



Terry Wages
Executive Director

STATE FIRE ACADEMY

Division of Mississippi Department of Insurance
1 Fire Academy U.S.A.
Jackson, Mississippi 39208-9600
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Mike Chaney
Insurance Commissioner

Regarding Covid – 19 Pandemic

Fire Academy Update 7/28/2020

During the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic, we hope all first responders across the State of Mississippi are safe and doing well. This letter is to provide an update for fall courses and deliveries at the State Fire Academy. Our catalog and calendar were adjusted to address the exposure risk for students attending the Academy.

One of the issues that we are addressing is the dorm. With the COVID Pandemic, we can only allow one person per dorm room. Students will be allowed to commute to campus each day and are not required to stay on campus at night.

Our main priority this fall will be the 1001 Fire Fighter Program. It is essential to the fire service that we keep this program running. Please find attached herein the COVID -19 guidelines for students and staff on-campus. The Fire Academy will take every measure to be sure our campus is as safe as possible for everyone. As of now, with the exception of Basic 1001 I-II, **all other on campus courses for 2020 have been cancelled.**

Additional classes will be considered this fall if the dorm and Academy facilities will allow. Currently, any on-campus course will be conducted in the Auditorium to ensure proper spacing of students. Here is the latest information regarding course deliveries for the remainder of 2020.

1001 Fire Fighter Program

Course selection will be made using the following criteria

- Hiring Date of the student
- Receipt of ALL of the following items:
 - Medical Physical
 - CPAT Completion
 - Medical Skills
 - HS Diploma
 - PHOTO ID
 - Letter from sponsoring department / application
 - **Completion of Haz Mat A/O (NEW Requirement)**

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Course Delivery Dates:

Class 188 August 3rd - September 17th (class will be conducted Labor Day week)

Class 189 September 21st - November 5th

Class 190 November 9th - December 17th (class will require an extended weekend in order to complete before Christmas)

Instructor Chief Marcus Collier (mcollier@msfa.ms.gov) is available to answer questions regarding your enrollment in the 1001 programs. His staff will be in contact with all candidates upon receiving applications and placement in these programs.

All Field Courses and 12-hour schools are open and can be conducted upon request as normal. This includes the HazMat A/O Online Program, which will be offered each month.

Fire Officer and Fire Instructor courses will be conducted on-line as requested.

The EMT Basic Program will be offered in the Hybrid format in October. Course syllabus and information will be posted soon on our website. Instructor Supervisor Rob Fisher (rfisher@msfa.ms.gov) can answer any questions regarding this program.

This is a very challenging time for this country, the State of Mississippi and our first responders. The Mississippi Fire Academy is committed to working diligently through this Pandemic to be sure essential training opportunities are available. Please be sure to check our Website, Facebook page and You-tube Channel for new updates.

The below attached document will serve as the guidance for on-campus courses and activities as we slowly re-implement our training schedules.

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Mississippi Fire Academy
COVID-19 Student/Instructor Guidelines

Each Student / Instructor arriving on Campus shall complete this COVID-19 questionnaire.

Please read and answer the following questions. (Circle your response)

- Have you or anyone in your household had any of the following symptoms in the last 21 days: **sore throat, cough, chills, body aches for unknown reasons, shortness of breath for unknown reasons, loss of smell, loss of taste, fever at or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit?** YES NO
- Have you or anyone in your household visited or received treatment in a **hospital, nursing home, long-term care, or other health care facility in the past 30 days?** YES NO
- Have you or anyone in your household cared for an individual who is in **quarantine or is a presumptive positive or has tested positive for COVID-19?** YES NO
- Do you have any reason to believe you or anyone in your household has been **exposed to or acquired COVID-19?** YES NO
- To the best of your knowledge have you been in **close proximity to any individual who tested positive for COVID-19?** YES NO

If the student/Instructor answers “yes” to any question, their responses will be reviewed by the Instructor Chief / MSFA Administration to assess whether the student/ Instructor can remain on campus.

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July 28, 2020

Effective Immediately (Revision)

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Re: COVID-19 Workplace Protocol Revision 7/28/20

On Campus Protective Measures (revised 7/28/20)

All staff members shall be required to wear a mask while on campus. The following areas do not require masks:

- In a person's office / alone (guests in offices shall maintain a six foot spacing distance and wear a mask)
- Outside with gatherings of less than 10 people, social distancing measures in place and maintained
- After being seated in the cafeteria to eat (mask must be immediately donned after finishing meal)
- During outside Physical activities (PT) proper distancing required
- When alone in assigned dorm room (only 1 per room)

Masks will be made available and each student shall have a mask on his/her person at all times.

Workout Area/s

- The weight room will remain open, not to exceed 4 people at any one time
- All Equipment must be wiped down with disinfectant immediately following each use.
- All gatherings must maintain social distancing, regardless of the size

Dayroom

- Masks and social distancing will be required in the Dayroom area of the student dormitory
- Dayroom capacity will not exceed the number of persons required to maintain the proper protective distancing

Classroom

- Students are allowed but not required to wear masks at their desks or assigned seats, as each of the desks will be positioned more than 6 feet apart. Once a student leaves his/her desk area or wanders around the class area, masks are required. Protective distancing will be enforced during all classroom activities

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- Instructors are not required to wear a mask when teaching as long as there is an approximate 10-15 ft. distance from the closest student. For any interaction inside of this barrier, a mask is required.

Weekly/Daily Testing

Each day students will have temperature checks upon entering the classroom before class begins and after lunch. Results of these tests will be recorded and placed in the course folder.

On Monday and Wednesday each week, a “smell test” will be conducted for the students. This test will be conducted by utilizing two cups of different smells in order to determine if possible Covid-19 symptoms could be present.

If a student cannot confirm “smell” following the smell test, the student will be separated from the other students until appropriate action/s can be taken and the student can properly be evaluated for signs and symptoms of the virus which include a medically supervised COVID Test.

Any elevated temperatures or lack of smell should be reported to the Bureau Instructor Chief and Administration.

Exposure/Student/s

- Upon suspected COVID-19 infection, the student will be immediately quarantined, forms for dismissal from the course completed and arrangements made for the student to leave the Campus
- Following the departure of the suspected COVID-19 positive student, he/she will not be permitted to return to Campus as part of the on-going class.
- Symptoms that will be cause for suspect of a student COVID-19 infection will include the current symptoms listed under the CDC guidelines

Exception:

- No test will be needed to return to class if it has been 14 days since the positive COVID-19 diagnosis and the student is displaying no symptoms of the virus (Here I took out the word “work” since it’s for only students)

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If a student has been exposed to someone carrying or possibly carrying the COVID-19 virus, and that student is showing no symptoms, they will be required to return to class, maintain social distancing and wear a face mask as required under these guidelines. If a student begins to show signs or symptoms of COVID-19, the student will be required to leave the Campus and seek testing.

Exceptions:

- If a student has been in close proximity of the possible/confirmed COVID-19 carrier for more than 15 minutes in a confined area (12'X12' space)
- If a student and/or the possible/confirmed COVID-19 carrier was unprotected (no mask) for any amount of time during his/her interactions

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