The Value of Training
The role of the fire service has evolved over the years to encompass far more than traditional fire suppression. Fire suppression itself has become a more multi-faceted undertaking, as improvements in technology have revolutionized the way that firefighters attack a working fire. As the breadth and scope of what it means to be a firefighter has expanded, the necessity for training within the fire service has grown. Untrained firefighters responding to emergencies can be unsafe, dangerous, and inefficient.

Consequences of Poor/Insufficient/Lack of Requirements
Insufficient training can have negative economic impacts as well, both on the department and the community. Liability issues can be a serious problem for departments. A lack of training could be perceived as negligence. In 1989, the United States Supreme Court ruled in City of Canton v. Harris that a city can be held liable for failing to properly train its employees. In Canada that same year, firefighters in the Province of Quebec were found liable for damages caused by the negligence of its firefighters. An inclusive training program is essential in protecting a department from potential litigation. Firefighter injury or death can also create an economic burden for departments and communities.

Indiana State Fire Academy Training System - offers free training for the following certification levels. Contact your local district fire training council representative to find out when courses are being offered to discuss hosting a course in your county. Courses are delivered for multiple agencies in a district.

- Firefighter I/II
- Mandatory
- Haz Mat Awareness
- Haz Mat Operations
- Technical Rescue Awareness
- Fire Officer I
- Fire Officer II
- Fire Instructor I
- Fire Instructor II/III
- Driver Operator/Pumper
- Driver Operator Aerial
- Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply
- Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics
- Safety Officer

Other courses may be available based upon demonstrated need and budget availability.

John M. Buckman III