



# Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

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## Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

**Date:** March 1997

**Last Revised:** 02 06

**Course Title:** Fire Fighter Survival (SURV)

**Length of Course:** 16 Hours

**Lecture/Lab Breakdown:** 6/10

**Prerequisites:** ELIF or EBM; Recommended RITC, SFR, ICS: **Student must be physically able to crawl, climb and descend ladders, slide on rope, and SUPPORT OWN BODY WEIGHT WHILE HANGING BY ARMS. Pa State Fire Academy facial hair policy applies.**

**Referenced Texts:** NFPA standards 1001 and 1500; Essentials of Fire Fighting, 3rd edition, IFSTA; Fire Service Rescue Practices, 5th edition, IFSTA; Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, 1st edition, IFSTA; Health & Safety Officer, student manual, National Fire Academy; This course **MUST** be taught utilizing lesson plans from the **Pennsylvania State Fire Academy Instructor Guide for this program.**

**Course Goal:** Reduce the risk of fire fighter injuries and deaths in Pennsylvania. The class will enable fire fighters to become more aware and familiar with procedures that may be used to prevent or perhaps lessen the seriousness of injuries or even save their lives.

**Description of Course:** A physically demanding, comprehensive program dealing with the necessary knowledge and skills relative to rescue procedures needed for self rescue. Emphasis will be placed on search techniques, communications, accountability/location and self rescue procedures. Students must be in adequate physical condition to perform 100% of all practical exercises.

**Description of Methodology to be used: (Brief)** Lecture, classroom discussion, use of audiovisual aids, demonstration and emphasis on practical exercises.

**Student Equipment/Supply Needs:** Note taking material, turn out gear, SCBA with spare cylinder, and PASS device. One (1) copy of SURV Student Handout per student (must remain in the possession of the student at the end of the class).

**Equipment/Audiovisual/Supply requirements:** Classroom with chalkboard, overhead projector and screen, slide projector, VCR and monitor, 2 radios, air refill capability, area for search and rescue (including a restricted space opening to require removal of SCBA), 3 story building with window access, 24 ft. extension ladder, ladder belt or class 3 harness, 2 ropes for use as lifelines and accessories, soft mats or mattresses, accountability system including tags and board, smoke generating machine (optional), and SURV A/V kit. **MINIMUM INSTRUCTOR**

**REQUIREMENTS: 2 instructors - 16 hours, 1 instructor - 8 hours. MAXIMUM number of students is 24, NO EXCEPTIONS !**

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### COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Time</u>		<u>Content</u>	<u>Notes</u>
:30		Introduction, Registration, Overview	
:45		Preventing Fire Fighter Injuries/Death	
:45		Radio Procedures	
:45		Emergency SCBA Procedures	
1:15		Search Safety Awareness Guidelines	
1:00		Emergency SCBA Procedures Practical	
1:30		Maze (difficult)	Occasionally initiate emergency breathing procedures along with description location
1:30		Maze (restricted opening )	
2:00	**	Self Survival Tactics	
1:00	*	Low Window Escape	
1:30	*	Rope Slide	
1:30	*	Window Jump	
1:30	*	Ladder Escape	
:30		Review, Critiques, Conclusion	

\* The listed lessons require the presence of three instructors, 2 of which must be accredited lead instructors for SURV.

\*\* Lesson “*Self Survival Tactics*” could be done earlier in program.

**Competency Evaluation Mechanism (Brief description-attach copy):** Students must successfully complete 100% of all practical exercises to receive a certificate. Periodic questioning will occur during lecture presentations.

**SAFETY ALERT:** The student must completely understand that some specific techniques taught in this class are recommended only in the case of a “last chance” situation and may not be universally approved, recommended, or permitted by every training authority or jurisdiction, as they involve a degree of risk acceptable only in an emergency life or death situation. These techniques include some emergency breathing procedures along with self survival escape from windows via ladder and rope.

**Learning Outcomes (Course Objectives):** Upon completion of this course, the student shall:

1. Correctly describe concept of class and necessity for it.
2. Correctly explain contents and time requirements of subjects.
3. Clearly define physical requirements of all students and need to perform 100% of practical exercises.
4. Correctly explain the relevant safety issues and relationship of course material/exercises to nationally accepted and recommended standards.
5. Correctly explain and describe the seriousness of techniques and the fact that they are designed to be used as “LAST RESORT, TRY or DIE” only
6. Identify necessary personal protective equipment for structural fire fighting.
7. Describe other necessary components of the fire fighter’s personal equipment needs.

continued

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**Learning Outcomes (Course Objectives): continued**

8. Explain the need for proper training in mandatory and recommended areas for structural fire fighting.
9. Describe the concept of Rapid Intervention Teams.
10. Define accountability and discuss various systems for keeping track of firefighters during an incident.
11. Describe how an incident management system can help reduce fire fighter injuries and deaths.
12. Describe the need for good communications; including strict procedures, reporting, and establishing command.
13. Demonstrate difficulty of communicating over portable radio equipment.
14. Operate using the standard radio procedures established for the class.
15. Demonstrate the proper use of portable radio equipment.
16. Identify safe techniques that a fire fighter can use with his/her S.C.B.A. in the event of:
  - a. limited or tight work space.
  - b. low or empty air cylinder.
  - c. S.C.B.A. malfunction.
17. Describe safe search techniques that should be used for fast, efficient fire department building searches.
18. Define primary search; secondary search; and discuss differences and similarities of each.
19. Prepare himself/herself for search operations; compare and contrast simulated searches to “actual fire” searches.
20. Demonstrate ability to successfully;
  - a. Remove S.C.B.A. harness assembly while using S.C.B.A. and then re-doff harness assembly.
  - b. Activate by-pass valve of S.C.B.A. and explain correct procedure for doing so with his/her specific S.C.B.A.
  - c. Buddy-breath with a partner and his/her S.C.B.A.
  - d. Filter breath with a harness mounted regulator type S.C.B.A.
  - e. Breath from cylinder or regulator of S.C.B.A.
21. Demonstrate the ability to perform safe search techniques in a maze type environment.
22. Demonstrate the ability to doff S.C.B.A. harness assembly while continuing to wear S.C.B.A. face piece in search operations; crawl through maze; re-don S.C.B.A. harness assembly.
23. Demonstrate the ability to perform various emergency techniques with S.C.B.A. while working in a maze environment. Techniques include
  - a. buddy-breathing,
  - b. filter breathing,
  - c. regulator breathing.
24. Demonstrate the ability to exit area through restricted opening while wearing T.O.G. and S.C.B.A. and performing a search.
25. Identify several safety concerns including life-threatening conditions in an interior structure fire.

**Learning Outcomes (Course Objectives): continued**

26. Explain the stress associated with interior structural fire fighting operations.
27. List at least five methods to protect himself/herself from dangerous conditions in an interior structural fire fighting operation.
28. Describe and demonstrate life saving techniques that may be used by a fire fighter trapped in a life-threatening situation during an interior structural fire fighting operation.
29. Demonstrate safe and proper technique for escape from a ground level window, as demonstrated by the instructors.
30. Demonstrate the proper technique for escape from a second floor window utilizing rope-slide techniques demonstrated by the instructors.
31. Demonstrate the safe and proper method to hang by arms and drop from a 2nd floor window (or other area) and roll safely as demonstrated by the instructors.
32. Demonstrate the proper method to safely exit from a second floor window, head first, down a ladder, as demonstrated by the instructor.