



SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIRE

a Division of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Fire Academy

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FIRE OFFICER & FIRE INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM UPDATE

Transition to Digital Resources

The SC Fire Academy will be updating the Fire Instructor I & II and Fire Officer I & II programs to the 2024 edition of NFPA 1020. During this required changeover, the SC Fire Academy will expand its use of Blackboard for these programs, including electronic books (e-books) and electronic testing. The Fire Instructor I & II programs will changeover on November 1, 2026, followed by the Fire Officer I & II programs on December 1, 2026.

These programs are officer-level courses, and students routinely bring laptops for coursework, research, presentations, and assignments. As a result, the transition to digital resources is not expected to significantly impact classroom operations.

Digital Resources

All course digital materials will be available through Blackboard for easy, centralized access. Blackboard will serve as the primary hub for course announcements, resources, and grade tracking. Some content, such as e-books, may require students to log in through an outside platform, but access will be provided through Blackboard to keep the process as streamlined as possible. Additional study aids may include instructional videos and practice quizzes to support learning throughout the program.

E-Books

E-books provide convenient access to course materials, allowing students to search, bookmark, and study more efficiently without printed manuals. Students may use personal laptops or tablets to view e-books during class and while completing assignments. E-books can be downloaded in advance, so internet access is not required once the material is saved to a device. Students may also access the e-book using the Bookshelf app (by VitalSource) on a mobile device. Access instructions and links will be provided through Blackboard.

E-books will be distributed before each course begins, allowing students to review the content in advance. Access will remain available throughout the program and will continue until the respective NFPA standard is updated.

Click [here](#) to watch an instructional video on how to access and use e-books.

Electronic Testing

Electronic testing supports faster scoring, consistent exam delivery, and clearer navigation of test items.

Additional information and guidance will be released prior to each transition date. More details to follow.

QUESTIONS? [Bonita Waters](#)



Our mission is to be the focal point for service and support to save lives and property.