



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

January 1997

Course Title: Arson Awareness for Emergency Response Personnel (AAEP)

Length of Course: 4 Hours

Lecture/Lab Breakdown: 4/0

Prerequisites: None

Referenced Texts: Instructor Guide for the course in question; Instructor Guide and Student Manual for the NFA course "Arson Detection for the First Responder"

Course Goal: This course will prepare 'first-on-the-scene' responders to make observations and take actions which will help fire investigators determine cause and origin of fires and, where appropriate, investigate and successfully prosecute cases of arson.

Description of Course: This course is appropriate for *all* emergency responders (fire, fire police, police, and EMS) who might arrive first on the scene of a fire. It consists of material extracted from the longer National Fire Academy course *Arson Detection for the First Responder*, and is designed to give essential basic information to responders whose duties do not require the more extensive NFA course, or whose time schedules do not permit attending the longer course at this time.

Description of Methodology to be used: (Brief) Lecture and discussion.

Student Equipment/Supply Needs: Pen/Pencil and notebook; copy of student manual.

Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements: Classroom with adequate seating; 35mm carousel slide projector with screen; chalkboard or flip chart; 1 copy of student manual per student and AV kit for this course.

COURSE OUTLINE (General - Not Detailed)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Instructor Notes</u>
:30	Introduction	
:30	Fire Behavior	
1:00	First Responder Observations	
1:00	Fire Causes	
:30	Scene Security and Preservation of Evidence	
:15	Legal Considerations	
:15	Reporting of Findings - Unit 7	

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Competency Evaluation Mechanism (Brief description-attach copy): Directed questioning by instructor.

Course Objectives (specific): The student will be able to:

1. recognize as first responders the indicators of an intentionally set fire, preserve evidence, and report the information to the appropriate official.
2. define clearly the role of the first responder, and understand that the first responder's role is not to determine the origin or cause of the fire, and that he/she is not responsible as an investigator.
3. define fire.
4. list and describe three methods of heat energy transfer.
5. define flameover/roll over, flashover and backdraft.
6. classify the element of the fire triangle and tetrahedron.
7. identify building construction.
8. identify critical observations made while en route to the fire scene and explain their importance.
9. identify critical observations made upon arrival at the fire scene and explain their importance.
10. identify critical observations made during fire suppression activities and explain their importance.
11. list and describe numerous causes of accidental fires.
12. identify the most common incendiary methods used by firesetters.
13. list and explain the most common types of incendiary devices.
14. describe the proper procedures for securing the fire scene.
15. describe the procedure for allowing the owner, occupant, or building manager to re-enter the burned structure.
16. explain the importance of evidence preservation at the fire scene.
17. identify proper evidence collection techniques.
18. explain the United State's Supreme Court's Michigan v. Tyler decision that grants fire departments rights to forcibly enter property under exigent circumstances.
19. describe the applicability of the Fourth Amendment that allows for search and seizure of property.
20. describe the proper courtroom demeanor when called upon to testify.

AAEP/msas

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