

Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

ENTRY LEVEL FIRE TRAINING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Question:** When should students and fire departments switch to the new IFSTA manual?

Answer: As soon as possible, the IFSTA 6th Edition Essentials of Firefighting manual will be used to instruct all levels within the Pennsylvania Entry Level Fire Training curriculum as of July 1, 2014.

2. **Question:** Have the levels changed from the original Delmar curriculum as compared to the new IFSTA curriculum?

Answer: YES and NO. YES, we have introduced a new Level 5 - Advanced Firefighter level (course) and NO; the names of the first four levels of the IFSTA curriculum remain the same as in the Delmar curriculum. The only changes to the first four levels are a reduction in the number of hours and some shifting of topics from one level to another. Those levels are called:

- a. Level 1: Introduction to Fire Service (ELIS)
- b. Level 2: Fire Ground Support (ELFG)
- c. Level 3: Exterior Firefighter (ELEF)
- d. Level 4: Interior Firefighter (ELIF)
- e. Level 5: Advanced Firefighter (ELAF)

3. **Question:** Will students who have taken previous Delmar Entry Level classes (ELIS, ELFG, ELEF, and ELIF) have to repeat those levels under the new IFSTA curriculum?

Answer: NO, students are not required to retake any level(s) previously taken utilizing the Delmar curriculum. A student may wish to repeat a level as a refresher course under the new IFSTA curriculum, but all previous training using the Delmar curriculum will be honored as pre-requisites.

4. **Question:** How do I prove I've met the prerequisites for each level in the Entry Level curriculum?

Answer: A course certificate or a signed Skill Book will be accepted as proof of meeting any required course pre-requisites.

5. **Question:** What are the pre-requisites for “Advanced Firefighter”?

Answer: The pre-requisites are Interior Firefighter, a certificate from the old Essentials of Firefighting (EBM) course, or attainment of a national certification as a Firefighter I.

6. **Question:** Are Skill Books required for all levels within the Entry Level Fire Training curriculum using the new IFSTA manual?

Answer: YES, Skill Books are required by the student to document completion of skills and to successfully move from one level to the next. There are a total of 49 skills sheets divided into the five entry level courses.

7. **Question:** Are the skills printed in the Skills Books also found in the IFSTA manual?

Answer: YES, the Skill Books reference pictorials only of the skills being demonstrated within the IFSTA manual to reinforce student and fire department training.

8. **Question:** Where do I get a Skills Book?

Answer: The Pennsylvania State Fire Academy has developed and printed the Skills Book and provides them free of charge to our Educational Training Agency (ETA) partners that sponsor entry level fire training courses. Each student will be provided a Skill Book (free of charge) at the start of their first level (course) of instruction. The student uses that same skills book to complete any level within the curriculum.

9. **Question:** How old do I have to be to start each level?

Answer: For Levels 1, 2 and 3, the student must be 14 years of age or older at the start of the course. For Levels 4 and 5, the student must be 18 years of age or older at the start of the course.

10. **Question:** What Hazardous Materials Awareness Certificate will meet the pre-requisites for the Entry Level fire training program?

Answer: Any awareness certificate (ETA, on-line, out-of-state, etc.) will be accepted to meet the Entry Level Fire Training pre-requisites and be recorded on the back page of the skill book. However, only those certificates listed on the national certification test application are acceptable to meet the pre-requisites for national certification testing.

11. **Question:** Is a Hazardous Materials Operations or Refresher certificate acceptable proof of meeting the pre-requisite training for Hazardous Materials Awareness?

Answer: YES, provide a certificate showing proof of training either current or in the past.

12. **Question:** If I am Firefighter I certified can I take the ELAF without going through the four prior programs to prepare for firefighter II?

Answer: YES

13. **Question:** If I have taken the complete Delmar program can I take ELAF to prepare for Firefighter II?

Answer: YES, provide certificate showing proof of completion of Delmar Training.

14. **Question:** If I have taken the Bucks Basic Fire Academy program can I take ELAF to prepare for Firefighter II?

Answer: YES, provide a certificate showing proof of completion.

15. **Question:** If I have taken the old 88 hour Essentials program can I take ELIF or do I have to complete the full Entry Level program?

Answer: YES you can take ELIF and NO you don't have to complete the full Entry Level Program. Provide a certificate showing proof of completion of Essentials.

16. **Question:** If a student fails to complete the required skills in a given level can they retest the skills they failed to complete that level or must they retake the entire level (course)?

Answer: YES they can retest only the skills failed without having to retake the entire level within one year. After that one year they would repeat that level of instruction.

Any additional questions related to the IFSTA Entry Level Fire Training program can be sent to ra-fire@pa.gov.