



Hearth Education Foundation

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Press Release (Industry Trade News) **For Immediate Publication**

‘Hearth Online Training’ Coming In May to a Computer Near You

Arlington, VA – The HEARTH Education Foundation will begin offering Internet courses in May through its new “Hearth Online Training” program to meet a growing demand for hearth training. Online courses will deliver effective training on a wide scale at reasonable fees without additional travel expenses for students, since they will take courses in their own homes or at their workplace.

Classes are live and interactive with an instructor leading discussions among participants who will hear each other's comments. Instructors will answer questions and show visual images and text illustrating each lesson. Students will receive recordings of sessions for review purposes following the session.

While high-speed Internet connections offer some advantages, the delivery system chosen by HEARTH even allows dial-up connections. VoIP (voice over Internet protocol) technology facilitates the connection without an additional phone line. Students will need a computer with speakers, and a microphone or a headset (available at a very inexpensive price).

Classes will be conducted at various times of the day to account for differences in time zones, and customized class schedules may be arranged. Schedules will be posted on hpbef.org and nfcertified.org.

The following classes will be offered initially, and more courses are being developed:

“Hearth 101”: This course is designed to provide new employees with fundamental technical and safety information about hearth systems and product categories. The class will introduce wood, coal, pellet and gas appliances and venting systems. It consists of three 90-minute sessions, and will require students to use the “Hearth 101” manual. The class costs \$89 (the manual costs \$89).

“Gas Tech 101”: An introductory look at gas appliance technical issues, LP conversions, getting the best flame picture and basic trouble shooting will all be reviewed. “Gas Tech 101” is one, 90-minute session, and costs \$49.

“Why My Wood Isn't Burning”: This class offers an introductory look at wood appliance troubleshooting. It is perfect for a new service technician or as a review for the experienced person. We will also discuss the technical information a salesperson needs to know about wood stove installations. “Why My Wood Isn't Burning” is one, 90-minute session, and costs \$49.

Free online demonstrations will be available in advance of the first class offerings.

For more information, stop by the HEARTH Education Foundation booth #1103 at the HPBExpo in Reno or contact Rick Vlahos at Vlahos@hpba.org or call (815) 334-1215.

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