FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Division of State Fire Marshall
Bureau of Fire Standards and Training
11655 N.W. Gainesville Road
Ocala, FL 34482-1486

BFST2120
Building Construction for the Fire Service
Syllabus

Revision Date: February 12, 2026

Course Contacts
This course is managed by The Bureau of Fire Standards and Training

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Class Days/Time
The course is designed for a traditional delivery consisting of 45 hours of instructor/student participation. The traditional program at the Florida State Fire College will be Monday through Friday from 0830 to 1730 with group project design and presentation for an additional 5 hours. The hybrid program will consist of utilizing Canvas LMS, , conference calls and a minimum of two day in-person attendance at the Florida State Fire College.

Contact Hours
45-hour course

Continuing Education Units (CEU's)
Approved for 45 CEUs toward Fire Code Administrator, Fire Safety Inspector and Fire Instructor I, II, III.

Course Description
This course will provide the student with a basic understanding of building design and construction methods which will aid in decision making processes related to fire prevention and control. Students will gain an understanding of construction principles and practices related to fire loads and behavior to make more effective, safer, and timely decisions to protect people and property from potential and actual fires.

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Prerequisite(s)

None

Pre-course Assignment

None

Course Materials, Grading and Attendance

Computer access

The course materials are now available in a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) format that will function on any electronic device. The Florida State Fire College classroom environment is computer based. An increased number of students and instructors are bringing laptop computers or other electronic devices to campus; you are responsible for the security and maintenance of your equipment. The State Fire College cannot provide computer software, hardware (which includes disks, printers, scanners, monitors, etc.) or technical support for your device. Fore your convenience, we do provide surge protector power strips at each classroom table.
The course shall require you to conduct research about your agency. Electronic format is recommended and access to such information shall be necessary during the course.
Should you need access to the Student Resource Center, it is located off the main lobby and is available for all students to utilize. The lab is open daily Monday through Friday. A copy machine is available for printing course materials. A thumb drive maybe necessary to access documents for print.

Textbook

Building Construction Related to the Fire Service (4th ed.), IFSTA 201). ISBN: 978-087939594-0

Grading

Students must achieve a minimum cumulative score of 70% to pass this course. Course grades are determined from assignments and activities including homework, projects, quizzes, exams, and presentations.

Class Participation	10%
Tests	40%
Final Report	25%
Final Presentation	25%

Attendance

You are required to attend all sessions of the course. If you do not, you may not receive a certificate.

- Excused absences - Students are permitted excused absences totaling no more than 10% of class (4.5 hours maximum); the instructor shall be the sole determining authority in the determination of an excused absence and may assign supplemental work to make up for missed class time.
- Unexcused absences - The instructor shall be the sole determining authority in the determination of an unexcused absence (i.e. "no call, no show"). The instructor has no obligation to offer the student an opportunity to make up assignments, including quizzes and/or exams, but may do so at his/her discretion.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is crucial to the learning community and indicates respect for the college, the instructor, the course, your classmates and yourself. Any violation of this trust, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or using or having any content of an un-administered test, will result in immediate dismissal from the course. Under Florida Statute 633, any student dismissed for academic dishonesty can be refused acceptance for any course administered by FSFC.

The Academic Policies and Student Standards of Conduct are located on the Florida State Fire College website located at Registration and Student Services

Course Outcomes

FESHE

Building Construction for Fire Protection (C0275)

1. Describe building construction as it relates to firefighter safety, buildings codes, fire prevention, code inspection, firefighting strategy, and tactics.
2. Classify major types of building construction in accordance with a local/model building code.
3. Analyze the hazards and tactical considerations associated with the various types of building construction.
4. Explain the different loads and stresses that are placed on a building and their interrelationships.
5. Identify the function of each principal structural component in typical building design.
6. Differentiate between fire resistance and flame spread, and describe the testing procedures used to establish ratings for each.

7. Classify occupancy designations of the building code.
8. Identify the indicators of potential structural failure as they relate to firefighter safety.
9. Identify the role of a geographic information system (GIS) as it relates to building construction.

Job Performance Requirement

Given information from discussion and reading materials, the student will satisfy the job performance requirements (JPR) of the applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, and any applicable skill sheets.

NFPA 1020, Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor, Fire Officer, and Emergency Medical Services Officer Professional Qualifications, 2025 Edition

9.6	Inspection and Investigation
9.6.1-9.6.2	
10.5	Inspection and Investigation
10.5.1	

NFPA 1030, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions, 2024

7.4	Field Inspection
7.4.2*-7.4.3*	