



# California State Firefighters' Association

*In association with the*

**Fire Services Training Institute**

**2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION**

# **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TRAINING SYLLABUS**

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# VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

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## INTRODUCTION

### CALIFORNIA STATE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to ensuring our members a strong and united voice in the evolution of the fire service through unity in leadership, political action, education, and quality member services.

### CALIFORNIA STATE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION PURPOSE

To foster and promote a better understanding among members, elected and appointed officials and the public; to encourage the maintenance of the civil service system; to promote the observance of high standards of conduct for firefighters; and to work for the enactment and maintenance of laws and regulations that benefit fire service personnel and protect life and property.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This guide is designed for volunteer fire service personnel and for personnel in related occupations that are pursuing standardized fire training. The following representatives of the California State Firefighters' Association - Volunteer Committee, coordinated the development of the material contained in this guide. This document would not have been possible without their guidance and assistance.

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Special acknowledgement and thanks are extended to the following members of the California State Fire Marshal's Office - State Fire Training, for their diligent efforts and contributions that made the creation of this document possible.

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The material contained in this document was compiled and organized through the cooperative effort of numerous professionals within, and associated with the California fire service. We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals who served as principal developers for this document.

<b>Fred Bunker</b> Santa Rosa Junior College	
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The committee would also like to thank the California State Firefighters' Association and the Fire Services Training Institute for making this syllabus possible. Their mutual guidance, suggestions and program leadership as well as their administrative and financial support is very much appreciated.

**Kevin Nida, President**

California State Firefighter's Association

**Michael S. Williams, President-Executive Director**

Fire Services Training Institute

## CONCLUSION

The Volunteer Firefighter Training Syllabus is part of the updated strategic plan for the California State Firefighters' Association Volunteer Committee. This document represents years of continued work by the dedicated members of the committee as well as many members of the California fire service.

The committee is comprised of some of the finest people within the fire service today. Their passion and dedication to the communities they serve is profound. These are people who bring their professional expertise both in the fire service as well as their full-time employment to the table to address the tremendous challenges facing today's volunteer fire service.

The men and women of the volunteer fire service dedicate thousands of hours to training and service to their communities risking their own health and safety in the process and are to be commended. These are people who do it for their communities with little recognition or compensation.

Pride, honor, commitment, dedication and passion is alive and well within the volunteer fire service today. These are the principles on which this country was founded. This syllabus is dedicated to the volunteer fire services and to those who strive to meet its standards and traditions



*"We make a living by what we get;  
we make a life by what we give"*

Winston Churchill



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## History

Following the publication of the *Firefighter -1 Career Development Guide* in March 1976, some volunteer fire chiefs expressed concern that the completion of all of the tasks might be beyond the financial and time capabilities of many volunteer fire departments. As a result of this concern, a California State Board of Fire Services ad hoc committee met to consider the feasibility of establishing a minimum standards program designed specifically for volunteer firefighters. The volunteer program would be designed to be compatible with the Firefighter-1 certification system so that a certified volunteer firefighter could continue training and eventually become a certified Firefighter 1. Unfortunately the program never fully materialized.

Currently, a volunteer firefighter simply completes the California State Fire Marshal (CSFM) *Volunteer Firefighter Training Record* to be “certified” as a volunteer firefighter in California. The certification program was last updated in 1977. The program also lacked the reference materials and supporting documentation necessary for proper completion to today’s standards and practices. Furthermore, the document does not sufficiently address the current volunteer firefighter training needs and standards established by the *National Fire Protection Association- Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications (NFPA-1001)*.

To adapt to the conflicting training practices, many volunteer fire departments will complete the tasks identified on the *California State Fire Training Volunteer Firefighter Training Record* rather than those identified on the *Firefighter-1 Training Record*, believing that this is the standard that will qualify them as a “firefighter”.



In June of 2008, realizing that the completion of all of the tasks identified on the *Firefighter-1 Training Record* might be beyond the financial, time commitment and training capabilities of volunteer fire departments, the Sonoma County Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Santa Rosa Junior College endeavored to create a volunteer firefighter program to address the specific training needs of volunteer firefighters. During this process, the committee discovered that the need for standardized, performance-based training specifically tailored to the volunteer firefighter was not only lacking in Sonoma County, but was lacking throughout California. Moreover, it became apparent that the training needs had existed as far back as 1976. It was clear that to be successful locally the document needed to be expanded statewide.

This syllabus will provide a volunteer fire department with a blueprint for training volunteer firefighters to today’s standards. This program is built upon standards established by NFPA-1001, while at the same time accomplishing tasks required by the California State Fire Training for certification as a Firefighter-1 and the intent of the *Blueprint 2020, California State Fire Training and Education Strategic Plan*, January 2008. Additional training will be required for certification as at California Firefighter-1 level.



This syllabus may be used in conjunction with both the *California State Fire Training Volunteer Firefighter Training Record* as well as the *California State Fire Training Firefighter-1 Training Record*. In fact, it is recommended that both task sheets be completed at the same time.



