



Field Inspection—California Specific (2024)

Course Plan

Course Details

Certification:	First Responder Inspector
CTS Guide:	First Responder Inspector (2024)
Description:	This course provides the skills and knowledge needed for the First Responder Inspector to safely, effectively, and competently inspect tents, canopies, and temporary membrane structures; safe and sane fireworks retail stands; public and private fireworks displays; and exterior hazard abatement on an existing property.
Designed For:	Personnel preparing to pursue First Responder Inspector certification or anyone who performs the duties of a First Responder Inspector within their agency.
Prerequisites:	Fire Inspector 1: Duties and Administration (2014) or First Responder Inspector 1A: Duties and Administration (2024)
Standard:	Complete all activities and formative tests. Complete all summative tests with a minimum score of 80%.
Hours (Total):	16 hours (14.5 lecture / 0.5 application / 2 testing)
Maximum Class Size:	30
Instructor Level:	SFT First Responder Inspector Registered Instructor
Instructor/Student Ratio:	1:30
Restrictions:	None
SFT Designation:	CFSTES

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Required Resources

Instructor Resources

To teach this course, instructors need:

- One of the following textbooks (including Instructor Resource kit)
 - *Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement* (IFSTA, 9th edition, 2023)
 - or**
 - *First Responder Inspector: Principles and Practice* (Jones & Bartlett, revised enhanced 1st edition, 2026)
- California Code of Regulations (CCR, Title 19, current edition)
- California Building Code (CCR, Title 24, current edition)
- California Fire Code (CCR, Title 24, current edition)
- Ethical Practices Inventory (The Williams Institute, www.ethics-twi.org/home)
- NFPA 1030: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Program Positions (current edition)
- NFPA 1126: Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience (current edition)

Online Instructor Resources

The following instructor resources are available online at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/state-fire-training/professional-certifications>:

- Activity 3-1: Fireworks Classifications

Student Resources

To participate in this course, students need:

- Textbook chosen by the instructor
- California Fire Code (CCR, Title 24, current edition)
- Access to a computer and printer

Facilities, Equipment, and Personnel

Facilities

The following facilities are required to deliver this course:

- Standard learning environment or facility, which may include:
 - Writing board or paper easel chart
 - Markers, erasers
 - Amplification devices
 - Projector and screen
 - Laptop or tablet with presentation or other viewing software
 - Internet access with appropriate broadband capabilities

Time Table

Segment	Lecture	Application	Unit Total
Unit 1: Introduction			
Topic 1-1: Orientation and Administration	0.5	0.0	
Topic 1-2: First Responder Inspector Certification Process	0.5	0.0	
Unit 1 Totals	1.0	0.0	1.0
Unit 2: Tents, Canopies, and Temporary Membrane Structures			
Topic 2-1: Inspecting Tents, Canopies, and Temporary Membrane Structures	1.5	0.0	
Unit 2 Totals	1.5	0.0	1.5
Unit 3: Fireworks and Explosives			
Topic 3-1: Inspecting Safe and Sane Fireworks Retail Stands	1.0	0.5	
Topic 3-2: Inspecting Public Fireworks Displays	2.0	0.0	
Topic 3-3: Inspecting Proximate Fireworks Displays	2.0	0.0	
Unit 3 Totals	5.0	0.5	5.5
Unit 4: Wildland Urban Interface			
Topic 4-1: Inspecting Exterior Hazard Abatement on an Existing Property	6.0	0.0	
Unit 4 Totals	6.0	0.0	6.0
Formative Assessments			
Determined by AHJ or educational institution	0.0	0.0	0.0
Summative Assessment			
Determined by AHJ or educational institution	0.0	2.0	2.0
Course Totals	13.5	2.5	16.0

Time Table Key

1. The Time Table documents the amount of time estimated to deliver the content included in the course plan.
2. Time is documented using the quarter system: 15 min. = .25 / 30 min. = .50 / 45 min. = .75 / 60 min. = 1.0.
3. The Course Totals do not reflect time for lunch (1 hour) or breaks (10 minutes per each 50 minutes of instruction or assessment). It is the instructor's responsibility to add this time based on the course delivery schedule.
4. Application (activities, skills exercises, and formative testing) time will vary depending on the number of students enrolled. The Application time documented is based on the maximum class size identified in the Course Details section.
5. Summative Assessments are determined and scheduled by the authority having jurisdiction. These are not the written or psychomotor State Fire Training certification exams. These are in-class assessments to evaluate student progress and calculate course grades.

Unit 1: Introduction

Topic 1-1: Orientation and Administration

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this topic, a student will be able to identify facility and classroom requirements and identify course objectives, events, requirements, assignments, activities, skills exercises, resources, evaluation methods, and participation requirements in the course syllabus.

