



R0229

Dear National Fire Academy Student:

By now you should have received an email notification from the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Admissions Office. This notification indicates your acceptance into the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), National Fire Academy (NFA) "Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices" (HMOSP) course.

Congratulations on your acceptance to the USFA's/NFA's HMOSP class. This highly technical course is fast paced, and you are asked to arrive prepared to engage quickly in the educational process.

HMOSP is a didactic 2-week course designed to answer the question "why" when making tactical decisions associated with strategic goals implemented at a hazardous materials/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Enhanced scene. The course encourages implementation of a "hazard-based" response utilizing "risk-based" decisionmaking associated with the application of science, knowledge, and experience to determine resource needs, technology applications, and protective measures. The course emphasizes the safety and security of personnel and the public. HMOSP provides the technician with additional knowledge to develop and implement an effective and efficient tactical response. Evening classes will be held when necessary. Students are encouraged to review basic hazardous materials technician information and bring copies of procedures, protocols, or plans to share with the class.

Prior to your arrival, you should complete the Foundational "Concepts of Chemistry" (Q0228) self-study course. This course is available through NFA Online at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html>.

This class is for students already operating at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (29 CFR 1910.120(q)) and National Fire Protection Association 472, *Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents* defined technician level. Completion of the Academy's "Chemistry for Emergency Response" (CER) course is **recommended** but not mandatory to attend the HMOSP course. A good working knowledge of the chemical and physical properties of materials will greatly aid the student.

The class graduation ceremony is an important part of the course. You are expected to attend this event. All departing travel arrangements should be made so that you do not leave campus prior to the class graduation.

The NFA classroom environment is computer based. Increased numbers of students and instructors are bringing laptop computers or other electronic devices to campus; you are responsible for the security and maintenance of your equipment. The NFA cannot provide computer software, hardware (which includes disks, printers, scanners, monitors, etc.), or technical support for your device. For your convenience, we do provide surge protector power strips at each classroom table.

Should you need to access the Student Computer Lab, it is located in Building D and is available for all students to use. The lab is open daily with a technician available Monday through Thursday from 1700 to 2100 (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.) and on Saturdays from 0800 to 1200 (8 a.m. to noon). The lab uses Windows 7 and Office 2013 as the software standard.

If you need additional information related to your course's content or requirements, please contact Mr. Wayne Yoder, Hazardous Materials Curriculum Training Specialist, at (301) 447-1090, or by email at [wayne.yoder@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:wayne.yoder@fema.dhs.gov). Good luck, and I hope to see you on campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eriks J. Gabliks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eriks" being the most prominent part.

Eriks J. Gabliks, Superintendent  
National Fire Academy  
U.S. Fire Administration