

The Florida State Fire College

BUREAU OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING



Welcome Package

SEPTEMBER 2011

Florida State Fire College

Origin of the Florida State Fire College

The first Florida State Fire College Training session was held in Daytona Beach on May 7-9, 1930. In 1949, the Fire College became a State institution with permanent headquarters in Ocala on six acres. In 1969, under the State reorganization plan, the Florida State Fire College was placed under the Department of Community Affairs and became the Bureau of State Fire College.



In 1975, the Florida Legislature took action which resulted in the consolidation of two existing Bureaus into one. It was during this Legislative session that the new Bureau was assigned to the Division of State Fire Marshal and acquired the title of Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.

About the Fire College

As part of the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal, the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training operates the Florida State Fire College (FSFC). As prescribed by Florida Statute, the Bureau is charged with developing training and regulating Florida fire certifications and fire safety programs. FSFC is a multi-discipline training facility with an emphasis on fire training. Programs are offered to Florida's fire and emergency services, as well as to law enforcement and the fire service industry.

Our Present Facility

In 1989, a new 37-acre site was dedicated and opened 7 miles north of Ocala, in Lowell, among the rolling hills of central Florida's horse country. The complex includes a burn building, smoke tower, and a variety of training props that are used for all disciplines of fire suppression, hazardous materials and urban search and rescue training. In addition, there is an administration building, learning resource center, classrooms, apparatus building, 100-bed dormitory, several lounges, and a cafeteria.

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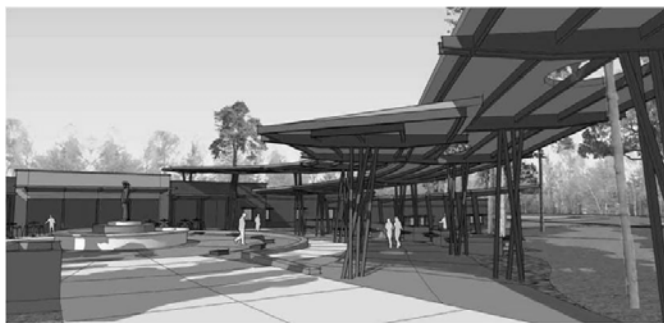
What's in Our Future?

We are focused on improving the current campus while planning for future expansion. We have just completed a comprehensive study of the current campus.



Architects have recommended significant updates to the existing campus. Included are structural repairs to building foundations, introduction of covered walkways and outdoor seating areas, as well as landscape improvements. We

are also focused on the future expansion of our campus. Fifty acres have been acquired immediately south of the existing campus. Our visioning process is in full gear, discussing future needs with our customers to clearly shape our investment. Our stakeholders consistently communicate their expectations of contemporary lodging facilities, state-of-the-art virtual training tools, and enhanced training props relevant to expanding emergency disciplines they face.



Plans for the additional property will accommodate instructional props to ensure all emergency responders continue to have the best training opportunities and readiness capabilities available to them at the FSFC.

Contacting Us:

The main number of the Florida State Fire College is (352) 369-2800.

If you have questions related to the following areas, please call the appropriate number:

Registration	(352) 369-2800	Then, Press 2
Standards / Certification	(352) 369-2800	Then, Press 3
Bookstore	(352) 369-2800	Then, Press 4
Safety	(352) 369-2800	Then, Press 5
Security (after hours)	(352) 369-2859	

Our Address:

11655 N.W. Gainesville Road
Ocala, Florida 34482-1486
Phone 352.369.2800 • Fax 352.620.7247
www.floridastatefirecollege.org

Florida State Fire College

ARRIVING ON CAMPUS:

Sunday Arrivals:

- You may arrive on campus any time after 10:00 a.m. the day before your Monday course begins.
- Parking is available on the perimeter of the campus primarily on the west and north end of campus.
- Report to the security office (see map) to obtain your room assignment. If security personnel are not in the office, contact them at (352) 369-2859.
- Please do not park in the “reserved” or “staff” designated parking areas

Monday Arrivals:

- You may arrive on campus any time the morning of your first day of class. Staff is available beginning at 7:30 a.m. to address any information you require.
- Parking is available on the perimeter of the campus primarily on the west and north end of campus.
- Please use caution driving on campus; be aware of pedestrians and students participating in physical conditioning activities.

