

WECAN

WORKFORCE EQUIPPED CERTIFICATIONS ACHIEVED NOW



THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Arkansas Fire Training Academy's Workforce Equipped Certifications Achieved Now (WECAN) program is multi-faceted:

1. Prepare high school students for immediate entry into the workforce
2. Eliminate the time needed for fire departments to put newly hired firefighters in service
3. Create locally trained people to enhance participation in volunteer fire departments

As participants of the WECAN program, the Arkansas Fire Training Academy (AFTA) is permitting Arkansas high school students under the standard age of 18 to engage in this training endeavor. This program will serve as a valuable means of recruiting and retaining future volunteer and career firefighters. This document provides an overview of the requirements for hosting the WECAN program curriculum courses at Arkansas high school and career academies. The goal is to help program leaders and administrators establish fire service training that complies with the rules and instructional objectives set forth by the Arkansas Fire Training Academy and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications. This information is also intended to help ensure that the consistency and effectiveness of firefighter programs offered throughout the state meets the very high standard for training quality established by the AFTA, that students are safe, and the integrity of all testing processes is constantly maintained.

II. Scope

This policy affects those involved in the implementation of the WECAN program: the staff, sponsoring fire departments and hosting school districts, as well as the program instructor(s), participating students and their parents/guardians.

III. Guidelines

A. Program Overview

1. Program Scheduling

During the appropriate curriculum selection timeframe, selecting Firefighter I will prompt the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) to inform the school district to notify the AFTA of the intent to teach a course

- a. Schools are required to complete a course request form
- b. A Firefighter Pathway Sponsor Form must be filled out and sent to the Deputy Director

B. Program Disqualifiers

1. If a school does not have access to equipment and facilities or only has limited/minimal support from a fire department, they are not eligible to participate in this program. Local fire department support is required to begin.

C. Course Pathway(s)

1. The program is designed to be completed in order with few options for students from ninth grade to twelfth grade. The following are a few example

Option #1:

- a. Ninth/Tenth/Eleventh/Twelfth
 - a. Introduction to Emergency Services
 - i. Hazardous Materials Awareness (8hrs) and Operations(24hrs), AFTA First Aid Provider (40hrs), Wildland Firefighting (8hrs) (state requirement) (80 Total hrs)
 - b. Tenth/Eleventh/Twelfth
 - a. Firefighter I (219 hrs)
 - c. Eleventh/Twelfth
 - a. Firefighter II (61 hrs)

2. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) may be taken through your local community college. If they will not sponsor your class, or you do not have one available contact the AFTA and we will try to sponsor it for you.

******Students may enter the program at any year of the four-year program; however, they must begin with Introduction to Emergency Services as their first year of study.

Here are the options of when students may take classes and who schools may offer them to

Course	Eligible Year
Introduction to Emergency Services	9, 10, 11, 12
Firefighter I	10, 11, 12
Firefighter II	11, 12

This program will require coursework to include some combination of; AFTA First Aid Provider, Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMA), Hazardous Materials Operations (HMO), Wildland Firefighter, Firefighter I, and Firefighter II. These curriculum materials

must be acquired from the AFTA. Any supplemental learning materials instructors wish to use in their courses should be material from which curriculum is based

- a. Questions of permissibility should be directed to the AFTA Deputy Director

3. Course Design & Structure

The exact duration of the Firefighter I and Firefighter II courses will vary, depending on the seat time required to fulfill the requirements for AFTA, including the academic and practical skills testing. The cognitive portions of the training are delivered in a traditional classroom setting. The minimum time for each section is listed in C.1.

School leaders should determine the most appropriate teaching method and time schedule for their particular program. The class schedule and syllabus can be adjusted accordingly. Depending on the schedule chosen, weekend lectures, skill training sessions or field trips may be required in order to provide enough class time to meet the overall course requirements and ensure positive student outcomes.

4. Prerequisites

Before beginning a Firefighter 1 course, students must successfully complete the following prerequisites. If students do not have the prerequisites before entering the Firefighter 1 program they cannot participate.

- A. AFTA First Aid Provider/CPR or EMT
- B. Wildland Firefighting
- c. Hazardous Materials Awareness

During Firefighter 1 class and before certification testing is allowed, students must complete:

- a. ICS 100,200,700,800 (Resource One or training.fema.gov)
- b. Big basement or equivalent

Before beginning a Firefighter II course, students must successfully complete the Firefighter 1 program and the following prerequisite. If students do not have the prerequisite before entering the Firefighter II program, they cannot participate.

