



National Fire Academy

W0443 – Initial Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts
Version: 2nd Edition, 1st Printing, December 2023

Quarter:

ACE Credit:

IACET Continuing Education Units:

Length of Course: 2 Days (13 hr., 15 min. contact hours)

Prerequisite: Yes

Curriculum: Emergency Response to Terrorism

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Instructor:

Instructor email/phone:

Classroom: J-

Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM

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Course Description (Catalog)

W0443 – “Initial Response to Terrorism: Basic Concepts.” This course will focus on the initial response to incidents that may be terrorist in nature. The course is open to all emergency response and support personnel. Ideally, participants will have been trained to the hazardous materials operations level.

Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)

The primary target audience for this course includes three groups of people, preferably trained to the operations level in hazardous materials response: fire personnel, emergency medical services (EMS) responders and hazardous materials responders.

In addition, this course is designed to benefit law enforcement personnel, emergency communications personnel, emergency management personnel, public works management, public health workers, armed forces/reserves/National Guard members and disaster response agencies.

Course Scope (Goal)

The Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, Public Law 93-498, authorizes the USFA's NFA to administer a national training program in Emmitsburg, Maryland, for "advancing the professional development of fire, rescue and emergency service personnel" to mitigate the loss of life and property from fire and other hazards. An integral part of that program is training in emergency response to terrorism.

The goal of the course is to provide guidance during the first 30 to 60 minutes of a hazardous materials incident to include pre-incident planning, recognition of a criminal hazardous materials/WMD or ASHE incident, establishing command, scene size-up, and initiating a risk-based response that incorporates jurisdictional and agency capabilities with incident needs.

Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)

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

- Explain indicators of a potential terrorist incident using the risk-based response process.
- Determine the appropriate self-protective and scene control measures, given a scenario.
- Recognize, define, describe and recommend tactical objectives for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) events and active shooter/hostile events (ASHE).
- Create an action plan for a given scenario using the risk-based response process.
- Describe command and control issues associated with responder operations at a crime scene.

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](#). This classroom course is designed for the national level fire service officer from State and local fire service organizations. During this 2-day delivery, students will reside in dormitories provided on campus with classes conducted in classrooms designed for critical student/instructor interaction. 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: Tactical Considerations (cont'd)
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 1: Understanding and Recognizing Terrorism	Unit 3: Tactical Considerations (cont'd) Unit 4: Creating an Action Plan: Complex Coordinated Attack
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 1: Understanding and Recognizing Terrorism (cont'd) Unit 2: Implementing Self-Protective and Scene Control Measures	Unit 4: Creating an Action Plan: Complex Coordinated Attack (cont'd)
<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
Unit 2: Implementing Self-Protective and Scene Control Measures (cont'd)	Unit 5: Incident Command Overview
<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
Unit 3: Tactical Considerations	Unit 5: Incident Command Overview (cont'd) Wrap-Up

Note: Times listed reflect approximate instructional time blocks and may be adjusted to meet individual course preferences

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 rubrics are provided for all graded assignments. Each rubric is labeled according to the activity name.

Students who do not complete the entire course will be awarded an Incomplete (I) grade. In accordance with NFA 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. Students must earn a C (70%) to pass the course. The final course grade will be comprised of the elements in the following table.

Element	Completion/formal grade	Grade	Weight
Activity 1.1: Recognizing Suspicious Incidents	Completion	–	–
Activity 2.1: Self-Protective Measures and Scene Control	Completion	–	–
Activity 3.1: Tactical Considerations	Formal grade	20	40%
Activity 4.1: Creating an Action Plan: Complex Coordinated Attack	Formal grade	35	60%
Activity 5.1: Terrorism Planning Research	Completion	–	–
		Total	100%

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 (Day 1)

Objectives

None.

Unit 1: Understanding and Recognizing Terrorism (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Explain indicators of a potential terrorist incident using the risk-based response process.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Define domestic and international terrorism per the current U.S. Code definition.
- 1.2 Explain the risk-based response process.
- 1.3 Compare responding to terrorist incidents and non-terrorist incidents.
- 1.4 Differentiate between incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) and active shooter/hostile events (ASHE) response incidents.
- 1.5 Recognize suspicious circumstances that may indicate possible terrorism.

Unit 2: Implementing Self-Protective and Scene Control Measures (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Determine the appropriate self-protective and scene control measures, given a scenario.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Determine the appropriate use of shielding at chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) events and active shooter/hostile events (ASHE).
- 2.2 Explain the use of time and distance as protective measures at CBRNE events and ASHE.

- 2.3 Consider the use of emergency decontamination and routine post-exposure decontamination as a self-protective measure.
- 2.4 Identify unique challenges that may confront responders when attempting to implement scene control.
- 2.5 Explain the factors that influence public protection considerations.
- 2.6 Describe what resources should be used to maintain perimeter security at a terrorist incident.

Unit 3: Tactical Considerations (Day 1)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Recognize, define, describe and recommend tactical objectives for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) events and active shooter/hostile events (ASHE).

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Define and explain tactical considerations associated with acts of terrorism involving CBRNE events and ASHE.
- 3.2 Identify and list specialized equipment needed to support tactical operations involving CBRNE events and ASHE.
- 3.3 Identify tactical considerations for each incident category, given a scenario.

Unit 4: Creating an Action Plan: Complex Coordinated Attack (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Create an action plan for a given scenario using the risk-based response process.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 4.1 Describe possible indicators of terrorism.
- 4.2 Implement appropriate self-protective measures.
- 4.3 Initiate appropriate scene control measures.
- 4.4 Describe basic tactical considerations.

Unit 5: Incident Command Overview (Day 2)

Objectives

Terminal Objective

The students will be able to:

- 5.1 Describe command and control issues associated with responder operations at a crime scene.

