



## Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy

### Course Syllabus

101

**Title:** Basic Operations Firefighter

**Program Duration:** 320 hours

**Type:** Campus Training Program (CTP)

**Coordinators:** Diaz, Swanson, Theobald

### Course Description

NIPSTA's Basic Operations Firefighter program is designed to exceed the requirements outlined by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal "OSFM", and provides students with the basic knowledge and skills needed to perform as an entry level, professional firefighter.

### Prerequisites

The purpose of pre-requisite course work is to ensure students have sufficient backgrounds to understand the terminology, tactics and practical applications presented in NIPSTA programs. At a minimum, NIPSTA requires successful completion of the following:

- Member of a recognized fire department or fire brigade
- NIMS 100 & 700 certification
- Course Textbook (see below)
- Current SCBA mask fit-test
- Valid CPR card

### Attendance

In order to receive a certificate of completion for courses, NIPSTA requires students to be present for all lectures, demonstrations and evolutions.

### Safety

NIPSTA Instructors will ensure hazards have been identified and addressed prior to the start of each program. All course safety guidelines are discussed prior to operations and at a minimum, a one (1) to six (6) instructor to student ratio will be maintained at all times. Unsafe actions or behaviors will not be tolerated and will be grounds for dismissal.

### Academic Integrity

NIPSTA aspires to the highest possible standards of academic honesty and integrity in all programs as key tenants of the NIPSTA experience. NIPSTA Instructors set forth clear ethical expectations, promote consistency of standards, and encourage reporting of dishonest and unsafe behaviors. While education through participation is the central goal for every NIPSTA program, it is only possible when honesty and integrity are part of the overall mission.

### Performance Testing & Evaluation

NIPSTA employs multiple methods of measuring competency subject matter, including cognitive and performance skill testing. Cognitive skills will be measured by utilizing a comprehensive written exam at the conclusion of the course. Students must achieve a minimum 70% score to successfully pass the written exam. Performance skill tests measure an individual's ability to perform specific tasks or applications based on given or known JPRs. Unless otherwise specified, performance skill tests will be measured on a pass or fail basis.

## ADA Compliance

Students with a documented disabilities, as that term is used in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), may qualify for reasonable accomodations as defined in section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information on NIPSTA's ADA accomodations please visit: <http://www.nipsta.org/468/ADA-Compliance>

## Textbook

The following textbook is required for NIPSTA's Basic Operations Firefighter course:

- "Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response": 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
  - ISBN: 9781284151336

## Pre-course Assignments

The purpose of pre-course assignments is to ensure candidates are prepared to succeed at the onset of the program. The pre-course assignments for NIPSTA's Basic Operations Firefighter course are as follows:

- **Review:** Candidate Equipment and Apparel checklist, Physical Fitness Program: Preparation and Expectations.
- **Complete:** Candidate Information Form, Emergency Information Form, Textbook Requirement Form. Forms will be provided during the registration process.
- **Read:** "Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response"
  - Chapters 1 – 3

## 320 Hour Basic Operations Firefighter Course Content

Course content is broken into subject area modules or "Mods". NIPSTA's Basic Operations Firefighter program is comprised of the following Mods:

**Mod:** Orientation & Course Information  
**Mod:** Attention to Detail  
**Mod:** Fire Department Organization  
**Mod:** Fire Service History  
**Mod:** Personal Protective Equipment  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Safety  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Rehabilitation  
**Mod:** Apparatus Safety & Response  
**Mod:** Self-Contained Breathing App.  
**Mod:** SCBA Donning/Doffing  
**Mod:** SCBA Maintenance  
**Mod:** SCBA Consumption Course  
**Mod:** SCBA Emergency Procedure  
**Mod:** SCBA Low Profile Skills  
**Mod:** Ground Ladders Skills  
**Mod:** Modern Fire Behavior  
**Mod:** Tools & Equipment  
**Mod:** Portable Fire Extinguishers  
**Mod:** Water Supply & Fire Hose  
**Mod:** Nozzles & Appliances

**Mod:** Hose Rolls, Loads & Maintenance  
**Mod:** Hydrants & Connections  
**Mod:** Hose Lead-outs - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " , 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " , 3"  
**Mod:** Charged Attack Lines - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " , 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  
**Mod:** Charged Attack Lines - 3" Leader  
**Mod:** SCBA Confidence Course  
**Mod:** Emergency Evacuations  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter MAYDAY  
**Mod:** Fire Fighter Entanglement  
**Mod:** Fire-ground Operations  
**Mod:** Extinguisher Use – Class A Fires  
**Mod:** Extinguisher Use – Class B Fires  
**Mod:** Building Construction  
**Mod:** Suppression Tactics & Strategy  
**Mod:** Search & Rescue  
**Mod:** Installed Systems  
**Mod:** Supply Lays - Forward & Reverse  
**Mod:** Supply Lays - Split  
**Mod:** Attack Line Skills – Ladders, Stairs  
**Mod:** Victim Carries & Drags

**Mod:** Window & Ladder Rescue  
**Mod:** Search Operations  
**Mod:** Attack Line Skills - High Rises  
**Mod:** Attack Line Skills - Stand-pipes  
**Mod:** Master Stream Operations  
**Mod:** Forcible Entry Tactics  
**Mod:** Ventilation Tactics & Strategy  
**Mod:** Salvage & Overhaul  
**Mod:** Fire Cause & Origin  
**Mod:** Window & Door Ventilation  
**Mod:** Mechanical Ventilation (pos/neg)  
**Mod:** Pitched/Flat Roof Ops - hand tools  
**Mod:** Pitched/Flat Roof Ops - power tools  
**Mod:** Forcible Entry – chains & locks  
**Mod:** Forcible Entry – gates & bars  
**Mod:** Forcible Entry – in/out doors  
**Mod:** Truck Operations – Aerials/Towers  
**Mod:** Fire Department Communications  
**Mod:** Fire Service Ropes & Knots  
**Mod:** Rapid Intervention Tactics  
**Mod:** Rope Assisted Search Procedures  
**Mod:** Rescue Rope, Webbing, Hard.  
**Mod:** Rescue Knots, Hitches & Slings  
**Mod:** Rescue Rope Handling & Care  
**Mod:** Equipment Hoisting & Lowering  
**Mod:** Survival – Wall Breaching  
**Mod:** Survival – SCBA Confidence  
**Mod:** Survival – Ladder Escape  
**Mod:** Survival – Personal Escape  
**Mod:** Survival - Hose Slide Escape  
**Mod:** RIT – Basic Skills & Evolutions  
**Mod:** RIT – FF Rescue Evolutions  
**Mod:** RIT – FF Gear Removal & CPR

**Mod:** Incident Command System  
**Mod:** Incident Size-Up  
**Mod:** Pre-fire Planning  
**Mod:** Public Fire & Life Safety Education  
**Mod:** Salvage – Sprinkler Systems  
**Mod:** Salvage – Tarps & Covers  
**Mod:** Salvage – Water Control  
**Mod:** Overhaul – Opening Ceilings  
**Mod:** Utilities – Awareness and Control  
**Mod:** Scene Support – Power & Lights  
**Mod:** Vehicle Fires – Safety/Awareness  
**Mod:** Vehicle Fires – Attack & Control  
**Mod:** LP Gas Fires – Safety/Awareness  
**Mod:** LP Gas Fires – Attack & Control  
**Mod:** Foam – Concept & Application  
**Mod:** Vehicle Extrication – Safety/Awareness  
**Mod:** Vehicle Extrication – Technology  
**Mod:** Vehicle Extrication – Techniques  
**Mod:** Fire Service Vehicle Operator  
**Mod:** Hazardous Material Awareness  
**Mod:** Technical Rescue Awareness  
**Mod:** Special Rescue Tools & Equip  
**Mod:** Special Rescue Support  
**Mod:** Terrorism Awareness  
**Mod:** Wildland & Ground Cover Fires  
**Mod:** Courage to Be Safe Program  
**Mod:** Firefighter Health & Wellness  
**Mod:** Behavioral/Stress Management  
**Mod:** Substance Use Disorder (SUD)  
**Mod:** Equipment Maintenance  
**Mod:** Firefighter Decontamination  
**Mod:** Requisite Skills Assessment  
**Mod:** Requisite Knowledge Assessment

### **Learning Outcomes & Evaluation**

Following the conclusion of these modules, students will be familiar with the requisite knowledge and skills needed to perform as an entry level professional firefighter. Written and practical evaluations will be conducted at the completion of this course.