- a. Hazardous Materials Operations

Before Firefighter II certification testing, the student is required to complete a Firefighter Encounter Agility Test. A description of the test is included.

5. Class Size & Instructor Ratio

Class size should be limited to 25 students, according to the AFTA requirements. Additional instructors must assist with moderate/high risk activities, such as live burns; and be certified to do so; usually a 1:5 instructor/student ratio. Firefighters from the host fire department are strongly encouraged to assist with classroom and fire ground training activities. Each skill sheet in the AFTA curriculum specifies the need for additional instructors as required.

B. Facilities & Equipment

Any facility or equipment item available to the training program may be used. The host fire department may loan bunker gear, SCBA and PASS devices, cylinders, tools, equipment, apparatus and other items not owned by the school. However, **ALL** equipment must meet applicable NFPA requirements and safety standards. Funding for this may be provided via grants*.

1. Equipment

Each student should have:

- a. A full set of bunker gear – turnout coat and pants, hood, structural firefighting boots, gloves, a helmet with shield, safety glasses or goggles and a properly fitting SCBA facemask. All equipment must be within its 10 yr. service date required by NFPA.
- b. Stethoscope

Each student should have access to:

- a. Self-Contained breathing apparatus
- b. Pumper, ladder and other necessary apparatus
- c. Extinguishers, ladders, nozzles, tools, appliances and other hand equipment
- d. Blood pressure cuff

Start up grants are available through the ADE to help cover some of these costs

1. Facilities

Classroom and training facilities should be comfortable for students with plenty of space. Burn facilities must be inspected and certified by the AFTA. The use of our mobile burn trailer may be an option.

- a. Adequate lighting, heating, plumbing, ventilation and seating

Facilities and equipment required for conducting fire training typically include, but are not limited to, the following types of items:

- a. A multiple-story tower-type structure, where students can use ladders, advance hose lines, perform simulated rescues and hoist equipment.
- b. Structures and training devices that allow for forcible entry and ventilation drills on doors, windows, roofs, floors, ceilings and partitions.
- c. Hydrant and/or drafting facilities.
- d. Facilities for live fire training that will, when required, permit the use of breathing apparatus in an enclosed structure.
- e. Facilities that will enable students to practice extinguishing flammable liquid, propane and natural gas and vehicle fires.

If a school does not have access to equipment and facilities or only has very limited/minimal support from a fire department, they are not eligible to participate in this program. Local fire department support is required to begin.

Note: The above lists provide an overview of equipment needs and is not intended as a required or complete purchase list. Each skill sheet in the AFTA curriculum includes a list of equipment and props needed in order to perform the specific type of training as well as guidance documents provided by the ADE. Grants or other funding obtained through various organizations may be available to purchase equipment for school firefighter programs; while the fire department partnership may provide access as well. Funding requests and needs are the responsibility of and at the discretion of the school district.

7. Program Credit

a. School Program Credit

Academic testing and school credit requirements should be established by the school system and the course coordinator. Successful completion of the WECAN program allows a student to receive high school transcript credit.

b. AFTA Credit

Successfully passing all examinations, including weekly exams, certification exams, chapter job performance requirements, and skill testing for certification, with a 70% or higher will allow a student to receive Arkansas Fire Training Academy credit for Firefighter I and II, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations – as well as International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and Pro Board Seals. Students will also receive credit for First Aid Provider from AFTA. Successful completion of the Emergency Medical Technician curriculum will permit the student to participate in the National Registry Examination.

All end-of-course exams, First Aid Provider, FFI and II, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations are administered by AFTA personnel. In course quizzes and tests are administered by AFTA or third-party school personnel.

c. College Credit

AFTA is a division of SAU Tech. All certification courses successfully completed during the WECAN program may be submitted to SAU Tech for a one-time portfolio fee, and are eligible to earn college credit. Credit is available according to the following scale:

First Aid Provider – 3 credit hours
Firefighter I – 3 credit hours
Firefighter II – 3 credit hours
Hazardous Materials Awareness-1 credit hours
Hazardous Materials Operations – 2 credit hours
Emergency Medical Technician – 6 credit hours (if chosen)

8. Retesting

Retesting in this program follows the AFTA Retesting Policy.

9. Program Fee

AFTA requires a \$200 certification fee for each student's annual enrollment per course

This fee covers the dual IFSAC and Pro Board accreditations associated with all of these courses, testing fees, proctor fees as well as administrative fees.

10. Students

Students who are not formally enrolled in the WECAN program may not participate in any activities in the course.

