# AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER

## CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

*(NFPA 1003 2010 Edition)*

**Department of Public Safety**
**5700 E. Tudor Road**
**Anchorage, Alaska 99507**
**(907)269-5052**

www.firestandards.alaska.gov

***Revised December 2012***

V10-2

# AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER DIRECTIVE BACKGROUND

The Alaska Airport Firefighter certification Directive was originally developed by the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety Training and Education Bureau (TEB) and the Fairbanks International Airport. The Airport Firefighter (AFF) Directive received initial approval by the Alaska Fire Standards Council (AFSC) in September of 2003, and the Directive referenced the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1003: *Standard for Airport Firefighters Professional Qualifications*, 2003 edition. In 2010, the AFSC adopted NFPA 1003, 2010 edition, and revised the Airport Firefighter directive to include the updated material. This directive exceeds the requirements of CFR 139.

# AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER DIRECTIVE OVERVIEW

The Airport Firefighter certification directive is based on industry standards and was developed to provide Alaska fire service agencies with a method to attain knowledge and skills for response to airport related incidents. The directive is referenced to NFPA 1003, *Standard for Airport Firefighter Professional Qualifications*, 2010 edition, and is intended to provide a standard level of airport firefighter training through a credible certification program. This is the initial level of Airport Firefighter certification for Alaska firefighters seeking recognition of airport firefighter skills.

# AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

## AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER

To qualify for this level of certification, applicants must:

a. be at least 18 years of age, and;
b. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Department of Public Safety Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
c. have AFSC certification as a Firefighter II (*to include certification for Firefighter I and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations*)
d. *successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Airport Firefighter course, and;
e. *successfully complete the AFSC Airport Firefighter written exam (*minimum score of 70%*) and;
f. *successfully complete the required AFSC Airport Firefighter practical skill elements
   ***Note:** The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1003 core requirements.*

# APPROVED AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION COURSES

To be eligible to take the certification exam for Airport Firefighter, applicants must have completed a TEB approved training course. Training courses are offered through TEB, or, through fire department training programs that have been accredited by TEB before the course start date. The Airport Firefighter course must meet the knowledge and skill requirements of NFPA 1003, 2010 edition. Fire departments or organizations conducting a TEB approved course must follow the requirements of the Training Program Accreditation & Course Approval Manual.

Courses at the AFF level are conducted throughout Alaska. These courses are primarily designed to satisfy the core knowledge and practical skill requirements of NFPA 1003. The AFF Final Examination Packet is utilized for testing to ensure the candidate has met the requisite skill requirements before issuance of certification. The final examination must be completed within 3 years of the completion of an accredited/approved course.

AFF courses conducted without prior approval from the TEB and AFSC **will not** be eligible for AFSC certification examinations.

# AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council has developed a written examination test bank for AFF certification. The Airport Firefighter examination has a total of 100 questions, and test bank questions are referenced to NFPA 1003: *Standard for Airport Firefighter Professional Qualifications*, 2010 edition. Airport Firefighter certification examinations are typically administered immediately following an approved course. For certificate issuance, written examinations must be completed with a score of 70% or higher.

In cases where an individual is eligible to test, but is not testing with a group, the AFSC staff will provide direction and approval of testing alternatives. For regions with reasonable access to TEB training centers, the TEB staff may proctor written examinations. Examinations **shall not** be sent to the individual taking the exam.

The AFSC office will grade all certification examinations and notify the applicant of final scores.

## Airport Firefighter Written Examination References

a. NFPA 1003 Standard for Airport Firefighter Professional Qualifications, 2010 edition
b. Text (Both of the following)
   - IFSTA, *Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting*, 5th Edition; *and*
   - Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 139

## Airport Firefighter Practical Skills Evaluation References

a. NFPA 1003 Standard for Airport Firefighter Professional Qualifications, 2010 edition
b. Airport Firefighter Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets

# RECIPROCITY

The AFSC can certify individuals for Airport Firefighter through reciprocity. Reciprocity is available to an individual who has completed his or her certification through an entity accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) or the National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board (ProBoard). Reciprocity requirements for certification are as follow:

## Airport Firefighter Reciprocity Requirements

1. applicant must provide an Application for Certification , and;
2. applicant must be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department or an emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
3. in addition to AFF, an applicant must also submit a copy of the following IFSAC or ProBoard certificates for AFSC reciprocity approval:
   a) Firefighter I certificate; and,
   b) Firefighter II certificate; and,
   c) Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations certificate; and,
   d) Airport Firefighter certificate

**Reciprocity applicants must meet all AFSC requirements for each level of certification.**

# EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE

To initiate the challenge process, an individual must have documentation of completion of an Airport Firefighter training program. The AFSC will only accept Airport Firefighter challenge applicants if he or she is affiliated with an Alaska fire department or organization with an accredited firefighter training program for the level of the challenge request. All challenge requests must be coordinated through the fire department the individual is affiliated with. The fire department Training Officer/Accreditation Manager has the responsibility to verify the applicant meets the requirements for testing and must complete and sign-off an Airport Firefighter Training Record before the applicant is eligible to complete an AFSC certification exam.

The following general guidelines apply to all equivalency challenge requests:

a. A candidate must complete an Application for Certification and attach supporting documentation; *and*
b. the candidate must be a member of a Fire Department registered in Alaska and must have a letter of support from the Fire Chief; *and*
c. the candidate must provide documentation of training that complies with each component of the appropriate NFPA Standard for desired level of certification (documentation must be dated within the last 5 years); *and*
d. the candidate must successfully pass the AFSC's written exam with a minimum score of 70% for desired level of certification and practical skills exam, where applicable; *and*
e. the candidate must meet the general requirements for certification as outlined in the appropriate certification directive.

Applicants that have been endorsed by a Training Officer/Accreditation Manager can complete an approved Airport Firefighter examination locally, but an Airport Firefighter examination will not be scheduled for a single individual. If no test opportunity is possible locally, applicants can contact the AFSC office for information on other certification test sites.

A candidate **is not** permitted to attend a final exam at an alternate test site without the explicit pre-approval of the AFSC office *and* the agency that is authorized for the exam. To test at a site other than his or her fire department, the challenge candidate must:

1. have permission from the agency that is scheduled to test
2. provide evidence of AFSC written approval to test
3. provide photo ID
4. provide a completed training record for the level of the examination signed off by the candidate's Training Officer/Accreditation Manager
5. have a complete set of firefighter bunker gear (PPE) that meets NFPA standards
6. have a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) that meets NFPA standards

# BACKGROUND CHECKS

A background check is not required for certification as an Airport Firefighter.

# RECERTIFICATION

AFSC Airport Firefighter certification does not expire. It is the responsibility of the individual to maintain knowledge and skill requirements after the certification examination is completed.

# PREVIOUS ALASKA AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Fire Standards Council recognizes all previous State of Alaska certifications issued for Airport Firefighter.

Due to ongoing changes with NFPA airport firefighter certification standards the grandfather request for IFSAC seals are limited. For an individual that received airport firefighter certification prior to initial State of Alaska IFSAC accreditation, **the AFSC policy for "Grandfather" certification with an IFSAC seal will expire after February 28, 2013.**

This clause does not prohibit an individual that was certified in Alaska prior to 2012 from receiving an IFSAC seal. Individual IFSAC seal requests for a certificate issued before 2012 will be required to successfully complete a current written and practical examination before he/she is issued a certificate with an IFSAC seal.