

Mercer County Fire Academy

Fall 2026 COURSE CATALOG



350 Lawrence Station Road, Lawrenceville NJ, 08648

Telephone: 609-799-3245

www.dftc.org

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MERCER COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY
FALL 2026 COURSE CATALOG

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Mercer County Fire Academy (MCFA) is to prepare Mercer County Fire & Emergency Services personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully, safely and competently contribute to fulfilling their personal and organizational duties.

Vision Statement

The Mercer County Fire Academy is committed to providing exceptional and realistic training opportunities through cost-effective innovation; by providing a staff built upon excellence, experience and professionalism; and through dedication to a high standard of customer service.

Core Values and Principles

The Mercer County Fire Academy is committed to:

Doing the Right Thing

Integrity, Trust, Respect, and Commitment

The Ideal that Everyone Must Make a Difference

Individual and organizational responsibility, accountability,
team work and collaboration

Anticipating and Meeting the Mercer County Fire Service Needs

Proactive planning, innovation, creativity, responsiveness,
and excellent customer service

FIRE COURSE	DATE(S)	INSTRUCTOR	HOURS	PAGE
Appliance Fire Investigation	9/15	Ken Kandrak	3	5
Arson Awareness for the Firefighter & Fire Officer	09/29	Ken Kandrak	3	5
(*) Back to the Basics, The 1 st Alarm Assignment	10/27	Robert Tharp	4	6
Confined Space Awareness	11/30	Pete Mancini	4	6
Crew, Company, Command: Leadership Development	11/07	Charles Mull / Keith Wadsworth	8	7
Elevator Operations	10/24	Dan Quigley / Mark Colon	3	8
Firefighter 1 & 2	08/03 – 12/09	Staff	200+	8
Fire Instructor 1	11/30, 12/02, 12/05, 12/07, 12/09, 12/14, 12/16 and 12/19	William Chyzik	40	9
Fire Officer 1	11/3, 11/4, 11/7, 11/10, 11/11, 11/17, 11/18, 11/21 and 11/24	Keith Greene / Nick Migliacci	45	10
Hazmat Awareness	08/17 – 08/19	Michael Filandro	12	11
Hazmat Operations	08/20, 08/24, 08/26 and 08/27	Michael Filandro	16	11
Hazmat On-Scene Incident Commander	11/30, 12/02, 12/05, 12/07 and 12/09	Michael Filandro	24	12
(*) H.O.W.W to Perform an initial Size-Up	10/12	Chris Laird	4	12
ICS 200	08/13	Michael Filandro	12	13
RIC Awareness	11/19	Staff	4	13
Rope Rescue Awareness	10/06	Eric DeVita	4	14
(*) Solar Panel Fires	10/20	Ken Kandrak	3	14
(*) Strategy & Tactics for Fast Food Restaurants	10/13	Ken Kandrak	3	15
Traffic Incident Management	08/31	John Schafer	4	15
Truck Co Ops: Power Saws & Cutting Techniques - (Hands-On)	9/22	Adam Dalton	4	16
EMS COURSES				PAGE
EMT Hybrid & Refresher Courses	See attached	Staff		17-18

Courses Listed with () are “Fire Officer 1 Course Eligible”, and can be used for hours towards the Fire Tactics series of Instructional Course requirements.*

APPLIANCE FIRE INVESTIGATION

Per the USFA, on average there are 24,300 residential appliance fires resulting in 100 deaths and 925 injuries per year. The proper investigation of such incidents is critical. This course will outline what the investigator should look for at the scene to determine which appliance is at the origin of the fire and finding the nature of the failure that caused the fire.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 certification

Instructor: Ken Kandrak, Battalion Chief (ret.) North Hudson Regional Fire Rescue

Date: September 15, 2026

Time(s): 1830 – 2130 hours (Tuesday)

Cost: In-County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: September 10, 2026

ARSON AWARENESS FOR THE FIREFIGHTER & FIRE OFFICER

This course is designed to give the Firefighter and the Fire Officer basic awareness level skills based on NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921. The class will cover scene examination, interpreting burn patterns, reconstructing the area of the fire origin and investigation methodology.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 Certification

Instructor: Ken Kandrak, Batt. Chief (retired), North Hudson Regional Fire Rescue

Date: September 29, 2026

Time(s): 1830-2130 hours (Tuesday)

Cost: In-County -\$30.00

Out of County – \$40.00

Registration Deadline: September 24, 2026

BACK TO THE BASICS, THE 1ST ALARM ASSIGNMENT

Does your first alarm assignment have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to meet the organization goals of Firefighter/Civilian Safety, Incident Stabilization and Property Conservation? Are the objectives of RECEO VS completely understood by responding companies? Are the firefighters buying into an Aggressive Interior Attack? The class will review the necessary Back to Basics approach for a department's first alarm assignment.

