

NEW MEXICO FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING ACADEMY

The New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy was created through legislative action in April 1985. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on November 12, 1986. The facility began limited use in January 1989, and was officially dedicated in August of 1989, in conjunction with the 34th Annual Fire Marshal's Training School.

Located at the base of Socorro Mountain, the campus overlooks the City of Socorro and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. The Academy's central New Mexico location and moderate four-season climate make it possible for firefighters to receive year-round field training.

The New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy offers the most modern and state-of-the-art equipment, props and curriculum available. Field-experienced faculty and adjunct instructors utilizing a standardized and structured format present the programs. They follow the teaching principles and practices best suited for adult education, and demonstrate a variety of methods and techniques in the training programs.

The Academy is dedicated to meeting the needs of a complex and dynamic fire service by providing programs of the highest quality. The Fire Academy's objectives are to:

1. Provide training programs designed to develop the basic and advanced skills necessary for students to be more effective members of the fire service and society;
2. Provide the best instruction and training possible in all areas of the fire service; and
3. Serve the public at large by providing education services, training and counseling.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Persons interested in enrolling in an Academy course should be associated with a fire department – either paid or volunteer – and must be at least 18 years old. Prospective students must complete and submit a General Admission Application form for each class they wish to attend. If the course lists a prerequisite, documentation showing completion of the prerequisite(s) must be attached to the application. Applications that are not completely filled out, are missing signatures, or do not have the required documentation attached will be returned.

Student selection is made according to the selection criteria, as outlined in the following Selection Criteria Policy. Students admitted to a course will receive a selection notice, schedule, and specific information pertaining to the course. Those not selected will receive a rejection notice stating the reason for rejection.

There are minimum and maximum student enrollment limits in each course that are enforced in order to best utilize the facility and instructors, and provide maximum student involvement. Courses that have not met the minimum enrollment four weeks prior to the start of the class are subject to cancellation.

Any student who has been accepted into a course and cannot attend must notify the Academy prior to the start of the class. Students who have been accepted to a course and do not show up are subject to denial of application to future courses. We currently do not charge a course fee for most of the courses offered here at the Academy. However, certain courses require the purchase of student manuals essential to the course. Such fees will not be refunded if a student does not show up and fails to notify the Academy. Students who drop out of a course will not receive certification for the course and will not be refunded any fees.

The Academy has no means of providing food or lodging on campus at this time; consequently, students must make their own arrangements for both.

STUDENT SELECTION CRITERIA POLICY

The process for student selection to a course begins four (4) weeks prior to the start of the course. Students are selected according to the following criteria:

1. Applications are grouped in the following order of priority by sponsoring agencies:
 - A. New Mexico fire departments listed by the State Fire Marshal as receiving State Fire Funds.
 - B. New Mexico fire departments listed by the State Fire Marshal as being on probation to receive State Fire Funds.
 - C. Other New Mexico State Agencies.
 - D. New Mexico Indian fire departments (non-federal).
 - E. Federal agencies and agencies from other states.
 - F. Private industry.
 - G. Foreign agencies.
 - H. Unaffiliated individuals.
2. Applications within each group are reviewed individually in the following order:
 - A. Applications from individuals who previously were turned down for the same course.
 - B. Remaining applications in the order received at the Academy.
3. Applications are accepted based on meeting any prerequisites and specific selection criteria.
4. If student slots are still available after initial review, they will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis during the four weeks prior to the start of the course.

Some courses are designed for specific target audiences, and students are selected by invitation only.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

A General Admission Application form must be submitted to the Fire Academy at least 30 days prior to the start of the course. (Separate application forms must be submitted for each course.) Application forms must be filled out completely and signed by the applicant and the Department Chief or Training Officer. If there is a prerequisite for the course, copies of prerequisite documentation and payment for the course, if applicable, must be attached to the application. Application forms should be reviewed carefully before they are submitted. Any omission may result in a denial of the application.

It is the student's responsibility to contact the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy to confirm receipt and eligibility of applications. NOTE: Only the most recent results for any pre- or co-requisite course will be considered for acceptance to a certification test.

If a student is accepted to a course but is unable to attend, the student must notify the Academy **NO LATER THAN FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CLASS.** *Failure to notify the Academy may result in rejection of future applications.*

Unless indicated otherwise, classes held at the Academy begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. Students are expected to be in the classroom and ready for class at the designated time. Tardiness disrupts the instructor and the class, and will not be tolerated.

While attending classes at the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy, it is the student's responsibility to use good judgment in selecting the proper attire in order to project a professional image. The student should consider climate variations and various classroom activities when selecting their wardrobe. Students should dress in apparel that will reflect their professionalism and pride in the service they represent.

Recommended classroom attire for males includes dress denims (jeans), or slacks and shirt with collars, or department work clothes.

Recommended classroom attire for females includes dress, skirt and blouse, dress denims (jeans), slacks and blouse, or department work clothes.

Shorts, tank tops and/or cropped tops are not acceptable as classroom attire for either males or females, and students will be asked to leave the class if dressed in an unacceptable manner.

Students with beards will not be allowed to participate in practical skills requiring the use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) as per manufacturer's recommendations, OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, and NFPA 1500. These courses cannot be completed without the field activities, and the student who does not participate in the field activities will be given a grade of "Incomplete" and will not receive a certificate for the course.

The Academy will provide assigned SCBA for student use. Students, under instructor supervision, will perform sanitizing of the SCBA. Students who would rather use their own face pieces may do so, provided the face pieces meet NIOSH and OSHA Standards. Students may use their own complete SCBA, provided it meets standards, is properly identified, and adequate spare cylinders are included.

When participating in practical exercises, full protective clothing meeting NFPA Standards must be worn unless the student is instructed otherwise. PPE must comply with NFPA Standards and must pass inspection by Academy staff. Proper clothing must be worn under the student's protective clothing. This includes full-length pants and long-sleeve shirt made from 100% natural fibers or Nomex equivalent. Coveralls may be worn in place of the full-length pants and long-sleeve shirt.

TEST SCORES WILL NOT BE RELEASED OVER THE PHONE. Test scores will be mailed to the students within 10 working days of test date. The release of test scores to someone other than the student or the Fire Chief or Training Officer will require written permission from the student.