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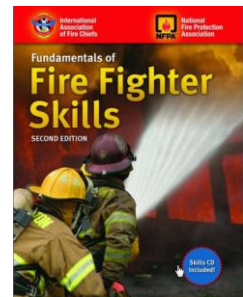
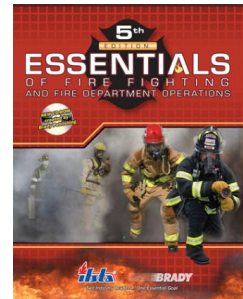


## INTRODUCTION TO THE TRAINING PROGRAM

Today' volunteer firefighter needs to know what must be studied and what skills are required in order to master the job of firefighter. A firefighter should be confident that any eventual testing will be based upon the topics and skills being studied. It is this fostering of individual confidence and initiative which will become the most important accomplishment of this syllabus.

The standardization of a volunteer firefighter curriculum is a massive undertaking. It requires the commitment of numerous individuals and their departments throughout California. This syllabus was developed to provide volunteer firefighters with a guide that will lead them towards a base level of knowledge necessary to perform their job successfully and safely. Everyone involved in the development of this syllabus has freely shared their expertise to create an updated and standardized curriculum that will benefit the firefighter, the department, and the community they serve.

This syllabus is built upon the standards contained in NFPA -1001. It is designed to be used with the *5<sup>th</sup> Edition Essentials of Firefighting*, International Fire Service Training Association's (IFSTA) *Essentials of Fire Fighting Instructor Resource Kit* or Jones and Bartlett *Firefighter Skills, Second Edition* textbooks. It is directed towards training the volunteer firefighter for structural firefighting. The text is based on the National Fire Protection Association standards for Firefighter-1 (2002 NFPA-1001 §3.3.4). This syllabus is also supported by the CSFA Volunteer Committee Training Portal that is available at no charge to member departments.



A summary of the NFPA – 1001 requirements is included at the end of this syllabus as a reference. This reference is also designed to illustrate the relationships between the NFPA requirements, and the both the lessons and the California State Fire Training Volunteer Firefighter/Firefighter- 1 Training Records.

Within this syllabus each task and its learning content are described. The tasks are assigned an appropriate level of proficiency. A student behavioral objective is included for each lesson, with a measurable minimum performance standard linked to an authoritative resource. In addition, a comprehensive list of reference resources and visual aids is provided.



This syllabus serves as a document that recognizes and sets a standard for volunteer firefighter training that can be used statewide. It also provides the foundation for the certification program adopted by the State Board of Fire Services and serves as a roadmap to lead a volunteer firefighter from candidate to volunteer firefighter and then on to Firefighter-1. The program relies on a tried-and-true training package which provides measurable minimum performance standards. The validity and reliability of fire service examinations can be more easily defended when such measurable standards are utilized.



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The tasks identified as the minimum that should be completed by a volunteer candidate are considered to exceed the performance standards for a volunteer firefighter as set by California State Fire Training. Moreover, the tasks identified are considered to at least meet the performance standards for the comparable tasks required for Fire fighter-I through the California State Fire Marshal's Office, State Fire Training. However, nothing in this guide shall restrict a local agency from requiring additional or more restrictive requirements for their individual department. By using an "off-the-shelf" curriculum that may be customized to meet local needs – instructors have the ability to add additional information to meet requirements specific to their organization.

For each topic identified in the course outline, a lesson plan consistent with this instructor guide that contains an estimated time frame, level of instruction, behavioral objectives, and materials needed, references, preparation statement and lesson content is used to deliver instruction. The California State Fire Training – Firefighter- 1 Lesson Plans are an example of lesson plans that are also acceptable for use in the volunteer firefighter program.

Safety is your first priority. A trainee must not be assigned to an incident until he/she is qualified as a trainee by the fire chief of the local agency and have at least six months experience performing suppression duties. Jake will point out critical points and issues contained in this training syllabus.



*"Train like your life depends on it, because it does"*

### LAFD







## COURSE STRUCTURE

### KEY DEFINITIONS

**Certification:** The term "certification" is used to recognize an individual for having met approved professional standards by meeting certification prerequisites, experience requirements, completing a specific accredited course of study, and passing appropriate certification examinations.

**Fire Chief:** An individual recognized as a fire chief by the authority having jurisdiction.

**Authorized Representative:** An "Authorized Representative" is someone who has a current original letter written and signed by the fire chief on department letterhead identifying them as an authorized representative.

**Qualified Instructor:** An individual meeting the qualifications for Firefighter Instructor as established by California State Fire Training and qualified to teach Firefighter I, Firefighter II, or Volunteer Firefighter programs. A Certified Instructor has attended and passed California State fire Training *Fire Instructor IA* and *Fire Instructor IB*. The instructor shall be registered with State Fire Training if certification is to be considered later.

**Qualified Skills Evaluator:** A California State Fire Training qualified Skills Evaluator. A Qualified Skills Evaluator is an individual who evaluates trainee skill demonstrations or exams. A Qualified Skills Evaluator has rank and experience similar to the primary instructor, has attended and passed California State fire Training *Fire Instructor IA* and *Fire Instructor IB* and works under supervision of the primary instructor. The Skills Evaluator does not need to be registered with State Fire Training.

