



R823

Dear National Fire Academy Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Volunteer Incentive Program's course "*Leading Community Fire Prevention*." This course is specifically designed to reach you and other members of small fire departments who are responsible for fire prevention in communities with populations of 25,000 or fewer people.

"*Leading Community Fire Prevention*" will provide you with the tools needed to identify and apply prevention strategies in your own community. You will learn how to identify your community's risks; work with community leaders; and develop, implement, and market a prevention plan specific to your community. Class activities allow you to apply what you are learning. Upon successful completion of this course you will be better prepared to begin development and implementation of your own community's prevention plan.

Many of the students who are selected for this course are already actively engaged in prevention programs in their communities. Sharing ideas and techniques with your fellow students will enhance the learning experience for all. So, if you have ideas that work for you at home please come prepared to share them with the class. Also bring your completed prevention survey which is attached to this letter.

It is important to note that this is a 6-day class, and the first day of class will begin on Sunday at approximately 8 a.m. just after orientation. Orientation will normally commence at 8 a.m.; however, make sure you confirm this when you check in. Subsequent classes will meet daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with graduation occurring on Friday at 4 p.m. Because of this schedule, you will be provided lodging for Friday night. Evening classes may be required.

Bus transportation to and from airports will be available on Saturday evening prior to the start of class and the Saturday morning following graduation.

Increasing numbers of students and instructors are bringing laptop computers to campus. You alone are responsible for the security and maintenance of your equipment. The Academy cannot provide you with computer software, hardware, or technical support to include disks, printers, scanners, etc. There is a limited number of 120 Volt AC outlets in the classrooms. A Student Computer Lab is located in Building D and is available for all students to use. It is open daily with technical support provided in the evenings. This lab uses Windows XP and Office 2003 as the software standard.

Should you need additional information related to course content or requirements, please feel free to contact Training Specialist Woody Stratton at (301) 447-1380 or email at woody.stratton@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis Onieal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent
National Fire Academy
U.S. Fire Administration

Enclosure

Prevention Survey

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey. Please bring it with you, in a **sealed** envelope, to the first day of *Leading Community Fire Prevention*. Do **not** place your name on the survey or the envelope to maintain your confidentiality.

1. Please indicate below the number of years of service you have in the fire department.

2. When did you first become aware of the fire-prevention efforts of your fire department?
(Please check the appropriate box or fill in your answer after Other.)

- Before you joined the fire department
- When you were interviewed to become a firefighter
- When you went through rookie school
- After you became a firefighter
Time: 1 month _____ 6 months _____ 12 months _____ Other _____
- During your orientation
- Other _____

3. When you first became aware of fire-prevention activities, did it have a positive or a negative influence on you? (Please check the appropriate box)

- Positive Negative Neutral Don't remember

4. In response to number 3 above, who was (were) the person(s) that influenced your attitude about fire-prevention activities? (Please check the appropriate box or boxes or fill in your answer after Other.)

- Instructor Fire Chief Fire Officer Public Fire Officer
- Fire Inspector Fire Marshal
- Other _____

5. Do you feel fire-prevention activities are considered to be a positive and important function in your fire department? (Please check the appropriate box)

Yes No No opinion

6. Have you personally ever been asked to be involved in fire-prevention efforts of any kind? (Please check the appropriate box)

Yes No

7. Which person(s) in your fire department would be the main contact who would ask or encourage you to get involved in fire-prevention activities; or who is someone you could go to, to get involved in fire-prevention activities? (Please check the appropriate box or boxes or fill in your answer after Other.)

Fire Chief Other Officer Public Fire Educator Firefighter

Fire Marshal Fire Inspector

Other _____

8. Are you **required** to participate in fire-prevention activities? (Please check the appropriate box)

Yes No

9. Do you think fire prevention activities should be required or be mandatory? (Please check the appropriate box)

Yes No No Opinion

10. How much of your time (percentage) is now spent in fire-prevention activities versus suppression-related activities. (Please check the appropriate box or fill in your answer after Other.)

1% 2% 3% 5% 10% 25% 50% Other _____

11. Would you like to be more involved in fire prevention activities? (Please check the appropriate box)

Yes No

12. What incentives encourage you to be involved in fire-prevention-related activities **now**?
(Please check the appropriate box or boxes or fill in your answer after Other.)

I want to help my community

I enjoy it

Pay

I like the people I work with

I want to be sure that I have done something to prevent unnecessary loss of lives in my community

I feel it is my responsibility as a firefighter in my community

Other

13. What incentives would encourage you to be **more** involved in prevention activities?
(Please check the appropriate box or boxes or fill in your answer after Other.)

Money/Benefits

Trade fire prevention activities for mandatory suppression activities

Recognition

Mandatory participation

Camaraderie

To become more educated

To become eligible for promotion

Sense of accomplishment that you are making an impact

Other _____

14. Do you think that fire prevention needs more emphasis in your fire department?
(Please check the appropriate box)

Yes No

15. What deterrents keep you from being involved in fire-prevention-related activities?
(Please check the appropriate box **or** boxes or fill in your answer after Other.)
- Fire department budget
 - Upper management does not support fire prevention
 - Not aware of any fire prevention efforts in the fire department
 - Fire prevention activities do not fit into my schedule
 - Don't like the people who are involved in fire prevention
 - Don't want a reputation as favoring fire prevention over suppression
 - Other _____
16. Are you familiar with the report, *America Burning* and the recommendations that were made for a fire-safe America? (Please check the appropriate box)
- Yes No
17. Overall, how do you compare your fire department with other neighboring departments considering **all** facets of the department such as suppression, rescue, training, equipment and equipment maintenance, code enforcement, and fire prevention/fire education, etc.? (Please check the appropriate box)
- My department is one of the best around
 - My department is above average
 - My department is average
 - My department is slightly below average
 - My department is below average
18. Do you believe that fire prevention is the responsibility of every member of a fire service organization? (Please check the appropriate box.)
- Yes No No Opinion
19. What percentage of firefighters in your fire department would you estimate are actively involved in fire prevention activities? (Please check the appropriate box.)
- 1% to 5% 10% to 15% 20% to 25% 30% to 40%
 - 50% to 60% 70% to 80% 90 to 100%