. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.
Hazardous Materials Operations Level Refresher (HMOR)

Hours: 6
Prerequisite: Hazardous Materials Operations Level
MCFA # 1639 Available online
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: manual every class, pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 35 students
DOH Con Ed: 1 Clinical Patient Care ; 4.5 Other

Students completing this course will be able to safely and effectively control, manage, and mitigate a hazardous materials release using first due resources until the arrival of additional specialized units. This program was designed as annual refresher training as specified in 29 CFR 1910-120.

Hazardous Materials Operations Certification Prep

Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Hazardous Materials Operations level training or equivalent*
MCFA # 1690
Manual: None, previous hazardous materials operations manuals will be referenced.
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA, pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: Hazardous Materials Operations Certification IFSAC and ProBoard
Limit: 30 students

This course will refresh and reinforce the basic knowledge and skills of a Hazardous Materials Operations responder while at the same time help students successfully test for Hazardous Materials Operations Certifications - CORE, PPE and Product Control. Students should have experience in the use of both SCBA and PPE. Hazardous Materials Operations Refresher training is included in the program. Students who are not certified at the Hazardous Materials Awareness Level can test for this certification as part of the course. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.

Certification Prerequisites:
1. Hazardous Materials Operations Level or Hazardous Materials Operations Refresher dated within one year of test date AND
2. Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMA) Certification Pro-Board and IFSAC

Hazardous Materials Technician

Hours: 80
Prerequisite: Hazardous Materials Operations preferred
MCFA#1653
Manual: issued in class Auxiliary equipment: SCBA
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 24 students

This course provides emergency response personnel, with the information and skills needed to meet the training requirements cited in OSHA29 1910.120(q) and NFPA 472. It is intended to teach the student how to recognize, evaluate, and control an incident involving the release or potential release of hazardous materials using the “Eight Step Process ®”. The focus of the course is on recognizing and evaluating a hazardous materials incident, organizing the response team, protecting response personnel, identifying and using response resources, implementing basic control measures, refining decision-making skills, and protecting the public. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.
Hazardous Materials Certification

Hazardous Materials Awareness Class

Hazardous Materials Awareness Certification Test

Hazardous Materials Operations Class

Hazardous Materials Operations Skills Enhancement Written & Skills Certification Testing

Hazardous Materials Technician Class

Hazardous Materials Technician Skills Testing Written & Skills Certification Testing
Hazardous Materials Technician Skills Testing

Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Hazardous Materials Awareness Certification, Hazardous Materials Operations Certification, Hazardous Materials Technician level training or equivalent

MCFA # 1691
Manual: None, skills sheet will be supplied
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA,
Certificate: Hazardous Materials Technician Certification IFSAC and ProBoard
Limit: 24 students

This program is for students who have completed previous hazardous materials technician training and want to test for certification in this discipline. There is no review of course materials or skills during the program. Students are expected to review written manuals issued from previous training classes prior to testing. Skill sheets will be provided to students after they have been approved for testing. Students who are not certified at the Hazardous Materials Operation level can test for this certification but will need to notify the course coordinator to make arrangements prior to acceptance into the course. Students must conform to the PA State Fire Academy’s Facial Hair Policy that requires a student be clean shaven except for a neatly trimmed moustache.

Certification Prerequisites:
   Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations Level certification IFSAC and ProBoard
Health and Safety Officer (HSO) NFA

**Hours:** 20  
**Prerequisite:** At least 18 years of age, Interior Firefighter or equivalent*, MCFA # 1541  
**Manual:** Issued in class  
**Certificate:** PSFA  
**Limit:** 24 students  
**DOH Con Ed:** 0 Clinical Patient Care; 3 Other  

This course will enable the student to identify and analyze health and safety aspects that affect emergency responder safety in both emergency and non-emergency situations. Risk analysis, wellness, program management, and other occupational safety issues are the main emphasis of the course. The target audience is all individuals, and especially management-level personnel who have department-level health and safety responsibilities (such as planning and implementation) and organizational representatives who have active involvement in such activities.

Helicopter Landing Zone Safety

**Hours:** 4  
**Prerequisite:** At least 17 years of age  
**MCFA#** 1399  
**Manual:** Handouts will be issued  
**Certificate:** Flight Service Issued  
**Limit:** 50 students  

Fire companies may be required to establish a medical helicopter landing zone at a fire scene, mass casualty incident, vehicle accident or technical rescue. This program is designed to provide the student with the skills needed to safely set up a safe-landing zone at an emergency scene for a helicopter landing and the knowledge to safely assist paramedics near a helicopter. Although the focus is on medical helicopter landings, the knowledge skills and abilities are valuable for any helicopter landing.

**NOTE:** This course is approved for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition program and satisfies the Helicopter Landing Zone training requirements outlined for rescue accreditation.

High Rise Fire Fighting (HIRI)

**Hours:** 16  
**Prerequisite:** At least 18 years of age, Interior Firefighter or equivalent*, Engine Company Operations and Truck Company Operations  
**MCFA #** 1025  
**Manual:** None  
**Certificate issued:** PSFA  
**Limit:** 24 students  
**DOH Con Ed:** 0 Clinical Patient Care 1 Other  

This course will provide instruction in firefighting and support operations in high-rise buildings. Students will be introduced to the specialized equipment and the challenges of high-rise buildings as well as the importance of pre-fire planning. Working in crews of 2-5 firefighters, students will complete tactical evolutions required at a high-rise fire. Safe operations, the use of a tactical checklist and the use of the Incident Command System are stressed. This course is a combination of demonstration and supervised evolutions.
Hoarder homes pose risks to responding firefighter, EMS and law enforcement personnel. This program covers the problem of hoarding, types of hoarding, and issues involved with hoarding conditions. Emergency response personnel can be exposed to biological hazards as well as physical hazards. First Responders will be able to use the information to develop procedures to protect themselves when encountering a hoarding situation.