**Local Instructor:** An individual who has the qualifications and experience to provide instruction as designated by the fire chief. Instruction provided by Local Instructors may not qualify for later California State Fire Training certification.

**Local Skills Evaluator:** A Local Skills Evaluator is an individual who evaluates trainee skill demonstrations or exams. A Local Skills Evaluator has rank and experience similar to the primary instructor, and works under supervision of the primary instructor. Evaluations provided by Local Skills Evaluators may not qualify for later California State Fire Training certification.

**Skill Sheets (Skills Evaluation Checklist):** Skill sheets are tools used by the instructor or evaluator to determine if a trainee has acquired the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully complete a given task.

**Trainee:** An individual who is being trained to meet a specific job, especially in a vocation. Often used before or after a noun; firefighter trainee – trainee firefighter. Synonymous with beginner, novice, in fire service often referred to as a candidate or probationary firefighter. A person who is engaged in an organized activity or obtaining information and/or instructions to improve their performance or to help him/her attain a required level of knowledge or skill.



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## COURSE DELIVERY

The course outline included in this syllabus includes structured module time frames. Most of the times noted are such that the program may be delivered periodically in a three to four hour drill period typical of a volunteer fire department's drill schedule. The entire program is designed to be broken down into about 32, three (3) to four (4) hour modules which may be delivered in less than one year by delivering the program three times a month. The suggested delivery is as follows:

- Prior to each lesson the trainee is provided with the reading assignment related to the upcoming training module. It is expected that the trainee complete the reading assignment prior to the training.
- The instructional portion of the training module is delivered at a weekly meeting followed by a quiz. At the end of the instruction, the trainee is provided with the next reading assignment, and is given a test to complete and return at the next meeting.
- At the next meeting (immediately following the instructional module), the Skills Practice module is presented and the skills are tested using the Skill Sheets. Note that for those modules where skills are not involved, a Skills Practice Module is not necessary and the next instructional module is delivered.

## GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the local agency to ensure the trainee has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge/skills necessary to perform as a volunteer firefighter. This includes completion of training courses and on-the-job training assignments. It is important to ensure that the trainee is fully prepared to perform the tasks of the position prior to undertaking a position performance assignment.



It is the responsibility of the local fire chief to ensure that the individuals assigned as Firefighter Instructors and Skills Evaluators have the knowledge, skills and abilities to instruct trainees in the related task.

Documentation of training, experience, and the qualification process is a responsibility shared by the trainee and the fire fighter instructor. Maintenance of documentation including: training records, trainee qualifications and experience is the responsibility of the local fire chief.

## LESSON PLANS

The IFSTA and the Jones & Bartlett text books contain a set of lesson plans to be used to deliver the necessary training. However, in the event that a different program is used or a local agency must create specialized training, the lesson plans should contain the following minimum information:

**Time Frame:** The estimated duration required for in-class presentation, evaluation and testing.



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**Level of Instruction:** Identifies the instructional level that the material was designed to fulfill. Obviously, you have the latitude to increase the level based on available time, local conditions, and the trainees' appreciative base.

**Behavioral Objective:** The behavioral objective is a statement of the trainee's performance desired at the end of instruction. The behavioral objective must be consistent with the behavioral objectives of this program. You must ensure that enough information is given in the presentation and/or activities to enable the trainee to perform according to the goal.

**Materials Needed:** This should be a complete list of everything you will need to present the lesson, including visual aids, tests, and so on.

**References:** These are the specific references the curriculum development team used when developing the lesson plan. In addition, references may be listed as additional study aids for instructors to enhance the lesson -- books, manuals, bulletins, scripts, visual aid utilization plans and the like.

**Preparation:** The motivational statements in this section connect the trainee with the lesson plan topic through examples or illustrations relating to their occupation, injury, and even mortality. You may modify this section to better fit your trainees' environment.

**Lesson Content:** Includes information used in the four-step method of instruction.

### TECHNICAL LESSON PLANS

Presentation	Application
Everything you say or display Content Notes	Everything the student participates in question Classroom exercises Audiovisual cues

### MANIPULATIVE LESSON PLANS

Operations	Key Points
Actions to be performed	The "how" or tricks of the trade Safety practices

### DELIVERY OPTIONS

There are two options to deliver this firefighter training program: Course Delivery for Local Recognition, wherein course delivery employs the use of *Local Instructors* and *Local Skills Evaluators*; and Course Delivery for State Fire Training Certification, wherein course delivery employs the use of *Certified Instructors* and *Certificated Skills Evaluators* who meet the requirements of California State Fire Training. The advantages of course delivery for State certification is that a student may apply the training towards State Firefighter-1 certification.



### COURSE DELIVERY FOR LOCAL RECOGNITION

Through a *Local Instructor*, students complete the training using the lesson plans or other approved materials. Students are evaluated during this process by *Local Skills Evaluators*. The student's performance is documented using a locally approved method. Successful performance of all tasks, as



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observed and recorded by an approved *Local Skills Evaluator*, results in documentation which demonstrates the student has met the performance standards specified. Evaluation and confirmation of the student's performance while completing tasks may occur on one or more training assignments and should involve more than one evaluator.

