



## **Basic Operations Firefighter (Firefighter II) Academy** **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Is Basic Operations Firefighter different than Firefighter II?** No, it is the exact same course and certification. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), who governs firefighter training in the state, is in the final stages of updating and modernizing the Firefighter II curriculum, and part of what goes with that is a name change. We anticipate the new curriculum will be released in January of 2010. When it does it will be called Basic Operations Firefighter. Until that time it will remain to be called Firefighter II.
2. **What is Basic Operations Firefighter (Firefighter II)?** B.O.F. / Firefighter II is the basic firefighter certification in Illinois. Oddly enough, there is no Firefighter I certification. B.O.F. / Firefighter II is for entry-level firefighters. Just about every paid fire department in Illinois requires their personnel to be certified as a Firefighter II either prior to being hired, or soon after. If you are exploring a career as a firefighter in Illinois, this certification is a must.
3. **How much is the class?** The student tuition for the course is \$ 2,400.00 per student. If two or more students enroll from the same fire department then there will be a discount of \$ 100.00 per student.
4. **What is the payment policy?** The course tuition must be paid in three installments. The first payment is due the first day of the course. The second payment is due 10 days later, and the third payment is due 10 days after that.
5. **Do I need to be on a fire department in order to attend the B.O.F. / Firefighter II Academy?** No. You may attend the course as a "civilian," however the OSFM will not certify you or allow you to take the state exam until you are a rostered member of a fire department.
6. **So if the OSFM will not allow me to get certified as a civilian, will I be wasting my time attending the course?** No. Your attendance in the course as a civilian and all the hands-on skills you perform will still count. After graduating the course, once you become a member of a fire department you can then take the state exam and get certified once you pass it. Many fire departments may consider you a more attractive recruit if they know you have completed a Firefighter II academy and are simply awaiting to take the state exam. After

graduating the course you will have 5 years to pass the state exam and get certified. After that time your practical skills done during class will expire and you will have to repeat the program.

7. **Can I be sponsored by a fire department to attend the course? Will the Romeoville Fire Department sponsor me?** You can be sponsored by a department, however seeking a fire department sponsorship is your responsibility. Unfortunately the Romeoville Fire Dept. does not sponsor students at this time.
8. **If I successfully graduate the course will that get me a job with the Romeoville Fire Dept.?** No. This course is simply to give students the proper training and education in order to certify them to the level of B.O.F. / Firefighter II. It in no way provides employment to graduating students.
9. **What equipment is required for the course?** You will be required to produce your own self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and full firefighting gear (turnout gear).
10. **Where do I get this equipment?** Students who are members of a fire department or being sponsored by a department will most likely get this equipment from their department. Civilian students will be responsible to acquire this equipment on their own. The Romeoville Fire Academy can provide students with this equipment for a \$ 200.00 equipment surcharge. This surcharge is due on the first day of class and is non-refundable.
11. **What else will I need for the course?** In addition to the above equipment, students will need:
  - Certificate of Insurance from employer (for those attending through a fire department)
  - Letter from physician deeming you fit to perform firefighter training **AND** the physician deeming you fit to wear a respirator
  - Proof of SCBA mask fit testing. Those students unable to provide proof of fit testing, we can provide fit testing at a cost to student.
12. **Is the class physically demanding?** Yes. As you can imagine, firefighting is a very physically demanding occupation. The course is just as physically demanding, if not more so. In addition to the hands-on training and live-fire training, virtually each class day students will be performing PT and physical fitness such as jogging and calisthenics.
13. **How do I register for the course?** You can register for the course right on our website at [www.romeoville.org](http://www.romeoville.org) or you call our secretary Diane at 815-372-4042.