



Heartland Fire Training Authority

General Fire Academy information

Thank you for inquiring about the Heartland Fire Academy. Below is a synopsis of the process to assist you in planning your application. The Fire Academy generally occurs early January and runs to mid-May of each year.

This Academy supplies the entire breadth of training required for a Fire Fighter 1 certificate, but under state guidelines a person must also complete 6 months as a career fire fighter or 1 year as a Reserve or Volunteer to receive the actual Fire fighter 1 certification.

General Timeline

- Applications available mid-September
- Applications due mid-October
- Interviews of open enrollees end of October
- Academy orientation mid-November
- Academy start January

There are two methods of attending the Heartland Fire Academy: Sponsored and Open Enrollee.

Sponsored Recruits

Sponsored Recruits are associated as a reserve or volunteer with a Heartland Fire Training Authority (HFTA) member agency (see website for agency listing). **Each sponsoring agency conducts their own vetting process and recommends candidates to the Fire Academy.** The agency generally provides safety equipment, breathing apparatus, medical, and workers' comp. Enrollment cost is approximately \$3500.

Open Enrollee Recruits

Open Enrollee Recruits are current students at Miramar College, but not associated with a HFTA member agency. Open Enrollees are covered by the college for medical but they need to rent their safety gear and equipment at an average additional cost of \$650 (we are working on a method for students to rent through the college bookstore to contain or reduce costs). Enrollment cost is approximately \$3975.

Scholarships

The Heartland Fire Training Foundation offers a limited number of scholarships of approximately \$1500 for students that qualify. Other financial aid possibilities are being vigorously explored to assist recruits with the cost.



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Minimum requirements

All Recruits

- Age: 18 years of age at time of application.
- Education: High school graduate or equivalent (GED).
- Possession of a valid San Diego County EMT-1A and CPR card **at time of application.**

- **Pre-requisite certifications**
 - Wildland S-130 and S-190 certificates (can be obtained through Miramar 110A)
 - CSTI Hazmat FRO (can be obtained through Miramar 323B)
 - WMD TEEX online (no cost)
 - <https://teex.org/Pages/Class.aspx?course=AWR160&courseTitle=WMD/Terrorism+Awareness+for+Emergency+Responders>
 - Confined Space Awareness certificate (can be obtained through Miramar 322B)
 - ICS IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800 online (no cost)
 - <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>
- Be in good physical condition

Open Enrollee Recruits

- Successfully pass:
 - FCTC Written test no earlier than July 1
 - <https://www.fctconline.org/written-testing/>
 - CPAT completion no earlier than July 1
 - <https://www.fctconline.org/cpat/>
 - Interview
 - Medical Examination

State Testing

Starting January 1, 2016 a new state testing process is being initiated for all new fire fighters state wide. This will include a monitored computer based 160 question written exam and 17 skills that must be passed with 100% accuracy. The cost of these exams is in addition to the academy and the testing will be offered immediately after graduation.

More specific information can be obtained when the applications are distributed for each Academy. Please contact us should you need clarification or more specific information.