

National Fire Academy Criteria for Contract Instructor Selection

Course: Evaluating Performance-Based Designs (R0108)

Curriculum: Fire Prevention: Technical

This six-day course is designed to provide the student with the fundamental knowledge, skills and abilities to assess performance-based fire-safe building designs that employ sophisticated engineering and computer modeling techniques. Students will be introduced to concepts and technologies that transfer building design from traditional prescriptive-based building and fire regulations to strategies where engineers, architects and designers employ a variety of options to meet specific performance goals.

Topics addressed in this course include understanding the principal differences between the prescriptive-based and performance-based design options; why a building owner may wish to use the performance-based design option; essential elements of performance-based design, including the influence of fire behavior and the role of documentation, definition of project scope and fire safety goals, and setting objectives; an introduction to the capabilities, limitations, and assumptions of the engineering methods and fire modeling used in performance-based design; an introduction to the potential for change during the expected life cycle of the facility; and how changes should be addressed. This course does not teach students how to perform fire modeling.

Criteria for Contract Instructor Selection

All new contract instructors shall be evaluated in three consecutive course deliveries in accordance with the National Fire Academy's (NFA's) Contract Instructor Evaluation program. Existing contract instructors are subject to evaluation in accordance with this program.

1. Academic Requirement

The candidate should possess a bachelor's degree from an institution that is accredited in course material that is related to the field. Consideration will also be given to those candidates who possess an associate degree, or equivalent experience, from an institution that is accredited. Candidates are encouraged to successfully complete this course and/or serve as an adjunct instructor in the course.

2. Documented Knowledge and Experience

- a. Accepted formal instructional training, such as:
 - state fire training certificate;
 - college teacher's credential;
 - college education courses; or
 - thirty-two hours of documented, successful fire/emergency services instruction.

- b. The candidate should be experienced, proficient and knowledgeable of current issues in the field of expertise for the content of this course.
- c. The candidate should have the necessary experience to be capable of presenting all units of the course. It is recognized that exceptions may occur where courses are of such a technical nature that no one person may be technically competent to instruct all units.

3. Continuing Practice or Education

Ability to maintain currency in the field and the specific course by:

- a. teaching a similar course at a training academy, college or university;
- b. taking a similar course within the last five years;
- c. developing a similar course within the last five years;
- d. teaching the course at the NFA or in the field within the last two years; or
- e. writing and researching a paper or article related to the course topic for at least one of the fire service or related disciplines' trade journals within the last two years.

Failure to provide approved documentation of ongoing training or instruction may result in revocation of the contract instructor status.

Submit cover letter and documentation to:

National Fire Academy
Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
16825 South Seton Ave.
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
fema-nfainstructorapp@fema.dhs.gov