

National Fire Academy Criteria for Contract Instructor Selection

Course: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident Command (R/N0243)

Curriculum: Hazardous Materials

This course focuses on the duties and responsibilities of the emergency response personnel who will assume the Incident Commander role at hazardous materials emergencies above the initial response and will implement a National Incident Management System (NIMS)-based Incident Command System (ICS). Based on the current requirements of 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.120 and the applicable national standards and plans, the program follows 3 phases of an incident: preparedness, incident operations and post-incident responsibilities. Topics include negligence and liability, planning, NIMS ICS/Emergency Operation Center interface, training requirements and emergency response plans. The student will develop a hazard-based response using risk-based decision-making to develop an Incident Action Plan. The student's knowledge of the subject is evaluated through written tests and graded scenarios. Evening classes and projects are required. This course meets the NIMS requirements for ICS 300.

Criteria for Contract Instructor Selection

All new contract instructors shall be evaluated in 3 consecutive course deliveries in accordance with the National Fire Academy's (NFA's) Contract Instructor Evaluation program. Existing contract instructors are subject to evaluation at least every 3 years.

1. Academic Requirement

- a. Minimum requirement: associate degree or equivalent from an accredited institution in fire science, health science, chemistry or related science with a strong emphasis in chemistry, toxicology, physiology or related courses.

Preferred requirement: bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in fire science, health science, chemistry or related science or unrelated degree with significant course work and a strong emphasis in chemistry, toxicology, physiology or related courses.

- b. Certification as a hazardous materials technician.
- c. Completion of ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 300, ICS 400 or equivalents.
- d. Completion of training program in adult education. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or Professional Qualifications Board Fire Service Instructor II certification is recommended.
- e. Course attendance as a contract instructor trainee upon preliminary approval of the application.

2. Instructional Experience

- a. Documented ability to explain Incident Command concepts, theory and application as well as technical science topics related to hazardous materials response to a diverse student population with a broad range of training and experience.
- b. Ability to instruct courses or materials similar to the course content, at the college, state or regional level. A copy of student and/or supervisor evaluations may be required.

3. Documented Knowledge and Experience in the Subject Area

- a. Current knowledge and significant experience in providing hazardous materials response demonstrated by documentation of experience or equivalent training or a combination of both experience and training.
- b. Current knowledge about weapons of mass destruction as demonstrated documentation of experience or equivalent training or a combination of both experience and training.
- c. Current knowledge of National Fire Protection Association 470, *Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Standard for Responders* as demonstrated by documentation of work experience and training.
- d. Demonstrated experience as a command or general staff officer at hazardous materials incidents with ongoing operations above the hazardous materials operations level over multiple operational periods.
- e. Current knowledge of the standard of care affecting hazardous materials response including ongoing preparedness initiatives, standards development and technological advances as they relate to responder health and safety.

4. Additional Submittals

- a. For 1 subject or course related to the subject matter, provide a 12- to 18-minute digital video demonstrating your instructional style. This video will be used to evaluate your teaching style in a student-centric adult learning environment. **Or** attend the course you are seeking to teach and successfully teach a component of the course that is designated and evaluated by the training specialist or their designee.
- b. Submission of a written essay not to exceed 500 words explaining how the instructor candidate has contributed to the body of knowledge within the fire/emergency medical services field at the local/regional/national level.

5. 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 3 years.
- c. Teaching the course at the NFA or in the field.
- d. Writing and researching a paper or article related to the course topic for at least 1 of the fire service or related disciplines' trade journals within the last 2 years.
- e. Current certification as a certified safety professional or certified hazardous materials manager or other associated certifications requiring currency.

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

6. How to Submit an Application

The following documents are required with each submission:

- a. A cover letter listing the courses you want to teach.
- b. Your resume.
- c. Documentation that clearly addresses how you meet the instructor selection criteria for each course you are seeking to teach (e.g., academic requirement, instructional experience, knowledge and experience in the subject matter, and continuing practice or education). This document needs to be written in that order. Incomplete packages will not be processed.
- d. 3 references from persons who are knowledgeable about your character as well as your teaching ability.
- e. A current email address so we can communicate more efficiently with you.

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

Application package(s) must be submitted to:

National Fire Academy
fema-nfainstructorapp@fema.dhs.gov