



PSFA FIRE SERVICE “ACADEMY-ON-THE-ROAD” (AOTR) TRACK

Courage To Be Safe (CTBS) – This 4-hour program is designed for firefighters and fire officers alike. It introduces all attendees to the 16 Life Safety Initiatives. By exploring Line of Duty Death case histories in Pennsylvania and thought provoking discussion, attendees leave the program with a renewed sense of firefighter safety.

“Rapid Intervention Team Exercises” (ZRITE) - offered as a 16-hour course teaching personnel the skills necessary to locate and remove firefighters who become lost or trapped during structural firefighting operations. This class was formally “Rapid Intervention Crew Exercises” (RICE) that was rewritten to maintain stride with the latest and most popular firefighter rescue techniques. Students perform physically demanding exercises during drills and rescue scenarios such as breathing apparatus changeovers, enlarged opening/breaching, and disentanglement drills. This program demonstrates the need for a well-staffed and well-trained team.

Firefighters that would like to apply must demonstrate that they have completed the following:

- PA Entry Level Firefighter Training Program (ELIF) with live fire; OR
- PA Entry Level Firefighter Training Program (ELIF) with no live fire AND Structural Burn Session; OR
- Essential Basic Module (EBM) AND Structural Burn Session
- Rapid Intervention Team Concepts (RITC)
- Firefighter Survival (SURV)
- Structural Fire Rescue (SFR), OR Basic Vehicle Rescue (BVR), or Fire Rescue (FRES), OR equivalent
- Five (5) years of experience.

“Rapid Intervention Team Exercises Extended (ZRITX) – is a 16-hour follow-up course for students that have successfully completed “Rapid Intervention Team Exercises” (ZRITE) or “Rapid Intervention Crew Exercises” (RICE). This challenging program provides advanced skills and procedures for locating and removing lost or trapped firefighters from structural fire environments. This expanded course is the recommended next step for training rapid intervention teams and nationally recognized techniques are taught in this class. The class is best conducted in an acquired structure, preferably a 2-story building. There is no live fire, but students are expected to break glass, enlarge window openings, and cut holes in the interior and exterior walls and interior floors. Like the “ZRITE” class, it culminates in practical scenarios designed to test a rapid intervention team’s ability to locate and remove a downed firefighter. This demands that the student perform physically demanding exercises during drills and rescue scenarios. Specific focus is on removing firefighters from above and below grades. The Columbus and Denver drills are also part of this program.

Fire departments that would like to host this program should have a structurally-sound acquired structure prior to the start of class. Organizations should expect the structure to suffer extensive damage that may require it to be demolished.

Firefighters looking to attend must have completed

- ZRITE program; OR
- Rapid Intervention Crew Exercises (RICE).



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“Large Area Team Search Operations” (ZLASO) – is a 12-hour class designed to teach firefighters the techniques of searching buildings the size of a convenience store up to, and including occupancies that are thousands of square feet under roof. Incidents such as the Worchester Cold Storage Warehouse and the Charleston Sofa Superstore have earned their place in history. Large buildings are statistically more dangerous for both firefighters and occupants. In the two cited examples, 15 firefighters lost their lives. Course material was developed from techniques utilized by the Jersey City Fire Department that combine basic search techniques with search ropes to establish landmarks inside the building, communications, and different levels of team deployment. This course contains exercises using drill and rescue scenarios.

Fire departments that are considering hosting this program will need to secure a building for the practical portion of the program. Firefighters that are going to apply for the program will need to demonstrate that they have successfully completed either the

- PA Entry Level Firefighter Training Program (ELIF) with live fire; OR
- PA Entry Level Firefighter Training Program (ELIF) with no live fire AND Structural Burn Session; OR
- Essential Basic Module (EBM) AND Structural Burn Session.

“Mobile Flashover Recognition and Survival” (ZFRS) – is an 8-hour course designed to give the student the practical knowledge required to recognize and understand the phenomena called “flashover”, how to identify “pre-flashover” conditions and deal with these conditions in a safe and controlled manner. The ultimate outcome is to avoid firefighters from becoming victims of this violent phenomenon. Two live fire evolutions inside the simulator are required for successful completion of this course.

Fire departments that are considering hosting this program need to secure a large hard surface open area (parking lot) to park the simulator and provide water supply for the burn segment of this training. A \$250 transportation fee is required for the program. All consumables used in the program are the responsibility of the host agency. Additional information and requirements will be provided to the host agency after an official application request has been made to the PSFA. Class size is limited to 14 students.

Firefighters that are going to apply for the program will need to demonstrate that they have successfully completed either the

- PA Entry Level Firefighter Training Program (ELIF) with live fire; OR
- PA Entry Level Firefighter Training Program (ELIF) with no live fire AND Structural Burn Session; OR
- Essential Basic Module (EBM) AND Structural Burn Session
- Or Firefighter I certification.



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Fire and EMS Administrative Officer (FEAO) – is a 24-hour course designed to educate non-profits, specifically aspiring, new or existing volunteer and/or combination Fire/EMS administrative personnel, to implement the best practices of a well-managed and responsibly governed response organization. This course is designed for the effective administrative (not emergency scene) management of their respective non-profit organizations. A \$150 course materials/consultation fee is required for the program.

The course content includes: 1) The knowledge and oversight of the legal and fiduciary requirements of running a nonprofit organization; 2) the use of resources to create efficiency and effectiveness of operations, and 3) the introduction of risk management practices that build confidence and trust within the community at large.

The course content is presented in three (3) 8-hour classroom sessions that meet once a month for three months. Work assignments will be required between each scheduled session with contact and direct feedback from the instructors. The content presented is largely based on the curriculum and educational resources provided by the Standards for Excellence® Ethics and Accountability Program for Nonprofit Organizations. This content includes appropriate resources such as model policies, procedures, and practices.

This course is presented in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations (PANO) with the financial support of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

**Contact State Fire Academy – Office of State Fire Commissioner at www.osfc.pa.gov
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