Ice Rescue and Emergency Response — PA Fish & Boat Commission

This program is designed to familiarize the rescuer with the safest and most effective method of dealing with an ice emergency. Students will learn how to identify ice conditions, hazards, and escape routes. Practical exercises will include utilizing ice rescue equipment for shore, boat, and direct contact rescue techniques. This course is presented on request to response agencies that may respond to ice rescues. This course is dependent on weather conditions and safe ice thickness at practical training sites. Travel may be required.
Ice Safety – Basic Survival and Rescue — PA Fish & Boat Commission

Hours: 3
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age
MCFA # 1326  Available for online delivery
Manual: Issued in class  Auxiliary equipment: pen & notebook
Certificate: PA Fish & Boat Commission  Limit: 50 students
DOH Con Ed: 0.5 Clinical Patient Care; 2 Other

Ice can be a gathering place for many individuals who participate in winter sports and recreational activities. Unfortunately, most individuals who venture out on the ice have a limited knowledge of how and why ice forms. A large number of people are unaware of the hazards and dangers associated with ice. This course provides an awareness-level training on the formation and types of ice. Students will become well versed in hazards of ice and methods for self-rescue.

Incident Safety Officer (ISO) NFA

Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Interior Firefighter or equivalent*, and Hazardous Materials Operations Level
MCFA # 1567
Manual: Issued in class  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate issued: PSFA  Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care; 5.5 Other

The Safety Officer’s responsibilities fall into two clear cut categories: those associated with responding at the incident scene, and those associated with managing the day to day affairs of the department. The Incident Safety Officer (ISO) course is focused on the incident and the role the Safety Officer plays as part of the Command Staff. The target audience is Company Officers who are experienced in firefighter safety issues and are familiar with an Incident Command System, hazardous materials management, and related emergency operations. The program provides the student with the decision-making process and skills required to recognize unsafe acts and conditions and take appropriate corrective actions.
**Industrial Fire Brigade Training, Basic (IFBB)**

**Hours:** 8  
**Prerequisite:** at least 18 years of age  
**MCFA # 1402**  
**Manual:** None  
**Auxiliary equipment:** FTOG & SCBA  
**Certificate:** PSFA  
**Limit:** 24 students

This course will provide basic incipient level fire training for general employee groups, or dedicated incipient level fire brigades. This training shall meet OSHA requirements for incipient level firefighting. It covers the chemistry of fire, hose and nozzles, fire streams, portable fire extinguishers, automatic systems, and live firefighting exercises on incipient level fires with extinguishers and small hose streams.

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**Instructional Techniques for Company Officers (ITCO) NFA**

**Hours:** 16  
**Prerequisite:** At least 18 years of age, Introduction to the Fire Service or the equivalent*  
**MCFA # 1526**  
**Manual:** Issued in class  
**Auxiliary equipment:** pen/pencil & notebook  
**Certificate:** PSFA  
**Limit:** 24 students

Every fire officer is, or should be, a trainer. Being an officer, especially at the company (Lieutenant, Captain, etc.) level, always involves the act of training one’s subordinates at one time or another. This course will give the officer or officer candidate the basic knowledge of adult educational principles needed to perform this important task at the level.

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**Legal Concepts for Fire Police**

**Hours:** 16  
**Prerequisite:** Basic Fire Police  
**MCFA # 1574**  
**Manual:** None  
**Auxiliary equipment:** pen/pencil & notebook  
**Certificate:** MCFA  
**Limit:** 30 students

This course consists of an in-depth study of the laws involving fire police and their municipal authority and fire department. Subjects include: laws, misconceptions, liability, indirect liability, lawsuits, training, arrests, citations, insurance, courtroom procedures, vehicle codes and regulations, and the criminal code.
Managing Vehicle Firefighting Operation
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: 18 years of age and Interior Firefighter or equivalent*
MCFA # 1196
Manual: None  Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA and pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 25 students

This course is designed to provide classroom and hands-on practical evolutions on the hazards and safe procedures that can be utilized for efficient and effective size up, suppression and overhaul for vehicle fire operations.

Managing Volunteer and Combination Emergency Service Organizations.
Hours: 8
Prerequisite: None
MCFA # 5005
Manual: None  Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 30 students

Emergency service organizations are not what they used to be. No longer is an emergency service organization a group that just responds in time of need or emergency. Today, an emergency service organization is a quasi-business, responsible to the citizenry, subject to public scrutiny and governmental rules and regulations. Times have changed and emergency service organizations must be managed responsibly. This course provides emergency service organization leaders and administrators with the knowledge to lead their organization in the 21st Century.

Mayday
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: Interior Firefighter or equivalent
MCFA # 1142
Certificate: MCFA  Limit 25 students

When a firefighter is lost or trapped in a burning structure, the rescue operation can be physically and mentally challenging for the rescuers. If the firefighter needing assistance uses the proper Mayday procedure and the Rescue Team knows how to efficiently extricate an injured firefighter, the chances of a successful rescue are increased. This course is designed to introduce both new and seasoned firefighters in the fundamental procedures involved for rescue and extrication of entrapped or downed firefighters in a structure. The courses also includes teaching firefighters how to properly request a Mayday using the LUNAR format should they ever need assistance.
New Company Officer Seminar

Hours: 6
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Interior Firefighter or equivalent
MCFA # 5006 Available online
Manual: Handouts Auxiliary equipment: pen & notebook
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 30 students

No position in a fire department is more important than that of the company officer. This seminar course is designed to provide the new company officer with information on a fire company officer’s responsibilities and duties with a focus on fireground operations. Course topics will include: Completing a Fire Report, Single-Engine Assignments, Multi-Company Assignments, Fireground Safety and the Command Sequence.