### COURSE DELIVERY FOR STATE FIRE TRAINING CERTIFICATION

Through a *Qualified Instructor*, students complete the training as specified in the current curriculum as published by State Fire Training. Students are evaluated during this process by *Qualified Skills Evaluators*, and the student's performance is documented using the California State Fire Training Volunteer Firefighter and/or Firefighter - 1 Training Record. Successful performance of *all* tasks (including additional training), as observed and recorded by an evaluator, should result in a certification that the student has met the performance standards specified. Evaluation and confirmation of the student's performance while completing tasks may occur on one or more training assignments and should involve more than one evaluator. Below are the State Fire Training Qualified Instructor and Qualified Skills Evaluator requirements.



### QUALIFIED INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS

Fire service personnel may qualify to teach the Volunteer Firefighter, and the Firefighter-I and II programs by meeting the criteria listed below. Additional courses required for certification by California State Fire Training as a Firefighter-1 (Units S, T, V, W, and X on the State Firefighter-1 Training Record) may have additional instructor requirements. Refer to the California State Fire Training Procedures Manual.

To teach the Fire Fighter 1, Fire Fighter 2, or Volunteer Fire Fighter programs, the following qualifications are required. (*Local Instructors need not be registered with State Fire Training.*)

1. Instructor Training (any one of the following five options)
  - a) Completed Fire Instructor 1A and 1B
  - b) Have a valid Community College teaching credential
  - c) Completed the UC/CSU 60-hour Techniques of Teaching course
  - d) Completed the NFA's Fire Service Instructional Methodology course
  - e) Completed four semester units of upper division credit in educational materials, methods, and curriculum development.
2. Rank and experience.
  - a) Held the rank of fire fighter performing suppression duties for a minimum of three (3) years within a California fire department.
3. Registration Process
  - a) Local Instructors need not be registered with State Fire Training.
  - b) Each department's fire chief has the responsibility to ensure the individuals teaching the firefighter course(s) meets the curriculum indentified in this document.



## COMPLETING THE TRAINING RECORD

The following section describes how to complete the California State Fire Training Volunteer Firefighter Training Record and/or Firefighter-I training record and apply for certification through State Fire Training.

Accurate completion of the training records is important to the certification process. This information provides a brief description of how the training records should be used by the volunteer firefighter and the responsibilities of those involved. These records must be kept on file with the trainee's department and should not be submitted to SFT.

The amount of time allotted to training varies significantly from agency to agency. Times indicated are approximate; you may need more or less time for a specific topic depending on local needs. It is essential that the local agency select the material that meets both their jurisdictional requirements and their available time.

The Volunteer Firefighter Training Record includes the following sections:

- The left column enumerating the tasks.
- The "Task Title" column lists the tasks that must be performed.
- A column labeled "Skill Type" provides a space for the Fire Fighter Instructor or Skills Evaluator to note if the task was manipulative or technical.
- A column labeled "Approved Instructor Signature" provides space for the Firefighter Instructor or Skills Evaluator to sign, indicating the task is successfully completed.
- The right-hand column is labeled "Date" and provides space for the Firefighter Instructor or Skills Evaluator to indicate when the task is successfully completed.

The Firefighter-1 Training Record includes the following sections:

- The left column enumerates tasks. It is not necessary to complete every task, only tasks related an individual fire agency need be completed. For example, a fire agency that does not have a ladder that requires four persons to deploy will not have to complete Unit-I Task-19 - How to carry an extension ladder, four to six person, flat shoulder method.
- The "Topic" column listing the tasks that must be performed.
- A column labeled "Time" contains the estimated time it could take to complete a module or task, including the testing process. The actual time it takes to learn a specific task will depend on an individual trainee's knowledge, skills and abilities.
- The right-hand column provides space for the Firefighter Instructor or Skills Evaluator to indicate when the task is successfully completed.

A Skills Evaluator or Firefighter Instructor shall certify that the task has been completed by initialing next to the specific task on the Volunteer Firefighter and/or the Firefighter-1 Training Record. A task shall only be initialed by a Skills Evaluator or Fire Fighter Instructor who has witnessed the trainees' successful completion of the task – one trainee may not "sign-off" on another trainee's Training Record. Each task



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should be initialed and dated by the Firefighter Instructor or Skills Evaluator. All applicable tasks must be completed, initialed and dated before the trainee can be recommended for certification.

Appendix E skill sheets demonstrate one method of accomplishing a task and are included as part of the IFSTA and Jones & Bartlett Publishing textbooks. If your local agency guidelines specify another method, the local agency may customize the skill sheets appropriately. Regardless of how training is delivered, it is important to keep in mind that any certification program must be based upon job-related knowledge and measurable objectives.

