



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

Date: September 1993

Last Revision: March 2001

Course Title: Farm & Barn Fire Fighting

SFA Course Code: FAFI

Course Length: 16 hours

Lecture/Lab Breakdown: 13/3

Prerequisites: EBM

Referenced Text(s): Current edition of IFSTA *Essentials Of Fire Fighting; Rural Fire Fighting Operations Books 1 and 2* by Larry Davis; *Rural Rescue and Emergency Care*; American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons

Course Goal: The student will develop an understanding for the unique characteristics of fires in barns and other agricultural structures/facilities.

Course Description: This course is designed to deal with fires in barns and other farm structures. Topics include water supply, safety, and command. The priority system governing fire attack is also discussed.

Description of Methodology: Combination of lecture, discussion, demonstration, and (where facilities permit) supervised practice.

Student Equipment & Supplies: Pen/pencil and notebook suitable for making field notes; Work clothes with shoes, boots, head, hand, and eye protection (for farm tour); Turnout gear for water movement exercises.

Equipment/Audiovisual/Facility/Supply Requirements: Classroom with usual amenities; audiovisual equipment per instructor requirements; a working farm within a reasonable traveling distance whose operator is willing to conduct a class tour; transportation to/from said farm for the class; a minimum of two engines and two mobile water supply apparatus (tankers) for water movement evolution; other equipment as requested by the instructor.

Course Outline

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| 2:00 | General characteristics; building construction and hazards | |
| 1:00 | Pesticides and Agricultural chemicals | |
| :30 | Assessing Priorities; Value of Equipment and Ag Assets. | |
| 1:00 | Hay and Forage Storage Problems | |
| (continued) | | |

Course Outline (continued)

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Topic</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1:00 | Overview of Silo Emergencies | |
| 1:00 | Handling Animals and Livestock | |
| 1:30 | Pre-planning & Fire Flow Considerations | |
| 4:00 | Farm Tour | |
| 3:45 | Water Supply / Practical Evolutions | |
| :15 | Summary & Conclusion | |

Competency Evaluation Mechanism: Instructor's assessment of the students' grasp of knowledge objectives through directed questioning; observation of performance during practical exercises.

Learning Outcomes (Behavioral Objectives):

Upon completion of the course, the student shall, to the satisfaction of the instructor:

1. identify at least 3 general characteristics of farms that present or contribute to the hazards of fire operations.
2. identify typical construction features of barns and other common farm structures and relate them to fire attack strategy, tactics, and fire fighter health/safety.
3. identify the principle types/classes of agricultural chemicals commonly stored or encountered on farms, their typical methods of storage and application; relate this information to fire attack strategy, tactics, and fire fighter health/safety.
4. identify characteristics of hay, forage, and silage storage and handling and describe the hazards posed by this agricultural operation under fire conditions.
5. given a typical barn/farm fire scenario, evaluate and prioritize exposure protection to buildings, equipment, and livestock using relative money value and business interruption potential as criteria.
6. demonstrate safe (to both the handler and animal) methods of handling livestock under typical fire and emergency conditions.
7. given a typical barn/farm fire scenario, determine required fire flow; determine and be able to implement a strategy to provide, maintain, and apply that flow under typical rural fire ground conditions.
8. given a typical farm, develop a pre-fire plan based on the considerations identified in this course.