



**FEMA**



# National Fire Academy

**W0457 – Decision Making for Initial Company Operations**

**Version: 2nd Edition, 3rd Printing, April 2014**

**Quarter:**

**ACE Credit: In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 1 semester hour in Fire Science or Firefighting.**

**IACET Continuing Education Units: 1.4**

**Length of Course: 2 Days (16 contact hours)**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Curriculum: Incident Management**

**Training Specialist: Robert Bennett**

**Instructor:**

**Instructor email/phone:**

**Classroom: J-**

**Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM**

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## Course Description (Catalog)

W0457 – “Decision Making for Initial Company Operations.” Decision Making for Initial Company Operations is designed to develop the decision making skills needed by Company Officers (COs) to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires. All activities and scenarios used in this course are based on structure fires. As a Company Officer (CO) with the real possibility of being the first to arrive at an incident, the CO’s initial decisions will have an impact throughout the entire incident. It is vital that they be able to make good management decisions that have a favorable impact on the eventual outcome. In addition to a possible role as the initial Incident Commander (IC), the CO may well be assigned a subordinate position within the ICS organization. COs need to have a clear understanding of the system, the position they are assigned, and their role in the organization if they are to function effectively and help make the system work.

## **Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)**

This course is specifically designed for newly appointed Company Officers, for firefighters who may have acting Company Officer responsibilities or who want to become a Company Officer. This course is an excellent review for experienced Company Officers.

## **Course Scope (Goal)**

## **Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)**

## **Course Delivery Method**

The National Fire Academy (NFA) offers specialized training courses and advanced management programs of national impact in an academic classroom environment [on campus at the National Emergency Training Center \(NETC\) in Emmitsburg, Maryland](#). This classroom course is designed for the national level fire service officer from State and local fire service organizations. During this 2-day delivery, students will reside in dormitories provided on campus with classes conducted in classrooms designed for critical student/instructor interaction. All course materials are designed for interactive classroom environments, in either paper notebook or electronic formats.

## **Course Schedule**

The purpose of the course schedule is to give you, at a glance, the required preparation, activities, and evaluation components of your course.

- Unit 1: Introduction
- Unit 2: Integration of the National Incident Management System to Fireground Management
- Unit 3: Fireground Decision Making
- Unit 4: Building Construction Types
- Unit 5: The Analytical Sizeup Process
- Unit 6: Burn Time Considerations and Line-of-Duty Deaths from Collapse Incidents
- Unit 7: Fireground Decision Making Exercises

## **Course Resources (Instructional Materials)**

In order to be fully prepared, obtain a copy of the required textbooks and other instructional materials prior to the first day of class.

### **Required Readings**

The student must complete required readings during the course to be able to thoughtfully participate in discussions and activities.

None.

### **Suggested Reading/Resources**

Suggested readings and resources are not evaluated, but may enhance the student's understanding, serve as additional sources for citation and promote discussion of course material.

None.

### **Required Resources (Course Textbook)**

Student Manual.

### **Supplemental Resources (Supplemental Course Textbook)**

None.

## **Grading Methodology (Evaluation Procedures)**

The required performance to successfully complete the course is attained by completing the class with a letter grade of a "C" or higher.

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Range</b>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	69 or lower

## **Required Reading Assignments**

Student completion of reading assignments will be done via evaluation of their class participation and will not be a separately graded activity.

## **Suggested Readings**

Suggested readings are not evaluated, but may enhance the student's understanding and promote discussion of course material.

## **Course Outline**

### **Unit 1: Introduction**

#### **Objective**

The students will complete Activity 1.1 by introducing him/herself to the class.

### **Unit 2: Integration of the National Incident Management System to Fireground Management**

#### **Objectives**

The students will:

1. State the purpose of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
2. Identify the elements of NIMS that provide the template for managing incidents.
3. State the purpose of using the Incident Command System (ICS) effectively.
4. Identify the ICS positions and state their functions.

### **Unit 3: Fireground Decision Making**

#### **Objectives**

The students will:

1. Explain the need for a logical thought process.
2. State the difference between Classical Decision Making and Naturalistic Decision Making (NDM).

3. Assess an incident scene and determine whether Classical Decision Making or NDM is the appropriate decision making model to use at a particular incident.
4. State the importance of knowing when to be proactive and when to be reactive.

#### **Unit 4: Building Construction Types**

##### **Objectives**

The students will:

1. List ways to collect data and manage information.
2. List and describe the five types of building construction.
3. Identify the strengths, weaknesses, characteristics, and collapse potential for each of the five methods of building construction.
4. Identify special safety concerns.
5. Given a scenario, identify the strengths and weaknesses in different building construction types.

