



# National Fire Academy

**W0549 – Emergency Response to Terrorism: Strategic Considerations  
Version: 1st Edition, 2nd Printing, September 2022**

**Quarter:**

**ACE Credit: In the lower division baccalaureate/associate degree category, one semester hour in risk management, homeland security administration, or leadership.**

**IACET Continuing Education Units: 1.4**

**Length of Course: 2 Days (13 hr., 50 min. contact hours)**

**Prerequisite: Yes**

**Curriculum: Emergency Response to Terrorism**

**Training Specialist: Dave Donohue**

**Instructor:**

**Instructor email/phone:**

**Classroom: J-**

**Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM**

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## Course Description (Catalog)

W0549 – “Emergency Response to Terrorism: Strategic Considerations.” This two-day course is designed for the responder(s) who may be responsible for initial and expanded command of incidents involving terrorism. The course is intended to build upon the students' existing skills as Incident Commanders (ICs) and practitioners of Incident Command System, with knowledge of National Incident Management System, the National Response Framework, and terrorism.

The class will assist the officers in preparing an effective response to the consequences of terrorism. ICs must be prepared to operate as part of a multiagency, multidiscipline and multijurisdictional response. The course uses lecture supported by case studies and practice scenarios to address the command and control challenges that will likely confront the IC. This will enable the students to apply their knowledge of pre-incident planning, managing emergency incidents, and operating as part of a Unified Command structure to ensure the safety of responders while bringing the incident to a successful conclusion.

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

The audience for this course consists of initial incident responders, including emergency response supervisors (first line and above), that need more in-depth knowledge and understanding of the constantly evolving nature of intentional incidents that allow for a risk-based, fact-oriented, legally justifiable, evidence-preserving, and safe response to an intentional threat incident and other unusual response operations, without relying solely on perception and experience. This course will allow the student to comprehend and implement the aspects of risk-based response to ensure the most appropriate outcomes for the response and the community while ensuring responder health and safety.

### **Course Scope (Goal)**

The course goal is for students to comprehend, analyze and implement the aspects of risk-based response to ensure the most appropriate outcomes for the response and the community while ensuring responder health and safety.

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

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

- Associate the fundamentals of response with an intentional threat incident.
- Communicate the importance of planning and risk assessment.
- Demonstrate concepts needed to respond to an intentional threat incident.

### **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.

<b>TIME</b>	<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>DAY 2</b>
8:00 - 9:00	Introduction, Welcome and Administrative	Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts
9:00 - 9:10	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
9:10 - 11:00	Unit 1: Operational Considerations	Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts (cont'd)
11:00 - 11:10	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
11:10 - 12:00	Unit 1: Operational Considerations (cont'd)	Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts (cont'd)
12:00 - 1:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1:00 - 3:00	Unit 1: Operational Considerations (cont'd)	Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts (cont'd)
3:00 - 3:30	Unit 1 Quiz	Course Evaluation
3:30 - 5:00	Unit 2: Planning and Risk Assessment	

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)**

Learning outcomes will be measured through a three-part assessment strategy. Part one is a quiz administered at the end of Unit 1 to assess the students' knowledge of the operational considerations. The quiz is worth 20 percent of the student's grade.

Part two is a group activity designed to assess the students' ability to identify target hazards (Activity 2.1: Anticipating Terrorist Targets). The activity is worth 20 percent of the student's grade.

Part three is a group activity designed to assess the students' proficiency in applying the fundamentals to an intentional threat incident (Activity 3.3: Applying Response Concepts, Part 3). The activity is worth 60 percent of the student's grade.

The required performance to successfully complete the course is attained by completing the class with a letter grade of a “C” or higher.

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Range</b>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	69 or lower

### **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**

#### **Course Outline**

#### **Introduction**

#### **Objectives**

None

## **Unit 1: Operational Considerations**

### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 Correlate the fundamentals of response with an intentional threat incident.

#### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 1.1 List the types of weapons that could be used in an intentional threat incident.
- 1.2 Analyze potential examples of terrorism based on the legal definition and likely indicators.
- 1.3 Describe the federal response guidance for an intentional threat incident and fundamentals of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- 1.4 Explain the implications of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472, *Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*, as they apply to the standard of care for responding to an intentional threat incident.
- 1.5 Evaluate at least three critical factors that contribute to effective and efficient incident management, specifically at an intentional threat incident.
- 1.6 Assess at least six strategic considerations for responding to an intentional threat incident.
- 1.7 Assess the activities of the intelligence/investigations roles and their likely assignments referencing the National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS.
- 1.8 Recognize potential evidence and how to protect it.

## **Unit 2: Planning and Risk Assessment**

### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Explain the importance of planning and risk assessment.

## **Enabling Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 2.1 Classify the risk level of assigned occupancies.
- 2.2 Determine a vulnerability score using a given assessment tool.

## **Unit 3: Application of Response Concepts**

### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Demonstrate concepts needed to respond to an intentional threat incident.

#### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will be able to:

- 3.1 Justify Incident Command System (ICS) application decisions for a given potential threat incident.
- 3.2 Apply multiagency, multijurisdictional emergency response strategies for a given potential threat incident.
- 3.3 Apply strategies to meet the incident priorities, including an investigative phase, for a given potential threat incident.

### **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 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 above grading methodology that explains 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](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.