



Pennsylvania State Fire Academy

1150 Riverside Drive, Lewistown PA 17044

www.osfc.pa.gov



Minimum Standard for Accreditation (MSA)

Course Title: Hazardous Materials Awareness

Publication Date: 09/01/2024

Course Code: HMA24

Minimum Age: 14

Course Length: 6 Hours

PA DOH Con-Ed

Lecture / Lab / Test (Hours/Minutes):

Course #: 1000059900

4.5 Lecture / 1 Lab / .5 Test

(2 hrs. - Other)

Prerequisite(s) None

Reference(s) IFSTA Hazardous Materials for First Responders, Sixth Edition, Chapters 1-3. Each student is required to have access to the textbook and IFSTA's Hazardous Materials for First Responders Student Workbook.

Course Goal The Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMA24) course aims to prepare students who, during their normal duties, could encounter an emergency involving hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or a terrorist/criminal incident. They are expected to understand how to do the following at the HAZMAT Awareness Level: collect hazard information, use the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), isolate and deny entry at a HAZMAT scene, identify protective actions at a terrorist/criminal incident, and make appropriate notifications at a HAZMAT incident. This course serves as initial training as required under 29 CFR 1910.120 and the educational requirements of NFPA 470 standard to the Awareness Level.

Course Description The primary target audiences for this course are the First Responders (fire, rescue, emergency medical, police, etc.) who will witness or discover a hazardous substance/materials release or a terrorist/criminal incident. Students will be trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of the incident. They shall have sufficient training or have had sufficient experience to objectively demonstrate competency to understand what hazardous substances are, the risks, potential outcomes, the ability to recognize and identify their presence, their role, including site security, safe scene management and how to use the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) Emergency Response Guidebook during a hazardous materials/WMD or a terrorist/criminal emergency.

Instructional Methodology(s) The methodology for this course consists of lectures, discussions, and supervised practice using ERG exercises.

Student Equipment/Supplies Pen/pencil & notebook and recommended textbook.



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Facility Audiovisual / Equipment / Supplies

1. Classroom setup with usual amenities; computer and computer projection equipment with screen/monitor; audiovisuals for the course.
2. Instructor Guide and PowerPoint Presentation (HMA24).
3. Student Manual for each student (recommended).
4. One ERG (latest edition) for each student.
5. Safety Data Sheet (one per every two students).
6. One Skill Sheet - Hazardous Materials Identification for ERG.

Competency Evaluation Mechanism(s) 100% Class Attendance. Student performance on practical skill evolutions and written examination grade (minimum passing grade of 70% required for successful course completion).

Special Note(s) / Condition(s): Maximum enrollment is 30 students. Minimum age is 14 years old. The instructor will select specific discussion points and complete the skill sheet using a hazardous materials/WMD scenario.

Pre-Course Assignment(s) None

Course Outline

Time (Minutes)	Topic	Chapter
10 Minutes	Defining Hazardous Materials	1
15 Minutes	How Can Hazardous Materials Harm You?	1
15 Minutes	Roles and Responsibilities	1
10 Minutes	Who Governs a HAZMAT Incident?	1
10 Minutes	Seven Clues to the Presence of HAZMAT	2
15 Minutes	Locations, Occupancy Types, and Pre-incident Surveys	2
25 Minutes	Basic Container Information	2
25 Minutes	Hazard Classes and Divisions	2
20 Minutes	Transportation Placards, Markings, and Labels	2
15 Minutes	Non-transportation HAZMAT Markings and Labels	2
10 Minutes	Hazard Information Resources	2
10 Minutes	Sensory Clues and Victim Signs and Symptoms	2
5 Minutes	Monitoring and Detection Devices	2
10 Minutes	Collect Hazard Information	3
55 Minutes	Use the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)	3
10 Minutes	Isolate and Deny Entry	3
10 Minutes	Notify	3
60 Minutes	Lab – Skill Sheet 1	
30 Minutes	Test	



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Learning Objectives

Chapters 1-3 - The student will:

1. Recognize the presence of hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) at an incident scene. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
2. List ways that hazardous materials can harm you. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
3. Explain the roles and responsibilities of Awareness Level Personnel and Operations Level Responders at a HAZMAT incident. [NFPA 470, 5.1.1, 5.1.3, 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 5.4.1]
4. Discuss hazardous materials regulations and standards at the federal, state, and local level. [NFPA 470, 5.1.3, 5.2.1]
5. List the seven clues to the presence of hazardous materials. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
6. Recognize locations and occupancy types where HAZMAT may be found. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
7. Discuss how pre-incident surveys can be useful during a HAZMAT incident. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
8. Discuss how basic container information may help identify hazardous materials. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
9. Identify the nine UN hazard classes and their divisions. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
10. Recognize the different transportation placards, markings, and labels that help identify hazardous materials. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
11. Recognize the different types of HAZMAT markings and labels on non-transportation containers and at fixed facilities. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
12. Identify additional hazard information resources that will assist personnel in identifying hazardous materials. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
13. Explain how sensory clues and victim signs and symptoms can be used to identify the presence of hazardous materials. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
14. Discuss the role of Awareness Level Personnel when monitoring and detection devices are used to identify HAZMAT at an incident. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
15. Identify where and how Awareness Level Personnel should collect hazard information at a HAZMAT scene. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1]
16. Demonstrate how to use the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) at a HAZMAT incident. [NFPA 470, 5.2.1, 5.3.1]
17. Explain how Awareness Level Personnel should isolate and deny entry at a HAZMAT incident. [NFPA 470, 5.3.1]
18. Explain the notification process for Awareness Level Personnel at a HAZMAT incident. [NFPA 470, 5.4.1]

**Questions/Comments: Please contact the State Fire Academy
717-248-1115 OR in PA: 1-800-459-4096**



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Revision History

Date	Action	By
03/2021	Reviewed – Revised to reflect NFPA Standard Change	
09/2022	Template updated	R. McNaughton
02/13/2023	Template updated	J. Lauver
07/28/2023	Revised to reflect Change to IFSTA Curriculum	H. Boyer
06/10/2024	Revised to reflect Change to IFSTA Curriculum	P. Soergel