

National Fire Academy Criteria for Contract Instructor Selection

Mediated Online Course

Course: Fire Protection Case Studies (C0592)

Curriculum: Fire Prevention: Technical

This course uses the case study research method, nationally recognized codes and standards, and a given scenario, so students can evaluate their own jurisdiction's fire protection requirements and develop sound remediation strategies to correct identified shortcomings.

Students will be expected to identify a property, facility or building in their jurisdiction where they suspect one or more of the fire protection systems or features is improperly designed, installed, impaired, maintained or otherwise in a condition that it is likely unable to perform as intended.

Students will be expected to prepare a case study report to present to the property owner proposing a remediation strategy to correct possible shortcomings discovered in the analysis of a fire protection system or feature in or on their property.

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Explain the purpose and framework of the case study research method.
- Develop a framework for case study research to evaluate the condition and potential performance of various fire protection systems or features within their jurisdiction.
- Identify problems and failures in fire protection features and systems described in existing case studies that resulted in deaths, injuries or significant loss events.
- In a group, research contemporary or recent events to identify problems and failures in fire protection features and systems that resulted in deaths, injuries or significant loss events.
- Using nationally recognized codes and standards, propose a sound remediation strategy to correct shortcomings found during the contemporary case study.
- Apply the case study method to evaluate the condition and potential performance of a fire protection feature or system within their jurisdiction.
- Using nationally recognized codes and standards, propose a sound remediation strategy to correct possible shortcomings discovered in the analysis of a fire protection feature or system within their jurisdiction.

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.

Special Note Regarding Course Delivery: An online instructor mediated course balances self-study components with interactions and discussions among the students and the instructor. This course is done in an asynchronous fashion. Students and the instructor likely will be online at different times and will post and respond to discussions on their own schedule. After reviewing the self-study materials, the students will have the opportunity to participate in discussions with other students on various assigned topics. The instructor will open each module, provide feedback on assignments, summarize discussions, and provide mentoring to meet the unique needs of individual students.

1. Academic Requirement

The candidate should possess a bachelor's degree from an institution that is accredited in higher education. The degree should be in a discipline closely related to the subjects covered in this course, fire or safety engineering, engineering technology, project management, or architecture.

2. Instructional Experience

International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or Professional Qualifications Board Fire Service Instructor II certification is recommended.

3. Documented Instructional Ability and Experience

- a. Ability to explain the purpose and framework of the case study research method.
- b. Ability to instruct asynchronous online courses or materials similar to the course content, demonstrated by experience within the last five years of adult education courses taught with similar topics.
- c. Experience in facilitating online discussion forums with the students' written construction of their own knowledge.
- d. Experience grading college baccalaureate-level student writing ranging from 200 to 3,000 words.
- e. Knowledge of and experience with the "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association," sixth edition (also known as the APA Style Guide).
- f. Knowledge of the purpose and framework of the case study research method.
- g. Knowledge of and experience with qualitative research methods.
- h. Extensive field experience to identify problems and failures in fire protection features and systems described in existing case studies that resulted in deaths, injuries or significant loss events.

- i. Current knowledge of the behavior of fire and its effects on building materials and systems, fire, heat and smoke spread and travel in structures, building construction classification, and principles of controlling fire conditions in buildings.
- j. Current knowledge of built-in fire protection systems and features including automatic sprinklers, fire detection and alarm, fire barriers, fire walls, and smoke control.
- k. Current knowledge of design, installation and maintenance standards for fire protection systems and equipment.

4. Additional Requirements

For asynchronous courses, the instructor must:

- a. Expect to spend greater amounts of time reading posts, providing feedback to students, and facilitating online course discussions than occur in a classroom environment.
- b. Have the ability to facilitate and moderate synchronous and asynchronous discussions.
- c. Have the ability to manage progress and respond to students in a timely manner.
- d. Place emphasis on course materials, reading assignments, and independent study.

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 five years;
- c. teaching the specific course within the last two years; or
- d. 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