Program of Instruction
Course Syllabus

Course Title: Fire Service Vehicle Operator

Course Duration: 8 hours

Program: Driver/Operator

Course Prerequisites: Student must be a member of a fire department or Fire Brigade.

Course Description: The Fire Service Vehicle Operator course is designed for Firefighters or Engineers who are assigned, or may be assigned, to operate fire department apparatus during the normal course of their duties. Students will learn about their role as an emergency vehicle driver, proper care and maintenance of fire apparatus, vehicle characteristics, safe driving practices, emergency response driving, and scene positioning. This course, when combined with an AHJ-provided driving portion, lets the student complete OSFM certification. IFSI does not offer the driving portion of this course.

Course Requirements and/or Recommendations: These can be divided into three categories: those completed prior to arriving in class (Pre-Course Work), those completed during class, such as homework assignments and quizzes (Course Work), and requirements completed after class but prior to receiving a certificate of completion. (Post-Course Work)

Summary of Directions
Pre-Course Work: None
Course Work: Attend 100% of the course and successfully pass the final exam
Post-Course Work: Complete practical driving exercises

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy: IFSI requires students to attend (100%) or make up all course content that leads to certification. Students are expected to attend on time and to remain in class for the duration of the course. Students MUST COMPLETE all portions of a certification course, both classroom and practical, to be eligible to receive their certification.
If a student misses any portion of class with an accumulated absence of 20% or less of scheduled class time, it will be the student’s responsibility to arrange the make-up of the missed course content with the instructor(s) or program manager. The student must make up the specific course content that s/he missed, not just the hours. Make-ups are limited to 20% of scheduled class time. Make-ups must be documented on the class roster. If a student’s absence is greater than 20% refer to “True Emergences” section of the IFSI Examination Policy.

Safety Policy: Students shall understand and follow all instructions pertaining to operational safety, as stated by instructors or as written in course materials. Instructors and students shall be mindful of safety at all times. Conduct judged to be unsafe shall be grounds for dismissal from the course.

Academic Integrity Policy: IFSI has the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity so as to protect the quality of the education provided through its courses, and to protect those who depend upon our integrity. It is the responsibility of the student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Any violation of the code of conduct is grounds for immediate dismissal from the course.

Grading Policy: Decisions regarding certificates of course completion shall be made solely by the lead instructor of the course. All grading of exams shall be conducted by the Curriculum/Testing Office. All grading of practical exercises shall be based upon the standards set by the regulatory agency referenced in the course material and IFSI.

American Disabilities Act: As guaranteed in the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and in the American Disabilities Act, if any student needs special accommodations they are to notify their instructor and provide documentation as soon as possible so arrangements can be made to provide for the student’s needs. If arrangements cannot be made at the class site, the student will test at an alternative time and place where the special accommodations can be made.

Evaluation Strategy:
A written exam is conducted at the completion of the course.

Practical Exam:
You must complete a practical driver’s exam to be eligible for OSFM state certification. The practical driver’s exam is to be completed by the AHJ and consists of a competency course and a road course.
Reference List:


Jones and Bartlett Learning, Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator, 2nd Edition 2016

Volunteer Fireman’s Insurance Services, Emergency Vehicle Driver Training, 2008 Edition

Driving Safety Training, EVOC-101 Fire Course Training

Driving Safety Training, FleetDriver-101 Training

Illinois Secretary of State, Commercial Drivers’ License Study Guide, 2016

NFPA 1001, Standard for Professional Firefighter Qualifications, Edition 2013


NFPA 1500, Standard for Fire Department Occupational Health and Safety Program, Edition 2018

NFPA 1582, Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments, Edition 2018


NFPA 1911, Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus, Edition 2017


Federal Highway Administration, National Traffic Incident Management Responder Training Program Version 2, 2013

ResponderSafety.com, Blocking Procedures at Roadway Incidents, 2014

USFA, Safe Operation of Fire Tankers, FA-248

USFA, Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative, FA-336
Course Content:

Module: 1
Title: Introduction to Fire Service Vehicle Operator
Terminal Learning Objective:

1. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe the Fire Service Vehicle Operator course.

Module: 2
Title: The Emergency Vehicle Driver
Terminal Learning Objective:

2. At the conclusion of this module, the student will identify the requirements of an emergency vehicle operator.

Module: 3
Title: Fire Apparatus Care and Maintenance
Terminal Learning Objective:

3. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe the components of a vehicle care and maintenance program.

Module: 4
Title: Vehicle Braking Systems
Terminal Learning Objective:

4. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe the common braking systems found on fire service vehicles.

Module: 5
Title: Vehicle Dynamics
Terminal Learning Objective:

5. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe the effect of vehicle characteristics on the handling and operation of emergency vehicles.

Module: 6
Title: Safe Driving Practices
Terminal Learning Objective:

6. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe safe driving practices when operating emergency vehicles.

Module: 7
Title: Defensive Driving Principles
Terminal Learning Objective:

7. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe defensive driving strategies when operating emergency vehicles.
Module: 8
Title: Emergency Response Driving
Terminal Learning Objective:
8. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe how to safely operate an emergency vehicle when responding to an emergency.

Module: 9
Title: Scene Positioning
Terminal Learning Objective:
9. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe the proper positioning of fire apparatus for a given scenario.

Module: 10
Title: Practical Exercises
Terminal Learning Objective:
10. At the conclusion of this module, the student will describe the practical exercises required to complete the Fire Service Vehicle Operator course.
# Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1 – Introduction to Fire Service Vehicle Operator</td>
<td>45 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2 – The Emergency Vehicle Driver</td>
<td>60 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3 – Apparatus Care and Maintenance</td>
<td>60 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4 – Braking Systems</td>
<td>45 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 5 – Vehicle Dynamics</td>
<td>60 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 6 – Safe Driving Practices</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 7 – Defensive Driving Principles</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 8 – Emergency Response Driving</td>
<td>60 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 9 – Scene Positioning</td>
<td>60 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 10 – Practical Exercises</td>
<td>30 min.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>