

Virtual State Fire School

Feb 26-28, 2021

Due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's annual state fire school will be held virtually. The following classes will be offered through the online media program Zoom. These sessions will be 2 hours in length to allow members numerous opportunities to attend training.

These classes are being offered free of charge to all NDFA members and associate members. For a schedule of classes and to register, go to www.ndfa.net.

Course Descriptions:

Art of Reading Smoke and Tactical Decision Making

As modern fire protection advances many of our fire departments are responding to fewer and fewer working fires. This class will assist first-due fire crews in using initial smoke and fire conditions to make successful tactical decisions. As the incident progresses, we must be able to read these changing conditions and adapt our action plan accordingly. This class also focuses on a few of the different, and often violent, smoke and fire conditions experienced by our first arriving crews. These include ventilation-controlled fires, backdrafts, and flashover.

Be Worth Being

Class on leadership, mentoring, being accountable and holding others accountable in the fire service.

Building Construction/Fire Safety/ Fire Behavior

Building Construction for Firefighters will discuss the different types of construction and materials and how each will act differently in a fire. We discuss considerations with fire behavior and materials involved in different types of construction. We discuss Firefighter Safety and hazards to look out for at a fire scene. We discuss firefighting tactics and performing a building size up and forming in incident action plan.

Confined Space Awareness

This Awareness class will give the students a brief introduction in how to Identify and classify Confined Spaces. Grasp the importance of monitoring and how to monitor a space. Why proper ventilation is important. Understand the roles of the entry supervisor, attendant(s) and entrant(s) in a Confined Space Rescue team. Introduction in non-entry and entry retrieval systems for retrieval of an incapacitated worker. (Recommend a Rope Rescue class be part of the training to complete the Rescue Systems needed.)

Courage to Be Safe So Everyone Goes Home

This class was developed by the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation along with cooperation from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, North American Fire Training Directors, and the National Volunteer Fire Council. The purpose of the class is to reduce the number of line-of-duty-deaths and injuries in the fire service. The class will look at the sixteen initiatives developed by the organizations that developed the class and make application to our everyday response. Firefighter safety is our first concern!

Evaluator Methodology

Required training for all evaluators every 2 years. Presentation covers updates to the evaluation process, new standards, and a refresher of ProBoard® evaluation requirements.

Fire Prevention for Volunteer Departments

The easiest fire to fight is the one that never started. The goal of fire prevention is to educate the public on how to prevent potentially harmful fires and be educated on surviving them. This class will provide you the resources to connect with the public as well as implement a basic inspection program. If you visit classrooms, have an open house, receive complaints on fire code, or teach citizens on how to use fire extinguishers - this class is for you. Resources will be provided to strengthen your department's fire prevention bureau.

Fire Safety Through Fire Inspections and Investigations

Fire investigations and fire safety inspections are two of the most important services provided by the North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office (NDSFM). We will be discussing the vital role your department has in fire investigations and the basics of fire investigations. In regard to inspection, the NDSFM has updated fire safety inspection forms available for assemblies, bars/restaurants, and childcare facilities (residential and commercial) occupancies. In addition, the changes to the State Fire Code were adopted and implemented in 2020. Join the discussion to learn how these updates can improve the safety of your communities.

Fire's Out, Now What? An Introduction to Fire Investigations

This class is tailored towards new investigators and/or individuals who want to learn more about fire investigations. Fire investigations are both an art and a science, with this class walking you through the process. We'll review on-scene considerations, partner agencies, photography, supplies to have on hand, interviews, cause and origin, and documenting the investigation. In addition to the bread-and-butter fires, we'll review fires involving arsonists and fatalities. This course is open to all individuals with an interest in fire investigations.

Grain Bin Rescue Awareness

This course will cover safety, how to make entry in accordance with OSHA Standard 1910.146, use of ropes & harness, atmospheric testing, vertical & horizontal entry, rescue of buried victims, breaching bin walls, and victim recovery.

HazMat Refresher

This course is a refresher for the current Hazardous Materials Awareness & Operations Academy, being currently taught by the NDFA. The 2-hour refresher will include a study guide for each participant (emailed prior to the course), along with any clarification needed on the materials. A series of practice questions will be also be given, to assist with test preparation.

Incident Safety Officer

This Company Officer course will focus on firefighter safety during emergency and training events. This is an interactive course. The course is designed mainly for company officer level, and those who desire to achieve that level in the fire service.

Introduction to Wildland Firefighting Tactics

This course will introduce and discuss the correct tactics for wildland firefighting. Topics will cover strategies, tactics and decision making from the first page to returning to the fire station. This class will be led by North Dakota Forest Service fire staff

It Will Never Happen to Me

This class will be a discussion of several topics regarding firefighter's health and safety. Instructors will use personal experiences to start an honest discussion of firefighter safety topics including firefighter survival techniques, RIT, Mental Health, and Cancer. Many topics will be used from the state's CTBS program, with a more in depth and personal look at their effects and outcomes.

North Dakota Forest Service - Who are they and what can they do for my fire department?

