



INFORMATION BULLETIN

*Wayne Goodwin, Commissioner of Insurance
N.C. State Fire Marshal*

Triangle Alternative Fuels First Responder Training Now Online

This information bulletin is intended to provide information to North Carolina fire and rescue agencies about new online learning opportunities for specialized training in alternative fuel vehicles.

With an increase of alternative fuel vehicles on U.S. highways, first responders require more education about how to react in an emergency situation with these types of vehicles. Due to an overwhelming request for this training, the N.C. Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshal is partnering with the N.C. Solar Center at N.C. State University to provide [alternative fuels first responder training online](#) as part of its “Pocket Tools Training.”

The objectives of the training are:

1. To give area emergency response personnel the opportunity to familiarize themselves with alternative fuels.
2. To develop an understanding of the potential hazards unique to alternative fuels.
3. To learn some of the specialized emergency procedures associated with the growing number of alternative fuel vehicles and stations that they may encounter throughout the area.

The materials, based on training developed by the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium, are based on a live two-day training workshop for area first responders conducted as part of the *Carolina Blue Skies & Green Jobs Initiative*. Similar to the live workshop, the online version is broken into three modules:

- Gaseous Fuels, encompassing Natural Gas and Propane
- Biofuels, encompassing Ethanol and Biodiesel
- Electric Drive Vehicles, encompassing Battery Electric Vehicles, Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles

The material is presented in classroom lecture and discussion format with corresponding slide presentations, brief subject matter videos and videos of hands-on static vehicle reviews. Each module is broken into 10-30 minute sections for self-paced review online and is led by Rich Cregar, an instructor and vehicle technician with over 25 years of alternative fuels experience. Additional support was provided by Wilson and Nash Community College Fire and Emergency Programs instructors.

The *Carolina Blue Skies & Green Jobs Initiative*, funded through the U.S. Department of Energy with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, deployed more than 500 alternative fuel vehicles and commissioned more than 140 alternative fueling sites throughout North and South Carolina. The N.C. Solar Center was a principle partner to the project led by the Triangle Clean Cities Coalition at Triangle J Council of Governments.

For more information, contact Bob Shuler at the North Carolina Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal at (919) 661-5880 or visit our website at www.ncdoi.com/OSFM.