



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Subject:	FTEC
Course Number:	503
Descriptive Title:	Hazardous Materials First Responder: Awareness Level
Division:	Health Sciences and Athletics
Department:	Fire and Emergency Technology
Course Disciplines:	Fire and Emergency Technology, Fire Technology
Catalog Description:	The purpose of this course is to provide participants who are likely first responders with an improved capability to respond to HAZMAT events in a safe and competent manner, within the typical resource and capability limitations at the "Awareness" level. This course meets the requirements of CFR 29 1910.120 and CCR Title 8, and satisfies the requirements for Fire Inspector I certification through both State Fire Training and the International Code Council. Additional material fees may be required.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	0
Hours Laboratory (per week):	.44
Outside Study Hours:	0
Total Course Hours:	8
Course Units:	0
Grading Method:	Pass/No Pass only
Credit Status:	Noncredit
Transfer CSU:	No
Effective Date:	
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education ECC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	

Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to: 1. Identify a hazardous materials event/incident. 2. Demonstrate appropriate methods and procedures to assess and isolate a hazardous materials event/incident. 3. Create reports and complete all reporting activities for a hazardous materials event/incident.
Course Objectives:	1. Given a scenario, recognize the presence of hazardous materials and identify the hazardous material present and explain the risks associated with the material. 2. Given an example of a hazardous material and the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG), identify the hazard information for that substance and describe the actions, needed to protect themselves and others from the hazards present. 3. Given a scenario and the applicable contingency plan, explain the notification process and identify initial notifications needed. 4. Given a scenario, identify additional response resources needed. 5. Given a scenario, recognize the presence of a confined space and identify the potential hazards of entering the space.
Major Topics:	I. Introduction to Hazardous Materials at the Awareness Level (lab) A. The hazmat problem B. Hazwoper C. Definitions, terms, acronyms D. DOT classifications E. Multiple hazards II. Hazardous Materials Recognition (lab) A. Recognizing hazmat incidents B. Hazmat locations and occupancies C. Hazmat containers and packages D. US DOT placards and labels E. Special markings F. Global Harmonization System (GHS) G. Shipping Papers and SDSs III. Safety, Isolation, and Notifications (lab) A. Definition of "First Responder & "SIN" B. Safety C. Isolation D. Notifications IV. Basic Command, Identification, Hazard Awareness, and Action Plans (lab) A. Basics of ICS B. Identification and hazard assessment processes & sources C. DOT Emergency Response Guidebook D. Container system stress and behavior E. IDHA Complications V. Tabletop Exercise (lab)
Total Lecture Hours:	0
Total Laboratory Hours:	8

Total Hours:	8
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
Primary Method of Evaluation:	3) Skills demonstration
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	In a couple sentences, explain what first responders are supposed to do when they first arrive at the scene of a HAZMAT incident.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Instructions • Scenario: You are a first responder arriving at an industrial facility where a chemical spill has occurred. Employees report feeling dizzy and experiencing breathing difficulties. A placard on a nearby container shows a hazardous materials identification number (e.g., NFPA or DOT placard). • Research: Using online resources or course materials, identify: ○ The chemical's properties (flammability, toxicity, reactivity). ○ The potential dangers to people and the environment. ○ The appropriate "Awareness Level" response actions. • Analysis & Response Plan: ○ Identify the immediate actions you would take as a first responder at the Awareness Level. ○ Determine when and how you would escalate the response (e.g., calling specialized HazMat teams). • Reflection: What challenges might first responders face in a real situation like this? What ethical considerations should they keep in mind?
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Instructions: 1. Research: Identify a facility in your local area (e.g., a factory, gas station, chemical plant) that stores or transports hazardous materials. 2. Hazard Assessment: ○ What types of hazardous materials are handled at this location? ○ What are the possible risks to first responders and the public in case of a spill, leak, or explosion? ○ How well-prepared do you think the community is to handle an incident involving these materials? 3. Mitigation Strategies: ○ Propose at least two measures that could improve safety (e.g., better training, improved emergency plans, community awareness programs). 4. Presentation: ○ Create a short presentation (slides or infographic) summarizing your findings.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Embedded Questions, Laboratory Reports, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam
If Other:	
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activities, Lab, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Course is lab only - minimum required hours satisfied by scheduled lab time
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	<i>California Specialized Training Institute Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness Participant Notebook</i> , Governor's Office of Emergency Services, 2022.

Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite	
Category	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). if applicable	
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Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Matthew Kline
Date:	02/03/2025
Original Board Approval Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026