



U.S. Fire Administration  
Working for a fire-safe America

Curriculum: [Emergency Medical Services](#)

# Management of Emergency Medical Services R0150

Training Specialist

✉ **Michael Stern**  
301-447-1253

Delivery type

**10-day on-campus**

Continuing education units

**6.9**

ACE recommendation

Pending (ACE Review): In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category, 3 semester hours in fire science, health care administration, community health public administration or emergency medical supervision.

This 10-day course focuses on supervisory management practices as they relate to emergency medical services (EMS) in the fire service.

This interactive and fast-moving course will enable participants to deal more effectively with day-to-day management issues that supervisory-level managers are likely to encounter.

Some of the major components include:

- Personnel.
- Resource management.
- Quality improvement techniques.

Pre-course materials and course syllabus

- Welcome letter, BYOD instructions, and pre-course assignment:


[https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/ax/pcm/pcm\\_r0150.pdf](https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/ax/pcm/pcm_r0150.pdf) PDF 174KB
- Course Syllabus:

[https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus\\_r0150.pdf](https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_r0150.pdf) PDF 162KB

Selection criteria

Prerequisites

Upcoming offerings

Dates	Availability	Location	Contact(s)	CCP
 September 16 - 27, 2024	Wait List Opportunity <a href="#">Apply</a>	Emmitsburg, Maryland		
October 28 - November 8, 2024	Cancelled	Emmitsburg, Maryland		
January 13 - 24, 2025	Apply between 9/15 - 10/15	Emmitsburg, Maryland		
March 17 - 28, 2025	Apply between 9/15 - 10/15	Emmitsburg, Maryland		
July 28 - August 8, 2025	Apply between 3/15 - 4/15	Emmitsburg, Maryland		
September 15 - 26, 2025	Apply between 3/15 - 4/15	Emmitsburg, Maryland		



## National Fire Academy

**R0150 – Management of Emergency Medical Services**

**Version: 3rd Edition, 9th Printing, December 2023**

**Quarter:**

**ACE Credit: In the upper-division baccalaureate degree category, 3 semester hours in fire science, health care administration, community health public administration or emergency medical supervision.**

**IACET Continuing Education Units: 6.9**

**Length of Course: 10 Days (80 contact hours, Monday – Friday)**

**Prerequisite: Yes**

**Curriculum: Emergency Medical Services**

**Training Specialist: Michael Stern**

**Instructor:**

**Instructor email/phone:**

**Classroom: J-**

**Meeting Time: 8 AM – 5 PM**

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### Course Description (Catalog)

R0150 – “Management of Emergency Medical Services.” This 10-day course focuses on supervisory management practices as they relate to emergency medical services (EMS) in the fire service.

This interactive and fast-moving course will enable participants to deal more effectively with day-to-day management issues that supervisory-level managers are likely to encounter.

Some of the Major components include:

- Personnel.
- Resource management.
- Quality improvement techniques.

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to enhance the quality and overall effectiveness of their EMS operation through the use of management techniques.

### **Student Qualifications (Primary and Secondary Audience)**

Individuals with mid-level management responsibility for an EMS delivery system (battalion/division chief, captain, shift supervisor).

### **Course Scope (Goal)**

Provide training on the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for effective first line management of an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organization, including day to day operations, time management, human resources, financial budgeting, and equipment/fleet management. In addition, provide a forum for students to exchange ideas and individual viewpoints regarding current and future issues relating to the management of EMS.

### **Course Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes – TLOs)**

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to accomplish the following:

- Apply the leadership skills necessary for an EMS manager.
- Apply the organizational and time management skills necessary for an EMS manager.
- Collect and analyze data to determine the effects on workplace practices.
- Communicate effectively in varying workplace situations.
- Discuss major issues impacting EMS practices.
- Effectively manage human resource issues as a first-line EMS manager.
- Effectively manage system resources as a first-line EMS manager.
- Interact with external entities to ensure regulatory compliance and continuity of care.

## Course Delivery Method

The National Fire Academy (NFA) offers specialized training courses and advanced management programs of national impact in an academic classroom environment [on campus at the National Emergency Training Center \(NETC\) in Emmitsburg, Maryland](#). This classroom course is designed for the national level fire service officer from State and local fire service organizations. During this 10-day delivery, students will reside in dormitories provided on campus with classes conducted in classrooms designed for critical student/instructor interaction. All course materials are designed for interactive classroom environments, in either paper notebook or electronic formats.

