

National Fire Academy Application Period Opens for FY2011-12

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The National Fire Academy (NFA) works to enhance the ability of fire and emergency services and allied professionals to deal more effectively with fire and related emergencies. The application period for resident courses opens **April 15, 2011**. The courses will be offered between October 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012. Resident courses are delivered at the NFA in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Academy conducts specialized training courses and advanced management programs of national impact. NFA offers these courses and programs in a concentrated, residential setting that is most conducive to intensive learning. On-campus programs target middle- and top-level fire officers, fire service instructors, technical professionals, and representatives from allied professions. Any person with substantial involvement in fire prevention and control, emergency medical services, or fire-related emergency management activities is eligible to apply for Academy courses.

The NFA offers over 40 one- and two-week on-campus courses in 12 curriculum areas on its campus in Emmitsburg, MD. Please visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/resident/2week/index.shtml> and select a curriculum area for a list of courses, descriptions and schedules. Once you apply and are selected for the program applied for the cost of the program is paid for through the government. Students are reimbursed for travel and provided lodging while attending courses at the NFA. The only thing that students are responsible for are meals and other personal expenses while attending.

Additional programs are available to departments that are primarily volunteer. The Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) is an intensive 6-day educational opportunity designed specifically for volunteer and combination department emergency services personnel. Since 1980, the NFA has offered 2-week courses year round on its Emmitsburg, Maryland, campus; these courses are considered the best available anywhere. The problem has been that most volunteers could not take 2 weeks off to attend these courses.

With the VIP program, that has all changed! The NFA has compressed course work into 6 days, or has devised new courses and tailored them to the special needs of volunteers, still maintaining content, quality, and integrity. VIP course, offered during a "VIP Week" four times per fiscal year also have recommended college accreditation through the American Council on Education (ACE). Please visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/resident/vip/index.shtml> to review the VIP program background and eligibility.

The opportunity to network with others from across the nation and even internationally will enhance your educational experience. Your application does not guarantee admission into a program, but a complete thorough application has a greater opportunity for placement into a program.