



A Member Service of **NBFAA**

# FACT SHEET

## What is NTS?

The National Training School (NTS), founded by the National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA) in 1985, was established to meet the ever-increasing need for standardized training in the electronic life safety, security and systems industry.

NTS is the definitive source for professional development and training for the industry. Offering more diverse training than any other association, NTS gives students the choice of traditional classroom and more than 2500 online business courses with both NTS and partner programs. Taught by top industry professionals, NTS's education and certification programs for security and fire alarm technicians assure competence in those who sell, monitor, install and service electronic systems. In states with licensing requirements, NTS has the most recognized training.

Nearly 30,000 students have completed NTS courses and thousands have been certified. NTS offers three certifications: Certified Alarm Technician (Level I); Certified Fire Alarm Technician; and Certified Alarm Technician (Level II).

Earning an NTS designation allows technicians to boost their career opportunities, improve skills and gain knowledge. At the same time, trained individuals can power their company's performance and boost their career opportunities.

## Core Training Courses

### Understanding Alarm Systems (UAS)

Hours: 8, Audience: Police, Ordinance Managers, And Industry Staff

Participants will learn the elements of security technology — including system components, detection and response — and acquire technical training in sensors, control panels, communications, supervising stations and false alarm prevention to enable salespeople and law enforcement personnel to understand system design.

### Certified Alarm Technician (Level I)

Hours: 24, Audience: Designed for individuals with a minimum of three months experience in the alarm industry, but may be taken by individuals at any level.

This course presents an overview of the theory, installation and maintenance of alarm systems, basic electricity, standards, perimeter detection, space detection, fire systems, control panels, communications, CCTV, job planning, and false alarm prevention. This

class is open to all, but designed for staff and business owners employed in the alarm industry for at least three months. Course instructors will review the operation, application, installation and maintenance of commonly used equipment and components and present industry standards and legal requirements. This course will end with the administration of the two-hour Certified Alarm Technician examination.

### **Advanced Burglar Alarm Technician (ABAT)**

Hours: 16, Audience: Graduates of the Certified Alarm Technician (Level I) course

Participants will learn how to properly wire and troubleshoot speakers and siren drivers, determine the minimum size power supply needed for a system to operate for a specified number of hours without primary power, choose the number, location and type of detection devices to meet customer's needs, list the completion tests that must be performed to ensure proper system operation, identify the factors that must be considered before selecting a panel, troubleshoot a system that has failed to communicate and describe the purpose and operation of each programmable option in the SIA Control Panel Standard. This course will end with the administration of a two-hour Advanced Burglar Alarm Technician examination.

### **Fire Alarm Installation Methods (FAIM)**

Hours 16, Audience: Fire Alarm Technicians and Designers

This two-day course is ideal for individuals seeking to expand their knowledge of the installation, service and maintenance of fire alarm systems. Additionally, this course provides the necessary review material to prepare for NICET Level 1 and 2 examinations. This course follows the structure of NFPA 72 and is based on the 1996 edition of NFPA 72 and NFPA 70. This course will end with the administration of a two-hour, multiple-choice examination. Attendees successfully completing the examination will receive a certificate of course completion.

### **Life Safety Code (LSC)**

Hours 8, Audience: Fire Alarm Technicians and Designers

Provides the fundamentals of Life Safety Code (Introduction to NFPA 101), the requirements from chapter 7-6, and three sample occupancy types, with practice exercises. This course will end with a one - hour, multiple-choice examination. Attendees successfully completing the examination will receive a certificate of course completion.

### **Electronic Access Control (EAC)**

Hours: 16, Audience: Technicians

This course provides an overview of electronic access control systems, including components, system types, installation methods and design. This course will end with the administration of a two-hour, multiple-choice examination. Attendees successfully completing the examination will receive a certificate of course completion.

### **Central Station Training (CST)**

Hours: 8, Audience: Central station operators

This course provides an overview of monitored alarm systems, the alarm industry and the role of the central station operator within the industry. This course will end with the administration of a one-hour, multiple-choice examination. Attendees successfully completing the examination will receive a certificate of course completion.

### **Essential Sales Training (EST)**

Hours: 16, Audience: Industry sales representatives

This course provides strategies to boost productivity, increase customer satisfaction and maximize territory coverage. Learn the essentials of successful sales techniques including: prospecting, identifying customer needs and closing the deal. This course will end with the administration of an 80-minute, multiple-choice examination. Attendees successfully completing the examination will receive a certificate of course completion.

## **NTS/NBFAA Certifications**

### **Certified Alarm Technician (Level 1) - Requirements:**

Successfully complete the 3-day Certified Alarm Technician course and pass the two-hour, multiple-choice examination

### **Certified Fire Alarm Technician - Requirements:**

Successfully complete the two-day Fire Alarm Installation Methods course and pass the two-hour, multiple-choice examination

Successfully complete the one-day Life Safety Code course and pass the one-hour, multiple-choice examination

### **Advanced Alarm Technician - Requirements:**

Level 1 certification

Successfully complete the two-day Advanced Burglar Alarm Technician course and pass the two-hour, multiple-choice examination

Successfully complete the two-day Fire Alarm Installation Methods course and pass the two-hour, multiple-choice examination

### **Continuing Education Requirements**

Graduates of NTS programs must earn a minimum of 1.2 continuing education units (CEUs) each year to maintain active status. CEUs may be earned by attending NTS approved coursework such as sessions at the International Security Conferences (ISC), North American Monitoring Technology Symposium & Exhibition (NAMTSE), state association trade shows and classes held throughout the year (visit [www.alarm.org](http://www.alarm.org) for a current National Training School schedule) and college or trade school classes.

### **About NBFAA**

NBFAA, a non-profit 501(c) 6 trade association, is the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to representing, promoting, and supporting the electronic life safety, security, and systems industry. Member companies specialize in a wide spectrum

of services to commercial and residential consumers, including security and fire alarms, video surveillance, access control and monitoring. In cooperation with a federation of state associations, NBFAA provides government advocacy and delivers timely information, professional development tools, products and services that members use to grow and prosper their businesses. The NBFAA may be reached at (888) 447-1689 or on the Web at [www.alarm.org](http://www.alarm.org).

### **How Do I Contact NBFAA and NTS?**

#### **National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association**

2300 Valley View Lane, Suite 230

Irving, TX 75062

Toll Free: (888) 447-1689

Phone: (214) 260-5970

Fax: (214) 260-5979

Web site: [www.alarm.org](http://www.alarm.org)

#### **NTS**

Dale Eller, Director of Education and Standards

3718 West Lake Road

Erie, PA 16505

Toll Free: (866) 636-1687

Fax: (814) 838-5127 or (985) 626-8128

E-mail: [NTS@alarm.org](mailto:NTS@alarm.org)

#### **Media Contact**

Georgia M. Calaway, APR

Director of Communication,

Public Relations & Marketing

Phone: (888) 447-1689 ext. 209

E-mail: [GeorgiaC@alarm.org](mailto:GeorgiaC@alarm.org)