



# Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

1150 Riverside Drive

Lewistown, PA 17044-1979

(717) 248 1115

In PA: 1 800 459 4096

FAX (717) 248 3580

## Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

June 2001

**Course Title:** Principles of Building Construction Combustible (NFA) (BCP)

**Length of Course:** 16 Hrs

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

**Prerequisites:** IST

**Referenced Texts:** NFPA 1500; NFPA 1561; NFPA 220; SARA Title III; 29CFR1910;  
Student Manual

**Course Goal:** Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to identify critical safety issues that affect firefighter safety for each classification of construction and identify appropriate measures to enhance the safety of emergency responders.

**Description of Course:** The overall goal of this course is to provide knowledge about the classification system of buildings, the importance of fire resistance for structural support elements, and the risks associated with performing fire-suppression activities inside and around buildings involved in fire. One additional major goal of this course is to enhance the skills of emergency response personnel so that they can read a building correctly and apply the information to the action plan for the incident.

This course is intended for fire response personnel.

**Description of Methodology to be used (Brief):** Combination of lecture, guided discussion, and structured group activities.

**Student Equipment/Supply Needs:** Note taking materials, student manual

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements:**

- Classroom -- desks (table and chairs), TV/VCR, projection screen, Slide projector, Easel pad, markers, Dry erase board.

(continued)

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

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Instructor Requirements</u></b>
0.5	Registration, Introductions	1
2.5	1: Introduction	1
2.0	2: Principles of Building Construction	1
5.0	3: Type V Wood-Frame Buildings	1
2.0	4: Type III or Ordinary Construction	1
1.5	5: Type IV or Heavy-Timber Construction	1
1.5	6: Culminating Activity	1
1.0	Critique, Exam	1

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism:** Directed questioning by instructor; optional written exam supplied with instructor materials.

**Course Objectives (specific):** Upon successful completion, the student shall:

1. Identify a building and correctly apply the classification system for the building in accordance with NFPA 220, Standard on Types of Building Construction.
2. Identify the important structural features of a building and use this information in the formation of the Incident Action Plan (IAP), including the strategic goals, tactical objectives, and incident priorities.
3. Identify critical size up issues such as smoke, heat, and fire travel inside a structure, and predict the path or method of travel based upon the building construction features.
4. Identify critical safety issues that affect firefighter safety for each classification of construction and identify appropriate measures to enhance the safety of emergency responders.