#### **Unit 5: The Analytical Sizeup Process**

##### **Objectives**

The students will:

1. Discuss the scientific method.
2. Describe the primary sizeup factors and determine their impact on objectives and strategies.
3. Analyze the Command Sequence Action Panning Cycle.

#### **Unit 6: Burn Time Considerations and Line-of-Duty Deaths from Collapse Incidents**

##### **Objectives**

The students will:

1. Given examples of different types of structures and different fire loads, predict the time of collapse.

2. Discuss the impact of the primary factor, construction, on line-of-duty deaths (LODDs).

## **Unit 7: Fireground Decision Making Exercises**

### **Objectives**

The students will:

1. State the objectives when confronted with a Type I, II, III, IV, or V occupancy when conducting an analytical sizeup of the structure.
2. State the strategies when confronted with a Type I, II, III, IV, or V occupancy when conducting an analytical sizeup of the structure.
3. State the tactics when confronted with a Type I, II, III, IV, or V occupancy when conducting an analytical sizeup of the structure.
4. Identify and write the findings from the walkaround in Columns 1, 2, and 3 of the Primary Factors Chart.
5. As a group, prepare a briefing of the findings from the Initial Company Officer (ICO), the Initial Company Officer Assistant (ICOA), the Initial Incident Safety Officer (IISO), Initial Planning Section, and Initial Logistics Section.
6. Given a simulated incident where building construction is a critical issue, develop a sizeup report of fireground conditions, complete the Primary Factors Chart, and document progress using the Command Sequence Tactical Chart.

### **Policies**

#### **Class Attendance and Cancellation Policy**

##### **Attendance**

- You are required to attend all sessions of the course. If you do not, you may not receive a certificate.
- If you need to depart the training facility early and miss any portion of the course, you must make the request in writing to the sponsoring agency (e.g., State training director, etc.). The State training director may waive the attendance requirement in order to accommodate you with extraordinary circumstances as long as you complete all course requirements.

## **Student Substitutions**

Substitutions for NFA courses are made from waiting lists; your fire department can't send someone in your place.

## **Cancellations or No-Shows**

NFA's mission for delivery of courses is impaired significantly by cancellations and no-shows. It is very difficult and costly to recruit students at the last minute. Currently there is a two-year ban on student attendance for students who are no-shows or cancel within 30 days of the course start date without a valid reason. If you receive such a restriction, your supervisor needs to send a letter to our Admissions Office explaining the cancellation/no-show.

## **Course Failure**

You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You don't have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

## **Student Code of Conduct Policy**

Students, instructors and staff are expected to treat each other with respect at all times. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

## **Writing Expectations**

Student writing will conform to the generally accepted academic standards for college papers. Papers will reflect the original work of the student and give appropriate credit through citations for ideas belonging to other authors, publications or organizations. Student written work should be free of grammatical and syntax errors, free of profanity or obscene language or ideas, and reflect critical thinking related to the course subject matter.

## **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA, Sixth Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to NFA. Assignments completed in a narrative essay, composition format, abstract, and discussion posts must follow the citation style cited in the APA, Sixth Edition.

## **Late Assignments**

All assignments must be turned in by the established deadline. Late submissions could result in a 10 percent decrease in grade.

## **Disclaimer Statement**

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

## **Grading**

Please review the above grading methodology that explains how grades will be awarded. Students who do not complete the entire course will be awarded an Incomplete (I) grade. In accordance with National Fire Academy academic policies, an Incomplete (I) grade must be removed by the end of the next semester following the course, or it automatically becomes a Failing (F) grade.

If you fail an on-campus course, you will not be issued a stipend for that course. You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You don't have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student\\_policies\\_campus\\_information.html](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student_policies_campus_information.html)

## **Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to exhibit exemplary ethical behavior and conduct as part of the NFA community and society as a whole. Acts of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, deliberate falsification, and other unethical behaviors will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to report academic misconduct when they witness a violation. All cases of academic misconduct shall be reported by the instructor to the State training director or host agency and to the NFA Training Specialist.

If a student is found to have engaged in misconduct and the allegations are upheld, the penalties may include, but are not limited to one or a combination of the following:

- expulsion,
- withholding of stipend or forfeiture of stipend paid,
- exclusion from future classes for a specified period; depending on the severity it could range from 1-10 years, and/or
- forfeiture of certificate for course(s) enrolled in at NETC.

Refer to NFA-specific Standard Operating Procedure 700.1 – *Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics* for more information.