



Offering in 2026: Basic Fire Investigations Course



For South Carolina fire service and law enforcement personnel, S.C. State Fire is partnering with local fire investigators, insurance industry investigators, SLED, and ATF to offer the Basic Fire Investigations course twice during 2026.

The **six-day, 48-hour course** is designed to cover the basic principles and practices of fire investigation through NFPA 1033-Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator and NFPA 921-Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations.

Topics include: Fire scene investigation methodology, scene safety, basic fire science, fire patterns, building systems, electrical systems, appliances, fuel systems, human behavior, origin determination, cause determination, classification of cause, legal considerations, evidence, and documentation.

Successful students will receive an IFSAC-Fire Investigator I certificate and be eligible to apply for ProBoard certification. This course meets the pre-requisite to apply for IAAI Fire Investigation Technician certification.

Class Dates:

Class A: Monday, March 16 – Saturday, March 21, 2026

or

Class B: Monday, Sept. 14 – Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026

Class Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Prepare for some sessions to go beyond 5 p.m.,
and homework assignments in the evenings.*

Apply ASAP!
Application deadline
for both classes:
Friday, Aug. 1, 2025

Location: SC State Fire, Denny Auditorium
141 Monticello Trail, Columbia, S.C. 29203

Fee: In-state \$225/Out-of-state \$775, (non-refundable) which includes breakfast and lunch daily. The sponsoring agency is billed four weeks prior to class start date. **Note:** The respective sponsoring

agency will be billed for any student who is a “no show” to class, including course fee, meals, and (if applicable) dorm reservation.

Accommodations: Double-occupancy dorm rooms are available on a first come, first served basis for \$25/night, billed to sponsoring agency. If requesting a room, please indicate the choice on the attached registration form. Every effort is made to assign roommates from the same agency, but it is possible that roommates are from separate agencies. *Due to the intense nature of this program, dorms stays are encouraged but not required.*

Bring to Class:

- ☐ Laptop (iPads not compatible)
- ☐ NFPA 921 2021: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations

Application Process: Due to limited seating, this is a competitive application process.

An applicant must submit the following **four** items as one PDF:

- ☐ A **recommendation letter** from the fire chief/police chief/sheriff. If the applicant is the Chief, the immediate supervisor must write/sign a letter of recommendation. The letter must include a description of job duties as well as how the agency will utilize the student’s training.
- ☐ A **resume** showing at least three to five years of emergency response experience, or equivalent related training.
- ☐ **CFI Trainer transcript**, showing completion of the following online classes:
 - [Fire Investigator Scene Safety](#)
 - [The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigation](#)
 - [Introduction to Evidence](#)
 - [Documenting the Event](#)
 - [Physical Evidence at the Fire Scene](#)
 - [Investigating Motor Vehicle Fires](#)
 - [Introduction to Fire Dynamics and Modeling](#)
 - [Investigating Fatal Fires](#)
 - [Fundamentals of Residential Building Construction](#)
 - [Search and Seizure](#)
 - [Ethics and the Fire Investigator](#)
 - [NFPA 1033 and Your Career](#)
 - [The Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921](#)
- ☐ Completed **SCFA Registration form** (attached).

Email the above-listed documentation as one PDF attachment to gloria.evans@llr.sc.gov no later than Friday, Aug. 1, 2025

Be aware:

- Applications must be submitted with all required documentation to be considered complete.
- Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance status by Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025.

Questions? Contact [Jacob Mullinax](#)

South Carolina Fire Academy - Course Registration Form

Course Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> other _____			
Course Code - Section Number	Course Name	Select preference:	Location
		<input type="checkbox"/> March 16-21, 2026 <input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 14-19, 2026	
Resident Courses Only <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I need a dorm room - arrival date: _____ departure date: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I also need _____ night(s) - date(s): _____ Note: Payment must be submitted with registration for all nights requested. Evening meals are not available. <input type="checkbox"/> No, since I live within 50 miles, I don't need a dorm room			Check here if any information has changed <input type="checkbox"/>

NOTE: This form must be completed and accompanied by the proper registration fees, or it will be returned without being processed. Checks should be made payable to the State of South Carolina. Forms and fees must be received at least two weeks prior to the class start date. Some courses may require earlier registration

Student ID: _____ ☐ male ☐ female date of birth: _____ age: _____

Last name: _____ First name: _____ Initial: _____

Mailing address: _____ e-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Daytime phone #'s: Work: _____ Home: _____

Fire Dept. or Organization _____

FDID#: _____ Dept. phone _____

Notice: It is the policy and practice of the South Carolina Fire Academy to make all testing and certifying services available to all of its constituents without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or age, except where sex or age is a bona fide occupational qualification.

Status: (check only one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Public Fire
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. paid only
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. paid and volunteer
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. volunteer only
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. public safety officer | Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. brigade member
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. fire protection-related company
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. other |
|--|---|

Agreement and Waiver / Liability Release

- _____, hereinafter referred to as STUDENT, attests that he/she is the individual registering to attend training at the South Carolina Fire Academy and that he/she has read, fully understands, and agrees to the statements below.
- In consideration for participating in South Carolina Fire Academy training, STUDENT hereby releases, indemnifies, and covenants not to sue the South Carolina Fire Academy, S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, The State of South Carolina, their officers, agents or employees (Releasees) as well as any other students or instructors from any and all liability, claims, cost and causes of action arising out of or related to any property damage or personal injury, including death, that may be sustained by me, while participating in such activity, or while on the premises owned, leased or used by Releasees. STUDENT acknowledges the training involves physically strenuous activities is capable of fully participating and knows of no physical or mental condition that would preclude full participation in the training.
- STUDENT certifies that the information on this registration form is correct, agrees to abide by the rules, policies, and regulations of the South Carolina Fire Academy, and understands that falsifying information or violating rules or procedures may result in me being denied admission to the course and/or loss of course credit.
- STUDENT authorizes the release of any information concerning enrollment and completion of all South Carolina Fire Academy courses to STUDENT'S fire chief or department training officer.
- STUDENT understands that the South Carolina Fire Academy is not authorized to provide travel, medical, or health insurance, verifies that he/she individually or his/her agency maintains appropriate and necessary coverage, and understands that he/she individually or his/her agency will be responsible for any medical expenses that may be incurred as a result of his/her participation in this program.
- STUDENT understands that the nature of the tasks that may be performed while involved in this training may require a high degree of physical fitness, agility, and dexterity, and that this may include rigorous exercises which require physical fitness, strength, and stamina. STUDENT is fully aware of the risks and hazards associated with fire, rescue and hazardous materials training, including but not limited to burns, heat stroke, heart attack, heat exhaustion, falls and other related injuries, and chooses to freely and voluntarily, without duress, participate in the activity with full knowledge that said activity may be hazardous to himself/herself and/or property.
- In signing this release or authorizing his/her Fire Department to enroll STUDENT, STUDENT acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the Release, is fully competent and a member of a legally organized fire department, fire brigade, fire related business or emergency response organization.
- By registering for this course, STUDENT authorizes the South Carolina Fire Academy to reproduce and publish STUDENT'S name and/or photographic likeness.

Signature - form must be signed by student _____

Fire Chief or Designee _____

Date _____

Registration Use Only			
Check #: _____ Visa/ Master Card #: _____ _____ EXP: _____ P/O #: _____ Payment amount: \$ _____	Received from: _____ _____ _____ _____	Prerequisites: _____ _____ _____ _____	Refund amount: \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> class cancelled <input type="checkbox"/> class full <input type="checkbox"/> student cancelled <input type="checkbox"/> prerequisite not met <input type="checkbox"/> registration late