



MONTHLY BUGLE

August 2024

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[John Shafer](#)

Field Operations Section
Chief
[Mike Parks](#)

Planning Section Chief
[Zach Mathews](#)

Academy Program Manager
(Districts 1 and 4)
[Ryan Thoma](#)

Academy Program Manager
(Districts 2 and 3)
[TR Hagerty](#)

Message from the Director

Greetings to all,



service.

I hope this edition finds you doing well. It is hard to believe that we have already made it to the dog days of summer. Due to the significant number of updates and new changes in this edition, I will keep my introduction short so you can read the considerable number of changes coming to the fire

Please share the information below with all fire service personnel you know. Unfortunately, the Bugle newsletter does not reach all firefighters in Indiana, so please help spread the word.

John Shafer
Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy Director

New Age Requirements for Certification Enrollment

On July 1, 2024, Indiana Code 22-14-2-13 went into effect.

IC 22-14-2-13 Age requirements for certification
Sec. 13. (a) An individual who is at least sixteen (16) years of age may enroll in and attend a training program for certification as:

- a Firefighter I;
- a Firefighter II; or

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Academy Program Manager
(Districts 6 and 9)
[Chuck Gunter](#)

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New Incident Safety Officer Curriculum

The Academy is pleased to announce a significant step in its transition to the IFSTA curriculums. Last year, the Academy purchased licenses for every firefighter in the state, and that program has been renewed for another year. This renewal comes at no cost to firefighters or their departments.

Starting Sept. 1, the Academy plans to transition to the IFSTA's Fire and Emergency Services Safety Officer, 2nd Edition, for the Incident Safety Officer certification. As the NFPA standards are updated and IFSTA releases new material, the Academy will continue to transition to ensure that firefighters and instructors have access to the most up-to-date information. Contact

• *an emergency medical technician.*

This section does not affect the minimum age requirements for:

- *employment as a firefighter or emergency medical technician; or*
- *certification by a national certification agency.*

This new law change allows for individuals who are 16 years of age to be able to start their fire service training. In the past, the high school programs had to request a variance from the academy to be enrolled in training with this new law they are no longer required to have a variance to be in the training.

However, in the Indiana Administrative Code 655 IAC 2-2-1 (c) No individual under the age of eighteen (18) may be certified by the education board to provide firefighting or related emergency services.

This means that high school programs will need to request a variance for certification, once their students have completed the program and passed the test if they are under the age of 18 at the time of completion.

New Administrative Code Now in Effect

As of Aug. 28, the new IAC Title 655 rules are now in effect. these new rules will go into effect and become the law that directs how certification and a wide variety of firefighting activity in the State of Indiana.

The new rules are much easier to read than the past rules, but there are way too many changes in the new rules to cover in a newsletter, so it is in your best interest to go to the website and download them to read and digest.

Link: <https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/proposed-title-655.pdf>

New Continuing Education Requirements

During the June meeting of the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education (BFPSE), the Academy actively addressed the new continuing education requirements, which were presented to and approved by the board.. This approval ensures there is no gap for those needing to recertify.

Two significant changes were made to the continuing education requirements:

- fire investigator certification: Starting Sept. 1, 2024, fire investigators will be required to

the Academy with any questions or concerns.

Documentation of Continuing Education

For continuing education (CE) training to apply toward the continuing education requirement, the individual conducting the training shall complete a fire department or a public safety department-specific training roster or provide documentation of completion of the training to the student. The department can store the training rosters in any manner it chooses (electronically, with vendor software, or on paper). The individual also can put together a document recording their training hours, showing at least the minimum number of required training hours.

Training rosters and individual training records should only be sent to the Academy Certification Division if an individual has been randomly selected to be audited, in which case the documentation must be provided upon request. Any online courses that meet the continuing education requirements of a certificate of attendance or completion must be provided if an individual is selected for an audit.

The Academy has made it easier for you to track your CE hours by placing the recertification form on the Academy website and making it a PDF fillable document.