Enabling Learning Objectives

1. Identify facility requirements
 - Restroom locations
 - Food locations
 - Smoking locations
 - Emergency procedures
2. Identify classroom requirements
 - Start and end times
 - Breaks
 - Electronic device policies
 - Special needs and accommodations
 - Other requirements as applicable
3. Review course syllabus
 - Course objectives
 - Calendar of events
 - Course requirements
 - Student evaluation process
 - Assignments
 - Activities
 - Required student resources
 - Class participation requirements

Discussion Questions

1. Determined by instructor

Application

1. Determined by instructor

Topic 1-2: First Responder Inspector Certification Process

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this topic a student will be able to identify the requirements for First Responder Inspector certification and describe the certification task book and examination process.

Enabling Learning Objectives

1. Identify the levels of certification in the Inspector certification track
 - First Responder Inspector
 - Fire Inspector
2. Identify other Fire Prevention certification tracks
 - Fire Plans Examiner
 - Fire Marshal
3. Identify the prerequisites for First Responder Inspector certification
 - None
4. Identify the course work required for First Responder Inspector certification
 - Fire Inspector 1A: Duties and Administration (2014) **or** First Responder Inspector 1A: Duties and Administration (2024)
 - Fire Inspector 1B: Fire and Life Safety (2014) **or** First Responder Inspector 1B: Fire and Life Safety (2024)
 - Fire Inspector 1C: : Field Inspection (2014) **or** First Responder Inspector 1C: Field Inspection (2024)
 - Fire Inspector 1D: : Field Inspection – California Specific (2014) **or** First Responder Inspector 1D: Field Inspection – California Specific (2024)
 - Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness course (CSTI, IAFF, IFSAC/Pro Board, SFT)
 - Home Ignition Zone/Defensible Space Inspector (SFT)
 - IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response (FEMA)
 - PC-832 Arrest, Search, and Seizure (POST)
 - Must be completed within two years of applying for certification unless candidate is employed as a peace officer
5. Identify the exams requirements for First Responder Inspector certification
 - Not applicable
6. Identify the task book requirements for First Responder Inspector certification
 - First Responder Inspector Certification Task Book (2024)
7. Identify the experience requirements for First Responder Inspector certification
 - Has a minimum of one (1) year full-time paid experience or two (2) years' volunteer or part-time paid experience in a recognized California fire agency as Fire Inspector/Prevention Officer
 - Has completed a minimum of one inspection for each of the following occupancies: A1, A2, A3, B-Medical, E, F-1, H-2 or H3, I-3, M, R-1, R.2, R-2.1, S-1 with high-piled stock, U (Inspections conducted prior to the completion of all educational requirements shall not apply.)

8. Identify the position requirements for First Responder Inspector certification
 - Met when the applicant fulfills the role of the specific duties as defined by their Fire Chief
9. Describe the certification task book process
10. Describe the certification testing process
 - Not applicable
 - All formative and summative testing is completed in individual courses

Discussion Questions

1. Determined by instructor

Application

1. Determined by instructor

Unit 2: Tents, Canopies, and Temporary Membrane Structures

Topic 2-1: Inspecting Tents, Canopies, and Temporary Membrane Structures

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this topic a student, given applicable codes and standards and jurisdictional policies, will be able to inspect a tent, canopy, or temporary membrane structure to verify that it complies with applicable codes and standards, and identify, document, and report deficiencies in accordance with applicable codes and standards and AHJ policies.

Enabling Learning Objectives

1. Define the following terms: tent, canopy, temporary membrane structure
2. Identify permit requirements for tents, canopies, and temporary membrane structures
 - Applicable occupancy and usage
3. Identify when the California Building Code regulates a tent, canopy, or membrane structure
4. Identify state requirements for tents, canopies and other temporary membrane structures (15 persons or greater)
 - Vehicle parking
 - Location on site
 - Structural requirements
 - Prohibited smoking
 - Fireworks and open flame
 - Fire extinguishers and other fire protection equipment
 - Fire safety personnel
 - Abatement of fire and panic hazards
 - Exit requirements
 - Cooking and heating equipment
 - Flame resistance
 - Labeling of tents
 - Anchoring
5. Observe, recognize and document problems with, and make decisions about tents, canopies, and temporary membrane structures

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between a tent and a canopy?
2. What would trigger fire watch?
3. What canopy size does the code exempt from permitting and regulation?

Application

1. Determined by instructor

Instructor Notes

1. None

CTS Guide Reference: CTS 4-11

Unit 3: Fireworks and Explosives

Topic 3-1: Inspecting Safe and Sane Fireworks Retail Stands

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this topic a student, given applicable codes and standards and jurisdictional policies, will be able to inspect a safe and sane fireworks stand to verify that fireworks displays and storage comply with applicable codes and standards, and identify, document, and report deficiencies in accordance with applicable codes and standards and AHJ policies.

