Course Description

Provides an overview to fire protection and emergency services. Topics of interest are career opportunities in fire protection and related fields; culture and history of emergency services; fire loss analysis; organization and function of public and private fire protection services; fire departments as part of local government; laws and regulations affecting the fire service; fire service nomenclature; specific fire protection functions; basic fire chemistry and physics; introduction to fire protection systems; introduction to fire strategy and tactics; and Life Safety Initiatives.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Illustrate the history and culture of the fire service.
2. Analyze the basic components of fire as a chemical chain reaction, the major phases of fire, and examine the main factors that influence fire spread and fire behavior.
3. Differentiate between fire service training and education.
4. Explain the value of higher education to professionalization of the fire service.
5. Describe the major organizations that provide emergency response service.
6. Identify fire protection and emergency-service careers in both the public and private sector.
7. Define the role of national, state, and local support organizations in fire and emergency services.
8. Discuss the scope, purpose, and organizational structure of fire and emergency services.
9. Describe the common types of fire and emergency service facilities, equipment, and apparatus.
10. Compare and contrast effective management concepts for various emergency situations.
11. Identify the primary responsibilities of fire prevention personnel, including code enforcement, public information, and public and private protection systems.
12. Recognize the components of career preparation and goal setting.
13. Describe the importance of wellness and fitness as it relates to emergency services.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Outcomes**: Each unit contains Learning Outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Unit Lessons**: Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, which discusses unit material.
3. **Reading Assignments**: Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook.
4. **Unit Assessments**: This course contains two Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of Units II and IV. Assessments are composed of written response questions.
5. **Unit Assignments**: Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in Units I-VIII. Units I and VIII each contain two assignments. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with each assignment. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.
6. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

7. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

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**CSU Online Library**

The CSU Online Library is available to support your courses and programs. The online library includes databases, journals, e-books, and research guides. These resources are always accessible and can be reached through the library webpage. To access the library, log into the myCSU Student Portal, and click on “CSU Online Library.” You can also access the CSU Online Library from the “My Library” button on the course menu for each course in Blackboard.

The CSU Online Library offers several reference services. E-mail (library@columbiasouthern.edu) and telephone (1.877.268.8046) assistance is available Monday – Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. The library’s chat reference service, *Ask a Librarian*, is available 24/7; look for the chat box on the online library page.

Librarians can help you develop your research plan or assist you in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information. Reference requests can include customized keyword search strategies, links to articles, database help, and other services.

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**Unit Assignments**

**Unit I Project**

**Historical Timeline of the Fire Service**

It is important to understand where the fire service came from in order to help shape its future. Tradition is steep within the fire service, so understanding the challenges along the way helps you appreciate the need to honor tradition, yet be willing to let go at times in order to improve this honored profession.

In this assignment, you are to develop a graphic timeline, using the Microsoft Word Shapes or SmartArt features, for the significant events in the history of the fire service, from the Roman Republic up to the present. Also, include your department or the department that protects your community if you are not currently in the fire service. Include such items as the development of apparatus, major events that shaped today’s fire service, and important figures that were prominent in helping the fire service develop. You need to use at least two different sources in developing this timeline. All sources used, including the textbook, must be referenced; paraphrased and quoted material must have accompanying citations.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit I Essay**

**Fire Service Career Opportunities**

There are many career opportunities within the fire service, many of which do not include firefighting. Write a two-page essay researching and discussing the requirements for becoming a member of your department or the one in your community. Include in your research and discussion any wellness and fitness requirements for becoming a member of the department. In addition, you also need to research and discuss what the requirements are to become a member of another branch of emergency services such as fire marshal, wildland firefighter, paramedic, fire inspector/investigator, dispatcher, public information officer (PIO), or any other career that you find interesting.

All sources used, including the textbook, must be cited and referenced according to APA style. Your paper should include a title page and should include a separate reference page.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.
Unit II Project

Career Path Interview

In order to be prepared to provide protection to your community, you need to have an educated and highly-trained workforce ready to handle any emergency that arises in today’s volatile environment.

