

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: FST 210

Credits: 3

Course Title: Legal Aspects of Fire Service

Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)

Introduces the Federal, State, and local laws that regulate emergency services, national standards influencing emergency services, standard of care, tort, liability, and a review of relevant court cases. Lecture 3 hours per week.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

None

Course Objectives (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

1. Define the different types of laws, explain their basic differences, and how the law functions in society.
2. Become familiar with federal, state, and local laws, which regulate or influence emergency services.
3. Explain the role and purpose of national codes and standards concerning their legal influence.
4. Become familiar with legal decisions that have or will affect the fire service.
5. Discuss the organization and legal structure of the fire department.
6. Define the liabilities of firefighters.
7. Recognize legal duties of emergency service members.
8. Discuss negligence in an emergency setting.
9. Define discrimination and identify areas of potential discrimination in the emergency service.
10. Identify, explain and discuss the legalities of entrance requirements, residency, grooming, and drug testing.
11. Discuss the scope of the civil rights act.
12. Discuss the parameters and explain the basic intent of the American Disabilities Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and Family Medical Leave Act.
13. Explain the at-will doctrine.
14. Explain the purpose of labor and employment laws.
15. Identify and analyze the major causes of duty firefighter deaths in the line of duty related to health, wellness, fitness and vehicle operations.

Major Topics to be Included

1. Definition of the different types of laws, their basic differences, and how law functions in society.
2. Federal, state, and local laws, which regulate or influence emergency services.
3. Role and purpose of national codes and standards concerning their legal influence.
4. Legal decisions that have or will affect the fire service.
5. Organization and legal structure of the fire department.
6. Liabilities of firefighters.
7. Legal duties of emergency service members.

8. Negligence in an emergency setting.
9. Discrimination in the emergency service.
10. Legalities of entrance requirements, residency, grooming, and drug testing.
11. Civil rights act.
12. American Disabilities Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and Family Medical Leave Act.
13. At-will doctrine.
14. Labor and employment laws.
15. Major firefighter deaths in the line of duty related to health, wellness, fitness, and vehicle operations.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year): September 11, 2008