ATTENDANCE:

- You are required to attend all sessions of the course and complete all pre-course assignments. Failure to appear in class for a scheduled activity will be considered an absence. For a certification course, students must attend all class hours to obtain certification.

BOOKSTORE:

The Florida State Fire College maintains an inventory of all required course books and related materials. Additionally, souvenirs, a variety of clothing items and classroom supplies are available for purchase.

Hours of Operation:

- Monday 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DIRECTIONS TO THE FLORIDA STATE FIRE COLLEGE:

From Interstate I-75

- I-75 to Highway 326 (Exit 358), East one-half mile on Highway 326.
- Left turn onto NW Gainesville Road (Highway 25A).
- North on NW Gainesville Road approximately 3.6 miles.
- Right turn onto campus at Florida State Fire College sign.

USNG: 17R LN 84075 44020

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DRESS CODE FOR STUDENTS:

- It is the student's responsibility to use good judgment in the attire worn that projects a professional image while at the Florida State Fire College.
- Dress code for males in the classroom: shirts with collars, slacks, or department uniforms, closed-toed shoes and socks (no t-shirts).
- Dress code for females in the classroom: dresses, blouses with slacks or skirts, or department uniforms and closed-toed shoes (no t-shirts).

FREE WI-FI ACCESS:

- The Florida State Fire College now has **free** WI-FI access for our students.
- In addition to having free Wi-Fi; a designated computer to access personal email is located in the atrium immediately opposite the main reception desk.

EMERGENCY CALLS TO STUDENTS:

- During normal business hours: (352) 369-2800
- After normal business hours: (352) 369-2859
- The caller should state the call is an emergency.
- The message will be delivered to the student immediately if you are on campus.
- If you must leave the Florida State Fire College due to an emergency, contact the reception desk or security office when leaving campus.

FOOD SERVICE:

- The Florida State Fire College has a full-service cafeteria operated by MCTAE Culinary School. Full-service meals are offered for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. A main entrée is highlighted each day.
- Credit card payment or cash is accepted.
- Meal plans are available and can be pre-paid through the vendor

*Check for the latest Meal Plan Pricing
at www.floridafireprograms.com
or stop by the cafeteria.*

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LAUNDRY FACILITIES:

- There are new, state of the art, credit/debit card operated washers and dryers in the dormitory building (cash is also accepted).
- You may purchase laundry supplies at the Fire College Book Store during normal office hours.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER / COMPUTER LAB:

- Located immediately to the side of the main atrium, the Learning Resource Center includes IBM compatible computers with printing capabilities. Systems use Microsoft Windows platform. The center is open from 7:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Internet access is limited to sites to obtain information related to your course work. All computers are monitored to ensure appropriate use.

LODGING OFF CAMPUS:

- A variety of hotel choices are available within 15 minutes of the Florida State Fire College.
- Most hotels are located immediately off of I-75 near the Ocala Exits.
- Reservations, pricing and accommodations are the responsibility of the student.
- Several hotels will provide a discounted rate; inquire for a government rate discount or other discount if applicable. The FSFC does not endorse any hotel.
- Some sample hotel options include:
 - Comfort Suites
 - La Quinta
 - Homewood Suites
 - Country Inn & Suites
 - Holiday Inn Express
 - Hilton Ocala
 - Fairfield Inn
 - Courtyard Ocala
 - Howard Johnson
 - Residence Inn

LODGING ON CAMPUS:

- Once you are accepted into a dorm room, it is reserved for you.
- Room assignments are random.
- We make every effort to ensure you have a single room. Most often though, rooms are shared, with either two or three students total to a room.

Access to Dorm Rooms:

- All dorm rooms are accessed by a “key-pad”. The last four digits of your social security number is the programmed access code for your room. To

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- gain access to your assigned room, enter the last four digits of your SSN, then the # key to unlock your door.
- If you arrive on Sunday – report to the security office (see map) to obtain your room assignment. If security personnel are not in the office, contact them at (352) 369-2859.
- All rooms must be vacated by 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

Amenities in Each Dorm Room:

- Private bathroom
- Twin bed and bed sheets
- Dresser
- Desk & chair

Items You Should Bring:

- Blanket, towel, wash cloth
- Fitted sheets (if you desire)
- Alarm clock
- Personal toiletries

MEDICAL SERVICES:

- In the event of any emergency, you may access an emergency response by locating any phone on campus and dialing “911”. This is a direct line to the County Emergency Dispatch Center and will enable you immediate emergency triage and dispatch for your emergency.
- All medical expenses are your responsibility.