******Fire Officer 1 course eligible******

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 Certification

Instructor: Robert Tharp, Deputy Chief (retired), Trenton Fire & Emergency Services

Date: **October 27, 2026**

Time(s): 1830 – 2200 hours (Tuesday)

Cost: In-County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: October 22, 2026

CONFINED SPACE AWARENESS

This course is a complete awareness level training program for the discipline of Confined Space Rescue as outlined in the 2021 Edition of NFPA 1006, Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications. It is designed for all first responders who may find themselves first due at a Confined Space Rescue incident. This course is also a prerequisite for all those who wish to go on and become certified to NFPA 1006 in the discipline of Confined Space Rescue. Upon completion of this 4-hour course students will be able to properly identify the difference between permit and non-permit required confined spaces and summons the proper resources to safely mitigate an incident in these spaces. Students will also be able to identify hazards associated with confined space rescues and learn how to operate at such incidents without jeopardizing their own safety or that of their personnel. This course will review the incident command system as it applies to confined space rescue incidents so that students can effectively control the scene and manage a confined space rescue incident. Students will be introduced to both the OSHA and NFPA standard that govern their response to confined space rescue incidents. Finally, student will become familiar with the equipment used by specialized confined space rescue teams.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State FF 1 Certification

Instructor: Peter Mancini, Firefighter, Trenton Fire Department

Date: **November 30, 2026**

Time(s): 1830 – 2230 hours (Thursday)

Cost: In-County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: November 24, 2026

CREW, COMPANY, COMMAND: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This 8-hour leadership program is designed to strengthen leadership foundations and operational excellence across all ranks, from the Senior Man to the Chief of the Department. Whether newly promoted, preparing for advancement, or committed to being a more engaged member of the fire service, participants will gain the tools needed to lead with confidence and purpose.

Through interactive lectures, group discussions, and real-world examples drawn from experience, leadership literature, and NFPA standards, this class helps members understand how every rank influences its organizational culture. From shaping the firehouse environment to driving operational readiness, ensuring consistency, and setting long-term vision, each role plays a vital part in building a strong, safe, and mission-focused department.

The program also equips participants with the operational and administrative tools necessary for success including strategic decision-making frameworks, communication models, crew management techniques, after-action review processes, and performance-based leadership practices. Attendees will explore how to align daily operations with organizational goals, manage administrative responsibilities effectively, and apply standards, policies, and data-driven approaches to improve outcomes across the department.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 certification

Instructor(s): Charles Mull, Battalion Chief, Hamilton Fire Department
Keith Wadsworth, Firefighter, Princeton Fire Department

Date: November 7, 2026

Time(s): 0830-1630 hours (Saturday)

Cost: In-County - \$100.00

Out of County - \$110.00

Registration Deadline: November 2, 2026

ELEVATOR OPERATIONS

This course is designed for first responders with elevators within their jurisdiction. This course will discuss the use of elevators by responders during an incident and basic occupant removal during entrapments. Students will familiarize with various types of elevators, components, rescue techniques, rescue equipment and hazard mitigation techniques.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 certification

Instructor(s): Dan Quigley, Training Officer, NJ Transit Police Emergency Services Unit
Mark Colon, Training Officer, NJ Transit Police Emergency Services Unit

Date: October 24, 2026

Time(s): 0830-1130 hours (Saturday)

Cost: In-County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: October 20, 2026

FIREFIGHTER 1 & 2 PROGRAM

The purpose of the Firefighter 1 & 2 course is to provide entry-level firefighters with the knowledge and skills to meet the minimum job performance requirements for career and volunteer firefighters. Firefighter 1 & 2 candidates must demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to function safely and effectively as an integral member of a firefighter team. When engaged in hazardous activities the certified Firefighter 1 & 2 operate under direct supervision.

This course is designed to comply with N.J.A.C. 5:73-4.3 and utilizes curriculum designed to accompany the Jones & Bartlett Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills, New Jersey Edition (5th Edition). This course contains some required online course work.

Those candidates who successfully complete the entire course requirements; and successfully pass the NJ Division of Fire Safety, Firefighter 1 & 2 written examinations will receive certificates of completion for each from the Academy. A copy of these certificates, with a completed certification application, can be submitted to the NJ Division of Fire Safety for a Firefighter 1 & 2 certification.

(Jr. FFs MUST turn 18 years of age prior to the completion of the class)

Course Coordinator: William Chyzik, Manager, Fire Academy Training & Operations

Date(s): August 3, 2026 – December 9, 2026

Time(s): Mon, Weds and Thursday (1830-2230 hours) and Saturdays (0830-1630 hours)

Cost: Mercer County Chief's Assoc. Depts. - \$475.00 - All others \$575.00

Maximum Enrollment: 25 students

Registration Deadline: July 20, 2026

FIRE INSTRUCTOR 1

Approved by the NJDFS for NJ Fire Instructor 1 curriculum, this program utilizes the IFSTA Fire and Emergency Services Instructor as the primary textbook. This program is designed to prepare Fire and Emergency Service Instructors, as defined in NFPA 1041, Standard for the Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications, 2002 edition. Successful completion of the program grants the student the eligibility to take the NJDFS Fire Instructor 1 certification exam to be given at the Mercer County Fire Academy. ****Fire Officer 1 Required Course****