New Vehicle Construction

Hours: 4
Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age
MCFA # 1327 Available for online delivery
Manual: None Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 50 students

Technology in the field of vehicle construction is changing rapidly. This program will help the responder to stay proficient with the ever-changing automobile industry. This is a lecture program.

NOTE: This program is constantly being updated to address the vehicles that are on the road today.

NFPA 1670 - Vehicle Rescue Awareness (NVRA)

Hours: 24
Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age and HazMat Awareness or above.
MCFA # 1354
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: Pen/pencil, notebook, full turn out gear to include helmet, extrication/leather gloves, foot wear, and eye protection
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 1 Clinical Patient Care; 23 Other

This course will provide an awareness-level of information and skills as it pertains to vehicle rescue incidents. Topics will include general vehicle rescue function/operation; incident management of the vehicle accident/rescue incident; vehicle anatomy, design, and construction; recognition and control of hazards relative to a vehicle accident/rescue incident; and the tools and equipment used at a vehicle accident/rescue incident.
NFPA 1670 - Vehicle Rescue Operations (NVRO)
Hours: 20
Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age and NFPA 1670 Vehicle Rescue Awareness
MCFA # 1355
Manual: Issued in NRVA
Certificate: PSFA
DOH Con Ed: 17 Clinical Patient Care; 3 Other

Auxiliary equipment: Pen/pencil, notebook, full turn out gear to include helmet, extrication/leather gloves, footwear, and eye protection.
Limit: 24 students

This course will provide an operations-level of information and skills as it pertains to vehicle rescue incidents. Topics will include: incident management; tools/equipment; vehicle anatomy/design; hazard control, patient access, care, and packaging; disentanglement; extrication and termination. Upon completion of the course, the student will be eligible to complete the PA Joint Rescue Program Basic Vehicle Rescue examination. Additionally, this course will prepare the student to challenge the IFSAC/Pro-Board national certification as a Vehicle Rescue Technician Level 1 in accordance with NFPA 1006.

Open the Roof
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: Interior Firefighter*
MCFA # 5002
Manual: None
Certificate: MCFA

Auxiliary equipment: notebook, pen/pencil
Limit: 30 students

Vertical ventilation can be the most challenging task on the fire scene. It can also be the most dangerous! Countless numbers of firefighters have lost their lives during such operations. This course will address staffing, roof composition/construction and equipment needs for ensuring safe and effective vertical ventilation.
Principles of Building Construction Combustible (BCP) NFA
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Introduction to the Fire Service or the equivalent.*
MCFA # 1169
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 24 students

The overall goal of this course is to provide knowledge about the classification system of buildings, the importance of fire resistance for structural support elements, and the risks associated with performing fire-suppression activities inside and around buildings involved in fire. One additional major goal of this course is to enhance the skills of emergency response personnel so that they can read a building correctly and apply the information to the action plan for the incident.

Public Relations for the Fire & Emergency Services
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: Introduction to the Fire Service or the equivalent.*
MCFA # 1561
Manual: None Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 24 students

Students completing this course will be better able to deal with the public, government, business and the news media in a positive, professional manner. It is designed for the officers of emergency service organizations who come into the most contact with the public, press and businesses. It is designed to help improve their communication skills as well as present new ideas and ways to communicate their needs and message.

Pump Operations I (PUOP)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age
MCFA # 1242
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: FTOG and pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 24 students

This course provides the Firefighter with an introduction to basic pump construction and theory as well as operating techniques. Emphasis is placed on getting water to the pump, getting water from the pump for hose streams, and prevention of common mistakes in pump operations. Students may be asked to provide apparatus for the practical portion.

Pump Operations II (PUOA)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Pump Operations I
MCFA # 1241
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: FTOG, pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 24 students

This course is designed to instruct the student in advanced techniques of operating pumps. Topics covered include friction loss, supply of standpipe and sprinkler systems, relay pumping, master streams, foam proportioners and elevated master streams. Students may be asked to provide apparatus for the practical portion.
Rapid Intervention Teams (RITC)
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: None
MCFA # 1340
Available for online delivery
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA
Limit: 25 students

Rapid Intervention Teams that are properly trained and deployed can prevent firefighter deaths or reduce the severity of firefighter injuries. This program is designed to prepare fire department personnel for implementation of a stand-by rescue team at structure fires and certain other incidents. The student is provided information on Rapid Intervention Team operations that is based upon the lessons learned from fire departments that have successfully utilized a Rapid Intervention Team at fires.

Rapid Intervention Teams Operations
Hours: 20
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Interior Fire Fighter*, Firefighter Survival (SURV) recommended
MCFA # 1339
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: MCFA
Limit: 24 students

Interior firefighting operations can be dangerous and the opportunity for a firefighter to become lost or trapped is always there. Having a properly trained Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) on the scene, ready to respond to a lost or trapped firefighter can avert a tragedy. This course is designed to provide firefighters with an operational capability that will enable them, as part of a RIT, to rescue fire fighters who become lost, injured, trapped, incapacitated, or disoriented at an emergency scene or in the course of a training operation.

