

Operation Support 2.0

Regional Delivery of Fire Fighter I Training to Volunteers

What is Operation Support 2.0?

Operation Support 2.0 is the delivery of free Fire Fighter I training to rural volunteer firefighters. The goal is to provide a consistent, basic, Fire Fighter I training program across the state to volunteer firefighters who are financially and geographically unable to attend the Fire Training Academy's weekend classes.

Operation Support 2.0 is an old program, born anew. This new program reinstates a previously successful fire training program, Operation Support, which was used until approximately 1985. The original program enabled fire fighters in rural areas to receive the same level of training as their urban counterparts.

The new program, Operation Support 2.0, will begin by providing on-site Fire Fighter I training for volunteers at rural departments/districts statewide. The instructors and course materials will be provided by the Fire Training Academy at no cost to rural departments/districts.

Overview

- Free Fire Fighter I training for volunteer firefighters in rural fire departments/districts.
- Criteria for qualifying:
 - Department/district must have an assessed valuation of \$200 million or less.
 - OR, if several agencies join together, at least one of the participating agencies must have an assessed valuation of \$200 million or less. The other participating agencies can exceed the \$200 million limit.
- Fire Department/District responsibilities;
 - Provide a minimum of 10 students – *regional participation is encouraged.*
 - Provide adequate classroom, drill ground facilities, and engines.
 - Reinforce monthly training topics during weekly Drill Nights
- Modular format: minimum one training module per month for up to one year.
- Free Fire Fighter I certification testing through IFSAC. (*Testing is optional*)
- Instructors will be from the region and will be under contract with the Fire Training Academy.
- Curriculum and books provided by the Fire Training Academy.
- Provided on a "first-come, first served" basis – dependent on available funding from the Basic Fire Fighter account (086-310). Initially, three programs a year.

Choice

Fire departments/districts now have a choice:

- 1) Conduct their own Fire Fighter I training program and collect the \$600 reimbursement per fire fighter through the Basic Fire Fighter program; OR,
- 2) Use Operation Support 2.0 and contract FTA instructors from the region to teach Fire Fighter I and administer the IFSAC certification test.

Individuals participating in Operation Support 2.0 will not be eligible for reimbursement under the Basic Fire Fighter program. Participation in Operation Support 2.0 will be in lieu of the Basic Fire Fighter reimbursements.

Contact

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