

Course Overview

In accordance with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program, the following outline provides a course of instruction to give maritime firefighters and emergency responders a learning framework in order to become more proficient with Tactics Techniques and Procedures necessary to conduct emergency operations from small fire boats (less than 41 feet) in the maritime environment. A key element of this course will be the preparation of participants to become qualified in the tasks necessary for response to maritime safety, and emergency operations, and Coast Guard/FEMA recognition in the national qualification database maintained by and through NASBLA.

Course Purpose

The Fire Boat Small (FBS) 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. It is the



purpose of this course to establish a uniform and standardized understanding of maritime firefighting and emergency response operations, and provide the skills necessary to execute missions safely. 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 and the Coast Guard and to the Nation.

Method of Delivery

The course is exportable and delivered to the location of the host agency and the venue of their 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.

Criteria Performance Standard

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will demonstrate mastery of each of the objectives outlined in each module through a compilation of measures including 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 search and rescue missions on the water in a safe and efficient manner.

Course Structure

This course consists of instructor lecture, which will be aided (and assessed) by slide presentations, class interaction, practical exercises, a knowledge test and final exam. The instructor will emphasize

student interaction and discussion throughout the course to ensure that the information taught is being understood and can be applied in a real-world environment.

Class Size/Student to Instructor Ratio

The minimum class size is 12 students, the maximum number is 20. Instructors for each class will meet a maximum of 4 students per instructor for each class (4 to 1 Student to Instructor Ratio.)

Course Requirements

Students will be required to bring appropriate foul weather gear for the area and time of the training, 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.

Additionally, agencies and departments will be required to provide a vessel for the students that will be 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

In order to deliver the course, a classroom area will have to be provided that will seat at tables up to 40 people. Additionally, the classroom will require a projector a 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.

A suitable pool must be provided for in water skills verification. The pool must have a shallow portion enabling students to walk comfortably and safely, and a deep portion that treading water without touching the bottom of the pool.

Materials Provided

Each student will be provided a “Student Handbook” complete with every slide and some 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 will be entered into the national database of trained BOAT Crew Members.

Course Cost


The fee for the three day/24 hour course is \$23,500.00 for up to 20 students, and covers all instructor costs (travel, per diem, fees, etc.) administrative costs (certificates, database entry, etc.) and materials (student handbooks, practical exercise materials, etc.) The course fee on an individual student basis is \$1300.00 with a minimum requirement of 12 students.

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

Course Schedule:

- **Day One**
 - Morning Lecture
 - **Module One: Course Introduction**
 - Course Overview
 - Course Scheduling
 - Incoming Knowledge Test
 - Maritime PPE Review
 - PFD's
 - Turn Outs (yes or no?)
 - Alternate fire protection clothing
 - Safety lines and harnesses
 - Lights and distress signals
 - **Module Two: Ready the Boat.....**
 - Throw lines, Rescue Cans, and throwable devices
 - Perimeter grablines
 - Hooks, line, poles, ladders, and fenders
 - Special firefighting equipment
 - Maritime Rescue Equipment
 - Crew movements aboard
 - Weight and balance
 - Intra crew communications
 - **Module Three: Personal Survival**
 - Hypothermia Dangers
 - Fire on the water
 - Movement through petroleum fueled surface fires
 - Drown Proofing
 - Exiting the water
 - Assisted
 - Unassisted
 - Practical Exercise Briefing
 - GAR
 - Lunch
 - Afternoon
 - In Water Skills Verification (Pool)
 - 100yd swim test
 - In uniform of the day
 - 5 minute tread



- 100 yd swim (any stroke no time)
 - Successful egress from pool unassisted
 - In water Turn Out gear familiarization (Pool)
 - Prior preparation
 - Leave it or remove it?
 - Floating, swimming, walking
 - Firefighter recovery operations
 - In water patient management
 - Ready the Boat.....
 - Basic victim approach
 - C-spine integrity
 - Spine boards
 - Stokes operations
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- *Day Two*
 - Morning Lecture
 - **Module Four: Maritime Fire Suppression 101**
 - Underway Response to Scene
 - Water Supply
 - Supplying shoreside apparatus
 - Supplying on board appliances
 - Vessel positioning
 - Anchoring
 - Mooring
 - Grappling
 - Fire Suppression
 - Boat Fires
 - Shoreside Fires
 - Monitor Operations
 - Attack Line Operations
 - Exposure Awareness
 - Radiant heat
 - Dock/pier integrity
 - Neighboring vessels
 - Overhaul Recovery and Scene Considerations
 - Environmental
 - Crime Scene
 - Salvage
 - Practical Exercise Briefing
 - GAR
 - Lunch
 - Afternoon
 - Vessel/Gear Safety Inspection
 - Vessel Handling Review
 - Cast Off
 - Underway Maneuvers
 - Wake Awareness
 - Approaches

- Docking
 - Mooring
 - Maneuvering
 - Water Supply Operations
 - LDH manipulation in the Maritime Environment
 - Monitor Operations
 - Thrust Vector Demonstrations
 - Water on Target Exercises
 - Station Keeping with fire streams engaged
 - Attack Line Operations
- **Day Three**
 - Morning
 - Practical Exercise Briefing
 - GAR
 - “The Call” Full Scale Exercise (scale dependent on available equipment)
 - Shoreside Fire
 - Support Shoreside Apparatus
 - Dock Involvement
 - Vessel Involvement
 - Dock Exposures
 - Vessel Exposures
 - Persons in Water
 - Recovery of Equipment
 - Exercise Hotwash
 - Lunch
 - Afternoon
 - Final Exam
 - Course Critique



CONTACT INFORMATION:

David. M. Considine, National Director
 NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program (o)
 859.225.9487 (m) 978.314.1839
 (e) Dave.Considine@nasbla.org (w) www.nasbla.org/BOAT