In this assignment, you are to interview your training officer or fire chief, and discuss the training and educational skills and abilities one needs to progress through the ranks in your department. If you are not presently employed in the fire service, reach out to your local fire department and speak to them. When you have completed the interview, plot what you have learned on a model like the one on page 59 of the textbook for both training/certifications and educational requirements. Then, compare and contrast your model with the National Professional Development Model in a one-page essay to include your desired career path in both areas.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit III PowerPoint Presentation

You have been asked to present a short class to new recruits who have little knowledge of the fire service during their first week of orientation. Using information in the chapter, develop a PowerPoint Presentation on one of the following two topics relating to the safety of first responders:

1. fire service apparatus and facilities and their function, and
2. personal protective equipment and its function for first responders.

This presentation should contain at least 12 slides, including a title and reference slide. The presentation should be able to stand on its own should someone other than yourself want to use it to teach such a course in the future.

You must use at least two different sources for this presentation. APA citations are required on slides when you use information from the textbook or other sources.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit IV Case Study

Fire dynamics is an important study for all first responders. In this case study, research the West Texas fertilizer plant blast in 2013. You can use ammonium nitrate explosion at a fertilizer plant fire–Texas as search key words.

For this assignment, write a two-page essay discussing the chemical reaction involved in this tragedy. Use what you have learned in Chapter 6 and from at least one other outside source to discuss how this explosion took place from a chemistry point of view. Include what could have prevented this chain reaction using the fire tetrahedron in this discussion, what the fire classification was, and what the best extinguishing agent is to use in these types of fires.

Your essay should follow APA guidelines for formatting of all resources, both in-text and as references. Your paper should include a title page and should include a separate reference page. Remember to use the CSU Online Library to complete your research for this assignment.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit V Project

Develop a Preincident Plan

Make arrangements with your workplace, or if you are not permitted to use your workplace, work with your local fire department, and develop a preincident plan of a building.

Using the building you have chosen, complete the Preincident Planning Checklist template. Click here for a copy of the template. You may omit the contact information if the individual in charge of the building would prefer that contact information not be used. Along with the completed checklist, submit a one-page description of what you learned by completing this project. References are not required for this assignment, but if any sources are used, they must be cited and referenced according to APA style.
Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VI Case Study

On February 23, 1991, one of the most tragic fires to date happened at 1 Meridian Plaza in Philadelphia. As a result of this fire and the deaths of several Philadelphia firefighters, many codes were changed that affected different fire protection systems in high-rise buildings.

Research the 1 Meridian Plaza tragedy. After completing your research, write a review of this tragedy, concentrating on codes and fire protection systems that contributed to this tragedy, tying these to this unit’s readings. Discuss what went wrong and how these systems and codes, or lack thereof, contributed to the deaths of the firefighters that night. This review is to be two pages in length.

All sources used, including the textbook, must be cited and referenced according to APA style. Your paper should include a title page and should include a separate reference page.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VII Project

This is a two-part assignment where you are being asked to create an organizational chart. Use the information from the textbook, and relate each chart to your department or the department that protects your community if you are currently not in the fire service.

Part 1: Create an organizational chart depicting the rank structure within your department or your local department. Start from the fire chief down to the newest recruit, and include any and all divisions within the organization. Also, provide a one-page summary defining the role of national, state, and local support organizations in the organizational design and command structure of the local department. Part I should be two pages long (one page for the organizational chart, and one page for the summary).

Part 2: Create an organizational chart for one of the following functional areas of the incident management system (IMS): planning, logistics, or administration/finance. Use both the textbook and outside sources to break one of these functions into its basic subunits. In a minimum of one page for the chosen function and each subunit, provide an explanation of the duties assigned to that function within that area of responsibility. Part II should be two pages long (one page for the organizational chart and one page for the explanation).

Parts 1 and 2 should be combined and submitted as one document. The completed assignment should be a total of four pages. You must use your textbook and at least two academic sources to complete this assignment. Any information from those sources should be cited and reference according to APA style.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

Unit VIII Essay I

Emergency Management

Emergency management (EM) is an up-and-coming field that really took off after the events of 9/11. It is important that each community be prepared for both man-made and natural disasters, should they happen either unannounced or with some warning. For this two-page essay, you are to research emergency management within your community. You need to compare and contrast the existence of the emergency management function before 9/11 and after this event. Some questions to answer should include the following:

- How is it different, and who is responsible for the management of this function?
- Is there a formal EM plan, and is the fire department part of that plan?
- Is it still as important in your community today as it was in the months following 9/11?
- Has this function been implemented in the past decade, and what were the outcomes?
- What is needed to improve the emergency management function within your community?

