

# ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

## AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS & EDUCATION COMMISSION



### COURSE SYLLABUS

**Advanced Fire Investigator**

**FSC 242**

**40 clock hours**

#### PREREQUISITES

- 18 years of age
- High School Diploma/GED
- (Pro Board or IFSAC) Certified Fire Investigator

#### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- **Currently, for the remainder of 2023, the Advanced Fire Investigator course will continue using the Jones & Bartlett, Fire Investigator, Principles and Practice, Fourth Edition book. [Jones & Bartlett, Fire Investigator, Principles and Practice, Fourth Edition](#)**
  - **Effective April 1, 2024, a new book will be implemented. The new book will be IFSTA, Fire Investigator, Third Edition. [IFSTA, Fire Investigator, Third Edition](#)**

#### **Other Equipment:**

- Clothing suitable for fire scene investigation – work gloves, work boots, long pants
- Optional safety equipment – hard hat, safety glasses, dust mask, etc.
- Flashlight
- NFPA 101: *Life Safety Code* (optional)
- Copy of NFPA 921 (A link is supplied via AFC Online)
- Laptop with Microsoft Office or Equivalent
- Camera (Cell phone camera will suffice)

#### DESCRIPTION

This course targets Fire Investigators, Fire Marshals, and Law Enforcement Officers with a need to go beyond “what” caused the fire and “where” it started. This course leads to a State of Alabama certification and is not a nationally accredited certification through Pro Board or IFSAC. Fire Investigator II instructs the attendees on how to continue the investigation and discover “who” caused the fire. Students will obtain the skills and knowledge to continue and complete an investigation. Students planning to attend this course should be prepared for an intense week of training and practical skills application. Topics covered include: Investigative Techniques, Crime Scene Photography, Evidence Collection and Analysis, Interviewing Techniques, and Court Procedure and Testifying.

#### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand arson and explosive statutes
- Discuss the criminal justice system as it pertains to arson and investigations.
- Demonstrate report writing
- Explain arson and explosive scene photography
- Describe videography at crime scenes
- Discuss sketching the scene
- Identify process of evidence collection
- Recognize methods of contamination of evidence
- Define chain of custody issues
- Recognize fingerprint types and DNA evidence collection methods
- Discuss accelerant detection canines

- Understand the arsonist’s signature
- Perform interviews and interrogations
- Describe use of exculpatory statements
- Define juvenile suspects
- Explain canvassing
- List insurance information
- Recognize the importance of social media use in the investigation
- Identify assisting agencies
- Discuss trash pulls
- Explain pretext telephone calls
- Perform off line searches
- Understand affidavits and search warrants
- Describe electronic media storage devices
- Describe technical surveillance and tracking devices
- Define explosive incident investigations
- Discuss vehicle fires and how to investigate them
- Identify exotic accelerants
- Recognize importance of media relations

## CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To be issued certification, the candidate will: provide documentation of prerequisites, complete required training hours including skills training, successfully complete the cognitive written exam, and successfully complete the practical exam.

## ACCREDITATION

Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission maintains accreditation with Pro Board and IFSAC. Each student will automatically receive national registration and certification upon successful completion of all requirements for certification.

## COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Day One:   | Legal, Report Writing, Photography, CV, Fire Scene Examination   |
| Day Two:   | Right of Entry, Witness Interviews, Fire Scene Examination       |
| Day Three: | Evidence Collection, Fire Scene Examination, Collecting Evidence |
| Day Four:  | Courtroom Testimony  |
| Day Five:  | Sources of Information and Resources, Survey, Certification Exam |

## GRADE ASSESSMENT

### WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Perform to a minimum 70% competency on the examination,  
(One retest is allowed after 30 days but within one year of course end date.)

### PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

Successfully complete a skills/project evaluation to a minimum of 70% competency and successful completion of all critical points. Evaluators will test at least 25% of the skills for each. Skill sheets to be tested will be randomly selected by AFC Certification Unit for the practical examination. (One retest is allowed after 30 days but within one year of course end date.)