Link:
<https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Instructor-Recertification-Form.pdf>

New Method to Request Academy Resources:

The Academy is implementing a new system for requesting training trailer props to improve efficiency and maintain the longevity of its resources. Previously, local agencies could request assets on a first-come, first-

recertify every two years. All certified Fire Investigators will have until Sept. 1, 2026, to obtain 16 hours of continuing education.

- Fire instructors: The required continuing education hours for fire Instructors have been reduced from 20 to 16.

The exact language approved by the BFPSE is as follows:

- 655 IAC 4-6-1 Continuing Education Hours Required: Subject Matter

- As a prerequisite for renewing a certification that requires continuing education and is subject to expiration, an individual must complete at least 16 hours of continuing education or instruction.

- 655 IAC 4-3-40 Fire Investigator:

- 16 hours of continuing education must be obtained every 24 months from the certification date.

Continuing education requirements must be tracked, documented, and maintained by the individual and the AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction). Documented compliance with these requirements must also be submitted to the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy.

- Fire Investigators must remain current in various subject areas, including:
- Indiana Code Legal Updates
- Laws of Arrest
- Juvenile/Domestic Relations
- Search and Seizure
- Evidence Collection/Storage
- Scientific Principles of NFPA 921
- Fire Chemistry
- Thermodynamics/Thermometry
- Fire Dynamics/Modeling
- Explosion Dynamics
- Fire Investigation Methodology
- Fire Analysis
- Hazardous Materials

The 16 hours of continuing education can be achieved through in-person classes on the topics listed above or by taking online courses from platforms such as CFITrainer.net or other approved fire investigator courses.

655 IAC 4-3-43 Fire and Emergency Services Instructor I

To maintain certification, the candidate shall accrue a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of continuing education, consisting of at least:

- 12 hours of teaching classes in public safety and emergency response;

served basis through Acadis. However, this often leads to trailers and props moving across the state, which has accelerated wear and tear on the equipment.

To address this issue, the Academy is introducing a more structured and equitable process for asset requests. The new system will no longer operate on a first-come, first-served basis, which has proven costly and time-consuming. Instead, requests will be grouped regionally each quarter, allowing the Logistics Section to conduct preventive maintenance and reduce unnecessary resource strain.

This new method ensures that training trailer props are utilized effectively and fairly across the state. The Logistics Section will carefully evaluate all requests, considering regional demand within each quarter.

Departments wishing to request a training trailer prop will now do so through the Academy's website, following the schedule below:

Request Schedule:

- Requests are due by Jan. 1, April 1, July 1 and Oct. 1.
- Requests can be submitted at any time, and departments are encouraged to plan well in advance, even for the following calendar year.
- The Academy will approve all requests 30 days before the start of the next quarter.

To submit a request, please visit <https://www.in.gov/dhs/training/fire-training> and complete the Smartsheet request form. This form will guide you through the necessary information and ensure a smooth request process.

- Four (4) hours of attendance at classes in training in adult education; that shall be reported on a form approved by the training division every two (2) years.

The training in adult education shall be acquired through classes that teach instructors techniques for teaching adult students:

- basic coaching and motivational techniques used in an instructional situation;
- adaptation of lesson plans or materials to specific instructional situations;
- learning styles of students and how instructors could adapt teaching styles;
- types of learning disabilities and methods for dealing with them;
- methods of dealing with disruptive and unsafe behavior;
- communication skills necessary to be an effective instructor;
- how to provide evaluation feedback to students, given evaluation data, so that the feedback is timely, specific enough for the student to make efforts to modify behavior, objective, clear, and relevant, and includes suggestions based on the data;
- use and limitations of teaching methods and techniques;
- how to supervise other instructors and students during training, given a training scenario with increased hazard exposure, so that applicable safety standards and practices are followed, and instructional goals are met;
- development of student evaluation instruments to support instruction and the evaluation of test results; or
- Conducting a needs assessment for an organization, an individual, or a set of students.
- Nonverbal communication practices in the classroom and drill ground

The same language above for the Instructor I level applies to level II and III instructors.