To train to the level of Firefighter I, WECAN students must:

- a. Be at least 15 years of age
- b. Be enrolled in an Arkansas Career Academy, high school or a similarly qualified academic institution
- c. Meet the grade requirements of their school and remain in good academic standing while in the course

- d. Provide proof of personal insurance. Copies maintained by the school
- e. Complete a certified fit test
- f. Before the course begins, disclose information about a physical, medical, or learning disability that could potentially affect classroom or fire ground performance or safety
- g. Complete and submit the AFTA new student application
- h. Obtain a FEMA Student ID (www.cdp.dhs.gov/FEMASID, select register for a FEMA SID)
- i. Comply with class attendance requirements throughout the duration of the course
- j. It is required that students pass a physical exam that includes clearance for using SCBA
 - a. Minimum recommended: Sports Exam
 - b. Recommended requirement: A physical that meets the intent of NFPA 1582

**These job requirements should be shared with the licensed medical practitioner who performs the students' exams. **

C. Stakeholder Responsibilities

1. Program Instructors

- a. The classroom instructor must receive/maintain minimum of Instructor I certification from AFTA or teacher certification from the State of Arkansas.
- b. The instructor must hold current certification in the course they are teaching (such as Firefighter I, Firefighter II, or other courses being taught). AFTA will provide assistance to WECAN instructors to help them complete the appropriate training. This may be achieved through regular training sessions at AFTA or local fire departments, instructor orientation workshops, or a customized process arranged by AFTA and the school district. Instructors will be required to maintain certification with AFTA.
- c. EMT Instructors MUST be certified through the Arkansas Department of Health via AFTA.
 - i. Contact AFTA to begin this process
- d. EMT Class requires extensive documentation prior to course delivery. School representatives should work with AFTA well ahead of the course to ensure required information is received and processed.

- e. Qualified AFTA instructors may also choose to complete one of the alternative pathways if they wish to pursue state teacher certification. For more information, contact the ADE.
- f. As part of course evaluations and as a means to improve the course delivery and structure, students may be asked to complete confidential questionnaires concerning their opinion of assignments and activities, the textbook and other components of the curriculum. No opinions should be reported as coming from any individual without the consent of the student and parent.
- g. Before the beginning of a Firefighter 1 or 2 course, it is required that instructors hold a meeting for students and their parents/guardians. Participants in the course will be exposed to physical and mental stress beyond those experienced in a typical classroom setting. Instructors should ensure parents are aware of the nature of the course.
- h. To make sure all of those involved are fully informed, instructors should provide a packet that includes the following types of information:
 - a. Letter from the school's top administrator and/or the course coordinator or department head
 - b. An overview of the NFPA standards on which courses are based (NFPA 1001)
 - c. A description of the course and course syllabus
 - d. Location of off-campus sites where training will be conducted
 - e. Grooming and clothing requirements. This may be found in the AFTA Student Manual and the AFTA Fire Standards Student Manual.
 - f. Prerequisites for training
 - g. Physical training expectations during the course
 - h. Explanation of possible risks of injury associated with fire suppression and other training activities
 - i. Expectations for class grades, personal conduct, class assignments, attendance and daily preparation
 - j. Computer and internet access requirements
 - k. Proof of insurance
 - l. Physician's physical release for the respiratory evaluation for SCBA use
 - m. Checklist of required forms, documents and prerequisite tasks
 - n. Written permission for use of photos on web pages, social media and printed publications of students engaged in classroom and skill activities.

2. Sponsoring Fire Departments

In addition to AFTA, ADE, and the school, WECAN programs must be affiliated with or sponsored by a fire department or qualified fire agency. A relationship between the fire instructor or program leader and the sponsoring fire department/agency must be maintained to ensure the active involvement of fire department members in the mentoring of students, facilitating student career development and assisting with classroom instruction, skills training and field trips.

Firefighters from local departments may serve as classroom and fire ground teaching assistants.

3. Guidance Counselors

Guidance/career counselors should understand the physical requirements and nature of the course before enrolling students in fire service training. They should also understand that the required textbooks are written at the college level. While firefighting is a physical activity, it also requires a high level of cognitive work and testing. Students with disabilities who are admitted to the program should have an individualized education plan (IEP) for them to complete the course. The program instructor of the WECAN program may meet with the special education teachers to develop a student's IEP. While reasonable accommodations for a student with special needs must be made so they can complete the course in some sort of achievable fashion, a student cannot qualify to take an exam for AFTA transcript credit or IFSAC/Pro Board certificate if he/she is unable to meet the full requirements for becoming a firefighter as stated in NFPA 1001.