Rescue Technician – Confined Space
Hours: 24 including certification testing
Prerequisites: At least 18 years of age, Confined Space Awareness, Confined Space Operations, Rescue Technician – General Requirements, current HazMat Operations or Refresher, current First Aid or higher, current CPR, (see candidate handbook for approved classes)
MCFA #1314
Manual: Provided in class
Auxiliary Equipment: Rescue style helmet, rescue or work gloves, work boots, Class III harness (if available)
Certificate: IFSAC/ProBoard
Limit: 12 Students
DOH Con Ed: 6.5 Clinical Patient Care; 1 Other

This program will prepare the student to serve as a technical rescuer and entrant at confined space incidents. The course will begin with an overview of the unique hazards present in confined spaces and discuss OSHA regulations as well as NFPA Standards relating to confined space entry. During the course students will review and enhance their abilities in air monitoring, rescue knots, and rigging rope rescue systems. Other topics will include incident management at confined space incidents, size up, entry permits, as well as patient care and packaging. Students will learn how to use, and the limitations of, supplied air respirators. Intense practical scenarios will challenge the student’s ability to complete rescues in confined spaces. At the conclusion of the program the student will test (written and skills) for certification as a Confined Space Rescue Technician Level I & II in accordance with NFPA 1006.
Rescue Technician – General Requirements
Hours: 40 including certification testing
Prerequisites: At least 18 years of age; current Hazardous Materials Operations; current First Aid or higher; current CPR certification (see candidate handbook for approved classes)
MCFA # 1350
Manual: Issued in class  Auxiliary equipment: Fire/Rescue helmet with chin strap; eye protection (not a face shield), work clothing/coveralls, leather/rope gloves (no vehicle rescue gloves), work shoes/boots, Class III Harness
Certificate: PSFA Certification Limit: 16 students

This program is designed to enhance the student’s ability to perform critical technical rescue skills. Topics include: Incident management and site operations, use of tactical work sheets, basic ground search techniques, helicopter ground support operations, victim management (triage, assessment and patient packaging), rope/knots/hitches, construction and operation of simple mechanical advantage systems, construction and operation of belay systems, low-angle rescue techniques, equipment inspection and maintenance, as well as termination procedures. This program includes Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue (ROBR). This course is designed meet the intent of NFPA 1006: Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications and will lead, upon successful testing, to PSFA certification in General Requirements for Technical Rescue.

Rescue Technician – Vehicle Level I
Hours: 20 including certification testing
Prerequisites: At least 18 years of age; PA Department of Health Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician; Rescue Technician—General Requirements, Hazardous Materials Operations (current); First Aid or higher (current); CPR (current) (see candidate handbook for approved classes)
MCFA # 1351
Manual: Issued in class  Auxiliary equipment: Full turn out gear, eye protection
Certificate: Vehicle Rescue Technician Level I Certification IFSAC-ProBoard Limit: 16 students

This course covers vehicle and machinery rescue operations utilizing appropriate equipment, methodologies, and protocols as well as patient and resource management techniques. Participants who successfully complete the course will test for certification at the Vehicle and Machinery Technician Level I.

Certification Prerequisites:
1. PA Department of Health Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician
2. Rescue Technician—General Requirements Certificate
3. Hazardous Materials Operations current
4. CPR and First Aid current
The Residential Structure Fire
Hours: 4
Prerequisite: Interior Firefighter*
MCFA # 5001
Manual: None
Auxiliary equipment: notebook, pen/pencil
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 30 students

This course is designed to introduce and review for firefighters and company officers the strategy and tactics of fighting a fire in several different types of residential occupancies such as the row house, the town house and the garden apartment building.

Response to Chemical Suicide
Hours: 2
Prerequisite: None
MCFA # 1685  Available for online delivery
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 35 students

This is a two-hour awareness course to alert first responders to growing suicide trends started in Japan that use an extremely poisonous gas (hydrogen sulfide) as the means of ending life. These chemical suicides are initiated by using common household cleaning products to cause the chemical reaction that produces hydrogen sulfide. First responders need to recognize the signs and symptoms of a chemical suicide and be familiar with the resources available within Montgomery County to properly assess and safely handle the toxic liquids and gases produced.
Rope/High Angle Rescue I (RORE)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Introduction to the Fire Service or equivalent*
MCFA # 1322
Manual: None.  
Auxiliary equipment: helmet with chin strap, gloves, work boots (no sneakers), eye protection, long sleeve shirt, Class III harness, long pants.
Certificate: PSFA  Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 1.5 Clinical Patient Care; 8.5 Other

Participants in this course will be introduced to the basic principles of rope/vertical rescue and to the basic equipment used to implement rope/vertical rescues. The basic skills required to rig, descend, stop, and get out of common problems are presented, demonstrated, and practiced. Students will become proficient at these basic skills. Students will be training in tying of the basic knots and hitches used in rope rescue, basic rappelling techniques, tie-offs, self-rescue, basic litter tie-ins, and basic litter handling skills. Much of the program is hands-on and time is allotted for practice in order to build proficiency.

Rope/High Angle Rescue II (RORA)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Rope/High Angle Rescue I (RORE)
MCFA # 1323
Manual: None.  
Auxiliary equipment: helmet with chin strap, gloves, work boots, (no sneakers) eye protection, long sleeve shirt, Class III harness, long pants.
Certificate: PSFA  Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 3.5 Clinical Patient Care; 3.5 Other

Students in this course will be re-introduced to the various types of rescue equipment. Students will be trained in; mechanical advantage systems, safeties, basic ascending, basic rappelling technique and tie-offs with a rappel rack, rope changes, and one person rescue. The students will perform a low angle raise and lower evolution simulating patient transport on embankments. Most of the program is hands-on and time is allotted for practice in order to build proficiency.