## Course Schedule

The purpose of the course schedule is to give you, at a glance, the required preparation, activities, and evaluation components of your course.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
<p>MODULE 0: Welcome/ Introductions/Course Overview Activity 0.1: Get-Acquainted</p> <p>Activity 0.2: Course Introduction MODULE 1: LEADERSHIP Activity 1.1: Giving Orders Review reading assignments</p>	<p>Reinforcing Activity #1 MODULE 2: PLANNING AND TIME MANAGEMENT Planning, and Time Management Activity 2.1: Planning and Time Management--Part A</p> <p>Activity 2.1: Planning and Time Management--Part B MODULE 3: COLLECTING AND ANALYZING DATA Collecting and Analyzing Data/EMS Research Activity 3.1: Research Review</p>	<p>Turn in Activity 3.1 MODULE 4: COMMUNICATION Communication Activity 4.1: Communications Part A and Part B Reinforcing Activity #2</p> <p>Return/Discuss Activity 3.1 MODULE 5: ISSUES IMPACTING EMS PRACTICES Legal and Ethical Issues Health and Safety Issues MODULE 6: MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES Orientation/Training Activity 6.1: Designing a Training Program</p>
<p><b>Reading Assignment</b> Module 1 – SM pp. 1-1 to 1-11 Module 2 – SM pp. 2-1 to 2-10 Module 3 – SM pp. 3-1 to 3-17 “Your First 100 Days,” Ludwig “What’s in Your Inbox?” Papinchak “Five Leadership Skills to Master,” Mills “Strategic Planning,” Barishansky “Supporting EMS Research,” Brown and Audet</p>	<p><b>Reading Assignment</b> Module 4 – SM pp. 4-1 to 4-11 Module 5 – SM pp. 5-1 to 5-11 Module 6 – SM pp. 6-1 to 6-14 “Stress Under Fire,” Smith</p>	<p><b>Reading Assignment</b> Module 6 – SM pp. 6-15 to 6-18 “360-Degree Feedback Systems,” Saucier</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	
<p>Turn in Activity 6.1 Reinforcing Activity #3 (Student developed) Class discussion of Activity 6.1 Assign Activity 6.2: Current Issues Presentation</p> <p>MODULE 6 (cont’d): Motivating/Mentoring and Counseling Activity 6.3: Motivation In-Basket Assign Activity 8.2: Presentation to the Chief Prep for Applied Midterm Exam</p>	<p>Activity 6.3 (cont’d) Applied Midterm Exam</p> <p>Applied Midterm (cont’d) Written Midterm Exam Review Midterm Exam</p>	
	<p><b>Reading Assignment</b> Module 6 – SM pp. 6-18 to 6-25</p>	

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
MODULE 6 (cont'd): Evaluating Performance Activity 6.4: Performance Appraisal  Activity 6.5: Counseling Role Play	Reinforcing Activity #4 MODULE 7: MANAGEMENT OF SYSTEM RESOURCES Activity 7.1: Justifying Capital Equipment Purchase  Activity 7.1 (cont'd) Activity 6.2: Presentations	Reinforcing Activity #5 MODULE 8: EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS, INTERFACES, AND INFLUENCES Activity 8.1: Interaction with External Organizations  Activity 8.1 (cont'd) Prep for Final Exam
<i><b>Reading Assignment</b></i> Module 7 – SM pp. 7-1 to 7-9 “How to Influence Purchasing Decisions,” Zavadsky	<i><b>Reading Assignment</b></i> Module 8 – SM pp. 8-1 to 8-21	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	
Activity 8.2: Presentations to the Chief  Final Written Examination Reinforcing Activity #6 Class Issues	NFA Graduation	

## **Course Resources (Instructional Materials)**

In order to be fully prepared, obtain a copy of the required textbooks and other instructional materials prior to the first day of class.

### **Required Readings**

The student must complete required readings during the course to be able to thoughtfully participate in discussions and activities.

None.

### **Suggested Reading/Resources**

Suggested readings and resources are not evaluated, but may enhance the student's understanding, serve as additional sources for citation and promote discussion of course material.