REGISTERING FOR FLORIDA STATE FIRE COLLEGE COURSES:

You can register for Fire College courses and dormitories online at www.floridastatefirecollege.org.

To locate and register for a course online:

- Log into the website and select “Locate Future Class Offering”
- Enter the course search criteria and select the “register” button
- The complete list and schedule of all courses offered at FSFC is available online at <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/bfst/Course/course.htm>

SMOKING & TOBACCO POLICY:

- All buildings on campus are NON-SMOKING and TOBACCO PRODUCT FREE. Smoking, chewing, etc, is limited to designated outside areas.

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- If you smoke in your dorm room, you will be asked to leave campus and your course participation will be immediately canceled.

VISITORS TO DORM ROOMS ON CAMPUS:

- Only the assigned Florida State Fire College student is allowed in the dormitory room. Relatives or friends are not allowed in the rooms and cannot be lodged on campus.
- Animals are not allowed in campus housing, except with the approval of the Superintendent.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What Should I Expect the First Day of Class?

Classes begin on Monday at 8:00 a.m. with a short orientation in the main auditorium. The orientation is focused on welcoming students, providing relevant information to predict success for the week, introducing instructors, assignment of classrooms, and a brief review of Florida State Fire College policies.

Where Do I Report on the First Day of Class?

All students assemble in the main auditorium at 8:00 a.m. At the conclusion of a short orientation, students receive their classroom assignments.

Is Internet Access Available on Campus?

Yes! Internet access is available using your own wireless enabled computing device via the Fire College Wireless Network.

There are computers located in the learning resource center that are monitored by the State of Florida Department of Financial Services. The internet access on these computers is provided for research activities required for class assignments. These computers cannot be used for personal use or email access.

There is a separate computer (across from the main reception desk) that is designated for personal internet use and to access email.

Is Internet WI-FI Available on Campus?

YES! The Florida State Fire College now has Wi-Fi connectivity!

What Audio & Visual Aids Are Available To Support Classroom Projects?

The learning resource center has Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint installed on all computers for student use. Each classroom has a technology cart

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including a computer, projector, internet access, DVD, and VHS players. Flip charts and other support materials are available from the instructor.

Are Fitness Facilities Available?

There is not a fitness center on campus. Compass Gym offers students a weekly membership for \$20. Information is available at the Fire College reception desk or by contacting Compass Gym directly at (352) 875-5616.

Tell Me About the Ocala Area?

Marion County has the same land area as the entire state of Rhode Island. For people who enjoy the outdoors, there are places to go and things to do all year round. The county is famous for its huge oaks, and towering sand pines of the Ocala National Forest. The subtropical climate makes Marion County a vacation spot year-round.

Opportunities for fishing, kayaking, boating, swimming and other water sports abound in a region covered by hundreds of fresh-water springs, lakes and the Silver, Rainbow, Ocklawaha, and Withlacoochee Rivers.

