



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

January 1996
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Course Title: Pennsylvania Essentials of Fire Fighting (EBM)
(Formerly *Essentials Module I*)

Length of Course: 88 hours

Lecture/lab Breakdown: 41.5/46.5

Referenced Text: IFSTA *Essentials of Fire Fighting* 4th edition

Course Goal: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to safely and effectively demonstrate the prerequisite knowledge and skills listed in the 1997 edition of NFPA Professional Qualification Standard # 1001 for Fire Fighter I (with the exception of haz-mat and EMS competencies).

Description of Course: This is Pennsylvania's designated entry-level fire fighter course. Through classroom sessions and practical fieldwork, this course gives the newly recruited fire fighter the ability to function safely and effectively as a member of a fire suppression organization.

Description of methodology used: A combination of lecture, demonstration, and supervised practice. All didactic and motor-skill competencies will be presented as described in the 4th edition of IFSTA's *Essentials of Fire Fighting*. Time permitting, instructors may also present safe, effective alternate methods of performing these skills based on other sources or personal experience. **IMPORTANT NOTE: The course methodology relies heavily on students' completing the reading assignments out of the IFSTA manual for each session. For that reason, each student is REQUIRED to possess a copy of the 4th edition *Essentials* manual for the duration of the course.**

Note # 1: "Junior" fire fighters: The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has reviewed this course and has determined that minors aged 14 through 17 may complete the course, **provided that instructors can make accommodations that permit "juniors" to demonstrate mastery of all required skills in a manner that does not violate the prohibitions of the Child Labor Law.** This mainly concerns the prohibition against "entering a burning building" during SCBA exercises in live smoke, search/rescue exercises in live smoke, and Integrated Exercises using the "live burn" option. Such accommodations might include use blanked-out SCBA face pieces in clear

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air, use of “Roscoe” smoke, and assignment to exterior duties in live structural burns. Individual Educational Training Agencies (ETAs) may set more stringent age requirements if they choose to do so.

Note # 2: Use of “Live” Structural Fires: The use of a “live” interior structure fire for Lesson 21 (integrated Exercises) is not required. “Wet drills” that achieve the instructional objectives of this lesson are permitted in lieu of live fires. Nonetheless, instructors and ETAs may, at their option, use or permit a live structural fire exercise for Lesson 21. The time constraints in the lesson (4 hours), however, make this option extremely difficult with typical student loads, especially when using an “acquired” structure versus a burn building at a training facility. For these reasons, the State Fire Academy strongly recommends that a separate 16-hour *Structural Burn Session (SBS)* course be scheduled some time soon after completion of *EBM* to reinforce *EBM* objectives and achieve live interior burn experience, especially if the use of an “acquired structure” is contemplated.

Student Equipment /Supply Needs: See Table 2 of the General Plan of Instruction for this course contained in the Instructor Guide.

Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply Needs: These needs are listed for each lesson in the Instructor Guide material for that lesson. Quantities of items such as hose lines, ladders, etc. will depend, in many cases, on the number of students, number of available instructors, and character of facilities available. The IFSTA *Essentials of Fire Fighting Curriculum Package* is the recommended audiovisual package for supporting this program. It is acknowledged, however, that there are many sources of supplementary audiovisual products available for use at an instructor’s or Educational Training Agency’s option. The precise type(s) of audiovisual equipment needed will depend on the material(s) selected to support the course. Available facilities will likewise vary greatly based on class location. As an absolute minimum, the following facilities will be required:

- a) Adequate classroom area subject to minimum distractions and with sufficient seating (at tables or student desks), tables for equipment, etc. and electric service for audiovisual equipment.
- b) Facilities which can be used for the following practical work: Tool hoisting; supply line laying; hose line advancement; facilities for raising, hoisting, and working off of ground ladders; SCBA practical evolutions; live fire extinguisher exercises; pump connections; forcible entry; search and rescue; sprinkler wedging.

See Table 2 of the General Plan of Instruction in the Instructor’s Guide for more information
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Student/Instructor ratios for practical work shall be such that educational objectives can be achieved in a safe, effective manner, and shall under no circumstance exceed 7 to 1 during all practical exercises. All other conditions set forth in the General Plan of Instruction contained in the Instructor guide *must* be complied with as a condition of issuing State Fire Academy *Certificates of Training* or a joint PSFA/ETA certificate. The SFA Curriculum Specialist in consultation with the appropriate Field Education Specialist must approve variations due to unique or unusual circumstances before the fact.

Course Outline (General – not detailed)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Content:</u>	<u>Notes</u>
4:00	Introduction to Fire Service / Fire Behavior	
4:00	Fire Fighter Safety / PPE / Fire Extinguishers	
4:00	Ropes and Knots / Fire Extinguisher Practical	
4:00	SCBA 1	
4:00	SCBA 2	
4:00	SCBA 3	
4:00	Communications / Fire Prevention / Sprinklers	
4:00	Hose 1	
4:00	Hose 2	
4:00	Water Supply / Pump Connections	
4:00	Ladders 1	
4:00	Ladders 2	
4:00	Fire Streams / Foam	
4:00	Fire Control / Fire Stream & Foam Practical	
4:00	Hose 3	
4:00	Ladders 3	
4:00	Tools / Forcible Entry	
4:00	Rescue / Utility Control	
4:00	Ventilation	
4:00	Salvage & Overhaul	
4:00	Integrated Exercises	
4:00	Course Review / Summary / Evaluation	

Competency Evaluation Mechanisms:

For didactic competencies: a 100 question (minimum) written final examination passed with a 705 or greater; a 25 question SCBA written examination at the beginning of Lesson 7 passed with a 70% or greater.

For motor skill competencies: Lead instructors assessment of skill mastery using the skill sheets provided to each student as well as in the Instructor Guide as the criteria.

See the General Plan of Instruction in the Instructor Guide for further information.

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Course Objectives (specific): Specific learning outcomes (objectives) for each lesson are those listed in the Instructor Guide for this course. The objectives are substantially those contained in the Job Performance Requirements, prerequisite knowledges, and prerequisite skills in the 1997 edition of NFPA Standard # 1001, Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, Chapter 3, Fire Fighter I (with the exception of haz-mat and emergency medical competencies).

EBM MSA 6 2000

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