"Your First 100 Days," Ludwig

"What's in Your Inbox?" Papinchak

"Five Leadership Skills to Master," Mills

"Strategic Planning," Barishansky

"Supporting EMS Research," Brown and Audet

"Stress Under Fire," Smith

"360-Degree Feedback Systems," Saucier

"How to Influence Purchasing Decisions," Zavadsky

### **Required Resources (Course Textbook)**

Student Manual.

### **Supplemental Resources (Supplemental Course Textbook)**

None.



## **Grading Methodology (Evaluation Procedures)**

A minimum final grade of at least 70 percent is required to pass this course.

<b>Numerical Score</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69 or below	F

## **Required Reading Assignments**

Student completion of reading assignments will be done via evaluation of their class participation and will not be a separately graded activity.

## **Suggested Readings**

Suggested readings are not evaluated, but may enhance the student's understanding and promote discussion of course material.

## **Course Outline**

### **Module 0: Welcome/Introductions/Course Overview (Day 1)**

#### **Objectives**

None.

### **Module 1: Leadership (Day 1)**

#### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to apply the leadership skills necessary for an EMS manager.

### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will:

1. List key factors that affect the EMS workforce.
2. Describe the importance of identifying and adapting to the changing needs of the EMS workforce.
3. Compare and contrast characteristics of a leader versus a manager.
4. Compare and contrast leadership styles.
5. Apply appropriate management styles to three given scenarios.
6. Begin teambuilding through small-group review of individual responses and developing a joint response to each scenario.

## **Module 2: Planning and Time Management (Day 2)**

### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to apply the organizational and time management skills necessary for an EMS manager.

#### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will:

1. Prioritize issues and manage time effectively.
2. Develop short- and long-term project goals.
3. Develop specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timeframed (SMART) objectives.
4. Apply six rules for planning and accomplishing a project successfully.

### **Module 3: Collecting and Analyzing Data (Day 2)**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to collect and analyze data to determine the effects on workplace practices.

##### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will:

1. Identify sources of EMS system data necessary for a Quality Improvement (QI) program.
2. Compare and contrast the three types of system results identified in a QI program.
3. Describe information management technologies for potential use by the EMS manager.
4. Describe the role of the EMS patient care report, importance of complete and accurate documentation, and causes of documentation difficulties.
5. Discuss the involvement of EMS in active research.
6. Analyze the data and conclusions of an EMS research study.

### **Module 4: Communication (Day 3)**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to communicate effectively in varying workplace situations.

##### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will:

1. Compare and contrast one-way communication, two-way communication, and authentic dialogue.
2. Describe the causes of miscommunication.
3. Discuss sources of conflict in EMS.
4. Describe typical responses to conflict, and methods to resolve conflict.

5. Demonstrate appropriate communication techniques for dealing with a variety of simulated situations.

### **Module 5: Issues Impacting EMS Practices (Day 3)**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to discuss major issues impacting EMS practices.

##### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will:

1. Identify legal and ethical issues that frequently confront emergency response members.
2. Describe steps to take to safeguard against patient-care litigation and to ensure compliance with local, State, and Federal regulations.
3. Discuss health and safety issues that concern EMS managers, including:
  - a. Stress.
  - b. Infection control.
  - c. Defensive driving.
  - d. Workplace violence.
  - e. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
  - f. Pandemic.

### **Module 6: Management of Human Resources (Day 3)**

#### **Objectives**

##### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to effectively manage human resource issues as a first-line EMS manager.

### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will:

1. Identify the essential elements of an effective EMS orientation program.
2. Describe the five broad areas of EMS training.
3. Identify the various classroom presentation methods and describe the type of information most appropriately presented through each of these methods.
4. Design and develop an EMS training program following activity guidelines.
5. Discuss at least four methods of encouraging motivation in EMS members.
6. Describe the purpose and importance of an effective performance appraisal process.
7. List common sources of problems in implementing and sustaining an objective performance appraisal system.
8. Develop performance-based measurement criteria and rating descriptions.
9. Conduct an effective counseling session for an employee with a problem.
10. Develop a complete, written orientation program specific to their organizations, and prioritize that content for a 20-minute presentation.

### **Module 7: Management of System Resources (Day 7)**

#### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to effectively manage system resources as a first-line EMS manager.

#### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will:

1. Differentiate between the types of vehicle/equipment maintenance (corrective and preventive).
2. Compare and contrast capital versus noncapital equipment/expenditures.
3. Use an accepted method to develop a justification for a capital equipment purchase.

