



# Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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## Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

July 1992

Revised: June 2002

**Course Title:** Fire Arson Investigation (ARIN)

**Course Code:** ARIN

**Length of Course:** 16 Hours

**Lecture/Lab Breakdown:** 14/2

**Prerequisites:** *ADFR* and at least 5 years member of a Fire Department as a Chief, Line Officer, or member of an investigation team assigned to determine cause and origin. *Students must have prerequisite regarding investigative duties and bring written evidence of same to first day of class.*

**Referenced Texts:** NFA Fire/Arson Detection

**Course Goal:** to train those members whose responsibility is to determine the Origin & Cause of a given fire.

**Description of Course:** This course introduces the student to a step by step procedure in determining the Origin & Cause of a given fire and the awareness of possible incendiaries. Includes both building & vehicle fires starting with the motives of those individuals who are fire setters. It is designed for first responders who wish additional knowledge in fire cause and origin determination.

**Description of Methodology to be used:** Classroom instruction with the use of video, slides, props, on-site scenes if available.

**Student Equipment/Supply Needs:** NFA Manual, Notebook, Pen/Pencil; Coveralls, hard hat, boots, and eye protection should be available.

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements:** Classroom w/ usual amenities; AV equipment to support instructor's audiovisual package; A burn building or acquired structure and motor vehicle where fire "sets" can be made, extinguished, then investigated is highly desirable.

### COURSE OUTLINE

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Notes</b>
2:00	Motives	Fire setter motives
2:00	Locating the Origin	Determine the point of origin
4:00	Accidental Causes	
2:00	Incendiary Causes	
(continued)		

**COURSE OUTLINE (continued)**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1:30	Additional considerations re: Miscellaneous Fires ; Vehicle Fires, Outside Storage, Wildland Fires	
1:00	Considerations re: Fatal Fires	
3:00	Investigation scenarios	
:30	Summary and conclusion	

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism:** Directed questioning by instructor during classroom work; student performance during investigation scenarios.

**Learning Outcomes** (course objectives): Upon completion of this course, and given a fire scenario, the student shall, to the satisfaction of the instructor:

1. correctly identify the origin of a given fire.
2. correctly identify the cause of the fire, be it accidental or incendiary.
3. if determined incendiary, identify the most likely motive(s) of the fire setter.
4. demonstrate the proper procedure for fatal fire investigations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Questions/Comments: Rita Wessel, Curriculum Specialist: Extension 106  
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