



ARFF Training Bulletin



January 2026

AIRPORT RESCUE FIREFIGHTING PROGRAM UPDATES

This year, the SC Fire Academy will introduce a major upgrade to its Specialized Aircraft Fire Trainer (SAFT) system. This upgrade is expected to be completed in early spring and will feature a redesign to replicate real-world aircraft fire training scenarios. The upgraded SAFT features enhanced live-fire burn capabilities, improved fuel delivery controls, and a modernized safety system that enables firefighters to experience realistic emergency conditions in a controlled environment. These advancements will better prepare firefighters for the challenges of aircraft incidents at commercial and military airports across the state. The Fuel Spill Burn Trainer (FSBT) delivers more consistent flame production along with enhanced safety controls for instructors and student safety.

With this upgrade, the SC Fire Academy continues its mission to deliver cutting-edge, hands-on education that meets the evolving standards of the National Fire Protection Association and the Federal Aviation Administration. The improved SAFT system not only enhances firefighter readiness, but also strengthens the SC Fire Academy's commitment to aviation safety and emergency preparedness. By investing in technology and training innovation, the SAFT and FSBT upgrades ensures that its ARFF students gain the critical skills and confidence necessary to respond effectively to high-risk aviation emergencies, protecting both lives and property.

SPOTTED ON CAMPUS:

Columbia Airport Fire Department and Space Coast Fire Department (Titusville, Florida): 15 students engaged in live burn training as part of the annual Federal Aviation Regulations Part 139 refresher, focusing on aircraft-related fire suppression techniques.



The Part 139 live burn refresher incorporates job performance requirements and covers fire suppression tactics for engine nacelle, landing gear, APU, and aircraft interior fires, all using ARFF apparatus handlines.

Students practiced fire suppression techniques on engine nacelles, landing gear, and aircraft interiors using ARFF handlines, meeting NFPA 1010 standards.



UPCOMING BASIC ARFF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The South Carolina Fire Academy’s ARFF program is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

The Academy is also an FAA Regional ARFF fire-training center. Training opportunities are available:

3400-26004	Jan. 5 - Jan 9, 2026
3400-26006	Mar. 2 - Mar. 6, 2026
3400-26008	May 11 - May 15, 2026

TO REGISTER

- Complete a [SC Fire Academy registration form](#).
- Indicate if you need to rent bunker gear (additional \$65) for the training program or if you will be bringing your own. Structural gear is acceptable in the ARFF program.
- Provide the full name, address, contact number, and name of the entity responsible for course payment. If this information is not provided, registration cannot be processed.
- Sign the release section, date the form accordingly, and have your Chief Officer sign where indicated.
- Attach Firefighter II certification: IFSAC or Pro-Board is acceptable. This registration requirement cannot be waived.

OFF-SITE STUDENT HOUSING

In the event the SC Fire Academy’s dormitory is full or unavailable, the DoubleTree by Hilton is less than 10 miles away (15 minutes) from the Academy site. Their 2026 rate for students attending classes and events at the Academy is \$105 per night, including breakfast. [Click here for reservation information](#).

DoubleTree by Hilton Columbia
2100 Bush River Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Two ways to make your reservation:

- ▶ Call 1-803-731-0300 and mention group: South Carolina State Fire #0002765133, or
- ▶ Utilize convenient [online booking](#)

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