

**El Paso Community College**  
**Syllabus**  
**Part II**  
**Official Course Description**

<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<u><b>Fire Technology</b></u>
<b>COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER</b>	<u><b>FIRT 1353</b></u>
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<u><b>Legal Aspects of Fire Protection</b></u>
<b>COURSE CREDIT HOURS</b>	<u><b>3      3      :      0</b></u> <b>Credits    Lec      Lab</b>

**I.      Catalog Description**

Teaches the rights, duties, liability concerns, and responsibilities of public fire protection agencies and personnel. (3:0).

**II.     Course Objectives**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A.      Describe the types and sources of law and the types of courts within the judicial system, including local, state, and federal legal systems.
- B.      Describe civil actions and identify potential liabilities against fire departments.
- C.      Describe negligence and the concept of immunity as it relates to the fire service.
- D.      Describe criminal actions and identify firefighter's responsibility for their own criminal actions.
- E.      Summarize the basic elements of criminal and civil law, i.e. compare and contrast criminal and civil actions.
- F.      Describe the elements of negligent actions, i.e. relevant tort law, and identify potential liabilities for fire fighters and fire departments regarding the performance of duties and methods of avoiding liability for negligence.
- G.      Describe the rescue and assumption of risk doctrines.
- H.      Describe the duty owed by the public to fire fighters.
- I.      Describe product liability and the basic concept of laws involving defective products.
- J.      Describe the types of fire department organizations.
- K.      Identify liability concerns regarding fire department policies, rules, regulations, and procedures.
- L.      Describe the basic elements of laws and identify liability concerns regarding the enforcement of fire codes and ordinances and the performance of inspections and fire investigations.
- M.      Describe the basic elements of laws impacting the fire service and areas of potential liability, methods of avoiding liability, and firefighter's rights and responsibilities relative to the following laws: Civil Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination Employment Act, Worker's Compensation, Fair Labor Standards Act.
- N.      Discuss Termination of Employment, Family and Medical Leave Act, Labor and Employment Laws, and OSHA.
- O.      Identify laws and regulations governing the collective bargaining process and identify individual rights and responsibilities in the collective bargaining process.
- P.      Describe provisions of NFPA 1500, Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program.
- Q.      Describe codes and standards and their impact on fire departments.
- R.      Define public service ethics and its relative components.
- S.      Analyze case studies and prepare legal briefs on fire service related court cases, identifying the issues, facts, decision, dissenting opinion, and the underlying policy basis for the decision.

### III. THECB Learning Outcomes (WECM)

1. Summarize basic criminal and civil law.
2. Discuss relevant tort law.
3. Describe state and federal legal systems.

### IV. Evaluation

**Attendance Policy:** Students absent for two more class periods without a valid excuse as determined by the instructor may be dropped from the course. Any exam or assignment not completed as a result of an unexcused absence will receive a grade of "0" for that exam or assignment.

Students who do not attend class before or on the census date listed in the Credit Course Schedule and the Course Calendar and have not contacted the instructor with a valid excuse will be dropped from the course.

**Tardiness Policy:** Students must be seated and ready to begin class at the scheduled time. Students tardy for two or more class periods without a valid excuse as determined by the instructor may be dropped from the course.

Expect class to last the entire scheduled time. Students may not leave class early without a valid excuse or without having made arrangements with the instructor. Students doing so will be considered absent for that class period.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students who desire to withdraw are responsible for initiating withdrawal action through the EPCC Registrar's Office according to the policy in the Credit Class Schedule. **After the drop date listed in the Credit Class Schedule and the Course Calendar, students will receive a grade based upon all required items. Items not completed will be given a grade of "0".**

Students requesting an Incomplete, "I", must comply with EPCC policies and procedures listed in the Credit Class Schedule.

**Cheating Policy:** Students determined to be cheating on an exam or plagiarizing another student's assignment will be given a grade of "0" for that exam or assignment. An incident report documenting the circumstances will be prepared by the Instructor and submitted to the Instructional Coordinator of Fire Technology and then forwarded to the Instructional Dean Occupational Education. A copy of the report will be provided to the student. A second such incident will be grounds for dismissal of the student from the course with a grade of "F".

#### **Grading Scale**

- A: 90 - 100
- B: 80 - 89
- C: 75 - 79
- D: 70 - 74
- F: 0 - 69

### V. Disability Statement (Americans with/Disabilities Act [ADA])

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

### VI. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to

see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.