

Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING 2016 (HM16) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Question:** Have the courses changed from the previous Delmar Hazardous Materials (HM) curriculum as compared to the new Jones and Bartlett (J&B) HM curriculum?

Answer: NO, the names of the four courses for the new J&B HM curriculum remain the same as in the Delmar curriculum. The hours remain the same, but the course codes are different from Delmar.

- a. Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMAJB) - 4 hours
- b. Hazardous Materials Awareness Refresher (HMARJB) – 2 hours
- c. Hazardous Materials Operations (HMOJB) – 24 hours
- d. Hazardous Materials Operations Refresher (HMORJB) -6 hours

2. **Question:** When should students and fire departments switch to the new Jones and Bartlett (J&B) 2nd Edition manual?

Answer: As soon as possible. The J&B 2nd Edition “*Hazardous Materials and Operations*” student manual serves as the reference text for all HM course instruction. This manual will be required as of January 1, 2017 for all HM Operations-level (HMO) courses. The 1st edition of the J&B Hazmat student manual may also be used. The national certification testing is based on the study guide list published in the candidate handbook. By July 2017, the 1st edition manual will be phased out and not suitable for classroom instruction.

3. **Question:** Can the student manual referenced above be shared by establishing a lending library?

Answer: YES, the manuals can be shared through a lending library by any responsible party (emergency organization, county, ETA, etc.)

4. **Question:** Will students who have taken previous Delmar Hazardous Materials courses (DHMA, DHMAR, DHMO, DHMOR) have to repeat those levels under the new J&B curriculum?

Answer: NO, students are not required to retake the initial Awareness or Operations course. However, Federal regulations require once the initial training has been completed, some level of training/proof of competency is required on an annual basis, thus the refresher classes are available. Previous Delmar certificates will still be honored as pre-requisites.

5. **Question:** What are the requirements to pass each course?

Answer: 100% attendance, completion of skill sheet and written testing (if required).

6. **Question:** How do I prove I've completed a course in the hazardous materials curriculum?

Answer: A course certificate or a signed Skill Sheet(s) can be accepted as proof of meeting any required course pre-requisites. The PSFA recommends the AHJ accept the refresher training course certificates as proof of annual training/competency.

7. **Question:** Are Skill Sheets required for all levels within the Hazardous Materials Training curriculum using the new J&B manual?

Answer: YES, Skill Sheets are required to be signed by the instructor to verify completion of skills. Depending on the course, a different number of Skill Sheets are required. The instructor will not collect the skill sheets, they will be kept by the students for study/testing purposes. It is recommended that agencies place a copy of the Skill Sheets in personnel training files to document training of members.

8. **Question:** Are the practical skills printed on the Skills Sheets also found in the J&B manual?

Answer: YES, the Skill Sheets reference "skill drills" shown within the J&B manual to reinforce student and fire department training. The Skill Sheets were produced by the PSFA and are similar to the skills referenced in the national certification testing.

9. **Question:** Where do I get a Skills Sheets?

Answer: Educational Training Agency (ETA) partners that sponsor HM training courses provide the Skill Sheets to each student.

10. **Question:** How old do I have to be to start each level?

Answer: Depends, for Awareness-level, the student must be 14 years of age or older at the start of the course. For Operations-level, the student must be 16 years of age or older at the start of the course and must be trained on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) as issued by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to class.

11. **Question:** What are the pre-requisites for “Awareness” and “Operations”?

Answer: NONE. A firefighter can attend an Operations-level course without taking Awareness as a prerequisite course, if they meet the age and have been trained in PPE and RPE for the operations-level.

12. **Question:** Is an Awareness-level or Operations-level certificate acceptable proof of meeting the pre-requisite training for attending a refresher class?

Answer: YES, providing a certificate showing proof of training either current or in the past is sufficient.

13. **Question:** If I have taken the initial or refresher training courses for Awareness-level or Operations-level can I use those certificates to meet the pre-requisites for national certification?

Answer: YES, certificates must be one (1) year from the date of the certification application.

14. **Question:** Are all Educational Training Agencies (ETAs) in the Commonwealth using the same Hazardous Materials curriculum?

Answer: YES, the State Fire Academy has provided this training curriculum to all ETAs.

15. **Question:** If I have taken an older Hazardous Materials Operations (HMO, DHMO, etc.) do I have to retake the new HMOJB course?

Answer: NO, you don't have to retake the course. Provide a certificate showing proof of completion of previous training.

16. **Question:** If a student fails to complete the required skills in a given course can they retest the skills they failed to complete that level or must they retake the entire course?

Answer: YES, they can retest only the skills failed without having to retake the entire level within one year. After that one year they would repeat that course of instruction.

17. **Question:** Mission specific training is included in the Hazardous Materials Operations-level Refresher course. What wording is on my certificate?

Answer: The certificate will be generic and indicate Hazardous Materials Operations Refresher (HMORJB) only, regardless of which option you choose.

Mission specific options menu includes: Technical Decon, Mass Decon, Air Monitoring, Product Control, Victim Recovery and Rescue.

18. **Question:** During the annual Operations Refresher training, can a fire department choose different mission specific training they want to conduct each year?

Answer: YES, the course includes a review of core requirements and then an a la carte menu (option) to pick and choose the mission specific training you would like to conduct during the refresher training. These mission specific options can be changed each year during operations-level refresher training.

19. **Question:** Must I provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

Answer: YES, a minimum level of PPE is required by all students as issued by the AHJ/sponsoring organization (i.e., turnout gear, coveralls, jump suit, etc.; plus foot, head, hand and eye protection).

20. **Question:** What if my AHJ does not issue me Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE), can I still attend and successfully complete the course?

Answer: YES, if you are not issued RPE, you can still participate in the course and participate and/or observe in the majority of the skills. However, some skills require the use of RPE. Students issued and wearing RPE must follow the facial hair policy and be clean shaven before using such equipment within the class.

Any additional questions related to the J&B Hazardous Materials Training program can be sent to ra-fire@pa.gov. For additional information go to the PSFA Website (www.osfc.pa.gov), click on State Fire Academy Documents and find **Hazardous Materials Curriculum Policy No. 2016-01**.