

# FIREHOUSE®

## Weekly Drill

### DRILL #140: THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY

#### Introduction

If you have never taken a class at the Nation Fire Academy (NFA) in Emmitsburg, MD, I would encourage you to look into doing so. Their web site ([www.usfa.fema.gov/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/)) has several tabs you can explore for further information. If you click on the Student & Instructors tab, you will find many of the popular links.

Click on Admissions in the popular links and it will take you through the process of how to apply. But before you go there, I would suggest you look at the Courses, Catalog & Schedules section.

The academy operates on a two semester year with separate application periods. The registration period between April 15 and June 15 is for classes that are conducted between October 1 and March 31. The other registration period is October 15 to December 15 and is for classes being held between April 1 and September 30.

Classes are either six day or ten day for the residential curriculum and are categorized by subject matter.

- Executive Development
- Management Science
- Emergency Medical Services
- Incident Management
- Hazardous Materials
- Fire/Arson and Explosion Investigation
- Fire Prevention: Management
- Fire Prevention: Technical
- Fire Prevention: Public Education
- Training Programs

Classes are conducted on campus and off campus for the convenience of the applicant. If you decide to take a resident class, you will have to make travel arrangements to the academy once you are accepted into a class. If you are within driving range, you can drive to the academy, which will give you a vehicle for after-class transportation to the many historical areas in the vicinity.

For those who live a distance from the academy, you can book airline tickets. All transportation costs are covered and are reimbursed to your checking or savings account. A meal ticket is a requirement for students, however, this cost is not reimbursed.



Once you are accepted into a class, a room in one of the dormitory buildings will be reserved for you. There are several classes commencing on the NFA campus and rooms are assigned at random, so you may not be in the same building as some of your classmates. The rooms are pleasant and have their own bathrooms, refrigerator, microwave, iron/ironing board and hair dryer. Additionally, each room has a television, radio alarm clock and free Wi-Fi.

Each building is equipped with laundry facilities and vending machines. There is a nice fitness center and pub on the campus that requires those wanting to use them a \$1 association fee. Additionally, the fitness center has bikes and golf clubs that can be signed out should you care to indulge in these activities. There are tennis courts, a basketball court and indoor swimming pool as well for students to use.

I hope to see you at the NFA one of these days taking one of the courses offered; as they are top instructors and have great insight into the many problems and situations confronting the fire service today.

*–Prepared by Russell Merrick*