Course Description

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.

General Course Purpose

This course will fill a void in our present program in that there is no single course that provides a good overview of the laws that affect the fire service today. The constitution and the law-making process will be covered only to the extent that it supports the purpose of this course. (This is not a replacement for any of the Political Science courses.)

Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisite: FST 100

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, a successful student will be able to:

- Define the different types of laws
- Discuss Federal, State, and local laws and liabilities applicable to emergency services
- Explain the purpose of national codes and standards
- Discuss applicable court decisions that have influenced emergency services
- Recognize the legal issues and concerns affecting emergency services

Major Topics to be Included

- Introduction to the Law
- Constitutional Law
- Statutory Law
- Common Law
- Administrative Law Process
- Criminal actions
- The Legal Status of a Fire Department
- The Government’s Liability for the Acts of its Fire Department
- The Liabilities of fire Officials
- Employee Issues