### **APPLICATION TO STATE FIRE TRAINING FOR FIREFIGHTER-1 CERTIFICATION**

Volunteer Firefighter certification identifies the *minimum* tasks necessary to assure safety on the fire ground. It is a level of certification that recognizes the contributions and efforts of those who volunteer their time and energy to provide fire protection for their community.

Firefighter-1 and Firefighter 2 certification identifies, in addition to those tasks necessary to assure safety on the fire ground, tasks that may be necessary for a firefighter to perform to a higher function, or to work outside of the local response area such as a neighboring or state fire automatic aid or mutual-aid incident.

In addition to the training requirement, the trainee must have a minimum of six (6) months volunteer or part-time, paid experience in a California fire department as a fire fighter performing suppression duties to be certified as a volunteer firefighter, and a minimum of six (6) months full-time, paid experience in a California fire department as a firefighter performing suppression duties or a minimum of one (1) year volunteer or part-time, paid experience in a California fire department as a firefighter performing suppression duties to be certified as a Firefighter-1.

After training is concluded and the experience requirement met, a complete application package that includes the following must be submitted to State Fire Training:

- Completed Application for Certification Form. The Fire Chief or his/her designated representative must sign this application.
- Completed Scantron® form. The Fire Chief or his/her designated representative must sign this application.
- Payment of certification fee to State Fire Training. This fee is non-refundable.

After this information is submitted to, and approved by State Fire Training, the applicant will receive their certificate within six to eight weeks. It is recommended that a copy of the application package be maintained by the trainee in addition to the local agency. State Fire Training encourages any trainee who has not received their certificate from State Fire Training within eight weeks to contact the appropriate State Fire Training staff member.



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## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

This syllabus, coupled with the IFSTA *Essentials of Firefighting, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* or Jones and Bartlett *Firefighter Skills* will provide a firefighter trainee to meet the NFPA-1001 firefighter standards and to legally function in California as a career or volunteer firefighter. The trainee must also obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to become proficient with the life saving skills required to function as an EMS first-aid and CPR provider pursuant to CCR Title 8, §100015 – 100020.



A firefighter must obtain a fundamental awareness of hazardous materials and hazardous materials incidents. This is a NFPA requirement (NFPA 1001 §5.1.1) and a California requirement pursuant to CCR Title 8, §5192. However it is recommended that to be more effective at a hazardous materials incident firefighters should complete a course in *Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations* rather than complete a course in *Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness*. Moreover, for California certification as a Firefighter-1, training on hazardous materials first responder to the operational level is a requirement.

A California firefighter must also receive basic Incident Command System (ICS) training pursuant to Title 8, §2428.

In addition to the tasks required to meet NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter standards, a trainee must obtain the following additional training to receive Fire Fighter-I Certification from California State Fire Training:

- The knowledge and skills to safely perform vehicle extrication.
- The knowledge needed to understand the characteristics of wildland fire behavior, fire weather, and the unique aspects of wildland fire fighting, including a variety of methods and techniques for containment and extinguishment.
- Training on confined space rescue to the awareness level.
- Training on hazardous materials first responder to the operational level.

The State Board of Fire Services must approve these courses or their equivalent. Additional course of instruction and areas of training to meet specialization needs may be found on the California State Fire Marshal Website: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training-php>



## COURSE OUTLINE

The course objectives are to provide the trainee with the following:

- a) The knowledge and skills necessary to safely perform the tasks required of a firefighter, including fire behavior, extinguishment theory, water systems, fire protection systems, fire prevention, investigation, and essential fireground operations.
- b) The knowledge and skills to proficiently use, inspect, test, and maintain the tools, equipment, and accessories necessary to perform the job of fire fighter, including but not limited to hand,



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- power, and hydraulic tools, power saws, forcible entry tools, air chisels, lighting equipment, fire service jacks, and flares.
- c) The common causes of injury and death associated with fire fighting and ways to improve firefighter safety.
  - d) The knowledge and skills to safely use, inspect, and maintain self-contained breathing apparatus.
  - e) The knowledge and skills necessary to inspect and effectively operate fire extinguishers.
  - f) Information on the different types of fire service rope, their usage, construction, inspection, proper care, storage, and record keeping requirements.
  - g) Information, methods, and techniques for the use, inspection, care, and maintenance of hose, nozzles, and appliances.
  - h) Information, methods, and techniques for the use, inspection, care, maintenance, and testing of ground ladders.
  - i) The knowledge and skills necessary to safely perform search and rescue operations in varying conditions.
  - j) The knowledge and skills necessary to effectively perform natural, mechanical, and hydraulic ventilation.
  - k) The basic issues of fire control, including strategy and tactics.
  - l) The knowledge and skills necessary to effectively perform salvage and overhaul.







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## COURSE CONTENT

The modules are organized in approximate instructional order because certain tasks should be taught before others. As an example, training in the use of protective clothing and breathing apparatus should precede training in horizontal ventilation.

