



**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**

**Fire Prevention
and Control**

A dramatic photograph of a fire inside a building. Bright orange and yellow flames are visible through a large opening, with thick smoke rising. In the foreground, a dark metal staircase with wooden treads leads up towards the fire. The overall scene is dark, with the fire providing the primary light source.

4 2ND A N N U A L
ARSON SEMINAR

November 2 - 4, 2016

New York State
Academy of Fire Science
Montour Falls, New York



OVERVIEW

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control will host the 42nd Annual Arson Seminar November 2, 3, and 4, 2016 at the New York State Academy of Fire Science, in Montour Falls, New York. This year's theme will be "Fire Investigation Start to Finish"; with concentration on getting it right from scene processing, to report writing, and court room testimony, ensuring a just and proper conclusion.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control has made major changes to the format for this year's program. Those changes include;

- Broadcasting all of the presentations to allow attendees to participate in every one.
- Attendance verification via barcode scanning
- The National Pro Board Fire Investigator Certification Exam will be offered on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, PRIOR to the start of the Seminar.
 - Investigators interested in taking the National Exam MUST pre-register for the exam by October 5, 2016.
 - To register complete the application form available at: www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/documents/standards/exam.pdf
 - Questions regarding National Certification testing can be addressed to: ofpc-standards@dhses.ny.gov

WORKSHOPS

Keynote Opener:

"Courtroom Testimony for Emergency Responders" – Testifying in court is an unusual experience for most emergency responders. Cliff Munson, Commanding Officer - Arson Investigation Unit, Long Beach, California Fire Department (Ret.) applies his experience as an arson investigator to prepare attendees for appearances at criminal trials, explaining the entire process step by step from documenting a fire scene to handling the aftermath of a trial.

Workshop #1:

"Fire Investigations Involving Lithium Batteries" – Dr. Quinn Horn, Exponent Engineering, of Boston Massachusetts consults in the areas of metallurgy and electrochemistry and frequently addresses issues related to a wide range of battery systems. This workshop will concentrate on the issues of fires caused by Lithium Batteries.

Workshop #2:

"What can we learn from the alarm system?" – Jeffrey D. Zwirn, President of IDS Research and Development Inc., has over 40 years of specialized expertise in the alarm and security industry. He is a Designated Expert Instructor for the New York City Police Department as well as many other police agencies across the county. This workshop is intended to teach fire investigators what information can be obtained from an alarm system and what can be learned by a forensic examination of the systems by an expert.

Workshop #3:

"Nothing is Complete until the Paperwork is Done" – Building from our Keynote Opener's presentation, Christopher Valdina, Chief Assistant District Attorney from Cayuga County, New York and OFPC Investigator Thomas Hetherington will explain the importance of writing a clear concise report, describe ways to improve report writing skills and describe the roles field notes, sketches and photographs play in a final report.

Workshop #4:

"Fireworks in New York State" – The legalization of certain fireworks in the State of New York raised many concerns for fire investigators. OFPC Staff members, Deputy Chief Pablo Davis and Investigator James Ryan will present a workshop that is intended to familiarize fire investigators with the current laws regarding the sale, use and storage of fireworks and clues to look for when conducting fire investigations that might involve them.

Keynote Closer:

"Surviving a Motion to Exclude Your Expert Testimony" – John Freedenberg of Goldberg Segalla Law Firm in Buffalo, New York is a founding partner in his law firm and is also a Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI). Freedenberg has developed proven techniques for disqualifying "junk science" purveyors under applicable rules of evidence. This presentation is intended to give investigators the information necessary to survive a motion to exclude their testimony in trials.



Fire Prevention and Control

Registration Form Fire Academy and Regional Technical Rescue

New York State Academy of Fire Science
600 College Ave., Montour Falls, NY 14865-9634
(607) 535-7136; Fax: (607) 535-4841

Personal Information

NAME (Last, First, MI) _____

TRAINING IDENTIFICATION NUMBER _____

HOME ADDRESS (Street, PO Box) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHECK IF NEW ADDRESS MALE FEMALE

DAYTIME PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

FAX # _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Sponsoring Organization

FIRE DEPARTMENT ID # _____ COUNTY _____

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION _____

STREET ADDRESS, PO BOX _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

FD PHONE# _____ FD E-MAIL or FAX _____

NAME/TITLE - HEAD OF THE SPONSORING AGENCY _____

SIGNATURE - HEAD OF THE SPONSORING AGENCY _____

_____ Date _____

FIRE ACADEMY COURSE CODE # _____ COURSE TITLE _____ DATES: _____

01-01-0018 Fire/Arson Investigation Seminar November 2 - 4, 2016

Course Registration -

NOTE: Payment MUST Accompany Registration
Registration Fee is MANDATORY AND NONREFUNDABLE

- NYS Resident - \$25 Out-of State - \$50
- Materials Fee (if applicable) payable upon arrival
See course description (may not include required text book)
- Prerequisite Proof (if applicable)
Must accompany registration

Academy Accommodations - payable upon arrival

- Resident – includes Meals & Lodging - \$75
- Commuter – includes breakfast & lunch - \$20
- Commuter dinner - \$9/day (optional)

Registration, Material and Accommodations Fees:

Registration Fee (include w/registration) \$ _____

Materials Fee (if applicable – payable upon arrival) \$ **10**

Accommodations Fee (payable upon arrival) \$ _____

Optional commuter dinner(s) \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Balance due upon arrival: \$ _____

Reasonable accommodation request: _____

Share room with: _____

Payment Method

Make checks, money orders & vouchers payable to:
Academy of Fire Science

- Check Money Order
- Signed Voucher Purchase Order
- Bill Meals & Lodging to Student Bill Meals & Lodging to Sponsoring Organization

VISA MasterCard Discover Total Charge: \$ _____

Card #

Expiration Date / Security Code

Signature _____

Please review the application to make certain it is complete and the required payment and prerequisite proof are enclosed.
This form is on the web at www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc • MAIL OR FAX APPLICATION TO FIRE ACADEMY ONLY
NOTE: Due to participant demand, the deadline for all Academy course registrations is 20 days before the course start date. If your registration is not received by this deadline, we cannot guarantee placement in the requested course. Call the Academy for further information.