



County of Erie

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County Executive

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Deputy Commissioner
Fire Safety

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Division of Fire Safety

3359 Broadway – Cheektowaga NY 14227

716/681-7111 – FAX/681-3645

www.erie.gov/fire – fire@erie.gov

2026 Boot Camp Attendee,

Please read this letter completely, as it contains all the information to help you be successful in your upcoming Firefighter One course.

1. This is a blended learning program, which means you will do the traditional lecture portion online via self-pace learning. There is a **\$40.00 fee** associated with the online learning platform. Instructor Zymanek will be sending out a link via email to you in the coming weeks. When that email comes out, you will be responsible for ensuring you are registered prior to orientation day on **May 6th, 2026**. The **\$40.00** fee will be paid directly to IFSTA when registering. This will be covered by your Fire Department, coordinate this step with your Chief or Training Officer.

Each student is required to bring a lab fee from their department of **\$65.00** to cover the cost of running the Bootcamp style of this FF1 course. Checks can be made out to the Erie County Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Organization. Please bring that payment with you to the Orientation on May 6th. This is a separate county fee from the online learning fee.

In total for this class your department will need to allocate **\$105.00** per person to cover both fees.

You will need the Essentials of Fire Fighting and Fire Department Operations, 7th Edition textbook. If you need to purchase one use this website

<https://www.ifsta.org/shop/essentials-fire-fighting-7th-edition/36777>

2. There is zero wiggle room with attendance. It's a very fast-paced course that requires your dedication and attention. Please take the next few months to block out your calendar for the June 8th to June 19th time frame to ensure you are present every day, all day.

3. A Chief, Asst. Chief, or line officer must accompany you to the orientation. Someone will need to authorize scheduling apparatus to be sent for the course.

4. The following items should be brought with you on Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 in order to have a successful first day.

- a. Complete set of structural firefighting gear
- b. SCBA
- c. 10' piece of kernmantle rope
- d. 10' of 1" webbing
- e. Hand tool (Axe, or Halligan)
- f. Laptop or tablet to log onto the online learning (Not a cellphone)
- g. Pen + Paper
- h. Lab Fee
- i. Chiefs authorization letter (completed)

Authorization letters need to be emailed to TAL@erie.gov ASAP to secure your registration.

5. This entire class will be held at the Erie County Training Academy: 3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga NY, 14227

Orientation:

Wednesday 5/6/26 1830 - 2130

Skills weekends:

Saturday 5/16/26 08:00 – 16:00

Saturday 5/23/26 08:00 – 16:00

Two week bootcamp – 08:00-16:00

Monday 6/8/26 – Friday 6/12/26

Monday 6/15/26 – Friday 6/19/26

Some closing remarks, and possibly the most important. This program is a self-study. You must be motivated and responsible enough to follow the schedule and accomplish the required training. During our time together you will work hard, be stressed and be challenged. Should you make it to graduation, you will be a trained firefighter and an asset to your department.

If for some reason you cannot remain in class, please call the county (number above) and tell them you are dropping. This will allow us to fill your seat with others that are on the waiting list.

James Zymanek

New York State Fire Instructor

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ERIE COUNTY BLENDED LEARNING BOOT CAMP