

# ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE

## AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS & EDUCATION COMMISSION



### COURSE SYLLABUS

**Fire Investigator**

**FSC 241**

**40 clock hours**

#### PREREQUISITES

- 18 years of age
- High School Diploma/GED

#### **Additional Requirements:**

**This coursework should be completed prior to the beginning date of your Fire Investigator course. You will be given access in AFC Online to submit your completion certificates upon enrollment in your Fire Investigator course.**

- These six (6) CFITrainer modules are required prerequisites for your upcoming Fire Investigator course.
  - **Fire Investigator Scene Safety**
  - **Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction**
  - **The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation**
  - **Documenting the Event**
  - **Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report**
  - **Basic Electricity**

Please use the following link to access the Pre-Course Requirements: <https://www.cfitrainer.net/>

#### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- **IFSTA: Fire Investigator, Third 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
- Camera (Cell phone camera will suffice)

#### DESCRIPTION

This course is based on NFPA 1033: *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, 2022 Edition*. 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 6-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Hands-on Photography Exercise               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor will provide items for the students to document using cameras. intent is for the students to use techniques discussed during lecture and apply them in a practical application.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Scene Sketching Exercise               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor will have students draw a sketch of a building or portion thereof demonstrating the proper sketch requirements discussed during the lecture.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Day Three:	Chapters 9, 10, and 12; Hands-on Evidence Collection Exercise
Day Four:	Chapters 13-14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Scene Examination (Group Exercise)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will be provided with a fire scene to perform a full fire investigation on.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Report Writing Exercise (Group Exercise)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will prepare a written report based on the findings from the “scene investigation”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Day Five:	Chapter 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Presentation of Final Report (Group Exercise)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will present as a group the findings of their investigation and final report.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Skills Exam; Survey; Certification Examination</li> </ul>

## 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.)