



# Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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## Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

May 1993

**Course Title:** Store/Mall/Mercantile Fire Fighting (MIFI)

**Length of Course:** 16 Hours

**Lecture/Lab Breakdown:** 16/0

**Prerequisites:** ECOP, TRCO, ICS

**Referenced Texts:** IFSTA: Essentials, 3rd edition; Building Construction, 1st edition; Ground Ladder Practices, 8th edition; Forcible Entry, Ventilation, Safety, Hose, Water Supplies, Salvage and Overhaul.

**Course Goal:** Students will be able to employ tactics and strategies that will safely and efficiently allow a fire fighter to perform the duties required while operating at a mercantile fire.

**Description of Course:** This course provides instruction in the building construction of stores, malls, and mercantile buildings. Fire fighting operations in stores and strip malls, and support operations for fire protection systems are also presented. Tours to mercantile structures are generally included.

**Description of Methodology to be used: (Brief)** Combination of lecture, AV presentations and table top fire scenarios.

**Student Equipment/Supply Needs:** Pen/Pencil, notebook, field notebook for notes during field trip. If tour site is a facility under construction, hard hat and eye protection may be required.

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements:** Classroom with sufficient seating capacity; VHS VCR with sufficient monitors, chalkboard; OHT projector and slide projector with screen. (Specific AV equipment required may vary from instructor to instructor depending on AV's developed/used.) Facility to be toured on second day, such as a mall, "strip mall" or other similar facility. This tour is essential to successful conduction of this class. A facility under construction is ideal.

The "Ventilation: and "mercantile/light manufacturing" portions of the Emergency Resources, Inc. "Fire Attack" series are highly recommended for use with the appropriate sections of this course.

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**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**(General - Not Detailed)**

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Instructor Notes</u></b>
:15	Registration, Introduction and Course Objectives	
:15	Safety Review	
2:00	Building Construction Lecture	
1:00	Building Inspections Lecture	
1:00	Visit a Strip Mall Practical	
1:00	Develop a Pre-Plan in Class	
1:00	Introduce the Incident Command System Lecture	
6:30	Tactics & Strategies Lecture: Engine Company Tactics, Truck Company Tactics, Special Need Equipment, Fire Scenarios of Various Size & Scope, Closure of Class, and 20 Question Test.	

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism (Brief description-attach copy):** 20 Question written examination and fire scenario oral reports.

**Course Objectives (specific):** Upon successful completion of this course, the fire fighter will:

1. understand basic building construction as it relates to fire spread.
2. explain building construction as it related to fire service the the implication and the modern trends in building design.
3. identify at least two means of estimating fire flow requirements.
4. explain the relationship existing between pump sizes, hoseline sizes, and nozzle sizes and their impact on fire flow.
5. define the principals of ventilation, and identify the advantages and effects of ventilation.
6. identify the dangers present, and precautions to be taken in performing ventilation.
7. recognize the possible need to ventilate as a defensive tool (Trench Cutting).
8. define safety procedures as they apply to mall, store and mercantile fire fighting.
9. identify the fire inspection procedures.
10. identify the components of a pre-fire plan.
11. know the various entrances and how to force entry to each.
12. identify the purpose of salvage, and its value to the store owner and the fire department.
13. identify the need for an organized approach when fighting a fire in a store, mall, or mercantile building.

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Store/Mall/Mercantile Fire Fighting (MIFI)

**Course Objectives (continued)**

14. list the elements of an effective incident command system at a Mercantile Building Fire.
15. be able to apply pre-planning tactics and strategies to fire scenarios of various type and complexities.

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