



# National Fire Academy

**F0457 – Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations**

**Version: 3rd Edition, 1st Printing, September 2018**

**Quarter:**

**ACE Credit: In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, one semester hour in fire science or firefighting.**

**IACET Continuing Education Units: 1.4**

**Length of Course: 2 Days (15 hr., 35 min. contact hours)**

**Prerequisite: ICS 100 and 200 level training. Preferred courses Q462 and Q463**

**Curriculum: Incident Management**

**Training Specialist: Richard Sexton**

**Instructor:**

**Instructor email/phone:**

**Classroom: J-**

**Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM**

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## Course Description (Catalog)

F0457 – “Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations.” Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations is designed to develop the decision making skills needed by Company Officers (COs) to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires. All activities and scenarios used in this course are based on structure fires. As a Company Officer (CO) with the real possibility of being the first to arrive at an incident, the CO’s initial decisions will have an impact throughout the entire incident. It is vital that they be able to make good management decisions that have a favorable impact on the eventual outcome. In addition to a possible role as the initial Incident Commander (IC), the CO may well be assigned a subordinate position within the ICS

organization. COs need to have a clear understanding of the system, the position they are assigned, and their role in the organization if they are to function effectively and help make the system work.

## **Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)**

The DMICO course is appropriate for newly appointed COs, firefighters who may have acting CO responsibilities, and firefighters who want to become COs.

## **Course Scope (Goal)**

“Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations” (DMICO) is designed to develop the decision-making skills needed by Company Officers (COs) to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires.

Activities and scenarios are used in this course and are based on structure fires. The students will participate in a walkthrough activity followed by one or more small group, scenario-driven activities for each area covered.

## **Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)**

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to accomplish the following:

- Distinguish the relationship between building construction and the Brief Initial Report (BIR) for a given simulated fire scenario.
- Create an organizational chart based on an understanding of the command sequence, using a first alarm scenario.
- Develop and implement a plan of mitigation using the command sequence.
- Formulate corollaries between building construction and firefighter safety to minimize the risk of line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) due to structural collapse.
- Design and apply appropriate objectives, strategies and tactics for a given scenario.
- Create and implement a plan of mitigation for a series of scenarios using the Command Sequence Cycle.

## **Course Delivery Method**

The National Fire Academy (NFA) offers specialized training courses and advanced management programs of national impact in an academic classroom environment [on campus at the National Emergency Training Center \(NETC\) in Emmitsburg, Maryland](#) and through their State, local, tribal, and US territories training partners. All course materials are designed for interactive classroom environments, in either paper notebook or electronic formats.

## Course Schedule

The purpose of the course schedule is to give you, at a glance, the required preparation, activities, and evaluation components of your course.

DAY 1	DAY 2
Introduction, Welcome and Administrative	Unit 3: Size-Up and Fireground Decision-Making (cont'd)
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 1: Building Construction and Its Impact on Decision-Making	Unit 3: Size-Up and Fireground Decision-Making (cont'd)
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 1: Building Construction and Its Impact on Decision-Making (cont'd)	Unit 4: Burn Time Considerations and Line-of-Duty Deaths from Collapse
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
Unit 2: Managing Emergency Incidents	Unit 5: Fireground Decision-Making Scenarios
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 3: Size-Up and Fireground Decision-Making	Unit 5: Fireground Decision-Making Scenarios (cont'd) Examination

Note: This schedule is subject to modification by the instructors and approved by the training specialist.

## **Course Resources (Instructional Materials)**

In order to be fully prepared, obtain a copy of the required textbooks and other instructional materials prior to the first day of class.

## **Required Readings**

The student must complete required readings during the course to be able to thoughtfully participate in discussions and activities.

None.

## **Suggested Reading/Resources**

Suggested readings and resources are not evaluated, but may enhance the student's understanding, serve as additional sources for citation and promote discussion of course material.

None.

## **Required Resources (Course Textbook)**

Student Manual.

## **Supplemental Resources (Supplemental Course Textbook)**

None.

## **Grading Methodology (Evaluation Procedures)**

Grading methodology is assessed through a Final Examination with a passing score of 80 percent.

## **EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES**

Students will be given exams at the end of the class, and only the instructor will grade the exams. While the exams are being graded by the instructor, students will be asked to complete end-of-course evaluations.

Exams are to be completed individually and not as a group or a group activity, unless specifically directed within the instructor guide for the specific course. Students should use pencils to complete answer sheets if bubble sheets and a scoring key overlay are being used.

There should only be one answer for any given question marked by the student. A question with multiple answers is considered incorrect. Please mark number of incorrect answers on completed exam sheets, record score (percentage), and mark the appropriate letter grade.

Transfer the letter grades to the corresponding student name on the course roster.

If a student does not obtain a passing grade on the first attempt, the instructor will provide remediation<sup>1</sup> prior to a retest. Students who do not pass the first exam will be allowed to take one retest of a new exam before departing from the class. A second failure will result in a grade of "F" being recorded on the grade roster.

Once all exams have been graded, instructors should review the exam as a group.

