

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: FST 121 **Credits:** 3

Course Title: Principles of Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival

Course Description:

Introduces the basic principles and history related to the national firefighter life safety initiatives, focusing on the need for cultural and behavioral change throughout the emergency services. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:

Presents an overview of firefighter safety as identified in the National Fire Academy.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

None

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Define and describe the need for cultural and behavioral change within the emergency services relating to safety, incorporating leadership, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility;
- Explain the need for enhancements of personal and organizational accountability for health and safety;
- Define how the concepts of risk management affect strategic and tactical decision making;
- Describe and evaluate circumstances that might constitute an unsafe act.
- Explain the concept of empowering all emergency services personnel to stop unsafe acts;
- Validate the need for national training standards as they correlate to professional development inclusive of qualification, certification and recertification;
- Defend the need for annual medical evaluations and the establishment of physical fitness criteria for emergency services personnel throughout their careers;
- Explain the vital role of local departments in national research and data collection systems;
- Illustrate how technological advancements can produce higher levels of emergency services safety and survival;
- Explain the importance of investigating all near-misses, injuries and fatalities;
- Discuss how incorporating the lessons learned from investigations can support cultural change throughout the emergency services;
- Describe how obtaining grants can support safety and survival initiatives;
- Formulate an awareness of how adopting standardized policies for responding to emergency scenes can minimize near-misses, injuries and deaths;
- Explain how the increase in violent incidents impacts safety for emergency services personnel when responding to emergency scenes;
- Recognize the need for counseling and psychological support for emergency services personnel and their families, and identify access to local resources and services;
- Describe the importance of public education as a critical component of life safety

- programs;
- Discuss the importance of fire sprinklers and code enforcement;
- Explain the importance of safety in the design of apparatus and equipment.

Major Topics to Be Included:

1. Introduction
 - a. History of Fire Service Culture
 - b. Organizational Culture
 - c. Individual Role in Culture/Behavior
 - d. History of Line of Duty Deaths and Injuries Statistics
 - e. Defining the Nature of the Problem
2. The National Context, Health and Safety
 - a. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
 - b. Medical and Fitness Standards
 - c. Data Collection (National Fire Incident Reporting System)
 - d. Research/Investigation (NIST, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH))
3. Training, Equipment, Response.
 - a. Training, Certification, Credentialing
 - b. Apparatus and Equipment
 - c. Emergency Response — Response to Emergency Scenes
 - d. Violent Incidents
 - e. Emerging Technologies
4. Organizational Health and Safety Profile
 - a. Personal and Organizational Accountability
 - b. Present Condition/Culture
 - c. Investigations — Internal
 - d. Analyzing your Profile
 - e. Utilizing Grants to Meet Needs
5. Risk Management
 - a. Risk Management Concepts and Practices
 - b. Unsafe Acts
 - c. Empowerment Definition
6. Prevention
 - a. Home Fire Sprinklers
 - b. Code Enforcement
 - c. Public Education/Fire and Life Safety
 - d. Counseling and Psychological Support

Effective Date/Updated: September 11, 2023