



# Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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## Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

Revised 1/2006

**Course Title:** Arson Detection for the First Responder - NFA (ADFR)

**Length of Course:** 16 Hours

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

**Prerequisites:** ELIS for Fire Service personnel

**Referenced Texts:** Course Instructor Guide

**Course Goal:** Upon successful completion the student will be able to provide a clear definition of the role of initial responder organizations and to provide essential knowledge to enable them to recognize the potential of an intentionally set fire, preserve evidence, and properly report the information to appropriate officials.

**Description of Course:** The course covers topics which fire suppression personnel must be familiar with in order to facilitate origin and cause determination and possible subsequent investigation of intentionally set fires.

**Description of Methodology to be used: (Brief)** Lecture with individual and group activities.

**Student Equipment/Supply Needs:** Notebook, pen/pencil, one copy of student manual.

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements:** Classroom with adequate seating, chalkboard or easel pad, 35 mm slide projector with screen, TV and VCR, one student manual per student and ADFR AV kit.

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

<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Content</u></b>	<b><u>Instructor Notes</u></b>
2:30	Registration/Introduction	
2:30	Fire Behavior	
3:30	First Responder Observations	
4:00	Fire Causes	
2:00	Scene Security and Preservation of Evidence	
1:00	Legal Considerations	
:30	Reporting of Findings	

(continued)

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism (Brief description-attach copy):** Instructor observations during work sessions and participation of student.

**Course Objectives (specific):** Upon successful completion 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, flameover/rollover, flashover, and backdraft.
4. list and describe three methods of heat energy transfer.
5. classify the elements of the fire triangle and tetrahedron.
6. identify basic building construction.
7. obtain and evaluate the appropriate information from the reporter(s) of the fire.
8. identify critical observations made while en route to, upon arrival at, during suppression activities and during post suppression activities at the fire scene and explain their importance.
9. list and describe numerous causes of accidental fires.
10. identify the most common incendiary methods used by firesetters.
11. list and explain the most common types of incendiary devices.
12. describe the proper procedures for securing the fire scene.
13. describe the procedure for allowing the owner, occupant, or building manager to re-enter the burned structure.
14. explain the importance of evidence preservation at the fire scene.
15. identify proper evidence collection techniques.
16. explain the U.S. Supreme Court's Michigan vs. Tyler decision that grants fire department the right to enter property forcibly under exigent circumstances.
17. describe the applicability of the Fourth Amendment that allows for search and seizure of property.
18. describe proper courtroom demeanor when called upon to testify.
19. recognize, recall, and report the pertinent information from their observations as they relay their findings to the Incident Commander or supervisor.

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**Questions/Comments: Contact the Curriculum Specialist**