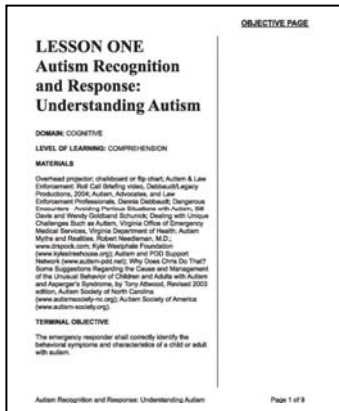


Autism Recognition & Response



NC DOI Office of State Fire Marshal developed this coursework in anticipation of the NC General Assembly requirement of additional training for first responders, in order to help them recognize and understand the special needs of people with Autism. This was completed in cooperation with other agencies in North Carolina and across the United States.



This course has been presented throughout the state of North Carolina at numerous conferences and seminars with the assistance of Superior Court Judge Kim Taylor; Betsy Thompson, former Director of Advocacy Services with the Autism Society of North Carolina; and Major David Munday formerly with the State Highway Patrol. While the course was developed for First Responders, it has been presented to emergency management offices, law enforcement agencies; and, community colleges are including it on their list of continuing education courses. In addition, several agencies from other states have requested copies of these lesson plans in order to teach and train their first responders and implement new agency standards and guidelines when responding to emergencies.

While the course has been presented with the assistance of the above named instructors, OSFM instructors received a train-the-trainer class so that they are able to teach the coursework as well. In addition, this course was designed so that an agency can request a copy of the lesson plans and presentations, review them, and then be able to teach the course with an understanding of the topic, using their own instructor.

Our coursework includes: Lesson Plans, PowerPoint Presentations, Communication Cards and a Special Needs Emergency Information Form. In addition, there is a DVD available from the Autism Society of North Carolina that we can include, if requested.

For more information, please contact Chris Best of the North Carolina Office of State Fire Marshal at cbest@ncdoi.net.