FEMA

R203

Dear National Fire Academy Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance into the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy's *Fire Dynamics--Fire Modeling* (FDFM) course. Your assistance is requested to adequately prepare for this educational opportunity.

This course is based upon the application of fire dynamics principles and equations, computer-based fire modeling and employs a fundamental practical approach to their usage and limitations. The course combines lecture as well as practical project applications and various tools that can be used by fire investigators to help support fire cause determination. This course will be very challenging, yet rewarding.

The following reference materials are highly recommended reading prior to your attendance.

- Quintiere, James G. *Principles of Fire Behavior*, Delmar Publishers, 1998.
- Lentini, John J. *Scientific Protocols for Fire Investigation,* Taylor and Francis, 2006.
- Babrauskas, Vytenis, Ph.D. *Ignition Handbook*. Fire Science Publisher, 2003.
- Icove, David J and DeHaan, John D., *Forensic Fire Scene Reconstruction*, Second Edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2009.
- Gorbett, Gregory E. and Pharr, James L., *Fire Dynamics*, Pearson Education Publishers, 2011.

You must bring with you a laptop computer that has a minimum of 512 MB RAM, with a Pentium 4 processor. Your computer also should have the Windows 2000® operating system or newer, Windows XP or Vista. If you have an Apple® computer, it must be able to run Windows XP or Vista.

You will also need to bring with you a scientific calculator for in-course work.

You should have already completed and submitted your transcript documenting completion of the following CFI Trainer Modules: Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling; Fire Dynamics Calculations; Post Flashover Fires; and A Ventilation-Focused Approach to the Impact of Building Structures and Systems on Fire Development. Access to CFI Trainer is via Web site at www.CFITrainer.net There are no costs or membership requirements to access these modules.

Prior to your arrival, please ensure with your employing agency ensure you have administrator rights to the computer that you will be using to facilitate installation of required software applications. Please consult with your IT staff for assistance if necessary.

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.

You alone are responsible for security and maintenance of your equipment. The Academy cannot provide you with computer software, beyond that required in this course; hardware; or technical support: disks, printers, scanners, etc. In order to cover the amount of material required for this course, completion of individual and/or group assignments and studying after classroom hours will be necessary. Also, evening classes may be conducted to complete all course requirements or to provide instructor-led tutorials. A key preparatory component to this course is completion of the pre-course information listed above.

Should you need additional information related to course content or requirements, please feel free to contact Mr. Michael L. Donahue, Fire/Arson and Explosion Investigation Curriculum Training Specialist at (301) 447-1158 or email at Michael.Donahue1@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure