

University of Nevada, Reno Fire Science Academy
A National Training Asset
White Paper

Overall Goals

- Raise the awareness of the need for a national flammable liquid fire fighting training program
- Designate the FSA as a national training asset; a viable and needed addition to programs such as the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium
- Establish a long-term, stable funding source to support flammable-liquid fire fighting courses for career and volunteer firefighters
- Build support for a funding request within organizations like the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Firefighters, National Volunteer Council and Congressional Fire Services Caucus.

FSA Delivery of Grant Funded Programs – A Proven Track Record

Flammable-Liquid Fire Fighting - Course Stats

The Course

- Developed in 2004 with a grant sponsored by the Department of Energy
- 32 contact hours highlighting large scale flammable liquid disasters with the potential to threaten critical energy supply infrastructure, whether natural or manmade in origin
- Included response to terrorist “soft targets,” including truck and rail terminals, pipeline transfer stations, bulk tank storage facilities, railways, interstates, major highways and industrial facilities in municipal and rural communities
- Between 2004 and 2008, 36 courses held; a total of 2,225 emergency responders trained
- The program was oversubscribed; 1,700 applicants not served when funding ended.

Target Audience

- U.S. Municipal and rural firefighters, both career and volunteer
- Based on U.S. Fire Administration statistics, a percent of total career and volunteer departments was applied to determine the number of seats to be awarded by state
- Firefighters from all 50 states and the District of Columbia received training during the life of the program
- Of the students who indicated their job status on their application: 1,620 were full-time paid responders, 121 were paid on-call responders and 460 were volunteer responders.

The Grant

- Funded over four years through an annual grant, which was discontinued in FY2009
- A total of \$8.38 million received for the program. 80% of the funds were used directly in support of providing the training. The balance of funds was used for program development, assessment and awareness

- The grant provided full scholarships to attend the FSA in Carlin, Nevada – including tuition, gear rental, travel, lodging and meals
- Additional courses were developed including Large Scale Disaster Management for public officials and a flammable liquids train-the-trainer program. Both are available for delivery.

The FSA

Why this program should be offered at the Fire Science Academy

- 38 years of experience preparing emergency responders
- Founded as a school for the petroleum industry; a place where large flammable liquid fires are simulated
- Referenced in the OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Standard (1910.156 (c)(3)) as a program that meets the requirements for industrial fire brigade training
- Training field features full scale burnable props – equipment and structures replicate transportation, processing facility and marketing terminals
- Disasters from natural to manmade, including acts of terrorism can be simulated
- One of a very few venues available for hands-on flammable liquid training to this scale
- Capacity for other non-flammable liquid training courses
- The FSA is known for its intense, real-life training and use of specially formulated liquid petroleum fuels, designed to blaze with high intensity, generating volumes of challenging thick black smoke, while reducing the environmental impact