### JONES AND BARTLETT Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills 2nd Edition

### IFSTA ESSENTIALS

#### 5Th Edition

Section/Activity	Chapter	Time	Chapter	Time
History & Orientation	1	4.3	1	4
Firefighter Safety	2	7.3	2	8.8
Fire Service Communications	3	3.4	19	5.9
Incident command System	4	4.6	1	Part of other unit
Fire Behavior	5	3.1	3	4.9
Building Construction	6	4.5	4	3.1
Portable fire Extinguishers	7	7.9	6	5.3
Firefighter Tools and Equipment	8	5.6	Various	Part of other unit
Ropes and Knots	9	7.8	7	7.9
Response and Size-Up	10	3.3	Various	Part of other unit
Forcible entry	11	6.7	9	14.1
Ladders	12	8.2	10	10.3
Search and Rescue	13	7.3	8	8.5
Ventilation	14	8.4	11	9.9
Water Supply	15	3.6	12	5.4
Hose, Nozzles, Streams, and Foam	16	17.1	13/14	17.6
Firefighter Survival	17	5.6	8	Part of other unit
Salvage and Overhaul	18	6.7	17	9.2
Firefighter Rehabilitation	19	2.6	2	Part of other unit
Fire Suppression	21	7.6	15	10.5
Pre-incident Planning	22	5.3	20	Part of other unit
Fire Prevention & Public Education	35	4.6	20	4.0
Fire Protection Systems	36	4.3	16	4.8
Fire Cause Determination	37	2.9	18	2.8
NFPA Std Time Total		<u>142.4</u>		<u>137</u>



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## CALIFORNIA REQUIRED MODULES

Fire and Emergency Medical Care	23&24	40.0	21	40
Wildland and Ground Fires	20	24.0	15	24
Vehicle Rescue and Extrication	25	16.0	8	16
Confined Space	Special	8.0	Special	8.0
Hazardous Materials	27-33	16.0	22	16.0
Subtotal		<u>104.0</u>		<u>104.0</u>
California Required Classes				
<b>Total Program Hours</b>		<b><u>246.4</u></b>		<b><u>241</u></b>





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## IFSTA SPECIFIC COURSE CONTENT

The modules are organized in approximate instructional order because certain tasks should be taught before others. As an example, training in the use of protective clothing and breathing apparatus should precede training in horizontal ventilation.

SECTION/ACTIVITY	TIME
<b>MODULE 1, CHAPTER 1</b>	
<b>Orientation and Fire Service History (3-HR)</b>	
Section I: Introduction to Firefighter I.....	10.00
Small Group Activity 1.1: Student Introductions .....	30.00
Section II: Course and Lesson Overview .....	35.00
Section III: Introduction to the Fire Service .....	40.00
Section IV: The Incident Command System (ICS) .....	20.00
Section V: Working with Other Organizations .....	15.00
Section VI: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 1 Quiz .....	15.00
<b>MODULE 2, CHAPTER 2</b>	
<b>Firefighter Safety and Health -1 (3-HR, 50-MIN)</b>	
Section I: Introduction to Chapter 2 .....	10.00
Section II: Introduction to Firefighter Safety and Health .....	45.00
Section III: Risk Management .....	25.00
Section IV: Fire Department Safety and Health Program .....	60.00
Section V: Emergency Operations .....	15.00
Section VI: Incident Safety Concerns .....	20.00
Section VII: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 2 Quiz .....	15.00
<b>MODULE 3, CHAPTER 2</b>	
<b>Firefighter Safety and Health-2 (4-HR)</b>	
Skills Practice .....	4-HR



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## MODULE 4, CHAPTER 3 Fire Behavior (3-HR, 25-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 3 .....	10.00
Section II: Principles of Fire Behavior .....	60.00
Section III: The Combustion Process .....	45.00
Section IV: Classifications of Fires .....	15.00
Section V: Fire Development .....	60.00
Section VI: Methods to Control and Extinguish Fire .....	15.00
Section VII: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 3 Quiz .....	15.00

## MODULE 6, CHAPTER 4 Building Construction (2-HR, 10-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 4 .....	10.00
Section II: Basic Construction Knowledge .....	60.00
Section III: Building Collapse and Construction Hazards .....	30.00
Section IV: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 4 Quiz .....	15.00

## MODULE 7, CHAPTER 5 Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment-1 (2-HR, 25-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 5 .....	10.00
Section II: Introduction to Personal Protective Clothing .....	45.00
Section III: Respiratory Hazards .....	30.00
Section IV: Use and Limitations of Respiratory Protection .....	30.00
Section V: Air-purifying Respirators and SCBA .....	30.00

## MODULE 8, CHAPTER 5 Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment-2 (2-HR, 5-MIN)

Section VI: PASS Devices and Other Safety Considerations .....	30.00
Section VII: SCBA Use and Maintenance .....	45.00
Section VIII: SCBA Safety Precautions .....	20.00
Section IX: Emergency Operations and Limited Visibility .....	30.00
Section X: Summary and Review .....	15.00



