Cornerstone Training

Firefighter Skills Training provided at no cost to Illinois Fire Departments.

Cornerstone training is locally available at no cost to Illinois Fire Departments. In here you will find a list of the more commonly requested classes. As always, more details are available from your Regional Representative.
Fire Fighting Essentials

Essentials 1 includes a brief classroom session with a series of hands-on instruction covering basic skills, small tools, SCBA, ladders, hose and pumps.

Essentials 2 includes “chalk talk” on building construction, plus continuing hands-on training that involves water supply evolutions, firefighter search and rescue, advanced SCBA, hose and ladders.

Essentials 3 expands upon Essentials 1 and 2 and covers communications, tactical priorities, plus advanced SCBA and other evolutions. The segments enhance cognitive and practical skills that are part of the Essentials program.

Essentials 4 rounds out the program and requires an acquired structure or access to an IFSI or other Regional Training Center. Practical skills are put to the test in evolutions that include forcible entry, ventilation, and live smoke (this is not an acquired, structure burn).

Fireground Training

Building Construction provides an understanding of construction types from fire resistive materials to wood frame structural components such as windows, floor systems, roof types, and how these relate to suppression activities.

Fire Behavior and Smoke explains how fires grow and spread, and how to recognize and anticipate what is happening in a burning building by observing the smoke and fire conditions.

Fireground Ropes and Knots covers appropriate ropes for utility applications, plus how to tie proper knots for hoisting various tools and equipment on the fireground.

Fire Service Ladders works with locally-supplied ladders and covers their components, application, inspection and maintenance. The class also covers safe ladder carries, positioning, working from, climbing and other ladder operations. Instructors also discuss ladder components, application, inspection and maintenance.

Forcible Entry identifies various types of forcible entry situations and locks that may be found on the fireground and how to gain access through them.

Hand Line Operations and Application focuses on nozzles, tips, patterns and required pressures, plus advancing various sizes of hoses into all areas of a structure.

Master Stream Operations and Application identifies conditions requiring master stream nozzles and safe hose handling and operating procedures.

Overhaul and Salvage covers avoiding rekindles by learning the methods of detecting and exposing hidden fires and protecting property.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) sessions teach core skills including donning, doffing, shifting, dumping, emergency procedures and buddy breathing.

Ventilation class covers the advantages and disadvantages of different types of ventilation as they relate to building construction, procedures, types of openings, roof styles and the recognition of signs of potential back drafts and flashovers.

Thermal Imaging Cameras familiarizes the student with the operation and departmental SOGs for camera usage.

Fire Origin and Cause Awareness covers basic fire investigation and is designed to teach firefighters how to support the fire investigation process.

Fireground Search and Rescue demonstrates safe, efficient search techniques for the routine structure fire. Rope Assisted Search Procedures (RASP) may also be presented in the class.

Firefighter Rehabilitation and Heat Stress Management presents the relationship between heat stress and cardiovascular strain and how this impacts firefighter injuries and fatalities.

Ethanol Awareness provides basic information about production, transportation and distribution of Denatured Alcohol (E-95) and Ethanol (E-85). Since this fuel can be found in any community, the class is recommended for departments regardless of whether or not they have an ethanol plant in their community.

HazMat Awareness provides first responders with the knowledge to understand hazardous substances and the risk associated with them in an incident. The class covers site security and control, the need for resources and appropriate notifications. The end of the class exam is OSFM-approved.

Crude Oil and Other Flammable Liquids by Rail Awareness covers what might be expected from crude oil spills and how to work with railroads, as well as discussions on recent derailments and lessons learned.

COMING SOON: Two new railroad classes. Watch the IFSI web site for an announcement.

Company Operations Training

Basic Engine Company Operations makes the “first line in” an efficient operation by securing a water supply, practicing hose loads and finishes, and pulling, deploying and operating appropriate lines.

Basic Truck Company Operations includes ventilation, forcible entry, basic search, raising and climbing ladders and other topics that are the primary responsibilities of truck companies.
Commercial Building Operations covers how to handle fires in commercial buildings and addresses cellars, cocklofts, store and warehouse areas as well as construction, fire spread, collapse potential and fire streams, among other topics.

Fire Fighting Foam Application includes information on common foam types for Class A, Class B hydrocarbon and Polar Solvent fuels, plus the equipment and techniques needed to deliver them.

Firefighter Self Rescue and Survival focuses on the skills required to enhance firefighter survival. Students will familiarize themselves with equipment that is necessary to train those on survival techniques.

High Rise Firefighting Operations discusses the challenges unique to high rise buildings, including fire department connections, sprinklers, hose layouts and deployment.

Responder Intervention Team - Basics introduces students to basics RIT operations, tactical and strategic operations related to downed firefighters, firefighter case studies and more.

