



King County Fire Training Officer's Association Officer Development Academy Course Syllabus

Fire Investigation

Course Information

Course Title: Fire Investigation

Course Description: In addition to being responsible for suppression operations on the fire ground, the fire officer also plays a key role in the fire cause determination process evidence preservation, and fire scene security. This lesson focuses on defining these activities and presenting a clear understanding of the responsibility facing the fire officer in relation to initiating investigative procedures at the fire scene.

Class Hours: 0830-1630

Topics Covered:

Introduction to Fire Investigation, Fire Dynamics, Investigation Methodology, Determining Area of Origin, Fire Scene Documentation, Critical Observations of the Fire Responder, Evidence and Scene Preservation, Vehicle Fires, Incendiary Fires, Motives of the Fire Setter. Report Writing, Estimating Damage / Fire Loss, Legal Aspects / Search & Seizure, Interviews and Interrogations



King County Fire Training Officer's Association Officer Development Academy Course Syllabus

Fire Investigation

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mark Crowley
Instructor Phone:
Instructor Email: crowleyma@gmail.com

Course Design

Text: Stowell, F.M., B.Adams, and C.Brakhage. IFSTA Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer. Fourth Edition. Stillwater: Fire Protection Publications, 2007. (Chapters 21 & 29) Optional

Required Note taking materials, Internet Access (for one day online assignment)

Additional Materials: Appropriate PPE for Day 2 of the class:
Helmet
Eye Protection
Coveralls or work clothing, work gloves
Duty Boots (or other ANSI approved footwear)

Course Objectives:

- Determine the initial signs to look for during the arrival phase of a response
- Describe the fire officers role in fire cause determination
- Identify the importance of securing the fire scene
- Describe the role that a fire officer plays when responding to/ interacting with fire investigators



King County Fire Training Officer's Association Officer Development Academy Course Syllabus

Fire Investigation

Assignments: There will be both in-class activities and one homework assignment given in this course

Practical Application: Individually, students will examine a mock fire scene and demonstrate the key competencies required by NFPA 1021 (Fire Officer I & II) as related to fire investigation and the presented course material. IFSTA task sheets from the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office will be provided and used to evaluate mastery of required knowledge and skills

Final Exam: A comprehensive written examination will be given on the final day of class. Topics will include the class lecture, reading materials, assignments, and the practical exercise.

Course Policies: Students will adhere to all policies as outlined by KCFTOA ODA and IFSAC Accreditation.



King County Fire Training Officer's Association Officer Development Academy Course Syllabus

Fire Investigation

Grading:

Grading will be based on several elements totaling 100 points:

(This section is open to instructor flexibility based on their design of the class. They may only have a written and practical skills section [as required by our IFSAC Accreditation] and with different section weighting.)

	Percent
Participation (15% per session)	45
Scenario (mid-term)	10
Final Written	25
<u>Final Scenario</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	100

Points	Grade	Grade
100-99	4.0-3.9	A
98-95	3.8-3.5	A-
94-92	3.4-3.2	B+
91-89	3.1-2.9	B
88-85	2.8-2.5	B-
84-82	2.4-2.2	C+
81-79	2.1-1.9	C
78-75	1.8-1.5	C-
74-72	1.4-1.2	D+
71-69	1.1-0.9	D
68-65	0.8-0.7	D-
64-0	0.6-0.0	F

Exams:

Final Written Exam and Tactical Exercise Assignment

**Instructor Tips for
Success:**

- Arrive at class on time.
- Be prepared to engage in discussion
- Complete all pre-course reading assignments



King County Fire Training Officer's Association Officer Development Academy Course Syllabus

Fire Investigation
