

ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS & EDUCATION COMMISSION



COURSE SYLLABUS

Fire Investigator I

FSC 241

40 clock hours

PREREQUISITES

- 18 years of age
- High School Diploma/GED

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- **Jones & Bartlett: Fire Investigator: Principles and Practice to NFPA 921 and NFPA 1033, Fourth Edition**

Other Equipment:

- Clothing suitable for fire scene investigation – hard hat, safety glasses, gloves, work boots, long pants, and respiratory protection
- Flashlight
- NFPA 101: *Life Safety Code* (optional)
- Copy of NFPA 921 (A link is supplied via AFC Online)
- Laptop with Microsoft Office or Equivalent

DESCRIPTION

This course is based on NFPA 1033: *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*. This course targets Fire Investigators, Police Officers, company-level Officers, Private Cause and Origin Investigators with a desire to learn more about determining the origin and cause of the fire. Students wishing to attend this course should be prepared for an intense week of training and practical skills application. Topics covered include: Determining the Point of Origin, Burn Patterns, Evidence Collection and Analysis, Interviewing Techniques, and Court Procedure and Testifying.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Secure the fire ground
- Conduct an exterior survey
- Conduct an interior survey
- Interpret and analyze burn patterns
- Examine and remove fire debris
- Reconstruct the area of origin
- Inspect the performance of building systems, including detection, suppression, HVAC, utilities, and building compartmentation
- Discriminate the effects of explosions from other types of damage
- Diagram the scene
- Photographically document the scene
- Construct investigative notes
- Utilize proper procedures for managing victims and fatalities
- Locate, collect, and package evidence
- Select evidence for analysis
- Maintain a Chain of Custody
- Dispose of evidence
- Develop an interview plan
- Conduct interviews

- Evaluate interview information
- Gather reports and record
- Evaluate the investigative file
- Coordinate expert resources
- Establish evidence as to motive and/or opportunity
- Formulate an opinion concerning origin
- Prepare a written report
- Express investigative findings verbally
- Testify during legal proceedings
- Conduct public informational presentations

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:	Registration, introductions, Chapters 1-5
Day Two:	Chapters 10-14
Day Three:	Chapters 15-20
Day Four:	Chapters 21-23, Burn Scenario
Day Five:	Chapter 27 and Presentations, Skills Exam, Survey, Certification Examination

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.)