Ropes & Rigging Refresher
Hours: 8 (4-hour version available)
Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age; One of the following: Rescue I, Rope/High Angle Rescue I (RORE), Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue (ROBR), Confined Space Rescue (CSR), PA DOH Basic Rescue Practices (BRP), IFSAC/ProBoard NFPA 1006 General Requirements Certification or comparable operational rope rescue training
MCFA # 1361
Manual: Issued in class  
Auxiliary equipment: Fire/Rescue helmet with chin strap; eye protection (not a face shield), work clothing/coveralls, leather/rope gloves (no vehicle rescue gloves), Class III harness, work shoes/boots
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 24 students

This program is designed to review basic knots, bends, hitches, rigging and the simple mechanical advantage system. Through classroom sessions and practical application, the students will review the basic knots used in firefighting and rescue operations. Students will be presented with the newest and most current information relating to rope rescue and changes to consensus-based standards and good industry practices.
Montgomery County Fire Academy

Scenario Based Decision Making for the Company Officer
Hours: 8
Prerequisite: New Company Officer Seminar, National Fire Academy/Fire Science Program
Emergency Scene Management or Strategy and Tactics course
MCFA # 5008  Available online
Manual: Handouts  Auxiliary equipment: pen & notebook
Certificate: MCFA  Limit: 16 students

With the number of fire calls decreasing, it is difficult for a company officer to develop and/or improve their fire-ground decision making and communication skills. This course is designed to provide a fire company officer with the opportunity to conduct a size up, provide an initial status report, decide on the initial strategy and tactics and give orders for the arriving companies. The instructor will provide commonly encountered structure fires scenarios, such as a townhouse fire, a single family dwelling and a garden apartment building. The students, working in teams, will give an initial status report and use the command sequence to decide on a course of action.

Structural Burn Session (SBS)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Interior Firefighter or the equivalent*
MCFA # 1111
Manual: None  Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA
Certificate: PSFA  Limit: 25 students

This course will provide the student with a review and application of the techniques used in safe firefighting practices in an actual fire environment. Emphasis is placed on safety for both interior and exterior operations.
Structural Collapse Operations Level I (SCOA)
Hours: 3.5
Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age, Introduction to the Fire Service or the equivalent
MCFA # 1341
Available online
Manual: None. Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 50 students
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care ; 1 Other

This course gives the first responder the knowledge necessary to function effectively during the initial stages of a structural collapse incident. Assessing the magnitude of the situation, utilization of available resources, as well as personnel safety are highly stressed. Information necessary for first responders to integrate effectively with specialized collapse rescue teams is also provided.

Structural Collapse Operations Level II (SCOF)
Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Confined Space Rescue or Building Construction and Structural Collapse Operations Level I
MCFA # 1342
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 30 students
DOH Con Ed: 2.5 Clinical Patient Care; 0 Other

This course gives fire department and rescue personnel the knowledge and skills necessary to operate effectively at incidents involving the collapse of light frame and heavy wall structures. Students are given extensive hands on instruction in structure assessment, emergency shoring and stabilization, breaching building materials and patient packaging and extrication.

NOTE: This course follows many of the basic elements of the FEMA Structural Collapse Operations program and Field Operations Guide (FOG).

Structural Collapse Shoring Exercises
Hours: 8 (4-hour version available)
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Structural Collapse Operations Level II
MCFA # 8315
Manual: None. Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook, hard hat or helmet w/chin strap, work boots (no sneakers), eye protection, work clothes that can be soiled (coveralls recommended), work gloves, elbow and knee pads (recommended)
Certificate: MCFA Limit :32 students

This course is designed to give responders who have already completed structural Collapse Operations II and opportunity to refresh and expand their shoring skills. It will consist of hands-on review of shoring tools and equipment and realistic scenario-based shoring evolutions using both manufactured and lumber shoring.
Tanker Water Supply (TAWS)  
Hours: 16  
Prerequisite: Introduction to the Fire Service or the equivalent*, Fireground Support  
MCFA # 1270  
Manual: None  
Certificate: PSFA  
Auxiliary equipment: FTOG  
Limit: 30 students  

This course deals with supplying the fireground with water from tank trucks. There are four hours of class room lecture that address topics such as tank truck construction and water flow requirements. Over the course of two days, students will work through evolutions that involve water supply set up and the drop tank shuttle system.

Technical Rescue School  
Hours: 80  
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Introduction to the Fire Service or equivalent  
MCFA # 7028  
Manual: None.  
Certificate: MCFA & PSFA  
Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook, hard hat or helmet w/chin strap, work boots (no sneakers), eye protection, work clothes that can be soiled (coveralls recommended), work gloves, elbow and knee pads (recommended)  
Limit: 24 students  

This intense 80-hr program is designed to introduce students to the various disciplines of technical rescue. The program begins with the fundamentals and builds upon those skills during subsequent lessons. The vast of majority of the course is hands-on training to build proficiency. The coursework culminates in a final exercise that simulates real world rescue scenarios.

Following the completion of the Rescue School students will receive the following certificates:  
- Basic Rigging for Rope Rescue (ROBR)  
- Confined Space Rescue Awareness  
- Confined Space Rescue (CSR)  
- Rope/High Angle Rescue I (RORE)  
- Rope/High Angle Rescue II (RORA)  
- Trench Rescue Awareness  
- General Requirements for Technical Rescue after successful testing (written and skills)

Traffic Incident Management (TIM)  
Hours: 4  
Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age  
MCFA #  
Manual: Issued in class  
Certificate: PSFA  
Auxiliary equipment: None  
Limit: 50 students  
DOH Con Ed: 0 Med/Trauma; 2 Other

This National TIM Responder Training Program establishes the foundation and promotes consistent training for all responders to incidents involving operations on or near a highway. The PA-TIM objectives primarily target operations and special risks to personnel performing fire, rescue and EMS functions. This program examines those risks and provides nationally recognized actions to minimize/reduce those risks.
Trench Rescue Awareness

Hours: 4
Prerequisite: At least 17 years of age
MCFA # 1318 Available online
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 50 students

This course is recommended for all emergency service responders and is specifically designed for the first responder to a trench/excavation incident. It will help in initial size-up of the situation and how to institute basic procedures until trained personnel with the proper equipment arrives. Subject matter includes making the scene safe for the rescuers and victims, basic shoring equipment, and what the trench rescue teams will need upon arrival. This is a lecture-only program. It is open to all emergency service responders.