In the event of unusual events (storm, fire response, family emergency) or early departure, the host agency or state representative may be asked to proctor the exam at a later date. The instructor is responsible to notify the Training Specialist as soon as practical of the situation and name of person responsible for the exams and testing process.

### **Required Reading Assignments**

Student completion of reading assignments will be done via evaluation of their class participation and will not be a separately graded activity.

### **Suggested Readings**

Suggested readings are not evaluated, but may enhance the student's understanding and promote discussion of course material.

## **Course Outline**

### **Introduction**

#### **Objectives**

None.

### **Unit 1: Building Construction and Its Impact on Decision-Making**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Distinguish the relationship between building construction and the Brief Initial Report (BIR) for a given simulated fire scenario.

##### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Classify and describe the five types of building construction.
- 1.2 Analyze the strengths, weaknesses, characteristics and collapse potential for each of the five methods of building construction.
- 1.3 Evaluate safety concerns.

### **Unit 2: Managing Emergency Incidents**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Create an organizational chart based on an understanding of the command sequence, using a first alarm scenario.

## **Enabling Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Identify the elements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) that provide the template for managing incidents.
- 2.2 Explain the functions of the Incident Command System (ICS) positions.
- 2.3 Develop an organizational chart to manage a simulated incident using the ICS.

## **Unit 3: Size-Up and Fireground Decision-Making**

### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Develop and implement a plan of mitigation using the command sequence.

#### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Explain the need for a logical thought process.
- 3.2 Distinguish between Classical Decision-Making (CDM) and Naturalistic Decision-Making (NDM).
- 3.3 Evaluate the initial size-up factors.
- 3.4 Analyze the Command Sequence Cycle.
- 3.5 Plan appropriate objectives, strategies and tactics for the Command Sequence Cycle.

## **Unit 4: Burn Time Considerations and Line-of-Duty Deaths from Collapse**

### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Formulate corollaries between building construction and firefighter safety to minimize the risk of line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) due to structural collapse.

#### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Predict the time of collapse from examples of different types of structures and different types of fire loads.
- 4.2 Anticipate the impact of construction on LODDs.

## **Unit 5: Fireground Decision-Making Scenarios**

### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 5.1 Design and apply appropriate objectives, strategies and tactics for a given scenario.
- 5.2 Create and implement a plan of mitigation for a series of scenarios using the Command Sequence Cycle.

#### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 5.1 Establish the objectives and strategies when confronted with building construction Types I-V or occupancy, when conducting an analytical size-up of the structure.
- 5.2 Analyze the pertinent Primary Factors Chart (Columns 1 to 3) obtained during the analytical size-up.



- 5.3 Develop and implement a plan of mitigation using the command sequence.
- 5.4 Identify primary factors and develop appropriate objectives, strategies and tactics for a given scenario.
- 5.5 Document basic information regarding the incident situation and resources allocated for a given scenario using an Incident Command System (ICS) Form 201, Incident Briefing.

## **Policies**

### **Class Attendance and Cancellation Policy**

#### **Attendance**

- You are required to attend all sessions of the course. If you do not, you may not receive a certificate.
- If you need to depart the training facility early and miss any portion of the course, you must make the request in writing to the sponsoring agency (e.g., State training director, etc.). The State training director may waive the attendance requirement in order to accommodate you with extraordinary circumstances as long as you complete all course requirements.

#### **Course Failure**

You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You don't have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

#### **Student Code of Conduct Policy**

Students, instructors and staff are expected to treat each other with respect at all times. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

#### **Writing Expectations**

Student writing will conform to the generally accepted academic standards for college papers. Papers will reflect the original work of the student and give appropriate credit through citations for ideas belonging to other authors, publications or organizations. Student written work should be free of grammatical and syntax errors, free of profanity or obscene language or ideas, and reflect critical thinking related to the course subject matter.

#### **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA, Sixth Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to NFA. Assignments completed in a

narrative essay, composition format, abstract, and discussion posts must follow the citation style cited in the APA, Sixth Edition.

### **Late Assignments**

All assignments must be turned in by the established deadline. Late submissions could result in a 10 percent decrease in grade.

### **Disclaimer Statement**

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

### **Grading**

Please review the following rubrics that explain how grades will be awarded.

Students who do not complete the entire course will be awarded an Incomplete (I) grade. In accordance with National Fire Academy academic policies, an Incomplete (I) grade must be removed by the end of the next semester following the course, or it automatically becomes a Failing (F) grade.

[https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student\\_policies.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student_policies.html)

### **Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to exhibit exemplary ethical behavior and conduct as part of the NFA community and society as a whole. Acts of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, deliberate falsification, and other unethical behaviors will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to report academic misconduct when they witness a violation. All cases of academic misconduct shall be reported by the instructor to the State training director or host agency and to the NFA Training Specialist.

If a student is found to have engaged in misconduct and the allegations are upheld, the penalties may include, but are not limited to one or a combination of the following:

- expulsion,
- exclusion from future classes for a specified period; depending on the severity it could range from 1-10 years, and/or
- forfeiture of certificate for course(s) enrolled in at NETC.

Refer to NFA-specific Standard Operating Procedure 700.1 – *Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics* for more information.