



MEMO

TO All PA Fire Company/Departments

FROM Bruce Trego – PA State Fire Commissioner

CC Thomas Cook – State Fire Academy Administrator
State Fire Academy Staff

DATE May 18, 2020

RE State Fire Academy Guidance for Fire Company/Department Training during the Governor’s Phased in Plan for the Commonwealth

In response to the release of information from DCED regarding the restoration of Fire Training Statewide (see FAQ answer below) –

From the DCED FAQ Document:

44. When can workforce development training resume?

The following workforce development training programs may resume statewide beginning May 8: nurse aid and direct care training programs; police academy training; emergency medical services (EMS) training; emergency medical technician (EMT) training; and fire training programs. Each program must be structured around ongoing social distancing, universal masking, and/or other public health guidance so as not to result in a spike of cases and new stay-at-home and closure orders.

To assist fire departments in planning for continued delivery of training in a responsible manner and in compliance with DOH and CDC guidelines, a general guidance document has been developed to provide information for consideration when developing your return to training plan.

Training throughout the Commonwealth will resume at different timeframes based on local conditions.

For more specific/detailed guidance/recommendations please refer to the following links:

[OSFC COVID-19 Updates and Resources.](#)

[EMS Information Bulletin 2020-22](#)

COVID-19

COMPANY LEVEL **Fire** TRAINING

- To the extent possible and practical, company level training **should** be done through distance learning. This training can be accomplished using online resources, Zoom/Google Classroom etc. (Recommended)
- In situations where Company level training cannot be done through distance learning, and close contact is required by participants to complete task, strict adherence to social distancing, restriction on the number of people allowed in a training location, respiratory protection and following all CDC and DOH recommendations/guidance is required
- If training is being provided through an Educational Training Agency (ETA) compliance with that organizations training plan as well as local level return to training plan must be adhered to always.
- Fire departments are encouraged to assess their training needs, the risk associated with current conditions for providing safe, quality training during times when medical precautions are advised.

For more specific/detailed guidance please refer to the following links:

[OSFC COVID-19 Updates and Resources](#)

[EMS Information Bulletin 2020-22](#)