Trench Rescue Operations (TRRE)

Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Introduction to the Fire Service or equivalent*, Trench Rescue Awareness or equivalent discipline-specific training in occupational and/or construction safety.
MCFA # 1315
Manual: None. Auxiliary equipment: helmet with chin strap, gloves, work boots, (no sneakers), eye protection, long sleeve shirt, long pants
Certificate issued: PSFA Limit: 24 students
DOH Con Ed: 2 Clinical Patient Care 3.5 Other

This course will introduce the student to the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and effectively perform complex rescue operations in collapsed trench excavations. Course work will include practical drills and demonstration in a straight trench excavation.

NOTE: This is a hands-on program and students must be physically capable of standing for prolonged periods of time and lifting up to 50 lbs.

Truck Company Operations I (TRCO)

Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Interior Firefighter or the equivalent*
MCFA # 1266
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: FTOG & SCBA and pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: PSFA Limit: 25 students

Truck companies, regardless of whether they arrive on an aerial device, squad, or engine are the ‘combat engineers’ of fire attack operations. This course, for experienced Firefighters, will introduce the student to the basic concept of truck company operations and duties, including organizing the delivery of truck company services, selection and use of key tools, advanced ventilation and forcible entry theory and practices, search and rescue, and other fire attack support functions. Students may be asked to provide apparatus for the practical portion.
Today, firefighters assigned to a Ladder or Truck Company may face additional challenges in terms of forcible entry and interior search and rescue. A firefighter who is skilled using a rotary saw to remove steel windows grates or open steel garage doors on a commercial building provides critical fireground skills. Once inside, a firefighter who knows how to skillfully use a thermal imaging camera can literally see through the smoke to find a victim. This course is designed to provide the student with these and other advanced ladder company skills.

Vehicle Extrication Refresher for EMS
Hours: 8
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, PA Department of Health First Responder, EMT-B or EMT-Paramedic; NIMS 100 and 700
MCFA #1362
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: Full turn out gear, eye protection
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 24 students

This program is designed to review vehicle extrication and special rescue operations in emergency medical services. This program is designed for DOH First Responder’s, EMT-B’s or Paramedics who are members of a 9-1-1 Emergency Medical provider or QRS unit. This program will review scene safety & size up, use of PPE, vehicle safety components, hazardous materials, phases of vehicle extrication, patient access and care, rapid extrication and simple vs. complex extrication for the emergency medical services provider. A scenario will follow at the end of the program.
NOTE: This program is designed for Emergency Medical Service providers and will include information on patient assessment and medical consideration.

Vehicle Rescue Refresher
Hours: 8
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, PA Department of Health Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician OR IFSAC/ProBoard Vehicle & Machinery Rescue Technician Level I
MCFA #1361
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: Full turn out gear, eye protection
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 24 students

This program is designed to review basic vehicle rescue operations as well as update rescuers on the newest and most current information related to advancement in rescue techniques. Students will also be updated on the improvements of rescue technology. The practical skills portion of the program will focus on improving existing skills as well as giving rescuers some new techniques and ideas to approach vehicle collisions involving the newer cars. The final evolution will be scenario based.
NOTE: This program is designed for firefighters/rescue personnel who may be required to operate extrication tools at the scene of a vehicle rescue incident.
Vent – Enter – Isolate - Search
Hours: 8
Prerequisite: Interior Fire Fighter or equivalent*
MCFA # 5007
Manual: Handout Auxiliary Equipment: FTOG & SCBA
Certificate: MCFA Limit: 20

VEIS is a semi-specialized function of truck companies that may not be deployed at every fire. This course will cover the fundamental concepts of search and rescue, when and when not to use VEIS and how to properly employ the concept.

Water Rescue for the First Responders Awareness Level (WRFRA)
Hours: 2.5
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age
MCFA # 1334 Available for online delivery
Manual: Issued in class Auxiliary equipment: pen/pencil & notebook
Certificate: Fish and Boat Commission
Limit: 50 students
DOH Con Ed: 0 Clinical Patient Care 3 Other

This course is designed for EMS, Fire, Police, or Public Works personnel that respond to flooding conditions either on the highway or at swollen streams. This course is not designed to make the responder a water rescuer. This program includes scene assessment, activation of the Emergency Response System, evaluation of potential and existing water hazards, scene management, rescue vs. recovery, and personal safety measures. This course meets NFPA 1670 awareness level guidelines. This program will also cover the dangers involved with moving water. Students will learn what is or is not a water emergency as well as the limitations of personal protective equipment.
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Water Rescue & Emergency Response - WRER (PA Fish & Boat Commission)

Hours: 16
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age
MCFA # 1331

Manual: Issued in class  
Auxiliary equipment: Moving water practical requires one of the following: long pants, wet or dry suit. (No Gumby, Immersion or Ice Suits) Type III or IV USCG approved personal flotation device, knife, whistle, two locking carabiners, 50’ throw bag and water rescue helmet.

Certificate: PA Fish & Boat Commission
Limit: 16 students
DOH Con Ed: 2.5 Clinical Patient Care; 13.5 Other

This course is designed to familiarize students with water rescue and the dangers associated with it, the importance of safety, basic operations, planning and practice. Topics include statistics, planning, hypothermia, drowning, shore-based rescues, and self-rescue. Course consists of lecture, AV Presentations, demonstrations, and practical exercises. This course meets or exceeds NFPA 1670 Operations level guidelines.

Water Rescue Operations Level Refresher

Hours: 8 (4-hour version available)
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Water Rescue and Emergency Response (WRER)
MCFA # 4331

Manual: None
Auxiliary Equipment: Wet or dry suit, type III or V USCG PFD with whistle and knife, water rescue helmet, river shoes or boots, two locking carabiners, throw bag, gloves appropriate for water rescue use

Certificate: MCFA
Limit: 24 Students

This refresher course will reinforce and build upon the skills learned in Water Rescue and Emergency Response. Emphasis will be placed on safely completing shore-based and self-rescues. Students will complete size up and planning for rescue scenarios, including reading water dynamics, prior to conducting rescue scenarios. The instructor will review and the students will practice various rescue techniques as required by NFPA 1670 and NFPA 1006. Students must be strong swimmers and will be required to demonstrate their swimming ability during the course.