The test book is PROVIDED by the Academy for each student (a \$100 value)

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 certification, and a minimum 3 years' experience as a certified Firefighter 1

Instructor: William Chyzik, Manager, Fire Academy Training & Operations

Date(s): November 30, December 2, 5, 7, 9, 14, 16 and 19

Time(s): 0830-1630 hours (Saturday) / 1830-2230 hours (Monday and Wednesday)

Cost: In-County - \$225.00

Out of County - \$235.00

Maximum Enrollment: 16 students

Registration Deadline: November 24, 2026

FIRE OFFICER 1

The 45-hour long Fire Officer series is designed to build the skills necessary to be an effective fire service leader. The Fire Officer 1 course is the first course in the series and is designed to meet the education and time requirements of NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, 3rd Edition, for Fire Officer 1 and NJAC 5:73-8.2 qualifications for Fire Officer 1. Students who successfully complete the course will be eligible to take the NJ State Fire Officer 1 certification test. This course content will include a mixture of lectures, case studies, and classroom exercises. The goal is to stimulate classroom interaction centered on what we should be doing versus what we are actually doing as a company officer. This course acquaints the student with the role of the company officer in a fire department and introduces basic management and leadership theories, practices and function. Other topics include firefighter health and safety managing resources, planning and readiness, fire prevention, building construction, and risk management. The course concludes with an introduction to the basic principles and methods associated with fireground tactics and strategy as required of the company officer.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 Level 1, Firefighter Level 2, Incident Management Level 1, Hazmat Awareness & Hazmat Operations Certificates.

Instructor(s): Keith Greene, Battalion Chief, Hamilton Fire Department
Nicholas Migliacci, Captain, Trenton Fire Department

Date(s): November 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21 and 24, 2026

Time(s): 1830-2230 hours (Tuesday and Wednesdays) / 0830-1630 hours (Saturday)

Cost: In-County - \$250.00

Out of County - \$260.00

Registration Deadline: October 28, 2026

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS

This course will explain what hazardous material incidents are, as well as giving the students skills to detect the presence of hazardous materials. The instruction includes an overview of how incidents are classified into levels and on introductions to the Incident Command System. Also covered are the roles and notification requirements of municipal, county and state organizations. This level will serve as a prerequisite to all other levels offered in the series. There will be Skill Testing along with a State Hazmat Awareness Exam.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 Certification

Instructor: Michael Filandro, Past Chief, Lawrenceville Fire Company

Date(s): August 17 & 19, 2026

Time(s): 1830 – 2230 hours (Monday and Wednesday)

Cost: In County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: August 12, 2026

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS

This course will be presented as a classroom lecture with the addition of hands-on skills practice. The course provides training for those personnel who have some protective equipment and other resources that would enable them to take further defensive actions at a Hazardous Materials scene. There will be Skill Testing along with a State Hazmat Operations Exam.

Pre-Requisites: Hazmat Awareness Certification and NJ State Firefighter 1 Certification

Instructor: Michael Filandro, Past Chief, Lawrenceville Fire Company

Date(s): August 20, 24, 26 & 27, 2026

Time(s): 1830-2230 hours (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) and 0830-1630 hours (Saturday)

Cost: In-County - \$100.00

Out of County - \$125.00

Registration Deadline: August 14, 2026

HAZMAT ON-SCENE INCIDENT COMMANDER

This 24-hour course is designed to train personnel who may assume control of a Hazardous Materials Incident beyond the First Responder Awareness Level. The program will include controlling site operations, identifying hazards, ensuring personal protective clothing and personal protective equipment be made available to or worn by responders, knowledge of hazards and risks associated with chemical protective clothing and understanding the importance of decontamination.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 certification, IMS Level 1, Hazmat Awareness, Hazmat Operations - (***Must provide copies of each with registration**)

Instructor: Michael Filandro, Past Chief, Lawrenceville Fire Company

Date(s): November 30, December 2, 5, 7 and 9, 2026

Time(s): 1830-2230 hours (Monday & Wednesday's) and 0830-1630 hours (Saturday)

Cost: In-County - \$125.00

Out of County - \$150.00

Maximum enrollment: 18 students

Registration Deadline: November 20, 2026

(*NEW COURSE***)**

H.O.W.W. TO PERFORM AN INITIAL SIZE-UP

Performing the initial size up is critical to the success of fireground operations. This course focuses on the considerations of initial size up and the quick decision making needed to perform successfully. The class uses lecture, video, picture, power-point, personal footage and experience along with first-hand accounts and field-tested techniques to assist Firefighters and Fire Officers in performing an initial first due size up. Through power-point, documented incident scenes, practice scenarios, and demonstration, students will achieve the learning objectives. Students will participate in giving multiple size ups confidently and proficiently.

******Fire Officer 1 course eligible******

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 Certification

Instructor: Christopher Laird, Captain, Trenton Fire Dept.

