

Executive Summary

Fire Fighter Agreement Surveys

**Volunteer Fire Fighter
Fire Fighter I
Fire Fighter II**

October 7, 2008

Introduction:

The following represents the results of an agreement survey distributed to Fire Fighter professionals in Ohio. On August 25, 2008 provosts, chief academic officers, and regional campus deans as well as career-technical adult directors and teachers were invited to identify appropriate persons within their institutions to respond to an electronic survey. The survey asked specific questions about the learning outcomes needed to facilitate transfer of students from public career-technical institutions (secondary and adult) to public colleges and universities in Ohio.

The first step in facilitating transfer of course work was to establish learning outcomes, to be used to identify equivalent content taught by career-technical institutions and higher education alike. During the summer of 2008 a panel of fire fighter experts identified the learning outcomes needed to transition from career-technical education to colleges and universities. Three levels were created: (1) Volunteer Fire Fighter, (2) Fire Fighter I and (3) Fire Fighter II.

The learning outcomes are shown in documents called Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs) and within each CTAG are unique identifiers called Career-Technical Articulation Numbers (CTANs). These CTAGs and CTANs were endorsed by the Fire Fighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee of the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Medical Services, Office of Fire Service. Moreover, the State Board of Emergency Medical Services endorsed all three documents as well as the college credit hours associated with each CTAG.

Before the CTAGs can be implemented and a guarantee of college credit offered, educators and fire fighter professionals from around Ohio reviewed each CTAG and stated their agreement or disagreement. Survey takers were asked to pay particular attention to the credit hour values for each of the CTAGs.

Summary and Impression:

Response Rates

Response rates of the various sectors were more than adequate to arrive at valid conclusions.

61 Career-Technical Institutions provided 65 responses
5 University main or regional campuses provided 6 responses
13 Two-year colleges provided 13 responses
10 Others provided 12 responses (e.g., fire departments or private EMS training facilities)

Summary: Total Institutions = 89 Total Responses = 96

Volunteer Fire Fighter

Respondents strongly supported the credit hours assigned to the Volunteer Fire Fighter CTAN. Moreover, 79 (97.5%) respondents agreed that the learning outcomes appropriately described the skills and knowledge needed to transition from career-technical adult education into higher education and receive college credit for the Volunteer Fire Fighter content.

Please note that some of the comments provided by respondents are outside the authority of the Ohio Board of Regents and/or the Ohio Department of Education. Via this document, these comments will be shared with the appropriate authority. That authority may choose to act on such comments at its own discretion. About one-half of the comments about the Volunteer Fire Fighter CTAN were directed at the credit hour values assigned to the CTAN. Some suggested higher values while others recommended lower values, however, 75 respondents (91.5%) agreed that 1 semester/3 quarter hours of credit were appropriate. It is important to point out that if credit has been granted for the Volunteer Fire Fighter, credit cannot be granted twice if and when a person pursues Fire Fighter I training. As noted on the CTAN for Fire Fighter I, if previous credit was earned for Volunteer Fire Fighter only the balance of 5 semester/8 quarter hours can be granted.

Several comments recommended greater contact hours for the Volunteer Fire Fighter content and/or recommended additional content areas such as air management. As noted above, such suggestions are outside the authority of the Ohio Board of Regents.

Questions regarding the Volunteer Fire Fighter CTAN.

1. Do you approve of the hours (1 semester/3 quarter hours) recommended for this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.5%	75
No	8.5%	7

2. Do you approve of this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	97.5%	79
No	2.5%	2

Comments regarding the Volunteer Fire Fighter CTAN.

1. This course is so basic it really should not be offered any credit. It is a stepping stone to other courses. The firefighter I program includes the components of this class. If they take the firefighter one course later they will essentially be getting credit twice for this course.
2. 2.5 Semester Hours.
3. At present, 1 quarter hour. If the class is lengthened (as I feel it should be, as 36 hours is not enough time), then maybe 3 quarter hours.
4. Credit hours for this intense of a program, 2 semesters.
5. I recommend 2 semester hours.
6. The state of Ohio states that the Volunteer Fire Class is to be 36 hours.
7. 1.5 to 2.0 hours is recommended.
8. I think it is imperative that air management becomes a standard procedure/concept taught at the volunteer firefighter level and beyond. I noticed

in 1.4.1 (A) 4 it covers equipment and air supply limitations. I hope that incorporates air management per NFPA 1404.

9. I do not think this is enough hours to give credit for.

10. I can "live" with this 1 semester hours. But as a panel member I also stated I do not believe this course is always "college level" work. Additionally the course is sometimes, if not often, taught by instructors with little or no college work completed themselves.

11. The VFF curriculum is not bad, but way too short to train firefighters to begin their duties. It should be at least 50 hours and include a final training burn.

Fire Fighter I

Respondents strongly supported the credit hours assigned to the Fire Fighter I CTAN. Moreover, 79 (96.3%) respondents agreed that the learning outcomes appropriately described the skills and knowledge needed to transition from career-technical adult education into higher education and receive college credit for the Fire Fighter I content.

