



Infectious Diseases

Course Duration: 8 hours (1 day).

Learning Objectives:

During this 8-hour course on infectious diseases, students will:

- Analyze strategies they need to put in place to maintain good health.
- State the signs and symptoms of infectious diseases to which first responders may be exposed.
- Identify preventive measures such as standard precautions, immunizations and infectious disease screenings.
- State post-exposure procedures (for their jurisdiction).
- Describe recordkeeping roles and responsibilities (in their jurisdiction).

Target Audience:

The IAFF developed this course for those fire, rescue, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel, and other first responders who may respond to incidents where they may be exposed to infectious diseases.

Instructor Qualifications:

The IAFF currently has a team of 92 fire fighter/paramedic master instructors, with an average of 23 years of fire service experience, who specialize in student-centered, active learning techniques. Each master instructor possesses a minimum of five years of fire fighting and HazMat experience before being appointed as an IAFF master instructor. Upon appointment, master instructors participate in the IAFF's Adult Educational Methodology program which includes adult learning principles, target audience characteristics, instructional methodology, and practice using facilitation skills to deliver content and solve any facilitation problems that may arise. Master instructors also receive 1-day of training specific to delivery of the Infectious Diseases course.

In addition to master instructors, the IAFF prepares local instructors to deliver its courses through its train-the-trainer program. Local instructors interested in attending the train-the-trainer program must satisfy the following prerequisites:

- At least one year of teaching experience

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- Certification to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1041, Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications Level I or equivalent
- Demonstrated ability to teach from prepared materials
- Training to at least the NFPA 472, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials, First Responder Operations level (or awareness for non-fire service)
- Recent hazardous materials field experience and emergency medical training

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Syllabus

Infectious Diseases

This IAFF training is available throughout the United States. To request training, mail, fax or email requests to:

Harold A. Schaitberger, General President
International Association of Fire Fighters
1750 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Fax: (202) 637-0839 / Email: hazmat@iaff.org

Instructors

The IAFF provides a team of professional instructors, from across the country, composed of fire fighters/EMS personnel/HazMat Team Members. Instructors may be drawn from the national cadre of IAFF Master Instructors or local instructors trained by the IAFF.

Contact information

The IAFF does not provide instructors' contact information. However, students may contact the IAFF HazMat/WMD Training Department for additional course-related information at:

International Association of Fire Fighters
HazMat/WMD Training Department
1750 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Fax: (202) 737-8484 / Email: hazmat@iaff.org

Course Description

This course is designed to teach first responders the actions they and their departments need to perform in order to avoid, reduce, and/or eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases on the job through preventative and post-exposure strategies. Students learn about common infectious diseases that can

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affect the health and safety of first responders and their family members. Information includes the symptoms, prevention and transmission methods, and treatment options for each disease. Students also learn about the applicable state and federal legislation and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards related to infectious diseases and exposure reporting.

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Schedule

This training includes five units and topics:

- Unit 1: Staying Well
 - Why it's important
 - Who's responsible
- Unit 2: Pathogens
 - Chain of infection
 - Breaking the chain
 - Airborne and bloodborne diseases
- Unit 3: Prevention
 - Standard precautions
 - Infection control program
 - Immunizations and screenings
 - Station risks
- Unit 4: Post-Exposure
 - Recordkeeping roles and responsibilities
 - Medical follow-up
 - Protective legislation

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- Unit 5: Avian and Pandemic Influenza
 - Possible impacts
 - Department readiness
 - Staying safe

Each unit provides approximately one to one and one-half hours of learner-centered instruction. When used consecutively, the five units, with two 15-minute breaks and a one-hour lunch break, comprise an eight-hour day.

Required Reading

All required reading materials are provided in the Student Manual for the course. Additional suggested readings are included in expanded information sections.