

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: FST 210

Credits: 3

Course Title: Legal Aspects of Fire Service

Course Description: Introduces the federal, state, and local laws that regulate emergency services; national standards influencing emergency services; standard of care, tort, and liability, and a review of relevant court cases. (Usually offered in the spring semester.) Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

None

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Define the different types of laws, explain their basic differences, and how the law functions in society;
- b. Become familiar with federal, state, and local laws, which regulate or influence emergency services;
- c. Explain the role and purpose of national codes and standards concerning their legal influence;
- d. Become familiar with legal decisions that have affected or will affect the fire service;
- e. Discuss the organization and legal structure of the fire department;
- f. Define the liabilities of firefighters;
- g. Recognize legal duties of emergency service members;
- h. Discuss negligence in an emergency setting;
- i. Define discrimination and identify areas of potential discrimination in the emergency service;
- j. Identify, explain, and discuss the legalities of entrance requirements, residency, grooming, and drug testing;
- k. Discuss the scope of the Civil Rights Act;
- l. Discuss the parameters and explain the basic intent of the American Disabilities Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and Family Medical Leave Act;
- m. Explain the At-will Doctrine;
- n. Explain the purpose of labor and employment laws; and
- o. Identify and analyze the major causes of firefighter deaths in the line of duty related to health, wellness, fitness, and vehicle operations.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Definition of the different types of laws, their basic differences, and how the law functions in society
- b. Federal, state, and local laws that regulate or influence emergency services
- c. Role and purpose of national codes and standards concerning their legal influence
- d. Legal decisions that have affected or will affect the fire service
- e. Organization and legal structure of the fire department
- f. Liabilities of firefighters
- g. Legal duties of emergency service members
- h. Negligence in an emergency setting
- i. Discrimination in the emergency service

- j. Legalities of entrance requirements, residency, grooming, and drug testing
- k. Civil Rights Act
- l. American Disabilities Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and Family Medical Leave Act
- m. At-will Doctrine
- n. Labor and employment laws
- o. Major firefighter deaths in the line of duty related to health, wellness, fitness, and vehicle operations

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: September 11, 2008