

National Fire Academy Criteria for Contract Instructor Selection

Course: **Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents (R0247)**

Curriculum: Hazardous Materials

This course is designed for paramedic personnel who have an advanced life support (ALS) emergency medical responsibility at hazardous materials incidents, and it promises a rigorous experience for the student. In-depth chemistry, as it relates to hazardous materials, the medical management of victims, and the development and management of the hazardous materials components of the medical support system are the three primary focuses of this course. Toxicology and decontamination procedures are covered from an advanced Emergency Medical Services (EMS) viewpoint. Strategies for safe emergency medical interaction with contaminated victims are discussed in detail.

Criteria for Contract Instructor Selection

All new contract instructors shall be evaluated in three consecutive course deliveries in accordance with the National Fire Academy's (NFA's) Contract Instructor Evaluation program. Existing contract instructors are subject to evaluation in accordance with this program.

1. Academic Requirement

- a. It is preferred that the candidate possess a bachelor's degree from an institution that is accredited in fire science, health science or chemistry or related science or equivalent with a strong emphasis in chemistry, toxicology, physiology or related courses. Consideration will also be given to those candidates who possess an associate degree from an institution that is accredited in fire science, health science or chemistry or related science or equivalent with a strong emphasis in chemistry, toxicology, physiology or related courses. Candidates are urged to have successfully completed the course within the last three years or attendance as a contract instructor trainee upon preliminary approval of the application.
- b. The candidate must be currently certified as an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (or higher) and as a Hazardous Materials Technician. (Provide copies of certificates.)
- c. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or Professional Qualifications Board Fire Service Instructor II certification is recommended.

2. Instructional Experience

- a. Documented ability to explain technical science topics relating to chemistry and the physiological effects of exposure to the body including cellular functions to a diverse student population with a broad range of training and experience.
- b. Ability to instruct courses or materials similar to the course content, at the community college, state or regional level, demonstrated by documentation of experience and a copy of at least three student or supervisor evaluations of instructional ability from courses taught with similar content.

3. Documented Knowledge and Experience in the Subject Area

- a. Current knowledge and significant experience in providing ALS-level care at hazardous materials incidents demonstrated by documentation.
- b. Current knowledge and significant experience in hazardous materials emergency response and demonstrated knowledge about weapons of mass destruction by experience or equivalent or a combination of both experience and training.
- c. Documentation of current knowledge of National Fire Protection Association 473, *Standard for Competencies for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*, as demonstrated by work experience, training or a combination of both.
- d. Demonstration of current knowledge of laws, regulations, standards and preparedness initiatives affecting ALS response to hazardous materials incidents.

4. Additional Submittals

- a. For one subject or course related to the subject matter, provide a 12- to 18-minute video or digital video disk demonstrating your instructional style. This video will be used to evaluate your teaching style in a student-centric adult learning environment, **or** attend the course “Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents” and successfully teach a component of the course that is designated and evaluated by the Training Specialist and/or Instructional Systems Specialist.
- b. Submission of a written essay not to exceed 500 words explaining how the instructor candidate has effected successful organizational change within the fire/EMS field or related discipline.

5. Continuing Practice or Education

Ability to maintain currency in the field and the specific course by:

- a. teaching a similar course at a training academy, college or university;
- b. taking a similar course within the last five years;
- c. teaching the course at the NFA or in the field;
- d. writing and researching a paper or article related to the course topic for at least one of the fire service or related disciplines' trade journals within the last two years; or
- e. current certification as a Certified Safety Professional or Certified Hazardous Materials manager or other associated certifications requiring currency.

Failure to provide approved documentation of ongoing training or instruction may result in revocation of the contract instructor status.

6. How to Submit an Application

The following documents are required with each submission:

- a. A cover letter listing the courses you want to teach.
- b. Your résumé.
- c. Documentation that clearly addresses how you meet the instructor selection criteria for each course you are seeking to teach (e.g., academic requirement, instructional experience, knowledge and experience in the subject matter, and continuing practice or education). This document needs to be written in that order. Incomplete packages will not be processed.
- d. Three references from persons who are knowledgeable about your character as well as your teaching ability. One reference letter should be from the department or agency head in your organization or certifying organization.
- e. Include a current email address so we can communicate more efficiently with you.

Application package(s) must be submitted to:

National Fire Academy
fema-nfainstructorapp@fema.dhs.gov