



N0233

Dear National Fire Academy Student:

By now you should have received an email notification from the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) Admissions Office. This notification indicates your acceptance into the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), National Fire Academy (NFA) “Chemical Hazard Analysis for Risk-Based Response” (CHARBR) course.

Congratulations on being selected to attend this course.

This course is designed for emergency services personnel and inspection personnel who have an interest in understanding how and why materials act in relation to the application of science to a hazardous materials/chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) incident. It seeks to convey to responders or inspectors a sound understanding of the basic chemistry of hazardous materials in order to permit them to correctly assess a potential threat and make “risk-based” decisions.

The focus of the course is on response chemistry, using a building-block approach for each chemical family, beginning with basics and adding and applying skills as the course progresses.

Prior to your arrival, you should complete the “Chemical and Physical Properties Terms” (Q0259) self-study course. This course is available through NFA Online at <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/10887>.

This course combines lecture, discussion, group and individual activities with problem solving sessions, and proficiency-based assignments. A two-hour evening session is offered every day. Students are expected to participate and actively engage in the interactive course methodology throughout the two weeks, complete nightly homework assignments, and study for quizzes and exams.

To alleviate some of the time necessary to learn the material, it is advised that you memorize the following chemical symbols.

Hydrogen	H	Mercury	Hg
Sodium	Na	Tin	Sn
Lithium	Li	Copper	Cu
Potassium	K	Chromium	Cr
Magnesium	Mg	Carbon	C
Calcium	Ca	Nitrogen	N
Barium	Ba	Phosphorus	P
Boron	B	Oxygen	O
Aluminum	Al	Sulfur	S
Lead	Pb	Fluorine	F
Cobalt	Co	Chlorine	Cl
Iron	Fe	Bromine	Br
Iodine	I		

The course materials for this course are now available in a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) format that will function on any electronic device. If you own an electronic device (laptop computer, tablet, etc.) and are familiar with its document reader functions, we are asking you to download the Student Manual (SM) **before you travel to Emmitsburg** and bring the preloaded device with you. Please see the page following this letter for complete instructions on successfully downloading your course materials. Please note: If you plan to bring/use an iPad, you may experience issues with saving/storing/printing course assignments since there is no USB/thumb drive capacity for these devices.

If you need additional information related to your course's content or requirements, please contact Mr. David Donohue, Hazardous Materials Curriculum training specialist, at 301-447-1094, or by email at david.donohue@fema.dhs.gov. Good luck, and I hope to see you on campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eriks J. Gabliks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eriks" being the most prominent part.

Eriks J. Gabliks, Superintendent
National Fire Academy
U.S. Fire Administration

Enclosure

National Fire Academy Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Course Materials/Download Instructions

If you own an electronic device (laptop computer, tablet, etc.) and are familiar with its document reader functions, we are asking you to download the Student Manual (SM) before you travel to class and bring the preloaded device with you.

The **first step** is to download Adobe Acrobat Reader to your device. This will enable you to read and manipulate the course materials. Adobe Acrobat Reader can be used to comment and highlight text in PDF documents. It is an excellent tool for note-taking purposes.

For laptops and computers

Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded from www.adobe.com/downloads/. It is a free download. Please note that depending on your settings, you may have to temporarily disable your antivirus software.

For tablets and other similar hand-held devices

Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded onto devices such as iPads, Android tablets and other hand-held devices. The application can be found in the device's application store using the search function and typing in "Adobe Acrobat Reader." Follow the instructions given. **It is a free application.**

After you have successfully downloaded the Adobe Acrobat Reader, please use the following web link to download your SM. You may copy/paste this link into your web browser.

https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/ax/sm/sm_0233.pdf

Note: In order to have the editing capabilities/toolbar, the SM needs to be opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader. There should be a function on your device to do this.

If you need assistance, please contact nfaonlinetier2@fema.dhs.gov.