



National Fire Academy

F0322 – Incident Command System for Structural Collapse Incidents

Version: 4th Edition, 4th Printing, December 2015

Quarter:

ACE Credit: In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, one semester hour in emergency management.

IACET Continuing Education Units: 1.6

Length of Course: 2 Days (15 hr., 45 min. contact hours)

Prerequisite: None

Curriculum: Incident Management

Training Specialist: Richard Sexton

Instructor:

Instructor email/phone:

Classroom: J-

Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM

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Course Description (Catalog)

F0322 – “Incident Command System for Structural Collapse Incidents.” This two-day course is designed to provide fire officers with an understanding of command operations at structural collapse incidents. Students completing this course will be able to: describe the aspects of a structural collapse; explain basic command procedures and ICS organizational structure; identify various resource levels, types, and capabilities used for structural collapse incidents; identify critical factors and issues that affect scene management; describe all unique operational considerations used at a structural collapse incident; describe all response operations phases associated with a structural collapse incident; and describe the technical rescue expertise and equipment required for safe operations and effective incident management. Students attending should understand and be able to apply the Incident Command System (ICS) concept.

Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)

This course is intended for fire command officers.

Students attending this course must understand and be able to apply the Incident Command System (ICS) concept.

Course Scope (Goal)

To provide fire officers with an understanding of Command operations at structural collapse incidents.

Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to accomplish the following:

- Describe key aspects of a structural collapse.
- Explain basic Command procedures and the Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structure.
- Identify various resource levels, types, and capabilities used for structural collapse incidents.
- Identify critical factors and issues that affect structural collapse scene management.
- Describe unique operational considerations for a structural collapse incident.
- Describe all operational phases associated with a structural collapse incident.

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](#) and through their State, local, tribal, and US territories training partners. 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	Day 1	Day 2
1: Introduction		
2: The Incident Command System Organizational Structure		
3: Response Resource Capabilities		
4: Scene Management: Factors and Issues		
5: Response Functions		
6: Structural Collapse: Operational Phases		
Test		
Test Grading/Course Evaluation		

Note: Times listed reflect approximate instructional time blocks and may be adjusted to meet individual course preferences.

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)

During 2 days of instruction, students will be provided with an assortment of building block activities, video, and lecture. This program relies heavily on student involvement and instructional strategies that emphasize learning objectives at the application and analysis levels.

Methodology will include student activities, lecture (using photo and word slides), student feedback sessions, and video.

Student Evaluation

Student performance will be evaluated through two means: 1) student feedback (to be accomplished on a daily basis through instructor/student interaction during lecture and activities) and 2) administration of a pass/fail examination.

The examination will be administered after the conclusion of Unit 6: Structural Collapse: Operational Phases.

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

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

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

Students will be given exams at the end of the class, and only the instructor will grade the exams. While the exams are being graded by the instructor, students will be asked to complete end-of-course evaluations.

Exams are to be completed individually and not as a group or a group activity, unless specifically directed within the instructor guide for the specific course. Students should use pencils to complete answer sheets if bubble sheets and a scoring key overlay are being used.

There should only be one answer for any given question marked by the student. A question with multiple answers is considered incorrect. Please mark number of incorrect answers on completed exam sheets, record score (percentage), and mark the appropriate letter grade.

Transfer the letter grades to the corresponding student name on the course roster.

If a student does not obtain a passing grade on the first attempt, the instructor will provide remediation¹ prior to a retest. Students who do not pass the first exam will be allowed to take one retest of a new exam before departing from the class. A second failure will result in a grade of “F” being recorded on the grade roster.

Once all exams have been graded, instructors should review the exam as a group.

In the event of unusual events (storm, fire response, family emergency) or early departure, the host agency or state representative may be asked to proctor the exam at a later date. The instructor is responsible to notify the Training Specialist as soon as practical of the situation and name of person responsible for the exams and testing process.

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 (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to describe key aspects of a structural collapse.

Enabling Objectives

The students will:

1. Identify hazards and conditions associated with a structural collapse.
2. Understand the causes and complexities of structural collapses.
3. Describe the difference between response and recovery operations.

Unit 2: The Incident Command System Organizational Structure (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to explain basic Command procedures and the Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structure.

Enabling Objectives

The students will:

1. Identify the functions of an Incident Commander (IC).
2. Describe operational elements within the Command structure.

Unit 3: Response Resource Capabilities (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to identify various resource levels, types, and capabilities used for structural collapse incidents.

Enabling Objectives

The students will:

1. Define the types and levels of structural collapse risks within a jurisdiction.
2. Define various levels of capability for a structural collapse incident.
3. Describe resources available through local, State, and Federal agencies.

Unit 4: Scene Management: Factors and Issues (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to identify critical factors and issues that affect structural collapse scene management.

Enabling Objectives

The students will:

1. Identify factors associated with rapid scene assessment.
2. Identify life safety issues.
3. Identify key elements of scene control.
4. Explain the importance of establishing appropriate incident facilities.
5. Describe the potential effects and consequences of the incident on and for the community.

Unit 5: Response Functions (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to describe unique operational considerations for a structural collapse incident.

Enabling Objective

The students will identify primary functions used during structural collapse operations.

Unit 6: Structural Collapse: Operational Phases (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to describe all operational phases associated with a structural collapse incident.

Enabling Objectives

The students will:

1. Define five operational phases.
2. Describe the conditions that trigger transition of operational phases.
3. Demonstrate an ability to develop an appropriate Incident Command System (ICS) organization to command and control a structural collapse incident.
4. Identify, request, and apply specialized Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) resources.
5. Explain the application of critical scene management issues and factors in the appropriate operational phase.

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.

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 following rubrics that explain 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.

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student_policies.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,
- 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.