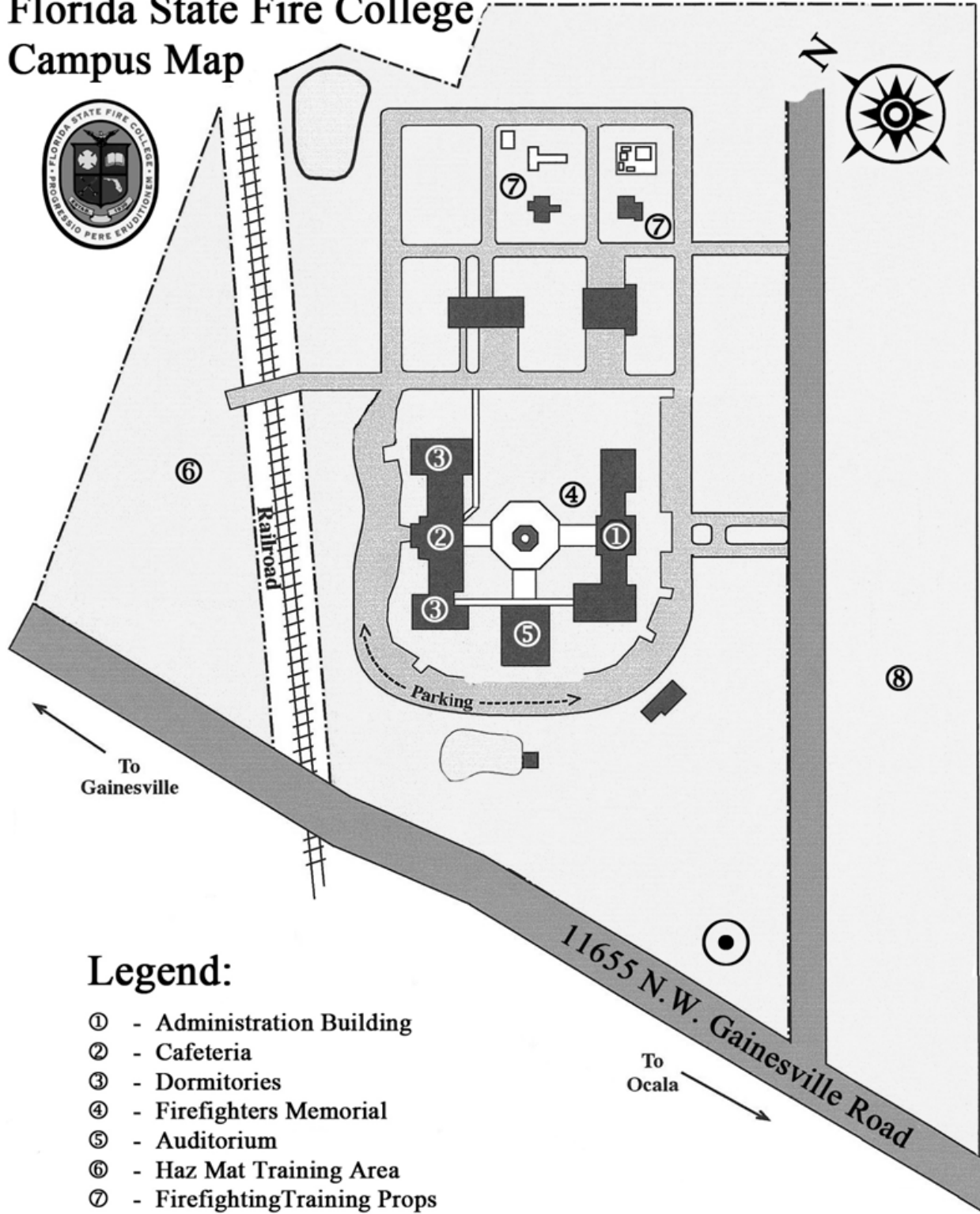
The pure, clean waters of springs and spring-fed lakes and rivers are a destination for snorkeling and diving. Marion County is ideal for fishing in our area lakes such as Orange, Jumper, George, Lake Weir and the Withlacoochee River. They are unequalled for bass fishing which is just one of the more than 100 species of fish to be found in the region's waterways. Just outside of Ocklawaha on Lake Weir is the 560 acre Carney Island Park which offers hiking, biking, swimming, picnicking and canoeing.

How Can I Receive Updates From the Fire College?

Anyone interested in information from the Fire College should be on the "A-List". The A-List is an email distribution group the FSFC uses to distribute new information. This includes information ranging from general announcements, class announcements, public hearing notices, employment opportunities, pertinent news, and other important information. Your email address does not appear on the distribution list when e-mails are distributed. Sign up for the "A-List" at: <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sfm/bfst/ListReg.htm>

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Florida State Fire College Campus Map



Legend:

- ① - Administration Building
- ② - Cafeteria
- ③ - Dormitories
- ④ - Firefighters Memorial
- ⑤ - Auditorium
- ⑥ - Haz Mat Training Area
- ⑦ - Firefighting Training Props
- ⑧ - 50 Acres for Future Expansion

