



# **FIREFIGHTER**

## **CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE**

*(NFPA 1001 2013 Edition)*

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# AFSC FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

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## FIREFIGHTER DIRECTIVES OVERVIEW

The 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 firefighting activities. The directive is referenced to [NFPA 1001](#), Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications, and is intended to provide a standard level of firefighter training through a credible certification program.

The Alaska Fire Standards Council ([AFSC](#)) is accredited through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress ([IFSAC](#)) and provides certification for Firefighter I and II. Training for either level is typically available through TEB accredited fire department programs.

For Firefighter I and II certifications, individuals must meet AFSC application requirements and complete the following elements:

- 1) Firefighter course specific to the level of certification;
- 2) Practical (JPR) requirements specific to the level of certification;
- 3) Successful completion of the AFSC Firefighter written examination (70% minimum score) specific to the level of certification.

A written examination is administered to ensure applicants have met the requisite knowledge requirements within the NFPA standard. Certification for Firefighter I and II is also available through a reciprocity process.

## FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

### **FIREFIGHTER I**

- a. applicant must be at least 18 years of age, and;
- b. 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;
- c. \*successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Firefighter I course and;
- d. \*successfully complete the AFSC written Firefighter I exam with a minimum score of 70%.
- e. Complete a Hazardous Materials Operations (NFPA 1001, 5.1) course and successfully complete the certification examination (NFPA 472, Chapters 4 ,5 , and sections 6.2 and 6.6).

*\*Note: The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1001 core requirements.*

### **FIREFIGHTER II**

- a. applicant must be an AFSC certified Firefighter I;
- b. 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;
- c. \*successfully complete an AFSC/TEB approved Firefighter II course and;
- d. \*successfully complete the AFSC written Firefighter II exam with a minimum score of 70%.

*\*Note: The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **three years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1001 core requirements.*

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## FIREFIGHTER COURSES

For eligibility to complete Firefighter I or II certification examinations 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. In reference to NFPA 1001, 2013 edition, the Firefighter I course must meet the knowledge and skill requirements for chapter 5, and the Firefighter II course must meet the knowledge and skill requirements for chapter 6. Fire departments or organizations conducting a TEB approved course must follow the requirements of the [Training Program Accreditation Manual](#). Courses are taught throughout Alaska in various locations.

## FIREFIGHTER EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council has a validated written examination test bank for each level of certification. The Firefighter I examination has a total of 100 questions; and the Firefighter II examination has a total of 100 questions. Questions from the test banks are referenced to NFPA 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications, 2013 edition. 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, an approved AFSC Certifying Officer (CO) may request an examination be mailed for local administration. If a CO is not available in the local community, the AFSC office may authorize the exam to be mailed to an approved individual in the applicant's community. Exam distribution procedures shall follow the Test Examination Security Plan specified in the [Certification Policy Manual](#). The examination must be completed within 30 days of receipt and returned to the AFSC office.

For individuals with reasonable access to the AFSC office local staff will 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.

## Firefighter Written Examination References

- a. NFPA 1001 Standard for Professional Firefighter Qualifications, 2013 edition
- b. Text (any one of the following)
  - IFSTA, *Essentials of Firefighting and Fire Department Operations* 6<sup>th</sup> Edition
  - Jones and Bartlett, *Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

## Firefighter Practical Skills Evaluation References

- a. NFPA 1001 Standard for Professional Firefighter Qualifications, 2013 edition
- b. AFSC Firefighter I/II Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets

## RECIPROCITY

The AFSC can certify individuals for Firefighter I and II 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:

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## **Firefighter I 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. applicant must submit a copy of IFSAC or ProBoard Firefighter I certificate to the AFSC, and;
4. applicant must submit a copy of their IFSAC or ProBoard Hazardous Materials Operations certificate to the AFSC.
5. Applicant must complete AFSC [Firefighter I Skill Sheet](#) \*6.5.2, with Chief Officer/Supervisor signature, and submit with application for reciprocity.

*\*This Alaska specific requirement is a supplement to the NFPA 1001 2013 chapter 5 material, and must be completed as part of the requirement for Alaska firefighter I certification. Reciprocity applicants that are also applying for Firefighter II reciprocity are not required to complete item 5 above.*

## **Firefighter II 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. applicant must submit a copy of an IFSAC or ProBoard Firefighter II certificate to the AFSC, and;
4. applicant must submit a copy of an IFSAC or ProBoard Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations certificate to the AFSC.

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

## **EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE**

To initiate the equivalency challenge process, an individual must have documentation of completion of a firefighter training program that covers 100% of the AFSC [Firefighter I Training Record](#) or [Firefighter II Training Record](#). The AFSC will only accept Firefighter I or II equivalency 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/Training Program Manager has the responsibility to verify the applicant meets the requirements for testing and must complete and sign-off a Firefighter Training Record before the applicant is eligible to complete an AFSC certification exam.

The following 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/Chief Officer; *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.

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Applicants with a Training Officer/Training Program Manager endorsement can complete an approved firefighter examination locally, but a firefighter certification 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 approved certification test sites.

A candidate **is not** permitted to attend a final exam at an alternate test site without the explicit preapproval 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 signed off by the candidate's Training Officer/Training Program 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 by the AFSC for certification as a Firefighter I or II.

### **RECERTIFICATION**

AFSC Firefighter I or II 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 FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER CERTIFICATION**

The Alaska Fire Standards Council recognizes all previous State of Alaska certifications issued for Firefighter I or II through the Division of Fire and Life Safety (formerly Division of Fire Prevention). Due to ongoing changes with NFPA Firefighter certification standards, grandfather requests for IFSAC seals are limited. For individuals that received firefighter certification prior to initial State of Alaska IFSAC accreditation, the AFSC policy for "Grandfather" certification with an IFSAC seal will expire upon the adoption of the third NFPA standard revision after the individual's initial certification was issued.

This clause does not prohibit an individual that was certified in Alaska prior to 2001 from receiving an IFSAC seal. Individual IFSAC seal requests for a certificate issued three or more revisions ago will be required to successfully complete a current written and practical test before issuance of an IFSAC seal.

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### **CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS USING THE 2008 EDITION OF NFPA 1001**

Beginning July 1, 2014 firefighter certification examinations will reference material from NFPA 1001, 2013 edition. All testing to the NFPA 2013 material will include both IFSAC and ProBoard accreditation seals.

The previous firefighter test banks that are validated to the 2008 edition of NFPA 1001 will be available for certification testing until December 31, 2014. Between July 1 and December 31, 2014, entities that want candidates to be tested using the 2008 referenced questions will need to specify this in writing to the AFSC office. For the course approval process, noting this on the AFSC [Course Notification Form](#) satisfies this requirement

Note that the [ProBoard](#) will not permit the AFSC to apply seals for certification if using exams that are greater than two years from the date of the latest NFPA revision. Firefighter and Haz Mat certificates for tests using the NFPA 2008 material that are administered after August 10, 2014 will not be eligible for a ProBoard seal. Certification issued between August 10 and December 31, 2014 will only receive [IFSAC](#) seals.