Date: October 12, 2026

Time(s): 1830-2230 hours (Tuesday)

Cost: In-County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: October 7, 2026

ICS 200

All federal, state, territorial, tribal, private sector and non-governmental personnel at the first like supervisor, middle management and command and general staff levels of Emergency Management Operations must complete ICS-200 level training. The course focuses on the following topics and objectives: Leadership and Management, Delegation of Authority and Management by Objectives, Functional Areas and Positions, Briefings, Organizational Flexibility and Transfer of Command. After completing this course students can apply for an Incident Management Level 1 Certification obtained from the NJ Division of Fire Safety.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 certification

Instructor: Michael Filandro, Past Chief, Lawrenceville Fire Company

Date(s): August 13 & 15, 2026

Time(s): 1830-2230 hours (Thursday) - 0830-1630 hours (Saturday),

Cost: In-County - \$75.00

Out of County - \$85.00

Registration Deadline: August 7, 2026

RIC AWARENESS

This course will provide the student with the basic skills required to identify the need for Rapid Intervention. Emphasis is placed on RIC member training requirements, team equipment, operating within the ICS and overall safety.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 certification

Instructor: MCFA Staff

Date: November 19, 2026

Time(s): 1830-2230 hours (Thursday)

Cost: In-County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: November 16, 2026

ROPE RESCUE AWARENESS

This course provides emergency response personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize, evaluate, and support rope rescue incidents at the Awareness Level in accordance with the Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) of NFPA 1006, Chapter 5.1 – Rope Rescue Awareness Level. Participants will learn to identify rope rescue situations, conduct initial incident size-up, recognize hazards, establish scene control measures, assess resource needs, and support Operations- and Technician-Level rescue teams.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State FF 1 certification

Instructor: Eric Devita, Captain, Hamilton Fire Department

Date: October 6, 2026

Time(s): 1830 – 2230 hours (Tuesday)

Cost: In-County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: October 1, 2026

SOLAR PANEL FIRES

Today's modern energy needs include the use of solar panels for both residential and commercial properties. This course will provide a review of equipment used for solar panel installation in both residential and commercial properties. Strategy & Tactics for structural fires with solar panel involvement will provide the students with the information needed to safely handle these situations.

******Fire Officer 1 course eligible******

Pre-Requisites: NJ State FF 1 certification

Instructor: Kenneth Kandrac, Battalion, Chief (ret), North Hudson Regional Fire, Union, NJ

Date: October 20, 2026

Time(s): 1830 – 2230 hours (Tuesday)

Cost: In-County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2026

STRATEGY & TACTICS FOR FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS

Fast Restaurants are numerous in our towns and pose unique challenges to firefighters. This program is designed to explore the unique firefighting aspects of the Fast-Food Restaurants. Students will discuss construction characteristics and components, appropriate strategy and tactics, and some of the hazards that exist in these occupancies.

*****Fire Officer 1 course eligible*****

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 Certification

Instructor: Kenneth Kandrac, Battalion, Chief (ret), North Hudson Regional Fire, Union, NJ

Date: October 13, 2026

Time(s): 1830-2130 hours (Tuesday)

Cost: In County - \$30.00

Out of County - \$40.00

Registration Deadline: October 8, 2026

TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (TIM)

Making our roadways safer at incidents for emergency responders, motorists and crash victims is critical to everyone and is the goal of the National Traffic Incident Management Program. Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents and improves the safety of motorists, crash victims and emergency responders. The sooner incidents are detected, the sooner personnel can respond to the incident and clear it from the roadway, thereby allowing traffic lanes to re-open.

(NJDFS CEU'S – 0.25)

Instructor: John Schafer, Lieutenant, Hopewell Valley Emergency Services

Date: August 31, 2026

Time(s): 1830 – 2230 hours (Monday)

Cost: In County - FREE

Out of County - FREE

Registration Deadline: August 26, 2026

TRUCK COMPANY OPERATIONS: POWER SAWS & CUTTING TECHNIQUES - *(Hands-On Evolutions)*

The purpose of this class is to improve the student's knowledge and understanding of the chain saw and rotary (K12) saws used in the fire service. This course will cover general operating and maintenance procedures, as well as provide plenty of hands-on time cutting wood and metal.

Pre-Requisites: NJ State Firefighter 1 Certification

PPE Requirements: Full Structural Firefighting Ensemble and Safety Glasses

Instructor: Adam Dalton, Captain, Jersey City Fire Department

Date: September 22, 2026

Time(s): 1830 – 2230 hours (Tuesday)

Cost: In-County - \$75.00

Out of County - \$85.00

Registration Deadline: September 17, 2026

EMT Hybrid Course – Fall 2026

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Prerequisite:

All students must obtain a Health Care Provider Level CPR card prior to the start of the class and be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 including a booster or bivalent vaccine. Proof of CPR card and a COVID-19 vaccination card are required at time of registration.

Students will need to obtain a Stethoscope, B/P cuff, watch with second hand or digital and penlight for use in course.

During the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course, you will learn about human anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, patient assessment techniques, management of common medical complaints, management of the trauma patient, administration of limited medications, and concerns for special patient populations. Course material will be presented through lectures, simulation labs, and clinical rotations where students will interact with patients. Successful course completion requires obtaining the minimal level of competency as outlined in the National EMS Educational Standards. After successfully completing this course, students will be eligible to sit for the National Registry EMT Certification Exam to obtain certification.

There are weekly in person lab sessions on Tuesday & Thursday's from 6pm-9:30pm and several Saturday's from 8am-4pm. There are also 2-hour online exams during the week as well as 10 chapters of intense studying required. Online assignments will be due weekly. In addition to the weekly lab sessions, students should anticipate spending a minimum of 20 hours a week completing the online learning component and reading assignments. This is a very intense class.

Attendance at all sessions and keeping up with the online content is mandatory.

Textbook is required and link will be provided by email by Course Coordinator once registered and must be purchased prior to the start of class.

Tuition: \$2,100.00

Orientation will take place on Tuesday, September 1st starting at 6:00pm. There are 20 chapters due before the first day of in-person class.

(There will be a dress code that will be discussed the first day of class or before. You will receive a welcome email with instructions including dress code and arrival times)

Class dates are 09/01/26 thru 12/17/26

Tuesday and Thursday's - 6:00pm-9:30pm (Classroom, In-person)

Saturday's - 8:00am-4:00pm (Classroom, In-person) 09/19, 10/03, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, 11/21, 12/05 and 12/12

There is a minimum of 20 hours per week of online work.

10 hours of clinical requirement for hospital emergency room time.

***Meets at Dempster Fire Training Center, 350 Lawrence Station Rd., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Barbara Vaning, EMS Coordinator, barbara.vaning@PennMedicine.Upenn.edu**

Register at mccc.edu under Continuing Studies tab or call (609) 570-3300

EMT REFRESHER COURSES:

Register for courses at www.mccc.edu (Non-Credit Classes) or call 609-570-3311

***EMT Refresher – Section A:**

EMT Refresher Class: Section A: Airway Assessment and Management

Class Day/Time: December 7, 2026 (Monday), 8:00am - 5:00pm - (Tuition: \$100.00)

***EMT Refresher – Section B:**

EMT Refresher Class: Section B- Medical Assessment and Management

Class Day/Time: December 14, 2026, (Monday), 8:00am - 5:00pm - (Tuition: \$100.00)

***EMT Refresher – Section C:**

EMT Refresher Class: Section C- Trauma Assessment and Management

Class Day/Time: December 21, 2026, (Monday), 8:00am - 5:00pm - (Tuition: \$100.00)

***ALL Classes will meet at the Mercer County Fire Academy, 350 Lawrence Station Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Register for EMT courses at: www.mccc.edu or call 609-570-3311

GENERAL INFORMATION

“The Dempster Center”

The Captain John T. Dempster Fire Service Training Center is located in central Mercer County in close proximity to the Quakerbridge Road and U.S. Route 1 area. Set in a semi-suburban area, the original mission was to provide a central training focus for the fire service community in and around Mercer County. Today, the Dempster Center has an ever-expanding role in providing training to other Emergency Services Personnel, some of whom include Emergency Medical Professionals, Law Enforcement Professionals, Hazmat Professionals and Emergency Management Professionals.

The facility is also home to Emergency Service agencies such as the Mercer County Office of Emergency Management and the Mercer County Central Communications Center. Various other groups and functions use the facility. For example: the Mercer County Improvement Authority, and the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety.

The facility consists of three (3) classrooms, one (1) central auditorium, and lunchroom area, a three (3) bay apparatus room and 450,000 square foot Training Ground. The Training Grounds are equipped with pre-staged propane simulation props, a high-rise tower with burn room, a residential building with first floor burn room and second floor Bedroom Fire Simulator, a Motor Vehicle Simulator, a drafting pond, and a special operations pad.

Directions:

From NJ Turnpike (above exit 9): Take exit 9 to Route 18 North to Route 1 South. Proceed approximately 18 miles to Quaker Bridge Road. Take Quaker Bridge Road exit. After mall, proceed 1/2 mile and turn right onto Lawrence Station Road. Training Center is on the right after approximately 3/4 mile.

From NJ Turnpike (below exit 8): Take exit 7A to Route 195 West. Follow 195 West to 295 North. Take exit for Route 1 North. Follow Route 1 North to Quaker Bridge Road. Take Quaker Bridge Road exit. After mall, proceed 1/2 mile and turn right onto Lawrence Station Road. Training Center is on the right after approximately 3/4 mile.

How to Contact Us:

Mailing Address: Mercer County Fire Academy
Captain John T. Dempster Fire Service Training Center
350 Lawrence Station Road
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648

Office Phone: (609) 799-3245

Web Address: [**www.dftc.org**](http://www.dftc.org)

Class Suspensions / Weather Closings

Weather related closings of the Fire Academy will be posted on the Mercer County Fire Academy Facebook page. In addition, if the Mercer County Community College is closed due to bad weather, then the Fire Academy is also closed. Check for weather closings of the college at www.mccc.edu for information. The Fire Academy will attempt to reschedule cancelled classes and the students will be informed of the new date and time.

