



FIRE BOAT OPERATOR (FBO) COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Overview

The primary objective for this three-day (24-hour) Fire Boat Operator (FBO) is to establish a uniform and standardized understanding of maritime firefighting and emergency response operations. The course aims to give participants the necessary skills to execute missions safely under applicable NFPA Standards. Additionally, the course and the entire BOAT Program are designed to enhance safety and response capabilities throughout the country, enabling graduates to serve as a true force multiplier for the United States Coast Guard, response partners, and other government agencies (OGAs).

Course Purpose

The Fire Boat Operator (FBO) Course, as part of the entire Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program, was created to establish a national standard of training, qualification, credentialing, and typing of emergency responders throughout the maritime domain. This course establishes a uniform and standardized understanding of Maritime Firefighting and emergency response operations and provides the skills to execute missions confidently and competently. Secondly, and equally as important, it is the purpose of this course and the entire BOAT Program to enhance the safety and response capabilities throughout the country, as graduates will be able to provide a true force multiplier to the United States Coast Guard and the Nation.



Method of Delivery

The FBO course is approximately 60% underway and 40% classroom-based. It is exportable and delivered to the location and venue of the host agency's choice. This allows students to practice in the area they operate in, and on the vessels they operate on. The course is delivered using "team teaching" as the model, where all instructors are engaged in every module within the course, so that students get multiple views and experiences to support and enhance the learning environment.

Performance Standards

To successfully complete the course, the student must demonstrate mastery of the objectives outlined in each module through objective testing, scenario review, class discussion, practical activities, and homework.

Target Audience

This class is designed to provide federal, state, county, local, and tribal emergency responders (firefighters, law enforcement officers, commercial tow operators, harbor masters, etc.) in the maritime domain a framework of knowledge and skills to perform fire and rescue missions on the water safely and efficiently.

Course Structure

This course consists of classroom discussions, which will be aided by slide presentations, class interaction, practical exercises, a knowledge test, and a final exam. The instructor will emphasize Student interaction and discussion throughout the course ensure that the information taught is understood and can be applied in a real-world environment.

Class Size/Student to Instructor Ratio

The minimum class size is 8 students, and the maximum is 20. The Student-to-Instructor Ratio shall not exceed 4:1.



FIRE BOAT OPERATOR (FBO) COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Requirements

Students are required to bring appropriate foul weather gear for the area and time of the training, an appropriate personal flotation device for the environment at the time of the training, with consideration of air and water temperature, and appropriate clothing to conduct the exercises during the week. Agencies/departments are required to provide a vessel for the students who are attending (ideal ratio of one vessel for every 4 students) in order for them to learn how to apply the skills on the vessels that they will be operating on, and in their area of operation.



Facility Requirements

To deliver the course, a classroom area will have to be provided to seat at tables up to 30 people. The classroom will require a projector and/or screen, a whiteboard and/or easel boards with paper, writing instruments, power cords, sound speakers, bathroom facilities, and dock space for vessels in close proximity to the classroom.

Materials Provided

Each student will be provided a “Student Handbook” complete with every slide and applicable reference material they can use for future application. Additionally, students who would like copies of the modules will be allowed access to the “Instructor Portal” to facilitate the sharing of information. Within 30 days of completion of the course, students will be provided a certificate from NASBLA’s National Headquarters in Lexington, KY and entered into the national database of trained Fire Boat Operators.

Course Cost

Student tuition covers all associated instructor costs (travel, per diem, fees, etc.), as well as all administration costs (certificates, national database entry, etc.), and course materials (handbooks, electronic files, practical exercises, etc.). Courses are subject to a minimum student requirement.

NOTE: The Course Schedule is subject to change at each delivery and is dependent on weather, facility, platform, equipment, circumstances, and/or student complications. It is left to the discretion of the Lead Instructor.



