

Fire Training School Torrington
Burrville State Fire School
P. O. Box 335
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063-0335
richard.t.winn@snet.net

Dear Litchfield County and neighboring firefighters;

The class schedules are set for the fall. The fire school will be running Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and our new Exterior Firefighter course. Firefighter I certification course will run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and every other weekend. The course will include certification for Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operational. The cost is \$600 which includes all exam fees, student textbook, and student workbook.

The Firefighter II course will run on Monday and Wednesday evenings and every other weekend. Last year the state started including Hazardous Materials Operational certification in the Firefighter I program. Because there may be students who became certified Firefighter I prior to this change we have included Operational in this course. Those students already certified will not have to take this section. The cost of the Firefighter II course is \$350 and includes all exam fees. The fire school is using the Second Edition of Jones and Bartlett's Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills. Firefighter II students who need the textbook and workbook will be charged an additional \$100. Please note this on the application in the upper right hand corner so we can have enough books.

The fire school made a change in the turn-out gear policy at the start of the spring Firefighter I course. Firefighter training is physical and turn-out gear takes a beating. Students are still required to have NFPA compliant gear for evolutions involving fire suppression and during the practical exam. Students may use older turn-out gear for other evolutions. The instructors will advise the students on when they can use older gear. Students were also encouraged to use duct tape on wear points (knees and boot toes). Knee pads may also help. Departments may want to send a roll of duct tape with their students.

The students are required to fill out a contact information sheet the first night of class. The form was changed last class to include consent from the student to release information about the student's performance to a designated departmental officer. If the student consents to the release of information, then the lead instructor can contact the department. Under privacy laws the fire school cannot release information without the consent of the student. Presently we are only contacting a department if we see a problem. Departments are always welcome to visit the class and see how their students are doing. I suggest that you inform your students on the contact information they should use so we contact the appropriate department member.

This fall for the first time the fire school will be offering an Exterior Firefighter course. This is not a certification course and the hours will not be credited toward Firefighter I in the future. The cost of the course is \$250. We will not be using a textbook for this course. The course was written by fire school instructors. This will be a pilot program. The class will meet on eight Tuesday evenings and five Sundays. The last Sunday the student will be able to put to use what they learned by assisting the Firefighter I class with their fire suppression day. The fire school will be looking for several training officers or other departmental officers to sit in on the class as an observer. We will ask the observers to complete an evaluation of each class. If you are interested in participating please contact the school director.

For the first time in recent memory I am asking departments to include the course fee with the application if at all possible. The State of Connecticut still has not passed a budget. Until they do the fire schools will most likely not receive any funding. The fire school will need funds to pay for books and instructor salaries prior to receiving the state funds. If getting a check processed will hold up the application, then send it without the check. I will send out invoice as soon as the course begins.

Lastly I would like to update you on the progress of rebuilding of our facility. The State of Connecticut Department of Public Works is in the process of writing the design documents. The surveyors have started to work at the fire school and test bores will be done soon. They plan on having the documents completed this fall. The fire school will be built utilizing a design-build program. That means one company will be hired to design and build the fire school. A committee was set up a couple of months ago to work on the final plans. Our hope is that it will be ready for bid around the first of 2010. Everything will depend on availability of state bonding. Burrville will be the third of eight fire schools to be rebuilt. We may ask you to contact state officials to help push this project forward. Please keep in mind once our fire school is rebuilt, we still will need to support the other fire schools. We have gotten to this point by sticking together and we need to continue working together to benefit the fire service in all of the state.

During the rebuilding process the fire school may be looking for one or two facilities to conduct training. Most likely the fire school will need to close for up to a year. Our schedule maybe limited during 2010. The fire school regularly conducts field classes, so we are sure we can still meet your training needs.

Richard Winn

Richard Winn, School Director
(860) 309-4375 (cell phone)