Holiday Schedules

As a campus of the Mercer County Community College, the Academy's Administrative Offices are subject to the holiday schedule adopted by the college. Normal business hours are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Facility Use Requests

Agencies wishing to apply for the utilization of any facility at the Academy will submit a written request by utilizing the provided forms. Requests for classroom, auditorium, or interior facilities will submit a Facility Use Request Form. Requests for the outside training ground areas, training props or exterior facilities will submit a Training Ground Use Request Form. **(All facility requests will be made at least one (1) week in advance of the desired date of activity)**. Forms without complete information will be rejected. The completed forms must come with a Certificate of Liability Insurance. All facility requests are subject to the approval of the Director or the Director's designee. Agencies utilizing any facility or resource of the Dempster Fire Training Center are expected to abide by all applicable regulations without exception. The forms can be found on the web at www.dftc.org.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Course Registration

Students wishing to enroll in any course offered by the Dempster Center shall submit a properly completed Course Registration Form. This form can be found on the web at www.dftc.org or at the end of this catalog. Registration forms must **be clearly and completely filled out**. Submission must be prior to the start of the class. **No walk-ins will be permitted!** Payment may accompany registration, please submit payment in the form of a check, money order or Department Purchase Order (Made out to the "Mercer County Community College"). If payment is not made with registration, Departments/Agencies or individuals will be billed upon completion of the class, at which time an invoice will be generated and sent out. **(**Unless otherwise stated, the enrollment deadline is one week prior to the class start date**)**

Course Enrollment Confirmations

Course enrollment confirmations will be faxed back to the sponsoring agency as soon as they are received and approved.

Course Cancellations

If you have to cancel for some reason, you must do so at least one (1) week prior to the starting date of the class or program. All cancellations must be made through the Academy's Administrative Office during normal business hours. **(If you DO NOT cancel as stipulated above, you will be responsible for the full registration fee)**

Dress Code

Students are reminded that they are a representative of their organization and are expected to dress accordingly.

Lecture (Classroom) Courses or Programs:

Casual but neat clothing is permitted. Hats are not to be worn while in the classroom. Students are reminded that they represent not only themselves, but also their organization.

Practical (Hands On) Courses, Programs or Evolutions:

Comfortable clothing is suggested. All loose jewelry shall be removed prior to arriving at the Dempster Center. No earrings, necklaces or bracelets shall be permitted during live fire training. Note: Medic Alert bracelets and necklaces are acceptable if properly covered. **(The Dempster Center is not responsible for personal articles that become damaged, lost or stolen)**

Pre-Requisites

Some courses may require pre-requisites. The specific requirements can be found in the course description for each course. Please make sure that you have completed the necessary pre-requisites prior to enrolling in any course. Documentation of required pre-requisites must accompany the Course Registration forms. Any student not meeting prerequisite requirements **will not** be permitted to register for the course.

Academic Requirements

Successful completion of any course will require the student to meet minimally established competencies. If applicable, students may have to obtain a minimum passing grade (usually 70%) on a written test, successfully complete practical evaluations, or satisfy stated criteria. Students will not be given credit for any unit of instruction in which they did not actively and satisfactorily participate or attend.

Attendance and Make-ups

Attendance at **ALL** classes or course sessions is **MANDATORY** to successfully complete any course. Departure before conclusion of the class will be considered an absence.

Facility Hours of Operation / Class Hours

The Dempster Center Administrative Office is open normal business days from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Hours of operation for classroom facilities and the training grounds are by appointment only; unscheduled use of the classroom facilities or training grounds is strictly prohibited. Scheduled times for courses and training classes will be specified in the individual course description.

Protective Clothing, Protective Equipment and SCBA

The use of protective clothing and equipment is strictly enforced at the Dempster Center. All equipment and clothing shall meet all applicable OSHA and PEOSHA standards and regulations. Students are expected to provide their own equipment based upon the requirements of the course or class. Protective equipment, when necessary for class, shall be stored in the apparatus bay when not in use. No boots or turnout gear is permitted in carpeted areas of the Training Center.

Personal Grooming and Live Fire and/or SCBA Evolutions

Students with a beard or excessive facial hair shall not be permitted to participate in any courses that require the use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). This includes any flammable gas or liquid evolutions. This is according to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, NFPA 1500 and Sec. 5-3.10 PEOSHA. Any student participating in live fire training, who has hair that extends below his or her collar, must arrange their hair so that it does not fall below the collar. Hair enclosed in an OSHA approved hood is acceptable.

Physical Qualification of Students

Due to the physical requirements of Emergency Services training and the demanding nature of Emergency Services training evolutions, any student who would pose a direct threat to the health or safety to themselves and/or to others shall not be permitted to participate in such evolutions. The aforesaid rules shall conform to the requirements of the A.D.A. Also a Doctor's approval may be required for certain courses requiring strenuous physical activity.