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Chapter 5 Quiz ..... 15.00

**MODULE 9, CHAPTER 5  
Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment-3 (4-HR)**

Skills Practice ..... 4-HR

**MODULE 10, CHAPTER 6  
Portable Fire Extinguishers (3-HR, 55-MIN)**

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 6 ..... 10.00

Section II: Introduction to Portable Fire Extinguishers ..... 10.00

Section III: Classifications of Fires ..... 15.00

Section IV: Types of Fire Extinguishers ..... 30.00

Section V: Portable Extinguisher Rating System ..... 20.00

Section VI: Selecting and Using Portable Extinguishers ..... 30.00

Section VII: Summary and Review ..... 15.00

Chapter 6 Quiz ..... 15.00

Skills Practice ..... 1.5 HR

**MODULE 12, CHAPTER 7  
Ropes and Knots-1 (2-HR, 55-MIN)**

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 7 ..... 10.00

Section II: Introduction to Ropes..... 45.00

Section III: Rope Maintenance ..... 25.00

Section IV: Webbing ..... 10.00

Section V: Ropes, Knots, and Hardware ..... 30.00

Section VI: Hoisting Safety ..... 15.00

Section VII: Rescue Rope and Harness ..... 10.00

Section VIII: Summary and Review ..... 15.00

Chapter 7 Quiz ..... 15.00

**MODULE 13, CHAPTER 7  
Ropes and Knots-2 (4-HR)**

Skills Practice ..... 4-HR



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## MODULE 14, CHAPTER 8 Rescue and Extrication-1 (3-HR, 30-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 8 .....	10.00
Section II: Rescue/Extrication and Applicable Guidelines .....	30.00
Section III: Building Searches .....	45.00
Section IV: Actions When Firefighter Is in Distress .....	45.00
Section V: Victim Removal .....	20.00
Section VI: Emergency Power/Lighting .....	30.00
Section VII: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 8 Quiz .....	15.00

## MODULE 15, CHAPTER 8 Rescue and Extrication-2 (4-HR)

Skills Practice .....	4-HR
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## MODULE 16, CHAPTER 9 Forcible Entry-1 (3-HR, 20-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 9 .....	10.00
Section II: Forcible Entry Tools .....	45.00
Section III: Forcible Entry Tool Safety and Care .....	25.00
Section IV: Forcing Doors, Locks, Gates, and Fences .....	120.00

## MODULE 17, CHAPTER 9 Forcible Entry-2 (3-HR, 20-MIN)

Section V: Forcing Windows .....	40.00
Section VI: Breaching Walls and Floors .....	40.00
Section VII: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 9 Quiz .....	15.00
Skills Practice .....	90.00

## MODULE 18, CHAPTER 9 Forcible Entry-3 (4-HR)

Skills Practice .....	4-HR
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## MODULE 19, CHAPTER 10 Ground Ladders-1 (3-HR, 20-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 10 .....	10.00
Section II: Introduction to Ladders .....	45.00
Section III: Maintenance, Cleaning, and Inspection .....	25.00
Section IV: Working with Ladders .....	90.00
Section V: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 10 Quiz .....	15.00

## MODULE 20, CHAPTER 10 Ground Ladders-2 (4-HR)

Skills Practice .....	4-HR
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## MODULE 21, CHAPTER 11 Ventilation-1 (2-HR, 30-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 11 .....	15.00
Section II: Fireground Ventilation .....	60.00
Section III: Vertical Ventilation .....	30.00
Section IV: Roof Conditions and Vertical Ventilation .....	30.00
Section V: Other Types of Vertical Ventilation .....	15.00

## MODULE 22, CHAPTER 11 Ventilation-2 (2-HR, 25-MIN)

Section VI: Effectiveness of Vertical Ventilation .....	10.00
Section VII: Horizontal Ventilation .....	30.00
Section VIII: Forced Ventilation .....	60.00
Section IX: Effects of Building Systems on Fires or Ventilation .....	15.00
Section X: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 11 Quiz .....	15.00

## MODULE 23, CHAPTER Ventilation-3 (4-HR)

Skills Practice .....	4-HR
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## MODULE 24, CHAPTER 12



# VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

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### Water Supply (4-HR, 15-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 12 .....	
Section II: Fire Hydrants .....	60.00
Section III: Alternative Water Supplies .....	15.00
Section IV: Rural Water Supply Operations .....	30.00
Section V: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 12 Quiz .....	15.00
Skills Practice .....	2-HR

### MODULE 25, CHAPTER 13 Fire Hose-1 (3-HR, 20-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 13 .....	15.00
Section II: Fire Hose Sizes .....	10.00
Section III: Causes and Prevention of Fire Hose Damage .....	15.00
Section IV: General Care and Maintenance of Fire Hose .....	10.00
Section V: Fire Hose Couplings, Tools, and Appliances .....	30.00
Section VI: Hose Rolls, Loads, and Finishes .....	30.00
Section VII: Supply Hose Lays .....	30.00
Section VIII: Handling, Advancing, and Operating Hose lines .....	30.00
Section IX: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 13 Quiz .....	15.00

### MODULE 26, CHAPTER 13 Fire Hose-2 (4-HR)

Skills Practice .....	4-HR
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### MODULE 27, CHAPTER 14 Fire Streams-1 (2-HR, 20-MIN)