Enabling Objectives

The students will be able to:

- 5.1 Describe and define the authorities and responsibilities in Presidential Decision Directive 39 (PDD-39).
- 5.2 Identify crime scene/security issues that must be addressed when managing an incident involving potential criminal activities.
- 5.3 Define applicable resources referenced in the National Response Framework (NRF).
- 5.4 Identify the steps for transition from emergency phase to recovery and termination.
- 5.5 Describe incident termination procedures.
- 5.6 Describe the local, state and territorial government responsibilities during a terrorism event.

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.

Student Substitutions

Substitutions for NFA courses are made from waiting lists; your fire department can't send someone in your place.

Cancellations or No-Shows

NFA's mission for delivery of courses is impaired significantly by cancellations and no-shows. It is very difficult and costly to recruit students at the last minute. Currently there is a two-year ban on student attendance for students who are no-shows or cancel within 30 days of the course start date without a valid reason. If you receive such a restriction, your supervisor needs to send a letter to our Admissions Office explaining the cancellation/no-show.

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 *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition* (i.e., APA 7) as the sole citation and reference style resource for written work submitted as part of course work to the NFA. Assignments completed as narrative essays, abstracts, and/or discussion posts must adhere to all APA 7 guidelines for academic writing. Students may refer to the following websites for assistance throughout the course: [Purdue OWL](#) or [APA Style](#).

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, students must manage competing demands on their time. Any paper submitted after the deadline will receive a “0” grade for that assignment.

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.

If you fail an on-campus course, you will not be issued a stipend for that course. 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.

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,
- withholding of stipend or forfeiture of stipend paid,
- 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.

GRADING RUBRICS

ACTIVITY 3.1: TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS RUBRIC

The table below details the point distribution for Activity 3.1.

CRITERIA	UNSATISFACTORY 0-3 Points	PROFICIENT 4 Points	EXEMPLARY 5 Points	POINTS	NOTES
Identify unique challenges to implementing scene control.	The group failed to identify unique challenges to implementing scene control. OR Responses were not relevant or supported by course references.	The group identified at least 3 unique challenges to implementing scene control. AND Responses were mostly relevant and well supported by course references.	The group identified at least 4 unique challenges to implementing scene control. AND Responses were completely relevant and fully supported by course references.		
Explain factors that influence public/responder protection considerations.	The group failed to identify factors that influence public/responder protection considerations. OR Responses were not relevant or supported by course references.	The group identified at least 3 factors that influence public/responder protection considerations. AND Responses were mostly relevant and well supported by course references.	The group identified at least 4 factors that influence public/responder protection considerations. AND Responses were completely relevant and fully supported by course references.		
Determine what resources should be utilized to maintain perimeter security.	The group failed to identify what resources should be utilized to maintain perimeter security. OR Responses were not relevant or supported by course references.	The group identified at least 3 resources that should be utilized to maintain perimeter security. AND Responses were mostly relevant and well supported by course references.	The group identified at least 4 resources that should be utilized to maintain perimeter security. AND Responses were completely relevant and fully supported by course references.		
Each group will have five minutes to report their findings to the class.	The group poorly manages their allotted time (> two minutes over/under).	The group generally manages their allotted time (< two minutes over/under).	The group effectively manages their allotted time, strictly adhering to the five-minute requirement.		

Grading:

A	B	C	D	F
20-18	17-16	15-14	13-12	11-0

ACTIVITY 4.1: CREATING AN ACTION PLAN: COMPLEX COORDINATED ATTACK

The table below details the point distribution for Activity 4.1.

	CRITERIA	UNSATISFACTORY 0-3 Points	PROFICIENT 4 Points	EXEMPLARY 5 Points	POINTS	NOTES
Sheet 1	1. Identify the key indicators that this may be a terrorism event.	The group fails to identify key indicators of a terrorism event.	The group identifies most key indicators of a terrorism event.	The group identifies all key indicators of a terrorism event.		
	2. Identify potential threats and hazards to responders.	The group fails to identify potential threats and hazards to responders. OR Identifies types of harm that are not relevant for the scenario.	The group identifies most potential threats and hazards to responders.	The group identifies all potential threats and hazards to responders.		
Sheet 2	1. Identify appropriate scene control measures.	The group fails to identify appropriate scene control measures. OR Identifies measures which are inappropriate for the scenario.	The group identifies most appropriate scene control measures.	The group identifies all appropriate scene control measures.		
	2. Indicate scene security measures taken.	The group fails to indicate the scene security measures taken. OR Indicates measures that are inappropriate for the scenario.	The group indicates most of the appropriate scene security measures taken.	The group identifies all appropriate scene security measures taken.		
	3. Identify outward warning signs and detection clues.	The group fails to identify outward warning signs and detection clues. OR Identifies signs/clues that are not relevant to the scenario.	The group identifies most outward warning signs and detection clues.	The group identifies all outward warning signs and detection clues.		
	4. Identify the type of event.	The group fails to correctly identify the type of event.	-	The group successfully identifies the type of event.		

	CRITERIA	UNSATISFACTORY 0-3 Points	PROFICIENT 4 Points	EXEMPLARY 5 Points	POINTS	NOTES
	<p>5. List any other significant tactical considerations.</p>	<p>The group fails to list other significant tactical considerations. OR Provides considerations that are not relevant or appropriate for the scenario.</p>	<p>The group provides some significant tactical considerations that are mostly relevant and appropriate for the scenario.</p>	<p>The group provides several significant tactical considerations that are entirely relevant and well-reasoned for the scenario.</p>		

Grading:

A	B	C	D	F
35-32	31-28	27-25	24-22	21-0