Liability

It is the responsibility of each organization that uses the Fire Academy to provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance from their insurance company prior to any class or training evolution. The Certificate of Liability Insurance must provide the following: Liability Insurance amount; The County of Mercer and the Mercer County Community College shall be named as an additional insured; The Certificate of Insurance holder shall be the Mercer County Fire Academy.

Student Conduct

Students shall be courteous and disciplined. Proper decorum shall be observed at all times toward fellow students, Fire Academy staff, MCCC staff, and Instructors from other agencies. Students will be responsible for maintaining all books, equipment, apparatus and buildings made available for their use. The following is **prohibited**: abusive, profane or obscene language or behavior; horseplay or any disturbance during class; any form of gambling; sexual harassment; possession or introduction of any intoxicants; or reporting to class under the influence of intoxicants, fighting, stealing, cheating on quizzes or exams. Students are also expected to refrain from disturbing all other training sessions or evolutions. Anyone who exhibits the aforementioned will be expelled from the Fire Academy and its property. Books, papers, equipment or other materials on the instructor's desk, podium or chalkboard are for the use of the Academy Staff ONLY.

Snack Area

The Dempster Center does provide a small snack area with snack food and beverage vending machines and fixed seating for such items. All such items **are not** permitted in the classrooms.

Smoking

Smoking or the use of chewing tobacco is not permitted anywhere within the buildings or on the actual training grounds. Smoking is only permitted in outside areas where appropriate smoking material refuse containers are provided. All discarded smoking materials will be placed in the provided containers (not on the ground) without exception.

Trash/Recyclables

Students are expected to place all trash in the provided receptacles. The Dempster Center does participate in a recycling program. All cans and bottles are to be placed in the yellow recycling containers.

Restrooms

Men and women's restrooms are located in the Administration Building, adjacent from "Classroom B" and the "Snack Room". Restrooms are also located on the first floor of the Control Building on the training grounds (which are to be used during training ground evolutions).

Pagers / Cellular Phones / Radios / Personal Organizers / Personal Computers, Etc.

All pagers and cellular phones will have silent features enabled or be shut off during training sessions. Radios will not be permitted to remain on during training sessions. Personal organizers and personal computers will not be used unless in conjunction with the training session. The student will not utilize any item that causes the disruption of any training session or evolution. Students who become a nuisance to the Instructor and other students will be asked to leave the session or evolution.

Exception: Crews with apparatus and Chief Officers that are "in-service" for an immediate emergency response from the Training Center are permitted to leave radio and paging equipment on provided that the volume is kept as low as reasonably possible and the Instructor is notified at the beginning of the class of the possibility of departure.

Facility Parking

Facility parking is located in front of the main entrance to the Dempster Fire Training Center. Additionally, the posted designation of parking areas for Fire Academy Staff, OEM Staff and Communications Staff will be observed at all times. Any vehicle not properly parked may be towed at the owner's expense.

****NO PERSONAL VEHICLES ARE PERMITTED ON THE TRAINING GROUNDS AT ANY TIME, THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS****

Mercer County Fire Academy

Field Delivery Program

Overview

The Field Delivery Program (previously Drill Maintenance Program) was originally developed to assist area Fire Departments meet their training needs but at the same time not put additional burdens on the department officers. Drills involving lectures only will be given at the department's fire station. All live burn training will be conducted at the Fire Academy. Other hands-on training not involving live burns may be given at the Fire Academy or a site in the department's fire district, which ever meets the course regulatory and safety requirements.

*(Courses in this catalog **WILL NOT** be part of the Field Delivery Program).*

Procedures

Departments wishing to participate in the Field Delivery program should notify William Chyzik, Manager, Fire Academy, Training & Operations at (609) 799-3245 or chyzikw@mccc.edu of their intent to participate by submitting a "Field Delivery Course Application".

The Academy will then contact the participating department to discuss needs and delivery options and scheduling. Remember, departments may schedule as few or as many drill modules as they desire. The scheduling of modules is usually flexible enough that program could be offered daytime, evening or weekends. The Fire Academy requests two weeks' notice to be able to properly prepare all classes and paperwork.

Record keeping

Records of the program, both content and attendees will be kept by the Academy.

Cost

The cost of this program will vary depending on the drill modules selected by the participating company/department.

MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIRE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM

Fire Science Technology *Associate in Applied Science Degree (A.A.S)*

The associate degree program in Fire Science Technology is designed to meet the needs of individuals entering the fields of firefighting, fire prevention and private fire industry companies/organizations to provide opportunities for students to advance their knowledge and skills in the fire services field.

The degree program is designed to meet the needs of the full or part-time student, the program will normally take a minimum of two to three years to complete. All fire science courses are offered during the day and evening.

Mercer graduates are employed by city, state, and federal departments dedicated to the fire services field. In addition, private industry employment is available at companies that provide fire equipment, alarm systems, fire suppression systems, fire safety and insurance.

