

CFI Calculator Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS):

Windows:

1) Question: Does the CFI Calculator for Windows require any additional software?

Answer: Yes, it requires Version 2.0 of the .Net Framework that is available for download on the internal page of the Fire Dynamics Calculations module.

Pocket PC:

2) Question: Does the CFI Calculator for the Pocket PC require any additional software?

Answer: Yes, it requires Version 2.0 of the .Net Compact Framework that is available for download on the internal page of the Fire Dynamics Calculations module.

Palm:

3) Question: Is the CFI Calculator an extension to the existing pre-installed Palm calculator application?

Answer: No, the CFI Calculator is a separate, standalone application.

Mac:

4) Question: Can I run the CFI Calculator on a Macintosh?

Answer: The CFI Calculator is not currently designed to run on Macintosh systems. One potential suggestion is to install a Palm OS emulator and utilize the Palm version of the calculator (support is not available from CFITrainer.net).

All: **5) Question:** Where were the various formulae derived from?

Answer: The equations were derived from published literature including “NFPA 921, Principles of Fire Behavior” by Quintiere, “Forensic Fire Scene Investigations” by DeHaan and Icové, and other scientific publications. Source documents are loosely referenced in the “Help” section of each application on the CFI Calculator and specifically referenced in “A Users Guide for the CFI Calculator and Fire Dynamics Equations” available on this Web site.

All:

6) Question: Can Standard English units be input instead of metric units?

Answer: No, the equations were designed to utilize metric values and a conversion feature is not built in to the CFI Calculator.

All:

7) Question: Why do some of the CFI Calculator equations provide more than one output value?

Answer: Some of the equations, such as the Flame Height application and the Flashover application have more than one published method for solving the equation and these different versions are incorporated into the tool. By providing multiple outputs, the user can see the broad range of possible solutions. Some of different equations factor in additional aspects that can affect the output such as the fire dimension in the Heskestad Flame Height equation and the boundary properties in the MQH and may be seen as more reliable than other values. This does not mean that the different methods are not viable; it just demonstrates that users should know some of the inherent differences and limitations within the equations.

All:

8) Question: Where can I find additional information regarding fire dynamics equations?

Answer: Additional information concerning the various equations incorporated into the CFI calculator are further explained in “A Users Guide for the CFI Calculator and Fire Dynamics Equations” available on this Web site. This document discusses each equation in detail and references the specific source material regarding each equation. Additionally, the National Institute of Standards and Technology maintains an extensive library of fire dynamics articles on line and is available at <http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/>.