Company Inspections covers a wide range of topics required of the “on-duty” fire suppression company with code enforcement responsibilities.

Pre-Fire Planning lets the students define and discuss the importance of pre-fire planning as it relates to property conservation, building familiarization and firefighter safety.

Fire Prevention and Public Education covers fire causes and their prevention, the importance of inspections and public education.

Technical Rescue Awareness provides first responders with information to identify a rescue situation, its hazards and the initial company operations to be performed. The end of the class exam is OSFM-approved.

Routine Emergencies Training engages firefighters in a dialogue to identify the best practices in handling different routine emergencies. Seven presentations are delivered in a “quick-hit” fashion.

Residential Building Operations covers a wide variety of preparations for the department or various companies – equipment, vehicles, response area familiarization and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).

Vehicle Fire Fighting helps first responders recognize the hazards associated with today’s vehicles and covers identifying scene safety and proper engine placement, plus line selection and operation.

Live Burn Classes

Acquired Structure (House) Burns involves realistic training to learn and hone skills in fire suppression, venting, water supply and safety, among others. Plan ahead for this class to allow for appropriate permits.

Light and Fight Burns available at the Champaign Campus and at Regional Training Centers set up various scenarios to meet individual department objectives and to allow participation in coordinated drills. Minimum participation restrictions apply.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Propane) Fighting is a four-hour class that combines a short lecture with a hands-on component. Students will learn safe hose handling, water supply and fire attack. Funding is provided by the Illinois Propane Education and Research Council (IPERC).

Oil Well Fire Fighting helps responders learn size up, site hazards and resources needed for extinguishing fires at the wellhead, tank battery and separator. The Illinois Petroleum Resource Board and the Department of Natural Resources provide funding for this program.

Wildland Fire Fighting

Wildland Fire Fighting classes are funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to acquaint firefighters with skills needed to contain and extinguish a wildfire in rural or urban/rural interface settings.

NWCG G-130/G-190 Basic Wildland Firefighter Training covers fireline methods, extinguishment and factors impacting firefighter safety, as well as the primary factors affecting the start and spread of wildfire and potential hazardous situations, including the fire triangle, weather and topography.

NWCG S-212 Wildland Fire Chain Saws provides an introduction to the function, maintenance and use of internal combustion engine powered chain saws, plus their tactical wildland fire application.

NWCG S-234 Ignition Operations introduces the roles and responsibilities of a firing boss, common firing devices, and general firing operations and techniques, as well as general tasks required during a wildland fire.

NWCG S-215 Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface is designed to prepare the firefighters to make tactical decisions when confronting wildland fires that threaten life or property in urban areas.

Apparatus Operations

Basic Aerial Apparatus Operations covers stabilizing, positioning, deploying and operating of the locally-supplied aerial apparatus. The class also identifies preventive maintenance and servicing functions.

Basic Pumps uses locally-available apparatus to provide students core competencies with pumps and their related controls. Drills include priming pump devices, relief devices, related pump controls and operations.

Down and Dirty Hydraulics, conducted in the classroom, presents theories of pump operations and practical applications, as well as calculating simple formulas for proper pump pressures to supply effective fire stream operations.

Fire Service Vehicle Operator covers common driving hazards, pre-trip inspections and driver training. This nine-hour classroom program includes the OSFM-approved written exam. When combined with a locally-administered driving portion, the student may complete the certification process.
**Hydrant Supply Operations** includes instruction on water and water systems, pumps and controls, multi-line relay operations plus more to assure the most efficient hydrant operations.

**Rural Engine and Tender Operations** lets responders learn how to provide adequate fire streams in areas where little water exists. Students work with tender shuttles, drafting and methods for offensive and defensive fire operations.

**Agricultural Emergency Training**

**Large Animal Rescue Awareness (LARA)** is designed to bring an awareness level for rescue of horses, cows, pigs, llamas and other large animals. The class covers understanding animal behavior in stressful settings, containment and humane handling of animals, and much more.

**Anhydrous Ammonia Emergencies** covers ammonia characteristics, environmental and health concerns, EMS options, as well as public and responder protection.

**Fires on the Farm** provides an overview of farm fires and brings strategies, tactics, operations and water supply logistics together. The class covers farm fires, building types, common farm chemicals, machinery, fields and/or crops.

**Grain Bin Rescue Awareness** will teach students storage types, OSHA / IDOL regulations, as well as patient assessment, stabilization and packaging. Various cutting tools are used in the simulated rescue.

**Agricultural Rescue Techniques** provides principles and guidelines for safe responses to agricultural machinery and ag-related confined space incidents. Patient packaging can also be included.

**Vehicle Rescue**

**Basic Auto Extrication** focuses on stabilization, hazard control, access, disentanglement, patient packaging and removal of victims. Emphasis is placed on safety and proper use of tools.

