



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

Date: 9-2012

Last Revision:

Course Title: Decision Making for Initial Company Operations

SFA Course Code: DMICO

Course Length: 16 hrs

Lecture/Lab Breakdown: 9/5

Prerequisites: ELIF

Referenced Text(s): NFA Curriculum-IG

Course Goal: This course is designed to develop the decision making skills needed by Company Officers (COs) to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires

Course Description: This course is designed to develop a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Company Officer as they relate to NIMS, Fireground Decision Making, Building Construction types as well as Burn Time Considerations and LODDs from Collapse Incidents while preparing their company for incident operations.

Description of Methodology: Lecture with interactive discussion and Student Activities

Student Equipment & Supplies: DMICO SM for each student

Equipment/Audiovisual/Facility/Supply Requirements: Classroom with computer, projector and screen

Special Notes & Conditions: Total time is based on presentation of material as well as breaks and administrative duties.

Course Outline

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1 hr	Introduction	
1 hr	Integration of the national Incident Management System to Fireground management	
1 hr	Fireground Decision Making	
2 hr 25 min	Building Construction Types	
3 hr 30 min	The Analytical Sizeup Process	
2 hr 15 min	Burn time Considerations and line of Duty Deaths from Collapse Incidents	
2 hr 45 min	Fireground Decision Making Exercises	

Competency Evaluation Mechanism: Interactive discussion, group activities as well as a written exam

Learning Outcomes (Behavioral Objectives):

Upon successful completion the student shall be able to;

1. State the purpose of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
2. Identify the elements of NIMS that provide the template for managing incidents.
3. State the purpose of using the Incident Command System (ICS) effectively.
4. Identify the ICS positions and state their functions.
5. Explain the need for a logical thought process
6. State the difference between Classical Decision Making and Naturalistic Decision Making (NDM).
7. Assess an incident scene and determine whether Classical Decision Making or NDM is the appropriate decision making model to use at a particular incident
8. State the importance of knowing when to be proactive and when to be reactive.
9. List ways to collect data and manage information.
10. List and describe the five types of building construction.
11. Identify the strengths, weaknesses, characteristics, and collapse potential for each of the five methods of building construction.
12. Identify special safety concerns.
13. Given a scenario, identify the strengths and weaknesses in different building construction types.
14. Discuss the scientific method.
15. Describe the primary sizeup factors and determine their impact on objectives and strategies.
16. Analyze the Command Sequence Action Panning Cycle
17. Given examples of different types of structures and different fire loads, predict the time of collapse.
18. Discuss the impact of the primary factor, construction, on line-of-duty deaths (LODDs).
19. State the objectives, strategies and tactics when confronted with a Type I, II, III, IV, or V occupancy when conducting an analytical sizeup of the structure.
20. Given a simulated incident where building construction is a critical issue, develop a sizeup report of fireground conditions, complete the Primary Factors Chart, and document progress using the Command Sequence Tactical Chart

Questions/Comments: Contact PSFA Assistant Administrator