

*K. W. Perkins*, *Fire Chief***PURPOSE**

The effectiveness of any fire department largely depends on its training program. Proper and regular fire service training also helps keep firefighters and other responders safe and efficient while performing their duties. It is imperative that all fire department personnel train on a regular basis, and that personnel are taught standardized methods and techniques that will be applied on most all emergency scenes.

OBJECTIVE

To provide an outline and training structure that helps ensure all personnel are receiving quality and routine training that is standardized throughout the department, and stresses the importance of effectiveness and safety

SCOPE

All Personnel

OVERVIEW

ECFR will strive to provide quality and diversified training to all personnel. As much as possible, internal training opportunities shall be scheduled at such times and locations as to be convenient for attending personnel. ECFR will strive to ensure that only qualified and knowledgeable instructors are utilized in the provision of training content, and that they provide a positive learning environment for all students.

This document serves as an outline of those courses and classes that are considered mission essential and shall be scheduled on a regular annual basis. However, extenuating circumstances or lack of enrollment may be cause to cancel or alter certain classes or courses throughout the year.

SEMI-ANNUAL DEPARTMENT TRAINING CALENDAR

The Department Training Officer shall publish a semi-annual training calendar, similar to the training calendar published by the Florida State Fire College. This calendar shall contain a six-month listing of all courses, dates, times, locations, and syllabuses for training offered by the department.

The training calendar shall be made available each year to all personnel by September 1st, for all courses beginning in the months October through March, and by March 1st, for all courses beginning in the months April through September.

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MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

In accordance with Florida Statutes, all volunteer firefighters that engage in active fire suppression and control activities, and are subject to Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) conditions, or act as a member of "2-in-2-out" personnel, at a minimum, shall be certified as a Firefighter I by the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal. Escambia County will not recognize Firefighter I Letters of Exemption and shall not consider personnel that possess such letters as meeting the Firefighter I requirement after March 31, 2009. Also, Escambia County does not consider that any personnel is trained commensurate to duty as a firefighter unless the Florida Firefighter I certification is obtained.

CAREER FIREFIGHTERS

In accordance with Florida Statutes, all career firefighters, full or part-time, at a minimum, shall be certified as a Firefighter II by the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal within one year of employment.

VOLUNTEER AND CAREER FIRE OFFICERS

Minimum training standards for the various ranks of fire officers within the organization are listed in each individual job/rank specification.

FIREFIGHTER I TRAINING

Firefighter I training will be offered quarterly through department instructors. Classes shall begin in October, January, April, and July. However, this schedule may be altered due to extenuating circumstances, and classes may be canceled due to lack of enrollment. Most often, class will be held 2 nights each week and every Saturday. Class location will vary in order to accommodate personnel throughout all of Escambia County.

FIREFIGHTER II TRAINING

Firefighter II training is offered locally through Pensacola Junior College and Midway Fire District. With the approval of the Fire Chief, department funds may be utilized for tuition and related costs for these training facilities.

In addition, the department will attempt to provide a Firefighter II "bridge class" each year. This course will provide certified Firefighter I personnel with additional basic firefighter training. This additional training will allow them to test for Firefighter II certification.

ADVANCED TRAINING

APPARATUS DRIVER/OPERATOR

- The Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) shall be offered quarterly
- The department shall offer a 24-hour Pump Operator Course semi-annually

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, Fire Chief

FIRE OFFICER

- Various Florida Fire Officer I and II curriculum courses shall be offered quarterly
- 24-Hour Advanced Tactics and Strategy courses shall be offered semi-annually
- 16-Hour Command and Control courses shall be offered semi-annually

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

- 24-Hour Hazardous Materials Operations/Refresher shall be offered semi-annually
- 16-Hour Special Operations Awareness course shall be offered semi-annually
- 24-Hour Vehicle Extrication course shall be offered semi-annually

IN-SERVICE/ISO TRAINING

Each career company officer and each District Chief will ensure that the minimum ISO training requirements are completed annually for all personnel. These training requirements include:

- Half-day (3 hours) drills, 8 per year
- Half-day, multiple company drills, 4 per year
- Night drills (3 hours), 2 per year
- Company training at fire stations, firefighting topics only, 20 hours per member per month for career personnel, 10 hours per member per month for volunteer personnel
- Officer training, Full-day (6 hours), all officers, 2 per year
- Driver operator Training, half-day sessions, all drivers, 4 per year
- New driver operator training, all new driver operators, 40 initial hours
- Hazardous Materials, half-day session, all members, 1 per year

EXTERNAL TRAINING

The department affords volunteer and career personnel the opportunity to take advantage of external resources for professional growth and development. These external resources may include, but are not limited to:

- The National Fire Academy
- The Florida State Fire College
- Pensacola Junior College
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- Florida Fire Chiefs' Association
- Various fire service conferences, seminars, and training meetings

Personnel must follow established procedures to gain authorization when any department funds will be expended for education, training, or any travel associated with such education and training.