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 14 .....	10.00
Section II: Fire Stream Use .....	10.00
Section III: Water and Fire Streams .....	30.00
Section IV: Fire Stream Sizes, Types, and Nozzles .....	45.00
Section V: Nozzle Control Valves and Inspections .....	15.00
Section VI: Summary and Review .....	15.00





# VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

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Chapter 14 Quiz ..... 15.00

**MODULE 28, CHAPTER 14  
Fire Streams-2 (4-HR)**

Skills Practice ..... 4-HR

**MODULE 29, CHAPTER 15  
Fire Control-1 (3-HR, 30-MIN)**

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 15 ..... 10.00

Section II: Suppressing Structure Fires ..... 30.00

Section III: Deploying Master Stream Devices ..... 30.00

Section IV: Suppressing Class C Fires ..... 35.00

Section V: Company-Level Fire Tactics ..... 75.00

Section VI: Summary and Review ..... 15.00

Chapter 15 Quiz ..... 15.00

**MODULE 30, CHAPTER 15  
Fire Control-2 (4-HR)**

Skills Practice ..... 4-HR

**MODULE 31, CHAPTER 17  
Loss Control-1 (4-HR, 10-MIN)**

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 17 ..... 10.00

Section II: Philosophy of Loss Control ..... 15.00

Section III: Salvage ..... 45.00

Section IV: Overhaul ..... 30.00

Section V: Summary and Review ..... 15.00

Chapter 17 Quiz ..... 15.00

Skills Practice ..... 2-HR

**MODULE 32, CHAPTER 19  
Fire Department Communications (2-HR, 55-MIN)**

Section I: Introduction to Chapter 19 ..... 10.00

Section II: Communications Center Personnel ..... 20.00

Section III: Communications Center ..... 30.00

Section IV: Receiving Calls from the Public ..... 30.00

Section V: Alerting Fire Department Personnel ..... 15.00



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Section VI: Radio Communications .....	40.00
Section VII: Summary and Review .....	15.00
Chapter 19 Quiz .....	15.00
Skills Practice .....	1-HR
INSTRUCTION .....	50-HR, 15-MIN
SKILLS PRACTICE .....	54-HR
TOTAL INSTRUCTION AND SKILLS PRACTICE .....	104-HR,15-MIN

### TEXTS and REFERENCES

- Essentials of Fire Fighting, Fifth Edition © 2008 Board of Regents, Oklahoma State University, International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA)
- Firefighter's Handbook, 3rd Edition © 2009 Delmar
- Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills, Second Edition, ©2009 Jones & Bartlett Publishers, LLC and the National Fire Protection Association
- Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, National Fire Protection Association, 2002 NFPA – 1001
- Blueprint 2020, California State Fire Training and Education Strategic Plan, California State Fire Marshal, January 2008
- California Incident Command Certification System, July 2010
- Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments, 2001 Edition, National Fire Protection Association NFPA 1720
- CSFA Rural Fire Service Leadership Workshop Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
- Leadership for the Wildland Fire Officer, Leading in a Dangerous Profession, ©2010 William Teie



# VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

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For qualification at Level I, the fire fighter candidate shall meet the general knowledge requirements in the 2008 Edition of NFPA 1001, Section 5.1.1; the general skill requirements in the 2008 Edition of NFPA 1001, Section 5.1.2; and the JPRs defined in the 2008 Edition of NFPA 1001, Sections 5.2 through 5.5 as summarized in the following Table:

<b>2008 NFPA 1001</b>	
5.1 General.	
	5.1.1 General Knowledge Requirements.
	5.1.2 General Skill Requirements.
5.2 Fire Department Communications.	
	5.2.1* Initiate the response to a reported emergency
	5.2.2 Receive a telephone call
	5.2.3 Transmit and receive messages
5.3 Fireground Operations.	
	5.3.1* Use self-contained breathing apparatus
	5.3.2* Respond on apparatus to an emergency scene
	5.3.3* Establish and operate in work areas at emergency scenes
	5.3.4* Force entry into a structure
	5.3.5* Exit a hazardous area as a team
	5.3.6* Set up ground ladders
	5.3.7* Attack a passenger vehicle fire
	5.3.8* Extinguish fires in exterior Class A materials,
	5.3.9* Conduct a search and rescue in a structure (team)
	5.3.10* Attack an interior structure fire (team)
	5.3.11 Perform horizontal ventilation (team)
	5.3.12 Perform vertical ventilation (team)
	5.3.13 Overhaul a fire scene
	5.3.14 Conserve property (team)
	5.3.15* Connect a fire department pumper to a water supply (team)
	5.3.16* Extinguish incipient Class A, B, and C fires with extinguisher
	5.3.17 Illuminate the emergency scene
	5.3.18 Turn off building utilities
	5.3.19* Combat a ground cover fire (team)
5.4 Rescue Operations.	This duty shall involve no requirements for Fire Fighter 1.
5.5 Prevention, Preparedness, and Maintenance.	
	5.5.1 Clean and check ladders, ropes, hand tools etc.
	5.5.2 Clean, inspect, and return fire hose to service