



Emergency Response to Terrorism: Operations (ERT-Ops) *A Safe Response for Public Safety Personnel*

Course Duration:

16 hours (2 days).

Learning Objectives:

Given a 16-hour course on emergency response to terrorism, students will be able to describe and perform the duties of an operations-level responder assigned to respond to weapons of mass destruction incidents as outlined in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472, Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents.

Target Audience:

The IAFF developed this course for those fire, rescue, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel, and other first responders who may respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Instructor Qualifications:

The IAFF currently has a team of 92 fire fighter/paramedic master instructors, with an average of 23 years of fire service experience, who specialize in student-centered, active learning techniques. Each master instructor possesses a minimum of five years of fire fighting and HazMat experience before being appointed as an IAFF master instructor. Upon appointment, master instructors participate in the IAFF's Adult Educational Methodology program which includes adult learning principles, target audience characteristics, instructional methodology, and practice using facilitation skills to deliver content and solve any facilitation problems that may arise. Master instructors also receive three days of training specific to delivery of the ERT-Ops course.

In addition to master instructors, the IAFF prepares local instructors to deliver its courses through its train-the-trainer program. Local instructors interested in attending the train-the-trainer program must satisfy the following prerequisites:

- At least one year of teaching experience
- Certification to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1041, Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications Level I or equivalent
- Demonstrated ability to teach from prepared materials



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- Training to at least the NFPA 472, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials, First Responder Operations level (or awareness for non-fire service)
- Recent hazardous materials field experience and emergency medical training



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Course Description

Syllabus

Emergency Response to Terrorism: Operations (ERT-Ops)

This IAFF training is available throughout the United States. To request training, mail, fax or email requests to:

Harold A. Schaitberger, General President
International Association of Fire Fighters
1750 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Fax: (202) 637-0839 / Email: hazmat@iaff.org

Instructors

The IAFF provides a team of professional instructors, from across the country, composed of fire fighters/EMS personnel/HazMat Team Members. Instructors may be drawn from the national cadre of IAFF Master Instructors or local instructors trained by the IAFF.

Contact information

The IAFF does not provide instructors' contact information. However, students may contact the IAFF HazMat/WMD Training Department for additional course-related information at:

International Association of Fire Fighters
HazMat/WMD Training Department
1750 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Fax: (202) 737-8484 / Email: hazmat@iaff.org

Prerequisites

Prior training at the Awareness and Operations level as outlined in OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.120 (HAZWOPER) and national consensus standard NFPA 472, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials is assumed to have occurred before enrollment in this course.

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Course Description



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This course provides First Responders at the operations level with the information they need to make informed, controlled, and safe responses to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Four major threats are discussed during the course: chemical agents, biological agents, radiologicals, and explosives/incendiaries. For each of the major threats, a case study and information is provided on the:

- Characteristics of the threat
- Types of harm that First Responders might be subject to during emergency response
- Personal protective equipment that is available, including its uses and limitations
- First Responder protective actions

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize threat characteristics of the four basic types of weapons of mass destruction
- Identify types of harm weapons of mass destruction incidents pose to First Responders
- Know the uses—and limitations—of personal protective equipment (PPE) at weapons of mass destruction incidents
- Demonstrate safe First Responder protective actions at a simulated weapons of mass destruction incident

Schedule

The course is divided into five units and a practical exercise with the following agenda:

DAY 1

- AM
 - Unit 1: Introduction
 - Unit 2: Chemical Agents
- PM
 - Unit 2: Chemical Agents (continued)

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Course Description



- Unit 3: Radiologicals

DAY 2

- AM
 - Unit 4: Explosives and Incendiaries
 - Unit 5: Biological Agents
- PM
 - Practical Exercise

Required Reading

All required reading materials are provided in the Student Manual for the course.

Grading Policies

A pre-test and post-test are administered to determine which topics need more emphasis for a given class. Pre-tests are graded and concepts related to items most frequently missed by students are emphasized by the instructors. Students are also encouraged to note which areas they should focus on for improvement on the post-test.