



"Training those who save lives and protect property"

Firefighter/EMT Training Program

Mission: To prepare students for employment as Firefighters in the State of Florida

How to Become a Florida Firefighter/EMT

Today, most fire agencies require new hires to be Florida certified as both Firefighter *and* Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-Basic). Central Florida Fire Academy's Firefighter Minimum Standards Training Program now includes both EMT-Basic and Firefighter Minimum Standards I & II training. This training prepares students for the certification exams given by:

- the state's Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST) for Firefighter I & II
- and by the state-approved National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

Fire Department Requirements and Opportunities

Completion of our EMT and Firefighter courses does not guarantee you a job as a Firefighter/EMT, but it does give you the training you will need to acquire the first two items on the list below. Requirements vary from one agency to another, but generally they will ask you for:

- State Firefighter certification
- Florida EMT Basic certification
- A current Florida driver's license and a clean driving record
- Certification in writing that you have not used tobacco products for at least one year before the hiring

With the growing population of Central Florida – and Florida as a whole – there are many opportunities for a career in the fire service. Our graduates usually find employment within a year of certification.

Florida Requirements for EMT-Basic Certification

Our EMT-Basic program prepares you to sit for the EMT-Basic certification exam given by the National Registry of EMT (NAEMT). The Emergency Medical Services Bureau of the Florida Department of Health allows a candidate for EMT certification to take this nationally accredited exam in place of their own. NAEMT requires that applicants:

- Successfully complete the 250-hour EMT-Basic training program
- Successfully complete all sections of the EMT-Basic practical examination (given at the end of the EMT course)



Students deal with real-life situations at the Fire Academy – in this case, a car fire.

- Be 18 years of age or older at the time of the exam
- Truthfully complete the felony statement on the application and submit any required documents
- Truthfully complete a statement that indicates the applicant has not been subjected to limitations, suspensions, or termination of his/her right to practice in any health care occupation or voluntarily surrendered any health care license in any state.

Florida Requirements for Firefighter Certification

By state law, any full-time paid firefighter working in the State of Florida must be certified by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training (BFST) as a Minimum Standards Certified Firefighter. A candidate for State firefighter minimum standards certification must:

- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate
- Have a record clear of misdemeanors and felonies
- Be in good physical condition
- Successfully complete a state approved Fire Fighter I & II Course
- Be 18-years-of-age or older prior to taking the state certification examination

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Fire Academy Entrance Requirements

Acceptance into the Academy's Firefighter/EMT Training Program requires that you:

- be eligible for certification as a Firefighter/EMT, as defined by the requirements stated on page 1,
- complete the **"FIT FOR FIRE"** physical ability test (See the insert included with this brochure.),
- show the level of your academic preparation by taking an ERGO Basic Skills Test. Extra points will be added to your score on the test if you can present proof that you have an Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), or a more advanced college degree (BA, BS, etc.).

Once the deadline for applying has been reached, applicants are ranked based on their testing, preparation, and eligibility for employment.

Application Process

Once you have read all of this brochure, you will have completed the first step in the application process. Then, if you are still interested in our Firefighter/EMT program, your next step will be to attend the **required** "Application Meeting," which is held at 2 p.m., the first Tuesday of every month at the Fire Academy. (See insert for upcoming dates.)

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the next course?

We run approximately five Firefighter/EMT programs a year – two night programs and three day programs. See the insert for specific course dates and times.

How long is the course?

Our day program runs approximately two months for EMT and three months for Firefighter I & II (FF I & II) – a total of around five months. The night program meets for fewer hours each week, so it takes longer – about eight months.

What are the hours of the courses?

Day Program

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m - 5 p.m.

Night Program

Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

- EMT classes also meet on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
- Firefighter I and II classes also meet on Sundays, from 9 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

The EMT portion of the course requires clinical rotations on ambulances and in an emergency department, which will be scheduled outside normal class hours.

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What if I already have my EMT certification?

If you are already a Florida certified EMT or Paramedic (or will be before you start the firefighter classes), you may be eligible for entrance into Firefighter I. If you are a Nationally Registered EMT, or hold another state's EMT certificate, you may be eligible for Florida EMT certification. For more information, contact the Florida Bureau of EMS at 850-245-4440 or visit: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us>

What if I already have my Firefighter I certificate?

If you are not an EMT, you will need to complete that first. If you are an EMT, you can continue your training at the Academy by taking FF II. You may be asked to complete portions of our application testing.

What kinds of things will I do and learn in the EMT Course?

You will learn to give emergency medical care – such as restoring breathing and circulation (CPR), controlling bleeding, treating for shock, bandaging, and assisting in childbirth. You will spend time in an ambulance on actual calls for service and in a hospital's emergency department. You will take both written and practical evaluations.

What if I only want the EMT Course?

Only those individuals who intend on continuing into our firefighter course are invited to apply for our EMT course.

What kinds of things will I do and learn in Firefighter I & II?

You will learn and perform basic firefighting skills – such as climbing ladders, pulling hose, working with rope, extricating victims from wrecked vehicles, fighting fire, and maintaining equipment. You will also learn about communications, fire prevention, and handling hazardous material emergencies. Again, evaluation will be through written and practical tests.



What if I have an arrest record?

Every applicant's fingerprints will be sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the FBI. The report back will show any criminal record, including felony and misdemeanor charges and/or convictions. This includes a juvenile record. If you have any questions, the Academy candiscuss your situation with you in confidence, and assist you in determining your eligibility for certification.

Why do I need a medical exam?

The purpose of the required medical performance evaluation is to insure each student's ability to perform all the physical activities required during the course. You and your doctor need to discuss the medical requirements, the medical performance evaluation and any items that may cause you difficulty. You will have to make a decision as to whether you can perform the skills and duties required.

How strong do I have to be?

The training at this Academy includes all the physical effort and stress faced by actual Firefighter/EMTs. You will be expected to demonstrate your ability to:

- lift a patient-laden stretcher into an ambulance;
- lift a 75-pound extension ladder, carry it 50 feet, place it against a wall and fully raise the extension;
- pull and carry 75 pounds of hose line, then extend it 100 feet and control the nozzle;
- drag a 125-pound dummy while wearing your full protective equipment, which weighs more than 60 pounds.

To assure yourself (and us) that you are physically ready for our program, we require all candidates to take a physical ability test, called the **FIT FOR FIRE** test, before entering the program. See the insert for more details on the **FIT FOR FIRE** test and program.



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How smart do I have to be?

Being a Firefighter/EMT is both physically *and* mentally demanding. The EMT and Firefighter courses are no different. Due to the enormous amount of reading and retention involved, you will be required to take the Fire Team Assessment or to demonstrate that you have completed at least an Associate of Arts degree or higher, before entering the Firefighter/EMT program. Historically, students who had scored less than a 10th grade level in the reading, language and math portions of the test have done poorly in the course. Academic refresher materials and Basic Adult Education remediation are available to those requiring academic help.

How much is the course?

The entire program – including course fees, books, uniforms, equipment, and certification exams – costs approximately \$4,000 for both EMT and firefighter training. Details can be found on the insert that comes with this brochure. Though the inserts are updated frequently, **prices listed there are subject to change.**

Is the program VA approved?

The Fire Academy is approved by the Bureau of State Approving Agency to provide training for veterans.



2966 W. Oak Ridge Road
Orlando, FL 32809

www.FireAcademy.org
407-855-3281



*Here's the
information
you requested*

Inside the brochure:

Requirements p. 1
Frequently Asked
Questions p. 2

On the Insert Page:*

Times, dates, costs, maps,
travel directions, and a
description of the
FIT FOR FIRE test

** pages 5 & 6 if you are
reading this online or
have made a printout
from our website*

What about financial aid ?

Financial aid based on need is usually, but not always, available; however, the Firefighter/EMT Program is **not** eligible for Pell Grants. You can learn more about these matters at the Application Meeting.

What is the Central Florida Fire Academy and why is it sometimes called Mid Florida Tech?

The Central Florida Fire Academy is a partnership between member agencies of the Fire Academy Consortium and Mid Florida Tech, which is part of the Orange County Public School District. This combined effort has been preparing students to enter the career of firefighting since 1977. We are located on the campus of Mid Florida Tech, so we are sometimes referred to as "Mid Florida Tech." However, MFT is a large school with many vocational programs. Firefighting is just one of them.

Notification of Nondiscrimination

The School Board of Orange County, Florida, does not discriminate in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status or handicap, or any other reason prohibited by law. The Equal Employment supervisor responsible for compliance is Emma Brown, and she may be contacted at 407-317-3239.



"Training those who save lives and protect property"

Firefighter/EMT Training Program

Up-to-Date Information Insert

Supplement to *How to Become a Florida Firefighter/EMT*.

Dates and Times

Mandatory Application Meeting

The first step in applying for admission to the Firefighter/EMT program is to attend an Application Meeting. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month.¹ The meeting **starts at 2 p.m.** and lasts for approximately two hours. **It is necessary to arrive on time and stay for the whole meeting.**

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3

Applications are now being accepted for the classes listed below. Applicants for these classes must have all required application tests and paperwork completed **eight (8) weeks prior to start of the EMT class.**

Day FF/EMT Classes 2008²

Firefighter/EMT Class #161 Apr 22 - Sep 18 '08

EMT...	Apr 22 - Jun 6	T³	Monday-Friday	9am-5pm
FF I....	Jun 17 - Aug 1	T³	Monday-Friday	9am-5pm
FF II...	Aug 4 - Sep 18		Monday-Friday	9am-5pm

Firefighter/EMT Class #163 Aug 4, '08 - Jan 8, '09

EMT...	Aug 4 - Sep 19		Monday-Friday	9am-5pm
FF I....	Sep 29 - Nov 14		Monday-Friday	9am-5pm
FF II...	Nov 17 - Jan 8 '09		Monday-Friday	9am-5pm

Night FF/EMT Class 2008²

Firefighter/EMT Class #165 Jun 16 '08 - Mar 25 '09

EMT...	Jun 16 - Sep 19	T³	MWF 6 -10pm	Sat 8am-5pm
FF I....	Sep 29 - Dec 19	T³	MWF 6 -10pm	Sun 8am-5pm
FF II...	Jan 5 - Mar 25 '09		MWF 6 -10pm	Sun 8am-5pm

Basic Skills Test

All candidates will be required to take the ERGO Basic Skills Test. The test measures basic reading, math, mechanical and teamwork skills. The score achieved on the assessment is a major factor in ranking candidates for placement in an upcoming Firefighter/EMT class. The higher your score, the better your chances of getting into a class.⁴

The ERGO Basic Skills Test is offered on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in Building 1600, Room 228. Candidates must have attended an application meeting and paid the application fee before making an appointment to take the test.

Upcoming Test Dates – Feb 12, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13, Jun 10

Program Costs (subject to change)

Item	
Application Fee (<i>non-refundable</i>)	\$ 100.00
EMT Course	1,335.00
Firefighter I	1,212.00
Firefighter II	1,212.00
Firefighter Books.....	160.00
Parking Decal.....	25.00
Firefighter State Certification Fees.....	87.25
	Total \$4,131.25

For member sponsored rates, please visit or call the Fire Academy office. 407-855-3281

Additional Costs (subject to change)

Turnout Gear Rental	\$500-720
Medical Exam (your own physician)	50-300
Fire boots, gloves, protective hood, 20' rope.....	150 ⁵
Uniforms.....	100 ⁵

Physical Fitness Required

Being a firefighter/EMT calls for a high degree of physical agility, strength, and endurance. Many of the exercises conducted during the course of the Firefighter/EMT program make the same demands. With this in mind, **the Fire Academy requires all applicants to meet minimum physical standards.**

FIT FOR FIRE Test

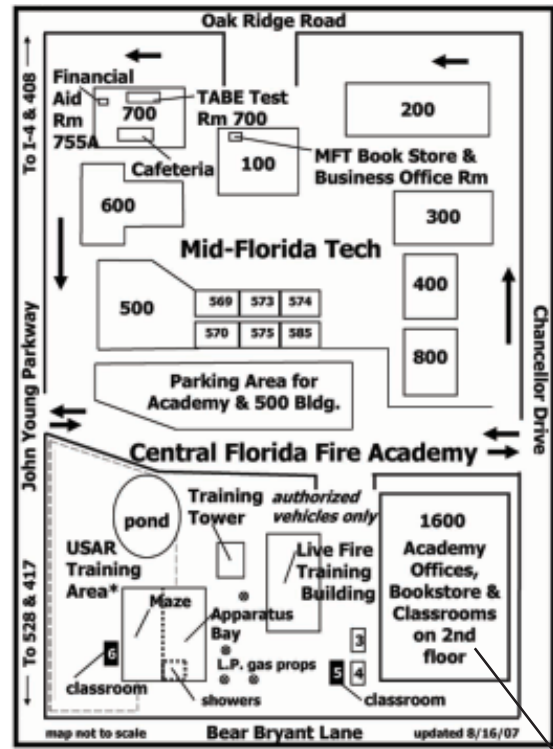
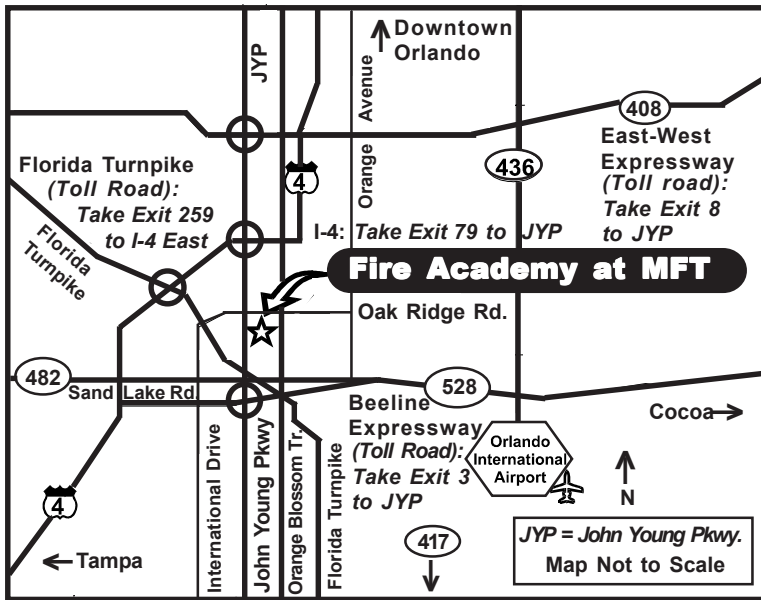
The **Fit for Fire** test is offered on the **third Tuesday** of every month, **starting at 6 p.m.** and continuing until all applicants present have been tested.

