



FEMA

R229

Dear National Fire Academy Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance to the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy's *Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices* (HMOSP) class. This highly technical course is fast paced and you are asked to arrive prepared to engage quickly in the educational process.

Hazardous Materials Operating Sites Practices is a didactic 2-week course designed to answer the question "why" when making tactical decisions associated with strategic goals implemented at a hazardous materials/ CBRNE scene. The course encourages implementation of a "hazard-based" response utilizing "risk-based" decisionmaking associated with the application of science, knowledge, and experience to determine resource needs, technology applications, and protective measures. The course emphasizes the safety and security of personnel and the public. *Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices* provides the technician with additional knowledge to develop and implement an effective and efficient tactical response. Evening classes will be held when necessary. Students are encouraged to review basic hazardous materials technician information and bring copies of procedures, protocols, or plans to share with the class.

Prior to your arrival, you should complete the *Foundational Concepts of Chemistry* (Q228) self-study course. This course is available through NFAOnline at [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov)

This class is for students already operating at the OSHA (29CFR1910.120(q)) and NFPA 472 defined technician level. Completion of the Academy's *Chemistry for Emergency Response* (CER) course is recommended but not mandatory to attend the HMOSP course. A good working knowledge of the chemical and physical properties of materials will greatly aid the student.

End-of-class graduation ceremonies are an important part of the course and you are expected to attend. Please do not make any travel arrangements to leave campus until after you and your classmates graduate.

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 2007 as the software standard.

Should you need additional information related to the course, please contact Mr. Wayne Yoder, Hazardous Materials Curriculum Training Specialist, at (301) 447-1090 or email at [Wayne.Yoder@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Wayne.Yoder@fema.dhs.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis Onieal", enclosed in a rectangular box.

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