



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

July 1992

Course Title: Legal Concepts for Fire Police (LCFP)

Length of Course: 16 Hours

Lecture/Lab Breakdown: 14/2

Prerequisites: FIPO

Course Goal: To set forth the specifics of Pennsylvania law and its operation within the scope of the authority of special fire police and to correct certain misconceptions related thereto.

Description of Course: This course is an in-depth study of the laws with which fire police, fire departments and the municipality are jointly involved. This includes powers, negligence, liability, detention, training, Crimes Code, Vehicle Laws and their application.

Description of Methodology to be used: (Brief) Lecture, discussion and problem solving. Latest up-date law search-presented and discussed.

Student Equipment/Supply Needs: Training Manual: Legal Concepts for Fire Police. Notebook & pencil.

Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements: VCR & Monitor, Chalkboard, Current copies of Vehicles Law (Title 75) Crimes Code (Title 18).

COURSE OUTLINE (General - Not Detailed)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Instructor Notes</u>
2 hrs.	Review basic course-correct misconceptions	Procure
3 hrs.	Fire police law and the Bill of Rights	video tapes &
3 hrs.	Legal liability-direct/indirect, lawsuit target	latest laws
3 hrs.	Defenses against liability	
2 hrs.	The scope of fire police authority-arrest and detention	Prepare
2 hrs.	Official duties and insurance	Handouts
1 hr.	Test and review	

continued

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION

Competency Evaluation Mechanism (Brief description-attach copy): Law search (by student) to fit a specific situation. Review/Test - student corrected.

Course Objectives (specific):

1. To show how the law concerning fire police evolved and how their police power increased.
2. To correct misconceptions concerning the legal operations of fire police.
3. To explain specific points of the Fire Police Law, The Bill of Rights and the Civil Rights Act (USC 42, Sec. 1983).
4. To show by examining PA Law, the extent of the scope of authority of fire police.
5. To encourage fire police to be extremely cautious in using their "necessary" authority (police power).
6. To show the extent of liability and some defenses that help to avoid it.
7. To show fire police how to conduct themselves in a court of law.
8. To examine and show application of some specific Pennsylvania laws.