



King County Fire Training Officer's Association Officer Development Academy Course Syllabus

Legal Issues for Fire Officers

Course Information

Course Title: Legal Issues for Firefighter Officers – Managing Discipline While Adhering to Employees Rights

Course Description: Fire Officers are faced with a multifaceted role as leader, mentor, coach, parent and disciplinarian. Throughout this leadership matrix there is always the specter of legal implications related to the actions or non actions of the fire officer. The old saying the “buck stops here” may actually end up on the desk of an attorney involved in litigation against you or your department. This course is designed to educate the Fire Officer as to those legal pitfalls especially in the area of personnel management and discipline.

Date: May 1, 2012

Class Time: 4 hours

Location: TBA

Prerequisites/Pre-course Assignment: Any assignment in IFSTA; Fire Officer I and II or readings associated with legal education of the Fire Officer. There is no required pre-reading for the student.

College Credits: None Known

Instructor Information

Instructor: John K. Murphy JD, PA-C, MS, EFO, AASD

Instructor Phone: 206-940-6502

Instructor Email: j.k.murphy@comcast.net

Instructor Contact: Email is best as I can respond directly to the individual



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Course Design

Recommended Text:	Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services by J Curtis Varone
Additional Materials:	There are none at this time.
Course Objectives:	The course is designed to educate the fire officer in the correct method to administer discipline and avoid legal pitfalls.
Course Policies:	Attendance is required for the entire 4 hour classroom period and completion of a written examination with a passing grade.
Attendance:	Required.
Grading:	There will be a written test of 20 questions to be completed at the end of the class. The instructor will grade all tests prior to the student leaving the classroom.



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Exams:	One final 20 question test on the material presented in the classroom
Instructor Tips for Success:	Read any appropriate material related to fire department discipline process and your own Department policies on discipline.

College Policies

There is no assigned college credits

Students with Disability	Students with a disability should notify the KCFTOA of their special needs to be successful in this class. There are no physical requirements associated with this educational session and all reasonable accommodations shall be made to ensure success of the student.
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