Upcoming Test Dates – Feb 19, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, Jun 17

– continued on side 2



1. the second Tuesday if first Tuesday is a legal holiday
2. Class dates are subject to change.
3. Classes marked with a "T" will be held at the Technical Education Center of Osceola (TECO), 501 Simpson Road, Kissimmee, FL 34744.
4. Extra points will be added to your score on the test if you can present proof that you have an Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), or a more advanced college degree (BA, BS, etc.).
5. approximate cost



Continued from side 1

Important – You must have first attended an Application Meeting before you will be allowed to take the **Fit for Fire** test.

Location – Report to the Training Tower (4-story white building) in the Fire Training Area. (See map on other side.)

What to Wear – Jeans, t-shirt, and tennis shoes. **No shorts or hardsoled shoes will be allowed.** You will be required to wear a Breathing Apparatus backpack and cylinder weighing 30 pounds, as well as leather gloves – both of which will be provided by the Fire Academy.

The FIT FOR FIRE Test will include:

Stair Climb – Carry a 100-foot, 1^{3/4} inch hose bundle weighing approximately 45 pounds from ground level up stairs to the fourth floor and then back down again, touching every step on the way up and down.

Force Entry – Move a metal log weight from one end of a 60-inch sled to the other by striking it with an eight-pound sledgehammer, while straddling the log.

Hose Advance – Drag two 50-foot sections of dry 3-inch hose that have been looped together a distance of 100 feet.

Ladder Fly Hoist – Fully extend and then lower the fly section of a 24-foot ladder that is held in place against a wall. You do not balance the ladder, you merely raise and lower the fly.

* *USAR area contains space & props for Confined Space, Hazmat, Trench and VMR*

Application Meeting Bldg 1600 Room 228

Travel Directions

- From the Florida Turnpike**, take Exit 259 and head **east** on I-4.
- From I-4** take Exit 79 and head **south** on John Young Parkway to Oak Ridge Road.
- From the East-West Expressway** (408/toll) take Exit 8. Head **south** on John Young Parkway.
- From the Beeline Expressway** (528/toll) take Exit 3 and head **north** on John Young Pkwy.
- If traveling south on John Young Pkwy**, turn **left** at Oak Ridge Road. Make a **right** turn at Chancellor Drive and proceed to the last MFT entrance. (See map above.)
- If traveling north on John Young Pkwy**, turn **right** at Oak Ridge Road. Make a **right** turn at Chancellor Drive and proceed to the last MFT entrance. (See map above.)

Parking Directions

Central Florida Fire Academy is located on the south end of the Mid-Florida Tech campus. The Academy office and most classrooms are on the second floor in Building 1600. Park in the area between the chain link fence and the 500 Building.

For more information:

407-855-3281 Fax: 407-855-3288
 From outside Florida: 1-800-578-1752
 E-mail: info@FireAcademy.org
 Web Site: www.FireAcademy.org
 or visit us on the campus
 of Mid Florida Tech at
 2966 West Oak Ridge Road
 Orlando, FL 32809