National Fire Academy Indiana State Weekend Trip

Please note that this new process will go live starting Sept. 16, 2024. From this date onwards, all state fire training resources will be requested through our new system, and Acadis will no longer be used for this purpose.

Introduction to Energy Systems Course

The National Fire Academy announced the release of a new online self-study course, Introduction to Energy Systems (ESS) (course code Q0757). Many modern devices people use daily rely on some electrical source to power their operation. Many device manufacturers use batteries to allow mobility and function without connecting to the electrical power grid. In this course, you will learn to recognize energy storage system (ESS) concepts and principles so you can analyze the hazards involved with ESS incidents.

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Define an energy storage system (ESS)
- Recognize hazards associated with ESS
- Associate chemical ESS hazards with Lithium-Ion-Battery Energy Storage Systems (LiBESS)
- Associate thermal ESS hazards with LiBESS
- Identify response considerations during LiBESS incidents
- Identify the post-incident operations following an ESS response

[Register today](#)

In-State NFA Courses

The number of National Fire Academy (NFA) classes offered by the state has exploded in the last year. This represents an exciting opportunity to attend



Earlier this month, 41 firefighters from Indiana and the Academy staff had a wonderful time on the beautiful campus of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. Thank you to all of those firefighters who dedicated their time to travel east for some top-notch training.

Academy Personnel Changes

The success of the Academy is attributed to the outstanding individuals who contribute to its mission. David Moore and David Owens are appreciated for their dedication in their roles. Both have chosen to become intermittent instructors.



courses taught by National Fire Academy instructors or courses based on an approved curriculum. Although these classes result in NFA certification, they do not necessarily translate to Indiana certification.

In addition to the classes already posted, the Academy has been awarded five classes, including two additional six-day courses. A state is fortunate if it is awarded a single six-day class. Indiana now has **FOUR** of them! Here are the additional Courses the Academy is proud to offer this year:

Incident Command for Structural Collapse

- Oct. 2-3, 2024
- Evansville, IN
- [Acadis](#)

Incident Safety Officer

- Oct. 19-20, 2024
- Jeffersonville, IN
- [Acadis](#)

Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction

This is the first time this class has been offered in Indiana.

- Oct. 21-26, 2024
- Valparaiso, IN
- [Acadis](#)

Health and Safety Program Manager

- Oct. 26-27, 2024
- Plainfield, IN
- [Acadis](#)

Hazardous Materials / WMD Incident Command

This is the first time this class has been offered in Indiana.

- Nov. 4-9, 2024
- Plainfield, IN
- [Acadis](#)

Many may recognize Cora Showalter, a distinguished instructor for the Public Safety Leadership Development courses across the state. Showalter has accepted a full-time position as the Logistics and Community Risk Reduction Section Chief with the Academy.



Additionally, the Academy is pleased to announce that District 5 Coordinator Loren Tewes will step into the role of Program Manager for districts 5 and 7.

Wabash Fire Training Center

The Field Operations Section, led by Section Chief Mike Parks and several Academy instructors, conducted training at the Wabash Fire Department Training Center. Academy instructors demonstrated best practices for conducting live fire training in Wabash's new Hub & Spoke training building.

This facility will elevate the level of live fire training available to the southern half of District 3, the eastern part of District 2 and parts of northern District 6. The same group of instructors will soon be traveling to Linton Fire Department and Madison Township in Corydon to conduct similar training at their new centers.



The second phase of new facilities to be built:

- Hartford City (Blackford County)
- Washington Township (Davies County)
- Paoli (Orange County)
- Rushville (Rush County)
- Chrisney (Spencer County)



Following the construction of the nine designated training locations, IDHS will evaluate any remaining funding for opportunities to expand existing training sites and leverage those resources for even more training access.



The Fire and Public Safety Academy is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and delivering professional fire and public safety training, education and certification to Indiana's first responders in support of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's mission of protecting the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.

Contact the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy at

firecertifications@dhs.in.gov



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