**Advanced Auto Extrication** provides more challenging practical training with various scenarios that address “on-scene” safety, evaluation, and managing multi-vehicle accidents.

**New Car Technology** introduces students to new technologies that can impact rescue efforts. Topics covered include and drive train components, plus rescue challenges associated with air bags, pre-tension systems and other passive restraint devices.

**Large Vehicle Extrication** builds on basic and advanced skills, providing training on large vehicles such as motor coaches, busses and semitrailers.

**Traffic Incident Management Operations (TIM)** teaches firefighters how to operate in a safe and coordinated manner with other responders to quickly and safely manage equipment positions and removal. A self-paced online TIM Awareness class is also offered.

**Vehicle Stabilization** provides hands-on experience on various methods to stabilize vehicles on their side, upside down and on other vehicles or obstacles. Note: vehicles must be provided by local fire departments.

*Vehicle Rescue classes may be eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs).*

**Command and Control**

**Basic Company Officer** outlines leadership roles and responsibilities ranging from on-scene size-up to vehicle placement to tactical priorities to directing people.

**Basic Strategy and Tactics** provides students an opportunity to understand the Incident Command System: strategic and tactical objectives, risk management, pre-incident planning, personnel safety, plus much more.

**Leadership Principles for the Fire Officer** addresses the leadership principles necessary to effectively direct and manage volunteer, combination, and small career departments.

**Fireground Management for Small Career and Volunteer Departments** is a class for all members of a department and delivers hands-on incident management with an emphasis on communication skills and tactical priorities. (12 hours minimum)

**Fireground Communications** addresses a critical component of fireground protocols – on scene and status reports, plus challenging problems such as “10 codes.”

**Courage to be Safe** is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of firefighters by sharing Line of Duty Death (LODD) survivor stories and showing how it impacts those left behind. The main theme is the promotion of the strength and courage to do whatever necessary to protect all firefighters and ensure that “Everyone Goes Home.”

**Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge (LACK)** instructs fire officers, training officers and chief officers on how “LACK” impacts firefighter safety. A special emphasis is placed on understanding fire service culture.

**National Fire Academy (NFA) Classes**

A number of NFA classes are available to departments at no cost if minimum student enrollment is met. Talk with your Regional Representative to learn about minimum enrollments and see the IFSI web site for complete list of classes. Our most popular NFA class:

**NFA Incident Safety Officer** focuses on providing students with decision-making knowledge and skills to perform the duties of the Incident Safety Officer during operations and training evolutions (12 hours minimum).
How do you get more from IFSI training?

The Illinois Fire Service Institute employs a five-step training model that is based upon national best-practices. The first step includes using many tools to do your own self-study ahead of the class. By preparing yourself ahead of time, you will get the most from the instructor-led training.

**IFSII 5-STEP TRAINING MODEL**

1. Individual self-study
2. Classroom lecture & simulation
3. Instructor-led field walk throughs
4. Full-scale, “live-fire” training/exercise
5. Validation

**Requirement for Departments**

It’s easy to request training for your department. A Cornerstone “Request for Training” form is required, and available from your Regional Representative, from the IFSI website or by contacting IFSI by phone or email. A separate form is required for each class request. You have the option to request specific instructors, who generally will be assigned based on their qualifications, location and availability.

Once class details are finalized, the authorized representative will be required to sign and return a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The signed MOA must be return to IFSI at least 30 days prior to start of the class. The class is then posted on the IFSI website for registration.

The hosting department is expected to promote the class to their firefighters, as well as to firefighters in other departments and emergency response organizations. There is a minimum student registration of 15 at each training session to qualify for no-cost training. Your Regional Representative is available to answer questions on minimum enrollment.

**Hosting a safe and successful training session.** The organization hosting Cornerstone training agrees that the classes are the primary function for the scheduled class day. Scheduling in-service companies should allow full participation in the class.

Organizations hosting the training must provide a representative to serve as liaison with the class instructor. This representative will assist the instructor in the coordination of any class activities.

The host organization will allow students the use of their apparatus, equipment and appliances as may be necessary for the class operation. The host organization will supply tables, chairs and any A/V equipment requested by the instructor and will make arrangements or provide access to any specialized facilities that may be needed.

**Requirements for Students**

Students must submit a completed IFSI registration form to the host department prior to the scheduled class or to the IFSI instructor on the opening day of the class. The host department and instructors are responsible for recording attendance. Certificates of Attendance are issued for all classes, but students must attend an entire class to receive a Certificate.

All students must be able to show official affiliation with a recognized fire department or first responder organization, which provides proper insurance coverage for the student.

Additionally, all students must be 16 years old or older to participate in classes. Only students 18 years old or older may participate in hands-on training and will be required to sign an acknowledgement of hands-on conditions.