



R0137

Dear National Fire Academy Student:

By now you should have received your acceptance email notification from the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Admissions Office for this course. If you have not, you are not enrolled in this course.

We are looking forward to your arrival at the U.S. Fire Administration/National Fire Academy (USFA/NFA), as well as your participation in the *Water-based Fire Protection System Plans Review* (WBFPSR) course. A significant portion of the course will be devoted to math and related hydraulic calculation activities. These assignments and activities require your active participation.

You are asked to bring the following items with you for use in the course:

1. A calculator with four basic functions (+ - * /).
2. An architect scale ruler.
3. A laptop and/or tablet with WiFi capability to access online codes.

You must also complete *Testing and Evaluation of Water Supplies for Fire Protection* (Q0218) and *Hydraulic Calculations for Water-based Fire Protection System Plans Review* (Q0137) at NFA Online. The courses can be found on our website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html>. You should complete these courses before you arrive so you will be prepared for classroom activities.

It is important to note that this is a 6-day class, and the first day of class will begin on Sunday at approximately 8 a.m. Subsequent classes will meet daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with graduation occurring on Friday at 4 p.m. Because of this schedule, you will be provided lodging for Friday night. Evening classes may be required.

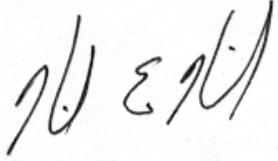
End-of-class graduation ceremonies are an important part of the course, and you are expected to attend. Please do not make any travel arrangements to leave campus until after you and your classmates graduate.

The course materials for this course are now available in a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) format which will function on any electronic device. If you own an electronic device (laptop computer, tablet, etc.) and are familiar with its document reader functions, we are asking you to download the Student Manual (SM) **before you travel to Emmitsburg** and bring the preloaded device with you. Please see the page following this letter for complete instructions on successfully downloading your course materials. Please note: If you plan to bring/use an iPad, you may experience issues saving/storing/printing course assignments since there is no USB/thumb drive capacity for these devices.

For your information, the NFA classroom environment is PC based. As increasing numbers of students and instructors are bringing laptop computers or other electronic devices to campus, you alone are responsible for the security and maintenance of your equipment. The Academy cannot provide you with computer software, hardware, or technical support to include disks, printers, scanners, etc. Classrooms are outfitted with surge protectors at each table for your convenience. Thumb drives or external hard drives used to bring course materials to class cannot be connected to FEMA property without being scanned for viruses. Due to time limitations for scanning, these devices cannot be larger than 8 GB. Anything over this amount will not be scanned and cannot be used. A Student Computer Lab is located in Building D and is available for all students to use. It is open daily with technical support provided in the evenings. This lab uses Windows 7 and Office 2013 as the software standard.

Should you need additional information related to course content or requirements, please feel free to contact Mr. Woody Stratton, Training Programs Curriculum Training Specialist, at (301) 447-1380 or email at woodrow.stratton@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirby Kiefer". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Dr. Kirby Kiefer, Acting Superintendent
National Fire Academy
U.S. Fire Administration

Enclosure

National Fire Academy Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Course Materials/Download Instructions

The **first step** is to download ADOBE Reader to your device. This will enable you to read and manipulate the course materials. ADOBE Reader can be used to comment and highlight text in Portable Document Format (PDF) documents. It is an excellent tool for note-taking purposes.

For Laptops and Computers

ADOBE Reader can be downloaded from www.adobe.com/downloads/. It is a free download. Please note that depending on your settings, you may have to temporarily disable your antivirus software.

For Tablets and Other Similar Hand-Held Devices

ADOBE Reader can be downloaded onto devices such as iPads, android tablets, and other hand-held devices. ADOBE Reader for these types of devices can be found in the device's Application Store using the search function and typing in "ADOBE Reader." Follow the instructions given. **It is a free application.** Note: In order to have the editing capabilities/toolbar, the document needs to be "opened with ADOBE Reader." There should be a function on your device to do this.

After you have successfully downloaded the ADOBE Reader, please use the following Web link to download your R0137, *Water-based Fire Protection System Plans Review (WBFPSR) Student Manual (SM)*. (You may copy/paste this link into your Web browser.)

http://nfa.usfa.dhs.gov/ax/sm/sm_r0137.pdf

Note: Please make sure you download the ADOBE Reader first. To open the SM, you will need to open the ADOBE Reader and then open the SM through the ADOBE Reader in order for the note-taking tools to work properly.

If you need assistance, please contact nfaonlinetier2@fema.dhs.gov.