This course will focus on the role the North Dakota Forest Service plays within the North Dakota fire service and what programs or services NDFS can provide to assist your fire department with equipment, grants, training, and fire suppression assistance.

Practical Water Rescue

This class would include practical items that could be used in the event of a rescue call involving persons in water. We will cover items that can be used to help rescue someone without putting themselves at risk. We will also discuss and show students what can happen if someone were to fall in the water wearing turnout gear. Class would be lecture with PowerPoint and videos.

Principles of Modern Fire Attack

This class will provide a firsthand look at UL/NIST Modern Fire Dynamics studies to serve and to educate firefighters on how they can be used to improve tactics in their departments. This class will use video as well as course content to foster discussion of fire tactics currently used and improvements that may be made using the outcomes of the UL/NIST studies. Firefighters will go back to their departments with a renewed outlook and a more comprehensive understanding of Fire Dynamics/Behavior and the Principles of Modern Fire Attack.

Pump Operations

This class will provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to operate fire department pumping apparatus. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to determine how much water is flowing given the nozzles in service, the available pressure, and available hose lines. They will be able to calculate pressures needed for a supply pumper, relay pumper, and attack pumper. Major topics covered in this course are basic terminology, water supply, water pressure and gauges, hydraulics, positive displacement props, centrifugal pumps, pump power supply systems, relief valves, pressure governors, primers, water sources, and maintenance.

Resources-Support-Assistance: A Guide to the ND Fire Marshal's Office

Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the role of the State Fire Marshal's Office and resources available to all North Dakota Fire Departments. Information will include discussion of services your department may not be currently utilizing and how to request assistance. In addition, participants will gain a better understanding of procedures and processes involved in inspections, investigations, plan review, and incident reporting that will aid in helping keep their communities safer.

Rope Rescue Awareness

Rope Rescue is the foundation on which all Technical Rescues are based on. This Awareness class will give the students an introduction into the basic concepts and equipment used in Rope Rescue. Students will be introduced to basic Rope Rescue knots, Anchors and Mechanical Advantage Systems. (Zoom Instruction all students should have a 10' piece of rope or cord and a 6' piece of webbing to follow along with knots.)

So Now You're the Training Officer, Now What?

Whether you were promoted to the position, appointed by the chief, or elected, the Training Officer position is a critical one for a successful department not to mention the safety of your firefighters. This class is designed to provide students with some basic tools and skills to coordinate training in a small department. Students will leave with sample training plans as well as a better idea on what it takes to be a successful Training Officer.

Strategy and Tactics for the Initial Arriving Officer

Initial size-up and tactical priorities for the first in company. FFI is beneficial. This will prepare students for the IC portion of FFII

Tactical Thermal Imaging

Does your department have a thermal imaging camera? Do you want to learn how to get even more out of it than you currently do? This class will teach you new uses for a tool you already have, as well as making you more confident using thermal imaging cameras in many different situations. Using dynamic classroom sessions, real world examples, and proven hands-on evolutions students will be taught to use their TIC to better understand the fire environment. A focus will be on integrating TICs into fire attack in the modern fire environment.

Tactical to Practical: Rescue Lifting Bags

Several types of applications will be discussed and demonstrated. Short classroom session covering the parts of the system, common Terminology, along with care & Maintenance.

Tactical Ventilation

Tactical ventilation is the planned, systematic, and coordinated removal of heated air, smoke, gases, or other airborne contaminants from a structure, replacing them with cooler and/or fresh air to meet incident priorities. This class will cover the steps needed to perform tactical ventilation, the different types of ventilation, and equipment needed to perform ventilation.

The ABCs of SCBA

We will be doing a PowerPoint presentation with an explanation of components, ways SCBAs are mounted, and how to Don/Doff the SCBA. We will also cover the mask and those components as well. We will try to do some demonstrations ourselves.

Wildland Fire Chainsaws

The course lessons provide introduction to the function, maintenance and use of chainsaws, and their tactical wildland fire application. Supports entry level training for firefighters with little or no previous experience in operating a chainsaw. This class will be led by North Dakota Forest Service fire staff

Wildland Fire Weather

Students in this class will learn how weather impacts wildland fire, and how to obtain and use weather information for successful planning, tactical, and safety operations. The class will focus on wildland fire weather scenarios typical of North Dakota and will use an interactive, discussion-based approach to make connections between weather and firefighting operations. Students will learn how changes in weather affect the rate and direction of wildfire spread, how to safely and successfully adjust operations during frontal passages, and how instability plays a role in fire behavior. Students will also learn how to obtain and interpret fire weather planning forecasts, incident-specific spot weather forecasts, and when and how Red Flag Warnings are issued.

Wildland Fire, An Interactive discussion About Your Safety

A two-hour interactive session covering such topics as last year's fire season, issues, concerns, fire response during a pandemic, and how firefighters and their departments manage risk. Sharing of ideas, solutions, concerns, successes and challenges. Class will be led by Oscar Knudson and include videos from WFSTAR

To view schedule of classes and to register for classes please log into your account at www.ndfa.net.