Enabling Learning Objectives

1. Identify fireworks classifications
 - Dangerous
 - Safe and sane
 - Agriculture and wildlife
 - Model rocket motor
 - Emergency signaling devices
 - Exempt
 - Party popper
 - Snap caps and snappers
 - High power rocket motors
2. Identify codes and standards applicable to fireworks storage, display, and transportation
 - Storage
 - Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 173, Subpart C
 - California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 2, Chapter 6, Article 1
 - Display
 - California Health and Safety Code, sections 12552 and 12553
 - California Fire Code, Chapter 33
 - California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 6
 - Transportation
 - Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49
3. Describe types of licenses and permits required for fireworks storage and display
4. Observe, recognize problems with, and make decisions about fireworks storage and display
 - Requirements contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 19
 - Associated permits
 - Electrical permit
 - State Fire Marshal retail sales permit
 - AHJ (authority having jurisdiction) permit
 - Electrical power sources
 - Verification of age of sellers
 - Prohibition of alcohol and narcotics
 - No smoking
 - Booth construction type and location

- Onsite fire extinguishers
- Exiting

5. Apply codes and standards related to fireworks storage and display

Discussion Questions

1. Which fireworks are considered safe and sane?
2. Where in California are safe and sane fireworks approved for use?
3. When (dates and times) can someone sell safe and sane fireworks in California?

Application

1. Activity 3-1: Fireworks Classifications

Instructor Notes

1. None

CTS Guide Reference: CTS 4-12

Topic 3-2: Inspecting Public Fireworks Displays

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this topic, a student given applicable codes and standards and jurisdictional policies will be able to inspect a public fireworks display to verify that fireworks storage, handling, and use comply with applicable codes and standards, and identify, document, and report deficiencies in accordance with applicable codes and standards and jurisdictional policies.

Enabling Learning Objectives

1. Identify codes and standards applicable to public fireworks displays
2. Describe types of aerial fireworks
3. Describe types of public fireworks displays
 - Mortars and aerial shells
 - Pinwheels
 - Cakes
4. Describe types of licenses and permits required for public fireworks displays
 - Insurance
 - Licensed operator
 - Local permit
5. Describe fire and life safety aspects related to public fireworks displays
 - Firing methods
 - Mortars and aerial shells
 - Rack, trough, and direct burial inspection
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Post-display procedures
 - Safety tools and equipment
 - Site location requirements
 - Storage requirements
6. Observe, recognize problems with, and make decisions about public fireworks displays
 - Well secured to prevent movement
 - Angled if necessary to permit proper trajectory and landing
 - Undamaged and in good condition
 - Properly sized for launch tube
 - Properly and completely loaded
7. Apply codes and standards related to public fireworks displays

Discussion Questions

1. Who can operate a public display of fireworks?
2. What are the post-display procedures?

Application

1. Determined by instructor

Instructor Notes

1. None

CTS Guide Reference: CTS 4-13

Topic 3-3: Inspecting Proximate Fireworks Displays and Special Effects

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this topic, a student given applicable codes, standards, and jurisdictional policies will be able to inspect a proximate fireworks or special effects display to verify that fireworks storage, handling, and use comply with applicable codes and standards, and identify, document, and report deficiencies in accordance with applicable codes and standards and jurisdictional policies.

Enabling Learning Objectives

1. Describe proximate fireworks and special effects
2. Identify codes and standards applicable to proximate fireworks or special effects displays
3. Describe types of licenses and permits required for proximate fireworks or special effects displays
4. Describe fire and life safety aspects related to proximate fireworks or special effects displays
 - Display requirements
 - Physical hazards
 - Storage requirements
 - Types of devices
 - Pyrotechnic
 - Flame effect
 - General requirements for handling and use (NFPA 1126)
 - Specific requirements for various types of pyrotechnics
 - Fallout spheres
 - Distance from audience and other structures
 - Distance from overhead objects such as curtains, beams, etc.
 - Items projecting into the space of the sphere
 - Musicians, actors, or other participants within the sphere while device is fired
5. Observe, recognize problems with, and make decisions about proximate fireworks or special effects displays
6. Apply codes and standards related to proximate fireworks or special effects displays

Discussion Questions

1. What is considered close proximity?
2. Can you discharge fireworks inside a building?
3. What are the greatest concerns related to a proximate fireworks shoot?
4. When should local authorities prohibit a proximate fireworks shoot?
5. What training is available to qualify to properly oversee a special effects event?

Application

1. Determined by instructor

Instructor Notes

1. This topic does not include buildings and facilities used for motion picture, television, and commercial production.

CTS Guide Reference: CTS 4-14

Unit 4: Wildland Urban Interface

Topic 4-1: Inspecting Exterior Hazard Abatement on an Existing Property

Terminal Learning Objective

At the end of this topic a student, given applicable codes and standards and jurisdictional policies, will be able to inspect exterior hazards abatement on an existing property to verify compliance with applicable codes and standards, and identify, document, and report deficiencies and mitigation measures in accordance with applicable codes and standards and jurisdictional policies.