FIRE BOAT OPERATOR (FBO) COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Schedule

- **Day One**
 - Morning Lecture
 - **Course Introduction**
 - ❖ Course Overview
 - ❖ Course Schedule
 - ❖ Incoming Knowledge Test
 - **Module One: Firefighter Readiness in the Maritime Domain**
 - ❖ Risk Management
 - PEACE & STAAR Model
 - ❖ Maritime PPE Review
 - PFD's
 - Lights and distress signals
 - ❖ Signs of Drowning/Rescue Equipment and Techniques
 - Reach, Throw, Row, Go
 - Throw lines, Rescue Can, Throwable Devices
 - Perimeter Grab-lines
 - ❖ Hooks, lines, poles, ladders, and fenders
 - ❖ Crew Movement aboard
 - POB's
 - Weight and Balance/Equipment, Dive Teams
 - Intra-crew Communications
 - **Module Two: Personal Survival**
 - ❖ Hypothermia/Hyperthermia Dangers
 - ❖ Foul Weather Gear
 - ❖ Fire Gear/PPE Selection (Turnout Gear Discussion)
 - Alternative Gear
 - **Practical Exercise Briefing**
 - ❖ Comms – Primary & Secondary
 - ❖ EMS Egress (Ambulance and/or ATU)
 - ❖ “SAFETY SAFETY SAFETY”
 - Vessel with the injury/problem keeps emergency lights on
 - All other vessels turn their emergency lights off
 - ❖ Discuss training evolutions and identify the training area
 - ❖ Review vessel handling
 - ❖ GAR/Risk Assessment
 - Lunch
 - Afternoon U/W Drills
 - Vessel/Gear Inspection
 - Discuss vessel characteristics
 - Cast off
 - Basic boat handling skills
 - ❖ Docking
 - ❖ Splitting Throttles



FIRE BOAT OPERATOR (FBO) COURSE OVERVIEW

- ❖ Close Quarters Maneuvering
- ❖ Electronics Review (Waypoint, Tracks, Build Routes, etc)
- ❖ MOB Drill/Victim Recovery
- ❖ Wake Awareness
- ❖ Running Alongside/Equipment Transfer
- ❖ Station Keeping with & without flowing water

- *Day Two*
 - Morning Lecture
 - **Module Three: Ready the Boat**
 - ❖ Basic Emergency Gear
 - ❖ Ladders
 - Soft/Webbing
 - Hard/Fixed
 - ❖ Fire Suppression
 - Hoselines/Highrise Packs
 - Appliances
 - Foam and Delivery Systems
 - Dewatering Pumps/Eductors
 - Extinguishers
 - ❖ **Module Four: Maritime Fire Suppression**
 - Underway Response to Scene
 - Water Supply
 - Supplying Shoreside Apparatus
 - Supplying Appliances
 - Vessel Positioning
 - Anchoring
 - Mooring
 - Grappling
 - Fire Suppression
 - Boat Fires
 - Shoreside Fires
 - Monitoring Operations
 - Attack Line Operations
 - Static & Transitioning over the rail
 - Exposure Awareness
 - Radiant Heat
 - Dock/Pier Integrity
 - Other Vessels
 - Overhaul Recovery and Scene Considerations
 - Environmental
 - Crime Scene
 - Salvage
 - Practical Exercise Briefing



FIRE BOAT OPERATOR (FBO) COURSE OVERVIEW

- Lunch
- Afternoon U/W Drills
 - Vessel/Gear Inspection
 - GAR (Boat Crews)
 - Vessel Handling Review
 - ❖ Approaches
 - ❖ Water Supply Operations
 - ❖ Monitor Operations
 - ❖ Thrust Vector Demonstration
 - ❖ Water on Target Exercises
 - Soccer: Push a ball/fender
 - ❖ Station Keeping
 - ❖ Fire Attack
 - Tethered/Grapple Hook
 - Untethered
 - Attack Line Operations
- **Day Three**
 - Morning
 - **Practical Exercise Briefing (equipment availability dependent)**
 - ❖ GAR
 - ❖ “The Call” Full-Scale Exercise
 - Scale Dependent upon available equipment
 - ❖ Shoreside Fire
 - Support Shoreside Apparatus
 - Dock Involvement
 - Vessel Involvement
 - Dock Exposures
 - Vessel Exposures
 - PIW
 - ❖ Recover Equipment
 - Lunch
 - Afternoon
 - Exercise Hotwash
 - Lighthouse Items
 - Final Exam
 - Course Critique
 - Closing