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Dear National Fire Academy Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance to the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy's (NFA) *Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents* course. This fast-paced, highly technical program poses a serious challenge to the student. You are asked to arrive prepared to engage in the course with maximum commitment. There will be many opportunities to explore new relationships with chemistry and toxicology and how they relate to response to hazardous materials incidents.

This course represents a state-of-the-art approach to training, which utilizes computer-based reference materials, scenario-type exercises, and multiple opportunities for the student to apply the information. This type of approach to learning is performance based and designed to equip you with tools and experience to make "risk-based" decisions in your local setting.

Feel free to bring any written materials, i.e., procedures, protocols, etc., to share with other students. We ask that these items be in an electronic format and in Microsoft Office format. Precourse study, reviewing "response-based" chemistry and chemical exposure related toxicology is encouraged but not necessary.

End-of-class graduation ceremonies are an important part of the course and you are expected to attend. Please do not make any travel arrangements to leave campus until after you and your classmates graduate.

Increasing numbers of students and instructors are bringing laptop computers to campus. You alone are responsible for the security and maintenance of your equipment. The Academy cannot provide you with computer software, hardware, or technical support to include disks, printers, scanners, etc. There is a limited number of 120 Volt AC outlets in the classrooms. A Student Computer Lab is located in Building D and is available for all students to use. It is open daily with technical support provided in the evenings. This lab uses Windows XP and Office 2003 as the software standard.

Should you need additional information related to course content or requirements, please feel free to contact Mr. Wayne Yoder, Hazardous Materials Curriculum Training Specialist, at (301) 447-1090 or email at Wayne.Yoder@dhs.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis Onieal".

Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent
National Fire Academy
U.S. Fire Administration