Water Rescue Technician Level Refresher

Hours: 8
Prerequisite: At least 18 years of age, Advanced Line Systems Rescue
MCFA # 4332

Manual: None
Auxiliary Equipment: Dry suit, type III or V USCG PFD with whistle and knife, water rescue helmet, river shoes or boots, two locking carabiners, throw bag, gloves appropriate for water rescue use

Certificate: MCFA
Limit: 24 Students

This refresher course will develop the student’s advanced technician-level water rescue skills. The program will consist of numerous scenario-driven practical evolutions in moving water. The instructor will review techniques learned in previous PA Fish and Boat courses and the students will have the opportunity to demonstrate and refine these skills. Additional alternative rescue techniques will be demonstrated by instructors and practiced by students. All skills will reflect NFPA 1670 and 1006 standards. Students must be strong swimmers and will be required to demonstrate their swimming ability during the course.
Wood Frame Construction Awareness

Hours: 4
Prerequisite: None
MCFA # 1168

Manual: None
Certificate: MCFA
Auxiliary equipment: Limit: 30 students

This course is designed to provide Firefighters with a basic understanding of wood-frame building construction techniques, materials and terminology. This knowledge will allow a company officer to provide a more concise and accurate initial status report and perhaps most importantly this course will provide insight into how fire and smoke can spread in a wood-frame residential occupancy and how quickly light-weight, wood-frame construction can fail when subjected to fire conditions.
Training Props

Ventilation Prop - Cost $400 - Contact: Darryl Harris
The Ventilation Prop is available for use by fire companies to practice roof ventilation techniques. The prop can be adjusted from a flat roof position to a peak roof. The ventilation area (26’ x 12’) to cut from covers 336 square feet and completely covered with ½ inch plywood. The price covers the cost of the plywood and one instructor/facilitator.

Car Fire Prop – Cost $400 – Contact Marty Joyce
The car fire prop uses liquid propane to simulate common vehicle fire situations. Firefighters are given opportunities to practice hose line advancement and water application methods. Because the fire can be rekindled quickly companies can run numerous evolutions without having to wait for the fire to build up.

Confined Space Simulator – Cost $150 – Contact Rob Carovillano
The Confined Space Simulator is a two-story structure contained within the Drill Tower that effectively represents both horizontal and vertical confined space’s and the hazards that may be found at a confined space incident. Users are able to create dynamic scenarios involving multiple entrants and rescues in a safe and controlled environment.

Ceiling Pull Prop – Cost $120.00 - Contact Darryl Harris
The ceiling pull prop is a firefighting training simulator to teach and practice the skills of ceiling pull and overhaul by utilizing the real world feel and effort to pull conventional drywall ceilings.

Forcible Entry Door – Cost $50—Contact Darryl Harris
The forcible entry door is a door that will enable firefighters to gain valuable, hands on, practical and realistic forcible entry training using a set of irons.

Trench Rescue Prop – Cost $150 Contact Rob Carovillano
The Trench Rescue prop contains both straight line and intersecting trenches as well as features that allow the simulation of trench lip and toe failures as well as underground utilities.
Buildings and Grounds – Submit request on web site

**Burn Building** – Cost - FREE to Montgomery County Fire Companies - $500 for Out-of-County
The burn building is divided into three sections Residential, Commercial and High-Rise. When using the burn building for live fire drills the fire academy supplies four Ignition Control Officers, hay and pallets. The burn building is open from April to June and September to November for live fire drills (weather permitting). Companies may use the building for hose line drills in early spring and all summer. Companies are encouraged to drill with their neighboring departments to practice mutual aid operations. **Because of the danger of live fire drills there are restrictions and conditions that the fire companies must meet to use the building. Please feel free to contact the Fire Academy if you have any questions.**

**Drill Tower** - Cost - FREE to Montgomery County Fire Companies
The drill tower allows the fire companies to drill and train their members in a number of situations, they include but not limited to ground & aerial ladder operations, standpipe and hoseline evolutions. It can also be used for rope & rigging drills and other technical rescue situations. The drill tower is open from early spring to late fall.

**Smoke House** Cost - FREE to Montgomery County Fire Companies
The smoke house’s primary use is for search & rescue drills. It can also be used for rapid invention team, firefighter safety & survival drills and SCBA confidence training.
Students with Disabilities.

It is the County’s responsibility to inform all students that sometimes accommodations may be available for basic testing, such as extended testing time or testing in a separate room. Students with a documented learning disorder may request accommodation for written examinations for fire training courses at the Montgomery County Fire Academy. Students must send their request for accommodation in writing to the Director of the Fire Academy prior to registering for a course. Students will be required to provide documentation, at their own expense, of their need for accommodation. Documentation of a specific learning disorder that would impact a student’s performance on the written examination must be written within five years of the date of application. Such documentation should include a signed explanation of the accommodation required on letterhead stationary from a professional who is familiar with the applicant’s disorder; or, a copy of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) from an educational institution that lists the accommodation required. The statement must confirm and describe the disorder for which the accommodation is requested. The professional must have expertise in the specific disorder for which the accommodation is being requested.

There is an expectation that a firefighter can use the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) without assistance at the emergency scene; therefore, students cannot be granted accommodation using the ERG during the Hazardous Materials written examinations. Successful completion of Hazardous Materials Operations is a requirement to register for the final entry level fire training course: Interior Firefighter. Students requesting accommodation because of a learning disorder on the written national certification examination must apply to the PA State Fire Academy for accommodation. Information related to an individual's disorder is strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties.

Accommodation for Certification Testing.
A student with a disability wishing to test for certification in any discipline must request accommodation from the PA State Fire Academy. The Pennsylvania Fire Service Voluntary Certification Program offers reasonable accommodations for the written certification exams for individuals with documented disabilities. Only written requests for accommodations for certification examinations are reviewed and each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Requests must be submitted on the “Accommodation Request” form, which is available from the Certification Coordinator at the Montgomery County Fire Academy.

The Pennsylvania Fire Service Voluntary Certification Program provides written notification of its decision to the candidate upon completion of its review and the review by legal counsel of the request for accommodation. Please contact the PA State Fire Academy Certification Program Manager and website for further information.
Montgomery County Fire Academy

Public Safety Training Campus 610-278-3500

Phone System
After the greeting press 4 to enter the extension menu. Enter the extension and then press pound.

First Deputy Director — Public Safety Training Campus
John Weed 610-278-3500 x6606
john.weed@montgomerycountypa.gov

Registrar
Cynthia Myers 610-278-3500 x6607
cynthia.myers@montgomerycountypa.gov
Registration, billing, transcripts, general fire academy questions

Administrative Assistant
Karen Zero 610-278-3500 x6625
karen.zero@montgomerycountypa.gov
Scheduling and administration

Coordinators
Edward O’Hanlon, Certification 610-278-3500 x6608
edward.ohanlon@montgomerycountypa.gov
Prerequisites for certification, schedule retest of certification test, information about certification, officer and management courses

Darryl Harris, Fire and Industrial 610-278-3500 x6609
darryl.harris@montgomerycountypa.gov
Entry level fire training, general fire courses, fire safety, fire extinguisher, industrial fire training

Robert Carovillano, Rescue 610-278-3500 x6610
robert.carovillano@montgomerycountypa.gov
Rescue programs and emergency vehicle driver training

Martin Joyce, Hazardous Material 610-278-3500 x6611
martin.joyce@montgomerycountypa.gov
Hazardous material courses, refreshers, fire police

John Corcoran, Emergency Services Outreach 610-278-3500 x6633
john.corcoran@montgomerycountypa.gov

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. M – F Coordinators are present at various other times during the evening and on weekends. Telephone messages are only retrieved during regular business hours.

Student Records
Requests are to be in writing. Forms are found at the Fire Academy web site.

The Montgomery County Fire Academy is closed on the following dates in 2023:
Montgomery County Fire Academy Medical Release Form

Name of Student (print): _____________________________
Fire Service Organization: _____________________________

A student participating in basic fire training may be required to wear fire protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus weighing at least 50 pounds in hazardous atmospheres, perform firefighting and rescue operations that expose them to extreme heat, toxic products of combustion and hazardous materials. They may also be required to lift, carry and raise ladders, stretch charged 1 ¾ “ and 2 ½” hose line, climb ladders up to 35 feet in height and use tools such as a saw, fire axe or halligan tool to open simulated roofs and locked doors. Students may achieve heart rates of 85 to 100% of their maximum capacity during training operations. A student with a casual blood pressure reading BP systolic >160 mm Hg or BP diastolic >100 mm does NOT meet the medical requirements for a firefighter candidate as required by the NFPA Standard 1582-2013 Edition.

Because of the physically strenuous nature of training, students who wish to participate in basic fire training at the Montgomery County Fire Academy must be approved by a Physician or other Licensed Health Care Professional. Students who have received a fire department physical examination within the past 36 months and were approved for fire duty can participate in training if their Fire Chief or Training Officer attests to their active-duty status by signing below.

Print Name: _____________________________________ Date: ____/____/________.
Signature: ________________________________ Fire Company: ________________.

Without a recent (within the past 36 months) fire-company physical, a physician or other licensed health care professional must approve the student for training by signing below.

I have examined __________________________________and I am satisfied that this individual is medically fit to participate in fire training as described above.

Physician’s name: ______________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________Telephone:______________.
Physician’s signature: ____________________________ Date: ___/____/_______
Montgomery County Fire Academy
Student Registration Form
Email: cynthia.myers@montgomerycountypa.gov
Fax: 610-278-3499

Full Name: ___________________________________________________________________

Home Address _______________________________________________________________________________________
Number & street name City State Zip

Date of Birth __/__/____ (required) EMT # ______________________
M D YY

Student ID ____________________ (required)
first three letters last name & last four SSN

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the above information is correct. I also meet pre-requisites and age requirements for this course. I also understand that any falsification of information may lead to my registration being rejected. I am aware that my picture may be taken while attending class and used in print or electronic form.

Student Signature (and Parent Signature if student is under 18):
___________________________________________________________

Student Email ____________________________________________
*Students are emailed confirmations when their registration has been processed.

Phone: ________________________
during business hours

Course Information:
Name of course: _____________________________________ MCFA Course #: ____________
Only one course per form.
Start Date: __/__/____ Fee: $_____________
M D Y

Payment Authorization: Make checks payable to: Montgomery County Treasurer
Student pays __________ Check #____________ Money order # ________________
Voucher/Purchase Order # ___________________ (officer initials)
Charge company account ________________ (officer initials)

Company Authorization: I certify that the above student meets the prerequisites and age requirements to attend this course, has working papers, and is covered by my company Worker’s Compensation policy while attending this training course.
Signature ____________________________________________________________________
Title: ______________________________________________________________________

Print Name: __________________________________________________________________

Contact info: (Email and phone)
____________________________________________________________________________

Name of Fire Company, Ambulance Squad, etc.: ______________________________________
Montco # _______ Out of County # _______ County _________________________________

Mailing Address: __________________________________________________________________

Municipality: __________________________

Mail to: Montgomery County Fire Academy
ATTN: Registrar
1175 Conshohocken Rd
Conshohocken, PA 19428

02/23