IV. Attachments

1. Copy of student registration form
2. Copy of Firefighter Encounter Agility Test (FEATS) testing requirements
3. Required equipment list from DOE
4. Firefighter Pathway Sponsor Form
5. AFTA Policies and Procedures
6. AFTA Student handbook

*The ADE may have grant funding available for specific equipment

** Recommended information for Dr. physical to be a part of this program

Attachment 1 – Firefighter I Job Performance Requirements

NFPA 1001, 2019 ed.

Number	1001 Reference	Task
1	4.1.2	Don PPE
2	4.2.1	Initiate response to 911 call, receive 911 call
3	4.2.2	Receive a non-emergency phone call
4	4.2.3	Use a FD radio
5	4.2.4	MAYDAY Call
6	4.3.1	Don SCBA
7	4.3.2	Respond on apparatus to emergency scene
8	4.3.3	Establish work area at emergency scene
9	4.3.4	Forcible entry
10	4.3.5	Exit hazardous area
11	4.3.6	Ground ladders
12	4.3.7	Vehicle fire
13	4.3.8	Class A fire, exterior
14	4.3.9	Search and rescue, including ladders
15	4.3.10	Interior fire
16	4.3.11	Horizontal ventilation
17	4.3.12	Vertical ventilation
18	4.3.13	Overhaul
19	4.3.14	Salvage/Sprinklers
20	4.3.15	Hydrant
21	4.3.16	Fire extinguishers
22	4.3.17	Lighting/Generator
23	4.3.18	Utilities
24	4.3.19	Ground cover fire
25	4.3.20	Knots/Hoisting
26	4.3.21	Air-monitoring
27	4.5.1	Clean/inspect equipment
28	4.5.2	Clean/inspect fire hose

Attachment 2 – Firefighter II Job Performance Requirements

NFPA 1001, 2019 ed.

Number	1001 Reference	Task
1	5.1.2	Command/ICS
2	5.2.1	Incident report
3	5.2.2	Request team assistance
4	5.3.1	Extinguish Class B, liquid fire
5	5.3.2	Coordinate an interior attack
6	5.3.3	Extinguish a Class B, gas fire
7	5.3.4	Protect evidence
8	5.4.1	Vehicle extrication
9	5.4.2	Technical rescue, assist team
10	5.5.1	Fire safety survey/pre-incident plan
11	5.5.2	Present PSA
12	5.5.3	Pre-incident/pre-incident plan
13	5.5.4	Maintain power tools
14	5.5.5	Test fire hose

Attachment 3 – AFTA (sample, actual application is online)

Status *

- First-Time Student
- Returning Student
- Chief or Training Officer Completing Application for Multiple Students

Name *

First Name*

Last Name*

Address *

Address Line 1

City

State

ZIP Code

Contact Phone Number *

Email *

Date of Birth *

Month

Day

Year



Social Security Number *

FEMA Student ID Number *

Gender*

- Male
 Female

Please check the race/origin that applies to you*

- Caucasian Black Asian Hispanic Indian

Did you graduate high school or obtain your GED?*

- Yes No

Do you have any handicaps (including learning disabilities, special allergies or medical conditions) which would require special consideration during your attendance at the AFTA?*

- Yes No

Training Course You Want to Take:*

List of Course Dates (m/d/yyyy)*

All the days of the training must be listed.

Please select location:*

- On-Campus Off-Campus

Organizational Information

FDID Number:*

Name of Fire Department *

Name of Fire Chief or Training Officer*

Fire Dept. Phone Number (Fire Chief or Training Officer)*

Fire Department Address*

 Address Line 1 City State ZIP Code

Signature Section

Is your Chief and/or Training Officer aware of and approves of your participation in this training?

- Yes No

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION RECORDED ON THIS APPLICATION IS CORRECT. I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES AND POLICIES OF THE ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY IF I AM ADMITTED AS A STUDENT. FALSIFICATION OF INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN DENIAL OF ADMISSION. NO STUDENT UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WILL BE ADMITTED TO CLASS UNLESS PERMITTED BY THE AFTA.

BY SIGNING THIS APPLICATION, THE STUDENT AGREES TO ALLOW THE ACADEMY TO MAIL THE CERTIFICATE TO HIS/HER DEPARTMENT. AFTER THAT TIME, THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE AND CREDIT FOR IT WILL BE MADE ONLY UPON SIGNED PERMISSION BY THE STUDENT. I UNDERSTAND THE ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY DOES NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL OR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS, AND I MUST MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE INSURANCE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

Date/Time of Submission*

Month

Day

Year

Hour

Minute

AM/PM

Signature *

Use your mouse or finger to draw your signature above

Attachment 4 – Firefighter Encounter Agility Test (FEAT)

Procedure:

In order to complete the Firefighter II program, students are required to complete the FEATS agility course within 12 minutes.