All sources used, including the textbook, must be cited and referenced according to APA style. Your paper should include a title page and a separate reference page.
Unit VIII Essay II

EMS

Within each community, EMS is a vital function as a pre-hospital part of the overall health system. In today's emergency services, EMS represents anywhere from 60 to more than 80% of responses. For this two-page essay, you need to research the history of EMS within your community and how it has changed and grown over the last several decades. Some questions to be answered in this essay include the following:

- Describe the beginnings of EMS in your community, and discuss how it has grown.
- What does the current EMS system look like today?
- Who provides the EMS service, and is it efficient?
- What do you see are the immediate challenges faced by EMS as we move into community-based EMS with the advent of the Affordable Health Care Act?

All sources used, including the textbook, must be cited and referenced according to APA style. Your paper should include a title page and should include a separate reference page.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

APA Guidelines

The application of the APA writing style shall be practical, functional, and appropriate to each academic level, with the primary purpose being the documentation (citation) of sources. CSU requires that students use APA style for certain papers and projects. Students should always carefully read and follow assignment directions and review the associated grading rubric when available. Students can find CSU’s Citation Guide by clicking here. This document includes examples and sample papers and provides information on how to contact the CSU Success Center.

Grading Rubrics

This course utilizes analytic grading rubrics as tools for your professor in assigning grades for all learning activities. Each rubric serves as a guide that communicates the expectations of the learning activity and describes the criteria for each level of achievement. In addition, a rubric is a reference tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of that learning activity. It is imperative for you to familiarize yourself with these rubrics because these are the primary tools your professor uses for assessing learning activities.

Rubric categories include: (1) Assessment (Written Response) and (2) Assignment. However, it is possible that not all of the listed rubric types will be used in a single course (e.g., some courses may not have Assessments).

The Assessment (Written Response) rubric can be found embedded in a link within the directions for each Unit Assessment. However, these rubrics will only be used when written-response questions appear within the Assessment.

Each Assignment type (e.g., article critique, case study, research paper) will have its own rubric. The Assignment rubrics are built into Blackboard, allowing students to review them prior to beginning the Assignment and again once the Assignment has been scored. This rubric can be accessed via the Assignment link located within the unit where it is to be submitted. Students may also access the rubric through the course menu by selecting “Tools” and then “My Grades.”

Again, it is vitally important for you to become familiar with these rubrics because their application to your Assessments and Assignments is the method by which your instructor assigns all grades.

Communication Forums

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.
Once you have completed Unit VIII, you MUST unsubscribe from the forum; otherwise, you will continue to receive e-mail updates from the forum. You will not be able to unsubscribe after your course end date.

Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.

Ask the Professor

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

Student Break Room

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

Grading

Assessments (2 @ 4%) = 8%
Projects (4 @ 8%) = 32%
Essays (3 @ 10%) = 30%
Case Studies (2 @ 10%) = 20%
Unit III PowerPoint Presentation = 10%
Total = 100%

Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
# FIR 2301, Principles of Fire and Emergency Services

## Course Schedule

By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

### Unit I  
**Fire Service History and Career Opportunities**

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**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit II  
**Training and the Need for Higher Education in the Fire Service**

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**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit III  
**Fire Department Resources**

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**Notes/Goals:**

### Unit IV  
**Fire Dynamics**

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**Notes/Goals:**
## Course Schedule

### Unit V  
**Building Construction and Preincident Planning**  
**Review:**  
- Unit Study Guide  
**Read:**  
- Chapter 7: Building Construction  
- Chapter 11: Preincident Planning, Fire Strategy, and Tactics  
**Submit:**  
- Project  

### Unit VI  
**Fire Prevention and Protection Systems**  
**Review:**  
- Unit Study Guide  
**Read:**  
- Chapter 8: Fire Prevention Codes and Ordinances  
- Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems  
**Submit:**  
- Case Study  

### Unit VII  
**Organizational Structure and the Incident Command System**  
**Review:**  
- Unit Study Guide  
**Read:**  
- Chapter 10: Organizational Structure and Emergency Incident Management Systems  
**Submit:**  
- Project  

### Unit VIII  
**EMS and Emergency Management**  
**Review:**  
- Unit Study Guide  
**Read:**  
- Chapter 12: Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management  
**Submit:**  
- Essay I  
- Essay II  

Notes/Goals: