



# Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

1150 Riverside Drive

Lewistown, PA 17044-1979

(717) 248 1115

In PA: 1 800 459 4096

FAX (717) 248 3580

## Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

Revised 1/06

**Course Title:** Principles of Building Construction - Noncombustible (NFA) (BCN)

**SFA Course Code:** BCN

**Length of Course:** 16 Hours

**Lecture/Lab Breakdown:** 16/0

**Prerequisites:** IST or ELIS

**Referenced Texts:** NFPA 1500; NFPA 1561; NFPA 220; SARA Title III; 29CFR1910; NFA Instructor Guide and Student Manual.

**Course Goal:** The overall goal of this course is to provide knowledge about the classification system of buildings, the importance of the fire resistance for structural support elements, and the risks associated with performing fire-suppression activities inside and around buildings involved in fire. One additional major goal of this course is to enhance the skills of emergency response personnel to "read" a building's construction and to apply the information to the action plan for the incident.

**Description of Course:** The failure of a building or building components under fire conditions is a leading cause of fire fighter death and injury. The ability to recognize and locate relevant information about a building before a fire, and to "read" a building during the course of a fire incident, are essential survival skills. This course gives the student the ability to accomplish these tasks when confronted with a building of fire-resistive or non-combustible construction. The unique problems of conducting emergency operations in buildings under construction are also addressed.

**Description of Methodology to be used: (Brief)** A combination of lecture and guided discussion, with some individual and group activity, is used.

**Student Equipment/Supply Needs:** Pen/Pencil, Notebook; 1 copy of Student Manual for this course.

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements:** Classroom with adequate seating; chalkboard or flip chart; 35 mm slide projector with synchronized tape player; OHT projector; adequate screen(s); (Powerpoint projection capability for CD version); 1 copy of Student Manual for each student; BCN AV kit.

(continued)

## MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION

Course Title: Building Construction for Fire Suppression Forces: Fire Resistive and Non-Combustible Construction (NFA) (BCN)

Revised 1/2006

Page 2 of 2

### COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Time</u>	<u>Content</u>
30 minutes	Registration and orientation
1 hr., 45 min	Introduction.
1 hr., 45 min	Principles of Building Construction.
5 hr., .	Unprotected Noncombustible Buildings
4 hr., 30 min	Protected Noncombustible Buildings.
1 hr., 30 min	Culminating Activity.

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism (Brief description-attach copy):** 20 question written exam selected from exam bank provided with the Instructor's Guide (optional).

**Course Objectives (specific):** Upon completion of this course the student will, given an example of a noncombustible or fire-resistive building, correctly:

1. Identify a building and correctly apply the classification system for the building in accordance with NFPA 220, *Standard on Types of Building Construction*.
2. Identify the important structural features of a building and use this information in the formation of the Incident Action Plan (IAP), including the strategic goals, tactical objectives, and incident priorities.
3. Identify critical sizeup issues such as smoke, heat, and fire travel inside a structure, and predict the path or method of travel based upon the building construction features.
4. Identify critical safety issues that affect firefighter safety for each classification of construction and identify appropriate measures to enhance the safety of emergency responders.

BCN02