



National Fire Academy

**F0549 – Emergency Response to Terrorism: Strategic Considerations
Version: 1st Edition, 1st Printing, November 2018**

Quarter:

ACE Credit:

IACET Continuing Education Units:

Length of Course: 2 Days (13 hr., 50 min. contact hours)

Prerequisite:

Curriculum: Emergency Response to Terrorism

Training Specialist: Wayne Yoder

Instructor:

Instructor email/phone:

Classroom: J-

Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM

Table of Contents

Course Description	Course Resources
Primary and Secondary Audience	Evaluation Procedures
Course Scope	Course Outline
Course Objectives	Policies
Course Delivery Method	

Course Description (Catalog)

F0549 – “Emergency Response to Terrorism: Strategic Considerations.” The “Emergency Response to Terrorism: Strategic Considerations” (ERT: SC) course examines the decision-making process involved in making risk-based responses to potential threat incidents. The value of developing a risk-based response is both safety-oriented and legally justifiable. Recognizing the need for understanding and communicating the principles of a risk-based response is part of the process of defining the best/safest response to a particular incident inclusive of all circumstances. Recent changes to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472, *Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*, and 1072, *Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency*

Response Personnel Professional Qualifications, and the 2017 update to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) place even more emphasis on this effort.

Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)

The audience for this course consists of initial incident responders, including emergency response supervisors (first line and above), that need more in-depth knowledge and understanding of the constantly evolving nature of intentional incidents that allow for a risk-based, fact-oriented, legally justifiable, evidence-preserving, and safe response to an intentional threat incident and other unusual response operations, without relying solely on perception and experience. This course will allow the student to comprehend and implement the aspects of risk-based response to ensure the most appropriate outcomes for the response and the community while ensuring responder health and safety.

Course Scope (Goal)

The course goal is for students to comprehend, analyze and implement the aspects of risk-based response to ensure the most appropriate outcomes for the response and the community while ensuring responder health and safety.

Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)

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

- Associate the fundamentals of response with an intentional threat incident.
- Communicate the importance of planning and risk assessment.
- Demonstrate concepts needed to respond to an intentional threat 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.

TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2
8:00 - 9:00	Introduction, Welcome and Administrative	Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts
9:00 - 9:10	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
9:10 - 11:00	Unit 1: Operational Considerations	Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts (cont'd)
11:00 - 11:10	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
11:10 - 12:00	Unit 1: Operational Considerations (cont'd)	Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts (cont'd)
12:00 - 1:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1:00 - 3:00	Unit 1: Operational Considerations (cont'd)	Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts (cont'd)
3:00 - 3:30	Unit 1 Quiz	Course Evaluation
3:30 - 5:00	Unit 2: Planning and Risk Assessment	

Note: This schedule is subject to modification by the instructors and approved by the training specialist.

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)

Learning outcomes will be measured through a three-part assessment strategy. Part one is a quiz administered at the end of Unit 1 to assess the students' knowledge of the operational considerations. The quiz is worth 20 percent of the student's grade.

Part two is a group activity designed to assess the students' ability to identify target hazards (Activity 2.1: Anticipating Terrorist Targets). The activity is worth 20 percent of the student's grade.

Part three is a group activity designed to assess the students' proficiency in applying the fundamentals to an intentional threat incident (Activity 3.3: Applying Response Concepts, Part 3). The activity is worth 60 percent of the student's grade.

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

Introduction

Objectives

None

Unit 1: Operational Considerations

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Associate the fundamentals of response with an intentional threat incident.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 List the types of weapons that could be used in an intentional threat incident.
- 1.2 Define terrorism based on the legal definition and likely indicators.
- 1.3 Describe the federal response guidance for an intentional threat incident and fundamentals of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- 1.4 Understand the implications of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472, *Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*, as they apply to the standard of care for responding to an intentional threat incident.
- 1.5 Evaluate at least three critical factors that contribute to effective and efficient incident management, specifically at an intentional threat incident.

- 1.6 Assess at least six strategic considerations for responding to an intentional threat incident.
- 1.7 Assess the activities of the intelligence/investigations roles and their likely assignments referencing the National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS.
- 1.8 Recognize potential evidence and how to protect it.

Unit 2: Planning and Risk Assessment

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Communicate the importance of planning and risk assessment.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Identify the four components of risk.
- 2.2 Assign a vulnerability score using a given assessment tool.

Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Demonstrate concepts needed to respond to an intentional threat incident.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Apply the components of Incident Command System (ICS) for a given potential threat incident.
- 3.2 Apply multiagency, multijurisdictional emergency response strategies for a given potential threat incident.

- 3.3 Apply strategies to meet the incident priorities, including an investigative phase, for a given potential threat incident.

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.