## 320 Hour Basic Operations Firefighter Course Schedule

### Week 1

### Week 2

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 1 – Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Orientation &amp; Course Information  <b>Mod:</b> Attention to Detail          - Presentation of Colors          - Intro to Physical Fitness Program          - Company Tools &amp; Equipment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 6 – Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Modern Fire Behavior  <b>Mod:</b> Tools &amp; Equipment  <b>Mod:</b> Portable Fire Extinguishers  <b>Mod:</b> Water Supply &amp; Fire Hose  <b>Mod:</b> Nozzles &amp; Appliances</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 2</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire Department Organization  <b>Mod:</b> Fire Service History  <b>Mod:</b> Personal Protective Equipment  <b>Mod:</b> Fire Fighter Safety  <b>Mod:</b> Fire Fighter Rehabilitation  <b>Mod:</b> Apparatus Safety &amp; Response</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 7</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Hose Rolls, Loads &amp; Maintenance  <b>Mod:</b> Hydrants &amp; Connections  <b>Mod:</b> Hose Lead-outs - 1¾", 2½", 3"</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 3</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Self-Cont. Breathing Apparatus  <b>Mod:</b> SCBA Donning/Doffing  <b>Mod:</b> SCBA Maintenance</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 8</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Charged Attack Lines - 1¾", 2½"  <b>Mod:</b> Charged Attack Lines - 3" Id line</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 4</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> SCBA Consumption Course  <b>Mod:</b> SCBA Emergency Procedure  <b>Mod:</b> SCBA Low Profile Skills</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 9</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> SCBA Confidence Course  <b>Mod:</b> Emergency Evacuations  <b>Mod:</b> Fire Fighter MAYDAY  <b>Mod:</b> Fire Fighter Entanglement</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 5</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Ground Ladders Skills          3 Firefighter Carries, Raises &amp; Extensions          2 Firefighter Carries, Raises &amp; Extensions          1 Firefighter Carries, Raises &amp; Extensions          Rolling, Pivoting &amp; Tying Off</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 10 – Live Fire 1</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire-ground Operations  <b>Mod:</b> Extinguisher Use, Class A Fires  <b>Mod:</b> Extinguisher Use, Class B Fires  <b>Mod:</b> Firefighter DECON</p>

### Week 3

### Week 4

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 11 – Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Building Construction <b>Mod:</b> Suppression Tactics &amp; Strategy <b>Mod:</b> Search &amp; Rescue <b>Mod:</b> Installed Systems</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 16 – Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Forcible Entry Tactics <b>Mod:</b> Ventilation Tactics <b>Mod:</b> Salvage &amp; Overhaul <b>Mod:</b> Fire Cause &amp; Origin</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 12</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Supply Lays – Forward, Reverse <b>Mod:</b> Supply Lays - Split <b>Mod:</b> Attack Skills - Ladders &amp; Stairs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 17</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Window &amp; Door Ventilation <b>Mod:</b> Mechanical Ventilation (pos/neg) <b>Mod:</b> Pitched/Flat Roofs - hand tools <b>Mod:</b> Pitched/Flat Roofs - power tools</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 13</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Victim Carries &amp; Drags <b>Mod:</b> Window &amp; Ladder Rescue <b>Mod:</b> Search Operations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 18</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Forcible Entry – chains &amp; locks <b>Mod:</b> Forcible Entry – gates &amp; bars <b>Mod:</b> Forcible Entry – in/out doors</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 14</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Attack Line Skills - High Rises <b>Mod:</b> Attack Line Skills - Stand-pipes <b>Mod:</b> Master Stream Operations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 19</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Truck Ops - Aerials &amp; Towers - Ventilation Skills Review - Forcible Entry Skills Review</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 15 – Live Fire 2</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire-ground Operations - Attack &amp; Back-up Lines - Ground Ladders - Primary/Secondary Search</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 20 – Live Fire 3</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire-ground Operations - Ventilation Operations - Forcible Entry Operations - Attack/Back-up lines - Primary/Secondary Search</p>

