



# Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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## Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

July 1992  
Revised 02 06

**Course Title:** Forcible Entry (TFE)

**SFA Course Code:** TFE

**Length of Course:** 16 Hours

**Lecture/Lab Breakdown:** 12/4

**Prerequisites:** ELIF or EBM

**Referenced Texts:** NFPA #1001, "Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications"; "Truck Company Operations" by Hal Richman, IFSTA "Forcible Entry", Seventh Edition; IFSTA "Essentials" Second Edition

**Course Goal:** Upon completing this course, the student shall be able to identify forcible entry situations, select appropriate tools/techniques, and execute quick, safe entry into a closed area.

**Description of Course:** This course will provide the fire fighter with a better understanding of building construction as applies to forcible entry. Also covered will be opening techniques and the use of tools for safe, quick access to a structure.

**Description of Methodology to be used:** A combination of lecture, demonstration, and supervised practice where feasible. Practice should be performed in protective clothing and SCBA to enhance mastery of skills under authentic fire ground conditions.

**Student Equipment/Supply Needs:** Notebook, pen/pencil, turnout gear including industrial style eye protection, SCBA

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements:** Classroom with appropriate seating capacity, chalkboard or flip chart. Audiovisual equipment needed will be dependent on the precise audiovisuals selected by the instructor or educational training agency. A wide variety of audiovisual productions exist on the topic; selections should reinforce the course objectives. Likewise, whenever feasible, actual examples of doors, locking mechanisms, etc., should be available for classroom demonstration and use. A facility is required which will provide for the practice of various door, window, etc., forcible entry techniques. This facility may be an acquired structure or specially constructed mock-ups.

Equipment needed: Pumper or Aerial with ground ladders and typical complement of forcible entry tools; Selection of manual forcible entry tools to include, as a minimum, flat head axe, pick head axe, halligan type bar, pry bar, selection of pike poles of varying lengths, lock puller

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## MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION

**Course Title:** Forcible Entry (TFE)

July 1992 Revised 02 06

Page 2 of 3

### **Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements: (continued)**

("K-Tool", "O Tool", or similar equipment), shove knife, vise grips, selection of screwdrivers (flat blade), sledge hammer. Ideally, one tool or set of tools of each type should be provided for each five (5) students or students may be rotated through "stations" with one "station" for each five (5) students available.

Selection of power forcible entry equipment as available and indicated by local/instructor preferences. This may include gasoline driven saws (circular and chain), powered hydraulic "rescue" tools, "Rabbit" tool, etc.

**Special Conditions:** Assistant instructors should be provided to supervise practical skills work to insure objective fulfillment and safety. A ratio of one (1) instructor to five (5) students is ideal; a ratio no greater than one (1) instructor to ten (10) students is highly recommended.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

Time	Content	Notes
:45	Principles of Forcible Entry	
2:00	Forcible Entry Tools	
2:30	Door Assemblies/Forcing Doors	
2:30	Locking Assemblies/Forcing Locks	
2:00	Window and Window Assemblies	
	Forcing Windows	
1:00	Through the Wall Entry/Ceiling Entry	
:30	Special Situations	
4:00	Practical Skills Evolutions	
:45	Clean up/Summary/Written Examination	

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism:** Directed questioning during class, assessment of skill mastery during practical work; optional instructor-developed 30-50 question written examination, content to be based on specific material presented and listed objectives.

**Learning Outcomes (course objectives):** Upon completion of this course, the student shall, to the satisfaction of the instructor:

1. Define the term "forcible entry".
2. Given a forcible entry situation, correctly "size up" (a) The need for entry; (b) Classification of need (delayed entry vs. immediate entry); (c) Most appropriate point(s) of entry; (d) Most appropriate method(s) of forcing entry through the selected point(s).
3. Identify manual forcible entry tools in common fire service use.
4. Given a manual forcible entry tool, correctly demonstrate its safe use; demonstrate and/or describe its proper inspection and maintenance.
5. Identify powered forcible entry tools in common fire service use.

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MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION

**Course Title:** Forcible Entry (TFE)

July 1992 Revised 02 06

Page 3 of 3

Learning outcomes (continued):

6. Given a powered forcible entry tool, correctly:
  - a. demonstrate its safe use;
  - b. demonstrate and/or describe its proper inspection and maintenance
7. Correctly describe the design of door, window, and wall assemblies commonly encountered in buildings and relate this information to the problem of forcible entry through each assembly.
8. Correctly identify the design of locking mechanisms commonly encountered on doors and windows, and relate this information to the problem of forcible entry through the assembly in question.
9. Given a door or window with locking assembly, or a wall assembly, select and demonstrate an appropriate forcing technique.
10. Given a ceiling assembly, correctly identify the construction features of the assembly and demonstrate breaching of said assembly using a pike pole or similar equipment.
11. Identify at least three (3) special forcible entry situations;
  - a. given such a situation, correctly describe the hazards associated and a possible solution to effecting entry.
12. Explain the advantages and use of a key box system for entry to large occupancies.

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