Enabling Learning Objectives

1. Identify wildland fire types in relation to communities
 - Interface
 - Intermix
 - Wildland
 - Conflagration
2. Describe the wildland urban interface environment
3. Identify fire history in wildland urban interface environments
4. Describe consequences of severe wildland fire conditions on unmitigated wildland urban interface areas
 - Interface conflagrations will exceed fire suppression resource capabilities
 - Life loss
 - Property loss
 - Environmental impact
 - Economic impact
5. Identify factors impacting wildland fire behavior
 - Fuel
 - Topography
 - Weather
 - Heat transfer
 - Direct flame contact
 - Convection
 - Radiation
 - Ember transfer
 - Structure to structure
 - Fuel and fire laddering
 - Crown fire migration
6. Define fire hazard severity zone classifications
 - Moderate
 - High
 - Very High
7. Identify responsibility areas, including:
 - Local Responsibility Area (LRA)

- State Responsibility Area (SRA)
 - Federal lands
8. Describe methods for dealing with fire hazards associated with WUI environment
 - Prescriptive construction requirements found in California Wildland Urban Interface Code
 - Fuel modification
 - Defensible space inspections
 - Prescribed fire
 - Fire-Smart Landscaping
 - Performance-based design
 - Master-planned communities
 - Construction features
 - Engineered fuel modification zone
 9. Describe components of a vegetation management plan
 - Defensible space
 - Size, distance and zones
 - Fuel modification
 - Changing existing plant materials
 - Fuel reduction
 - Reducing the amount of existing vegetation
 - Wildland urban interface maintenance
 - As required by AHJ or in accordance with a fuel management plan
 10. Observe, recognize and document problems with, and make decisions about exterior hazard abatement
 11. Apply codes and standards related to wildland urban interface environment.

Discussion Questions

1. What does WUI stand for?
2. How do weather conditions impact fire behavior?
3. How is fuel loading measured in a wildland urban interface environment?
4. What is aspect?
5. What are the differences between an SRA and an LRA?
6. Can an SRA be within city limits?
7. In which severity zones do the requirements of CA WUI Code apply?
8. What are the components of a vegetation management plan?
9. What are the components of a master-planned community in a WUI environment?
10. What construction features does CA WUI Code modify for structures in a WUI environment?

Application

1. Determined by instructor

Instructor Notes

1. None

CTS Guide Reference: CTS 5-1

How to Read a Course Plan

A course plan identifies the details, logistics, resources, and training and education content for an individual course. Whenever possible, course content is directly tied to a national or state standard. SFT uses the course plan as the training and education standard for an individual course. Individuals at fire agencies, academies, and community colleges use course plans to obtain their institution's consent to offer course and provide credit for their completion. Instructors use course plans to develop syllabi and lesson plans for course delivery.

Course Details

The Course Details segment identifies the logistical information required for planning, scheduling, and delivering a course.

Required Resources

The Required Resources segment identifies the resources, equipment, facilities, and personnel required to deliver the course.

Unit

Each Unit represents a collection of aligned topics. Unit 1 is the same for all SFT courses. An instructor is not required to repeat Unit 1 when teaching multiple courses within a single instructional period or academy.

Topics

Each Topic documents a single Terminal Learning Objective and the instructional activities that support it.

Terminal Learning Objective

A Terminal Learning Objective (TLO) states the instructor's expectations of student performance at the end of a specific lesson or unit. Each TLO includes a task (what the student must be able to do), a condition (the setting and supplies needed), and a standard (how well or to whose specifications the task must be performed). TLOs target the performance required when students are evaluated, not what they will do as part of the course.

Enabling Learning Objectives

The Enabling Learning Objectives (ELO) specify a detailed sequence of student activities that make up the instructional content of a lesson plan. ELOs cover the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills students must master to complete the TLO.

Discussion Questions

The Discussion Questions are designed to guide students into a topic or to enhance their understanding of a topic. Instructors may add to or adjust the questions to suit their students.

Application

The Application segment documents experiences that enable students to apply lecture content through cognitive and psychomotor activities, skills exercises, and formative testing. Application experiences included in the course plan are required. Instructors may add additional application experiences to suit their student population if time permits.

Instructor Notes

The Instructor Notes segment documents suggestions and resources to enhance an instructor's ability to teach a specific topic.

CTS Guide Reference

The CTS Guide Reference segment documents the standard(s) from the corresponding Certification Training Standard Guide upon which each topic within the course is based. This segment is eliminated if the course is not based on a standard.

Skill Sheet

The Skill Sheet segment documents the skill sheet that tests the content contained within the topic. This segment is eliminated if the course does not have skill sheets.