

FIRE F220

Emergency Services Safety, Health and Survival

Course Syllabus

Description:

This course introduces the basic principles and history related to the national firefighter life safety initiatives, focusing on the need for cultural and behavior changes throughout the emergency services. This interactive course will examine current and future issues in emergency services including; close calls, near misses, line of duty deaths, risk management, mitigation and personal and organizational accountability.

Prerequisites: Fire F101, Fire F131, Fire F133, Fire F135 and Fire F137 or Instructor Permission

Course Objectives:

Describe the importance of public education as a critical component of life safety programs.

Discuss the importance of fire sprinklers and code enforcement.

Explain the importance of safety in the design of apparatus and equipment.

Define and describe the need for cultural and behavioral change within the emergency services relating to safety, incorporating leadership, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.

Explain the need for enhancements of personal and organizational accountability for health and safety.

Define how the concepts of risk management affect strategic and tactical decision-making.

Describe and evaluate circumstances that might constitute an unsafe act.

Explain the concept of empowering all emergency services personnel to stop unsafe acts.

Validate the need for national training standards as they correlate to professional development inclusive of qualifications, certifications, and re-certifications.

Defend the need for annual medical evaluations and the establishment of physical fitness criteria for emergency services personnel throughout their careers.

Explain the vital role of local departments in national research and data collection systems.

Illustrate how technological advancements can produce higher levels of emergency services safety and survival.

Explain the importance of investigating all near-misses, injuries and fatalities.

Discuss how incorporating the lessons learned from investigations can support cultural change throughout the emergency services.

Describe how obtaining grants can support safety and survival initiatives.

Formulate an awareness of how adopting standardized policies for responding to emergency scenes can minimize near-misses, injuries and deaths.

Explain how the increase in violent incidents impacts safety for emergency services personnel when responding to emergency scenes.

Recognize the need for counseling and psychological support for emergency services personnel, their families, as well as, identify access to local resources and services.

Course Outcomes:

Each student will be able to identify strategies to survive a career in emergency services to and beyond retirement.

Students will be empowered to make positive change to the emergency services career field.

Students will have the tools they need to be safe and aware of potential hazards with the emergency services career field.

Students will be able to define how formal and informal policies are instituted and govern emergency services organizations.

Methods:

This course includes lecture, case study and student research.

Grading Policy:

In determining final grade, the student performance will be evaluated in the following areas:

Attendance:	10%
Participation:	15%,
Exams and Quizzes:	50%
Research Paper and Homework Assignments:	25%
Other:	N/A

Students who wish to drop this class must withdraw officially. This can be done by completing an ADD/DROP form in the Office of Admissions and Records. Students, who stop attending class without officially withdrawing, may receive a "F" grade. Students who do not participate substantially in the course will receive a Faculty Initiated Withdraw.

Excused absences and make up of missed material must be approved by the instructor & notification prior to class or in a timely manner in the event of an emergency. Employment obligations are not an excused absence.

Letter Grades for the course will be determined as follows and will reflect the grading system and grade point average computation policy stated in the current UAF course catalog:

A.....	100-90%
B.....	89-80%
C.....	79-70%
D.....	69-60%
F.....	Below 60%

Policies:

Late work will be accepted up to five (5) days after the due date with a penalty of one full letter grade.

Research Paper:

Students will write a five page (minimum) research paper on the assigned subject. No work may be submitted for two courses without explicit approval of both instructors. (See UAF Honor Code) A list of sources cited must be included for all reference material used.

UAF Honor Code:

The public holds emergency services personnel accountable to the highest standards of ethics. The credibility of our degree program requires that we meet those expectations in every way possible. As a UAF student, you are subject to the Honor Code. The University assumes that the integrity of each student and the student body as a whole will be upheld. Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. It is your responsibility to help maintain the integrity of the student community including the reporting any observed violations to the Instructor or Program Coordinator. UAF's Honor Code is as follows:

1. Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home assignments that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the course instructor. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and exams. The use of study groups is encouraged.
2. Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports. (Specifically prohibited for this course are reports composed by other students from previous course offerings and any Internet sources.)
3. No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors. Students may use the same report topic and references from other courses if the Instructor is provided with a graded copy of any similar submissions to show that an identical report has not been submitted for credit twice.

Violations of the Honor Code will result in a failing grade for the assignment and for the course in which the violation occurred. Violations of the Honor Code may result in suspension or expulsion.

Disabilities Services:

The Office of Disabilities Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures the UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. Your instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

Text Book/Resources:

16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives (www.everyonegoeshome.com)

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/home.php>

Fire Science Blog to be maintained during F220.

Suggested Reading:

<http://www.firefighternearmiss.com/>

Course Outline:

Class 1

Lecture Part 1: Course Introduction

- A. Introduction and Orientation of Instructors and Students
- B. Discussion of course content
- C. Student responsibilities
- D. Grading policy
- E. Honor Code

Lecture Part 2: Emergency Services Culture and Behavior

- A. History of fire service culture
- B. Organizational culture
- C. Individual role in culture/behavior

Assignment: Review Chapter 1 of the text (pg. 3-22). Read the 16 Fire and Life Safety Initiatives (Chapter 1 pg 7-18). Read Chapter 2 of the text (pg. 23-28). Reach Chapter 4 of the text (pg. 63-76).

Class 2

Lecture: Defining Nature of the Problem

- A. History of line of duty deaths and injuries statistics
- B. Defining the nature of the problem

Assignment: Find a Line of Duty Death or NIOSH report relevant to emergency services. Prepare a summary of this report. In addition, please submit a copy of the report with your summary. These summaries and their reports will be discussed next class. Read Chapter 3 of the text (pg. 39-62). Respond to BLOG question #1.

Class 3

Lecture: The National Context, Health and Safety

- A. Data Collection (NFIRS)
- B. Research and Investigation
- C. NIST and NIOSH
- D. Discussion: Line of Duty Death or NIOSH Reports, Findings and Summaries
- E. Discussion: BLOG Question #1

Assignment: Read Chapter 8 in the text (pg161-188). Respond to BLOG Question #2.

Class 4

Lecture: The National Context, Health and Safety Continued

- A. NFPA, OSHA
- B. Medical and fitness standards
- C. Discussion: BLOG Question #2.

Assignment: Read Chapter 7 of the text (pg. 123-160). Respond to BLOG Question #3.

Class 5

Lecture: Training, certification and credentialing

- A. Training standards, safety issues and improvements
- B. Certification and credentialing
- C. Discussion: BLOG Question #3.

Assignment: Read Chapter 10 of the text (pg. 209-254). Research topics for your research paper-be prepared to present your research project topic to your instructor next class.

Class 6

Lecture: Apparatus, Equipment and Appropriate Response

- A. Apparatus and equipment
- B. Emergency response – response to emergency scenes

Assignment: Read Chapter 9 of the text (pg. 189-208).

Class 7

Lecture: Current and emerging technologies and subsequent changes

- A. Current technologies
- B. Emerging technologies
- C. Special Requirements
- D. Subsequent changes

Assignment: Respond to Blog Question #4. Research and write a page paper regarding technology. Read Chapter 5 of the text (pg. 77-90). Upon receiving instructor approval for your research paper topic, begin this assignment and be prepared to submit this assignment class 10.

Class 8

Lecture: Organizational Health and Safety

- A. Personal and organizational accountability
- B. Present condition/culture
- C. Investigations - internal
- D. Analyzing your profile
- E. Utilizing grants to meet needs

Guest Speaker: Presumptive legislation.

Assignment: Watch Mark Noble Video. Write 500 word response outlining your thoughts on cancer research, changing emergency services culture or presumptive legislation. Read Chapter 6 of the text (pg. 91-122).

Class 9

Lecture: Risk Management

- A. Risk management concepts and practices
- B. Unsafe acts
- C. Empowerment definition
- D. Discussion: BLOG Question #4.

Assignment: Respond to Blog Question #5. Remember your research paper is due next class. Read Chapter 11 of the text (pg. 253-264).

Class 10

Lecture: Effects of Fire and Life Safety Prevention

- A. Prevention
- B. Education Programs
- C. How Prevention and Programs Relate to Firefighter Safety
- D. Discussion: BLOG Question #5.

Assignment: Read Chapter 12 of the text (pg. 265-272).

Class 11

Lecture: Implementation of Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

- A. Problem Identification
- B. Culture Lag
- C. Change Agents
- D. First Steps

Assignment: Respond to Blog #6.

Class 12

Lecture: Implementation of Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Continued

- A. Discussion: Research Paper Outcomes
- B. Leadership
- C. Discussion: BLOG Question #6.

Class 13

Lecture: Reveal Real World Complexities

- A. Discussion Application of the Course
- B. Discussion: Real World Examples

Guest Speaker: Initiating Change and Improving an Environment

Assignment: Prepare for final Examination

Class 14

Lecture: Course Wrap-Up

A. The Severity

B. The Impact

C. The Potential

D. Class Review/Evaluation/Suggestions

Final Examination

Instructor:

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