Please note that some of the comments provided by respondents are outside the authority of the Ohio Board of Regents and/or the Ohio Department of Education. Via this document, these comments will be shared with the appropriate authority. That authority may choose to act on such comments at its own discretion. The majority of comments (11 of 13) were directed at the number of college credit hours assigned to the CTAN. As with the Volunteer Fire Fighter credit hours, respondents suggested higher and lower credit hour values for Fire Fighter I. However, 75 respondents (91.5%) agreed that 5 semester/8 quarter hours of college credit are appropriate for the Fire Fighter I content. The learning outcomes shown in the CTAN were taken from the Fire Fighter I curriculum that provides detailed behavioral objectives as called for in the NFPA 1001 standards as well as the *Knowledge and Skills Document* of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services, and Office of Fire Science. Every effort was made to match the CTAN to what chartered fire programs must cover, therefore, content in the CTAN cannot be added or changed.

Questions regarding the Fire Fighter I CTAN.

1. Do you approve of the hours (5 semester/8 quarter hours) recommended for this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.5%	75
No	8.5%	7

2. Do you approve of this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	96.3%	79
No	3.7%	3

Comments regarding the Fire Fighter I CTAN.

1. I believe it should be at least 6 semester hours as this is a 120-hour course. I'm not sure how many quarter hours equates to six semester hours
2. Ours is 5 credit hours (quarters)
3. 2 Semester/4 quarters
4. 10 quarter Hours
5. 8 Semester Hours
6. 9 quarter hours
7. I feel air management needs to be added as a learning objective. I also feel that physical fitness needs to be addressed in a class such as this.
8. 16 hours of EVOC and 3 hours of ropes and knots needs to be added to the CTAN
9. Except for the number of credit hours given.
10. Increase due to the current number of theory contact hours

11. I believe we were EXTREMELY generous in the credit hours recommended, but can live with the decision we as a panel made. I would have preferred 4 semester hours. The FDNY academy is ACE reviewed and NY Regents recommended for 15 semester hours and that course is over 900 hours in length.
12. Our FF-I = 6 quarter hours, so I will have to get the approval to change to two more credit hours
13. How will a transition class from volunteer to firefighter 1 be handled for students that have completed a volunteer course and later wishing to further their certification to a firefighter 1?

Fire Fighter II

Respondents strongly supported the credit hours assigned to the Fire Fighter II CTAN. Moreover, 79 (96.3%) respondents agreed that the learning outcomes appropriately described the skills and knowledge needed to transition from career-technical adult education into higher education and receive college credit for the Fire Fighter I content.

Please note that some of the comments provided by respondents are outside the authority of the Ohio Board of Regents and/or the Ohio Department of Education. Via this document, these comments will be shared with the appropriate authority. That authority may choose to act on such comments at its own discretion. As with the Volunteer Fire Fighter and Fire Fighter I most comments (9 of 14) were directed at the number of credit hours assigned to the CTAN. And as with the previous two CTANs some wanted more credit while others felt fewer hours were warranted, however, 79 respondents (92.7%) agreed that 10 semester/16 quarter hours of credit is appropriate for the Fire Fighter II content.

A couple of respondents commented about the transition from Fire Fighter I to Fire Fighter II and wondered how credits would be applied for those with Fire Fighter I credit. As noted on the CTAN only the balance of hours will be awarded for Fire Fighter I when persons have been granted that credit. For example, a person with 5 semester hours of credit for Fire Fighter I would only be granted the difference between I and II when such a person wishes to pursue an associate degree. In such cases those holding certification as Fire Fighter II would be granted 10 semester hours toward their associate degree. They **would not** receive 5 for their Fire Fighter I and 10 for their Fire Fighter II.

Questions regarding the Fire Fighter II CTAN?

1. Do you approve of the hours (10 semester/16 quarter hours) recommended for this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.7%	79
No	7.3%	6

2. Do you approve of this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	96.3%	79
No	3.7%	3

Comments regarding the Fire Fighter II CTAN.

1. Content level is extensive, but does not warrant 10 credit hours. It may be appropriate to offer 8 credit hours.
2. 5 semester/ 8 quarters
3. Ours is 10 hours (quarter)
4. I feel the number of hours should be 12 semester hours as this is a 240 hour course. I'm not sure how this equates to quarter hours.
5. 17 quarter hours
6. Would like the State Required NIMS / EVOC built in
7. Except for the number of hours.
8. 16 hours of EVOC and 3 hours of ropes & knots needs to be added to CTAN
9. I believe we were EXTREMELY generous in the credit hours recommended, but can live with the decision we as a panel made. I would have preferred 8 semester hours, but stated I can live with 10. The FDNY academy is ACE

reviewed and NY Regents recommended for 15 semester hours and that course is over 900 hours in length. As a comparison we are awarding 10 semester hours for a 240 hour course. (And many current Ohio firefighters completed the FF2 course when it was 160 hours, and hundreds of others completed the course when it was 200 hours.)

10. Our FF I = 12 quarter hours, I will have to get approval to add four credit hours.
11. Would you allow transition courses to be credited as well, ex: a volunteer to FFI or a FFI to a FFII?
12. How will it be handled for firefighters having a firefighter 1 certification wishing to further their training level to a firefighter 2 level?
13. I presume that the level I transition would be the difference between Level I and Volunteer?
14. I have a concern. A full time student is often considered 12 hours. With this 16 hour format will the student be able to finish the course in the same year?

Key:

CTAN = Career-Technical Articulation Number

CTAG = Career-Technical Assurance Guide

File: Final Report of Fire Fighter Agreement Survey