Prior to beginning and after the test each student will have vitals taken and recorded. The student must perform the course while properly wearing full protective clothing and SCBA.

If the student fails to complete the course in the allotted time, runs out of air or removes any PPE, he/she will have a second chance to retake the FEATS test at least 24 hours after first attempt.

If the student passes the course on the second attempt, the time will be posted as 11:59.

If after 2 attempts the student cannot pass the Feats test, he/she will be dismissed from the course.

Course:

All portions of the course must be completed and in the proper order.

Time will begin when the participant breaks the starting point plane.

Station 1 – Hose drag

Participant will drag 100' of 2.5" hose a distance of 100'. At the end of the hose drag, the participant will attach a nozzle and then remove the nozzle. The nozzle must be screwed on until the threads bottom out. Participant will then remove the nozzle and place back on the ground.

Station 2 – Hose roll

Participant will straight roll a 50' section of 2.5" hose. The hose will not be rolled by dragging the hose towards the participant. The hose will be rolled until the hose roll contacts the female coupling. The participant will tamp the hose roll with their **hands** to provide a suitable bundle for storage. The hose will then be unrolled in a controlled manner. The hose will not be thrown or bowled out. At the completion, the hose will be in a relatively straight line and ready for the next participant.

Station 3 – Hose move

The participant will move three sections of 2.5" hose to three different locations. The participant will move section one from point A to point B. The participant will then move section two from point A to point B. The participant will next move section three from point A to point C. Participant will move section two from point B to point C. Finally, participant will section one from point B to point C. Hoses will be neatly stacked within the circle at each point. Participant will carry the hose with two hands in a flat carry manner. The participant will not carry the hose by the coupling or the banding material. Hose will be placed in a controlled manner; it will not be thrown or dropped.

Station 4 – Ladder raise / Leg lock

The participant will raise a 14' ladder using an approved technique of their choice. Participant will obtain the ladder, place the foot of the ladder into the ground and base of the building in a controlled manner. Participant will climb the ladder, touch the roof, execute a proper leg lock and then release their hands. After demonstrating the leg lock, participant will grasp the ladder, remove the leg lock and descend the ladder. Once on the ground, participant will lower the ladder using an approved technique of their choice and replace the ladder in the original location.

Participant must maintain control of the ladder at all times. If the participant drops the ladder, hits themselves in the head, excessive bouncing of the ladder against the ground or building or other indicators that suggest the participant has lost control of the ladder, the participant will be disqualified.

Station 5 – Attic simulator

The participant will ascend to the attic simulator. The participant will crawl through the attic simulator on their hands and knees. While exiting the attic simulator steps, the participant will descend feet first, on their knees or butt. Participant will sound each step as they descend. Participant will not stand until they reach the ground.

Station 6 – Stair climb / Hose hoist

At the base of the exterior stairs to the tower, the participant will pick up a 2.5” hose bundle and carry it to the fourth floor. At the fourth-floor landing, the participant will put down the hose bundle.

The participant will then hoist a 2.5” hose bundle to the fourth floor. The participant will then reach over the top rail and touch the hose bundle. Participant will then lower the hose bundle to the ground. The lowering will be in a controlled manner, the hose will not be allowed to freely slide through the hands at any time. When the hose is on the ground, the rope will be straight without any knots in it. The participant will then pick up the 2.5” hose bundle and descend the stairway.

The participant may skip steps while ascending the stairs. When descending the stairs, the participant must hit every step. It is **required** that participants use the handrail while **ascending/descending** the stairs.

Station 7 – Dummy drag

The participant will position at the head of the dummy and pull the dummy backwards 30’. The participant **must drag the dummy** around a cone **and then** back to the starting point. The feet of the dummy must cross the starting the line. If the dummy is in a SKED, the entire SKED must cross the line.

Station 8 – Walk to finish

The student then proceeds to the finish line. It is across the street. Once the participant crosses the curb into the grass, the course is complete. Removal of **any** PPE prior to crossing the finish line is a disqualification.

Notes

1. All PPE and SCBA must be worn properly during the entire test
2. This is an individual event. Any outside interference (physical, verbal, or other) will result in disqualification of the participant.
3. People are encouraged to motivate others that are testing.