Admission requires a high school diploma or equivalent. Courses are available for those entering their senior year of high school thru the career prep program.

The Fire Science courses offered by Mercer County Community College are held at the Dempster Fire Service Training Center at the Mercer County Fire Academy.

Fall 2026 – Fire Science Technology Course Schedule
(Register at www.mccc.edu)

FIR-101	Intro to Fire Science	Mondays	11:45am – 2:25pm
FIR-104	Building Construction	Wednesdays	11:45am – 2:25pm
FIR-201	Hazardous Materials	Thursdays	6:00pm – 8:50pm
FIR-203	Fire Protection Systems	Mondays	6:00pm – 8:50pm

More information may be obtained by contacting, James McCann, Fire Academy Director, and Program Coordinator. Email: mccannj@mccc.edu or by calling **(609) 799-3245**

Visit Mercer County Community College on the web: www.mccc.edu for information and course registration.

MERCER COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

James J. McCann Director
Email - (mccannj@mccc.edu)

William ChyzikManager, Fire Academy Training & Operations
Email - (chyzikw@mccc.edu)

Helen M. TaylorSr. Administrative Specialist
Email – (taylorh@mccc.edu)

MERCER COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS

**Antozzeski, Mark
Batt, Jeffrey
Bergen, Marissa
Borden, Mark
Burns, David
Colon, Mark
Dalton, Adam
D'Artagnan, Wayne
DeVita, Eric
Dziminski, Richard
Field, Christopher
Filandro, Michael
Frank, Ryan
Gossard, GERALYNNE
Greene, Keith
Haviland, Douglas
Heller, Aaron
Hicks, Lamar
Ho, David
Hopson, William
Jackson, Richard
Jones, Christopher
Kandra, Kenneth
Kiernan, Michael
Kraemer, Richard
Kraemer, Steven
Krowicki, Thomas**

**Laird, Christopher
LeBrun, Robert
Low-Beer, Alfred
Low-Beer, Nicole
Mancini, Peter
Manlio, Robert
Migliacci, Nicholas
Moran, Anthony
Mull, Charles
Newborn, Paul
Padulchick, Jay
Pierson, Jarred
Pszczolkowski, Douglas
Quigley, Daniel
Sanders, Richard
Schafer, John
Seiboldt, Glen
Sferra, Scott
Smisloff, John
Taylor, Frederick
Tharp, Robert
Tomalin, Dan
Vaning, Barbara
Wadsworth, Keith
Woestemeyer, Phyllis
Zera-Krunshinski, Dylan**



Mercer County Fire Academy
 Capt. John T. Dempster Sr. Fire Training Center
 350 Lawrence Station Road
 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
 Telephone: (609) 799-3245



COURSE APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION FORM

Course Information

Course Title	Start Date
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Applicant Information (to be completed by the applicant)

Name		Mailing Address	
NJ DFS Firefighter #	NJ OEMS EMT Certification #	Date of Birth	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	E-Mail Address	

Enrollment & Course Requirement Reminder:

Only those applicants meeting and providing course pre-requisites will be accepted. Please ensure all necessary documentation is attached.	No student shall be permitted to attend/participate in any course or evolution which requires the use of an SCBA if they have excessive facial hair.	Casual but neat clothing is permitted, no cutoffs, non-fire department uniform shorts or open toe footwear will not be permitted.
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Certification Section (to be reviewed by the Applicant and completed by the Agency, Department or Organization)

Agency/Department/Organization Name	Mailing Address
Agency/Department/Organization Phone	Agency/Department/Organization Fax

The undersigned certifies that the applicant enrolled in the above course does not have any physical and/or other conditions, which would prevent him or her from actively participating in all portions of this course. The student will be provided with PPE and SCBA by this department/organization which complies with PEOSHA standards NJAC 12:100-10 and has complied with the NJ Department of Labor adopted Respiratory Standard 29 CFR 1910.134 as it applies to medical evaluations and fit testing. The undersigned also certifies that the student enrolled in this course is covered by the department/organization's Workman's Compensation, Liability and medical insurance as indicated by a copy of a current certificate of insurance attached to this application or on file at the Fire Academy.

The above named organization and individual shall hold harmless and indemnify the County of Mercer, the Mercer County Community College and the Mercer County Fire Academy, its officers, agents and employees from any and all injuries, damages and claims for damage to persons and/or property arising from the actions of its attendees at the Mercer County Fire Academy, except as such injuries and damages are caused by the gross negligence of the Academy or its employees or agents.

Authorizing Officer's Name	Authorizing Officer's Rank	Authorizer's Signature	Date
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For Fire Academy Use Only

Your Department's/Organization's course application has been approved. Invoice will be forwarded once class begins.

_____ Date _____ Mercer County Fire Academy

Your Department's/Organization's course application has been returned for the following reasons. Please provide information requested and return.

_____ No current Certificate of Insurance _____ Student does not meet course prerequisite requirements

_____ Course is Full _____ Other _____

_____ Date _____ Mercer County Fire Academy