## **Module 8: External Partnerships, Interfaces, and Influences (Day 8)**

### **Objectives**

#### **Terminal Objective**

The students will be able to interact with external entities to ensure regulatory compliance and continuity of care.

#### **Enabling Objectives**

The students will:

1. Discuss the integration of NIMS and ICS into EMS practice.
2. Discuss the impact of other agency rules/regulations/standards on EMS training.
3. Identify issues relating to EMS system interface with medical control.
4. Describe the responsibilities of the EMS medical director.
5. Discuss the major issues related to system funding, billing, and reimbursement.
6. Determine issues involved with public/community relations.

### **Policies**

#### **Class Attendance and Cancellation Policy**

##### **Attendance**

- You are required to attend all sessions of the course. If you do not, you may not receive a certificate, and your stipend may be denied.
- If you need to depart campus early and miss any portion of the course and/or graduation, you must make the request in writing to the NFA training specialist. The training specialist, in collaboration with the superintendent, may waive the attendance requirement in order to accommodate you with extraordinary circumstances as long as you complete all course requirements. If you receive approval for departing early, you must forward the approval to the Admissions Office so your stipend reimbursement is not limited.

##### **Student Substitutions**

Substitutions for NFA courses are made from waiting lists; your fire department can't send someone in your place.

### **Cancellations or No-Shows**

NFA's mission for delivery of courses is impaired significantly by cancellations and no-shows. It is very difficult and costly to recruit students at the last minute. Currently there is a two-year ban on student attendance for students who are no-shows or cancel within 30 days of the course start date without a valid reason. If you receive such a restriction, your supervisor needs to send a letter to our Admissions Office explaining the cancellation/no-show.

### **Course Failure**

If you fail an on-campus course, you will not be issued a stipend for that course. You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You don't have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

### **Student Code of Conduct Policy**

Students, instructors and staff are expected to treat each other with respect at all times. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from campus and denial of stipends.

### **Writing Expectations**

Student writing will conform to the generally accepted academic standards for college papers. Papers will reflect the original work of the student and give appropriate credit through citations for ideas belonging to other authors, publications or organizations. Student written work should be free of grammatical and syntax errors, free of profanity or obscene language or ideas, and reflect critical thinking related to the course subject matter.

### **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA, Sixth Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to NFA. Assignments completed in a narrative essay, composition format, abstract, and discussion posts must follow the citation style cited in the APA, Sixth Edition.

### **Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date (11:59 p.m. EDT/EST) and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, you must manage competing demands on your time. Discussion board postings submitted within 3 days after the submission deadline will receive up to a 20% deduction. Those that do not submit their discussion board postings within this timeline will receive a "0" grade for the week. Final assignment papers will not be accepted after the deadline. Any paper submitted after the deadline will receive a "0" grade for that assignment.

## **Netiquette**

Online learning promotes the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a professional learning setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the forum of others.

- Technology Limitations. While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The NFA Online classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- Humor Note. Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), ☺ .

## **Disclaimer Statement**

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

## **Grading**

Please review the following rubrics that explain how grades will be awarded.

Students who do not complete the entire course will be awarded an Incomplete (I) grade. In accordance with National Fire Academy academic policies, an Incomplete (I) grade must be removed by the end of the next semester following the course, or it automatically becomes a Failing (F) grade.

If you fail an on-campus course, you will not be issued a stipend for that course. You can reapply for the failed course or any other NFA course and go through the random selection process. You don't have to successfully complete the failed course before attending another NFA course.

[https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student\\_policies.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/admissions/student_policies.html)

## **Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to exhibit exemplary ethical behavior and conduct as part of the NFA community and society as a whole. Acts of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, deliberate falsification, and other unethical behaviors will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to report academic misconduct when they witness a violation. All cases of academic misconduct shall be reported by the instructor to the Training Specialist.



If a student is found to have engaged in misconduct and the allegations are upheld, the penalties may include, but are not limited to one or a combination of the following:

- expulsion,
- withholding of stipend or forfeiture of stipend paid,
- exclusion from future classes for a specified period; depending on the severity it could range from 1-10 years, and/or
- forfeiture of certificate for course(s) enrolled in at NETC.

Refer to NFA-specific Standard Operating Procedure 700.1 – *Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics* for more information.