## Week 5

## Week 6

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 21 – Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire Dept. Communications <b>Mod:</b> Fire Service Ropes &amp; Knots <b>Mod:</b> Rapid Intervention Tactics <b>Mod:</b> Rope Assisted Search</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 26 – Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Incident Command System <b>Mod:</b> Incident Size-Up <b>Mod:</b> Pre-Fire Planning <b>Mod:</b> Public Fire &amp; Safety Education</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 22</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Rescue Rope, Webbing &amp; Hard. <b>Mod:</b> Rescue Knots, Hitches &amp; Slings <b>Mod:</b> Rescue Rope Handling &amp; Care <b>Mod:</b> Equipment Hoisting &amp; Lowering</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 27</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Salvage – Sprinkler Systems <b>Mod:</b> Salvage – Tarps &amp; Covers <b>Mod:</b> Salvage – Water Control <b>Mod:</b> Overhaul – Opening Ceilings <b>Mod:</b> Utilities, Awareness and Control <b>Mod:</b> Scene Support – Power &amp; Lights</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 23</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Survival – Wall Breaching <b>Mod:</b> Survival – SCBA Confidence <b>Mod:</b> Survival – Ladder Escape <b>Mod:</b> Survival – Personal Escape <b>Mod:</b> Survival - Hose Slide Escape</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 28</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Vehicle Fires - Safety &amp; Aware. <b>Mod:</b> Vehicle Fires – Attack &amp; Control <b>Mod:</b> LP Gas Fires – Safety &amp; Aware. <b>Mod:</b> LP Gas Fires – Attack &amp; Control <b>Mod:</b> Foam – Concept &amp; Application</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 24</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> RIT – Basic Skills &amp; Evolutions <b>Mod:</b> RIT – FF Rescue Evolutions - Below Grade Rescue/Removal - Restricted Space Rescue/Removal - Difficult Access Rescue/Removal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 29</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Vehicle Ext – Safety &amp; Aware. <b>Mod:</b> Vehicle Extrication – Technology <b>Mod:</b> Vehicle Extrication – Techniques <b>Mod:</b> Special Rescue Support Demo</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 25 – Live Fire 4</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire-ground Operations - Fire Attack &amp; Ventilation - Forcible Entry &amp; Search - Rapid Intervention Operations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 30 – Live Fire 5</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire-ground Operations - Fire Attack &amp; Ventilation - Forcible Entry &amp; Search - Fire Scene Support <b>Mod:</b> Cause &amp; Origin Demo</p>

**Week 7****Week 8**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 31 – Lecture</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire Service Vehicle Operator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 36 – Lecture</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 32</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Hazardous Material Awareness <b>Mod:</b> Technical Rescue Awareness <b>Mod:</b> Special Rescue Tools &amp; Equip <b>Mod:</b> Terrorism Awareness <b>Mod:</b> Wildland &amp; Ground Cover Fires</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 37</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 33</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> RIT – Gear Removal &amp; FF CPR Basic Skills Review</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 38</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 34</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Courage to Be Safe program - <i>Chiefs Day Luncheon</i> - <b>Mod:</b> Firefighter Health &amp; Wellness <b>Mod:</b> Behavioral/Stress Management <b>Mod:</b> Substance Use Disorder (SUD)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 39</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 35 – Live Fire 6</b></p> <p><b>Mod:</b> Fire-ground Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fire Attack &amp; Ventilation</li> <li>- Forcible Entry &amp; Search</li> <li>- Ground Ladders &amp; Support</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 40</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hazardous Materials Operations See SOG 302</p>

## **Week 9**

### **Day 41**

**Mod:** Requisite Skills Assessment

### **Day 42**

**Mod:** Requisite Skills Assessment

### **Day 43 – Live Fire 7**

**Mod:** Fire-ground Operations

- Fire Attack & Ventilation
- Forcible Entry & Search
- Ground Ladders & Support

### **Day 44**

**Mod:** Equipment Maintenance

- Equipment & Facility Inspection

### **Day 45 – Graduation**

**Mod:** Requisite Knowledge Asses.

OSFM Basic Exam  
Open House & Graduation



## Reference List

*Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills and Hazardous Materials Response* (2019). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

Corbett, G. P. (2016). *Brannigans Building Construction for the Fire Service*. S.L.: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

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The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). (2018, February 22). Retrieved March 03, 2018, from <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/default.html>

Courage to Be Safe®. (n.d.). Retrieved March 03, 2018, from <https://www.everyonegoeshome.com/training/courage-safe-training/>

American Heart Association. (2020). *Basic life support: Provider manual*.