



# **FIRE OFFICER**

## **CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE**

*(NFPA 1021 2020 Edition)*

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## AFSC FIRE OFFICER CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

### FIRE OFFICER DIRECTIVE OVERVIEW

The AFSC developed the Fire Officer (FO) certification directive based on industry standards with the intent to provide Alaska fire service agencies with a method to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct high quality training to emergency responders within their organizations. The purpose of the Fire Officer material is to ensure a standard level of fire officer training through a credible certification program that results in operations that are conducted in a safe, proficient, professional, and uniform manner throughout the state of Alaska.

Certification for Fire Officer levels require that individuals meet AFSC application requirements and complete the following elements:

- 1) A Fire Officer course specific to the level of certification; *and*
- 2) Successful evaluation of practical job performance requirements (JPR's) specific to the level of certification; *and*
- 3) Successful completion of the AFSC Fire Officer written examination (70% minimum score) specific to the level of certification.

The Fire Officer directive is designed for candidates that are prepared to take on an increased level of responsibility and accountability within the fire department. The AFSC uses the administration of a final examination to evaluate that applicants have successfully met the requisite knowledge and skill requirements within the NFPA standard. Applicants that successfully complete the AFSC Fire Officer examination process are eligible for certification. Certification for levels of Fire Officer may be available through a reciprocity process.

The Alaska Fire Standards Council ([AFSC](#)) is accredited through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress ([IFSAAC](#)) and currently provides certification for Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II. Fire Officer training is generally available through AFSC/BFAST accredited fire department programs.

### FIRE OFFICER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following level(s) of certification are available through this directive:

#### **FIRE OFFICER I**

To qualify for this level of certification, applicants must:

- a. be at least 21 years of age; *and*
- b. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department/emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety; *and*
- c. have AFSC certification as a Firefighter II; *and*
- d. have current AFSC certification as a Fire Instructor I (*or higher*); *and*
- e. \*successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved Fire Officer I course; *and*
- f. \*successfully complete the AFSC Fire Officer I written exam (*minimum score of 70%*); *and*
- g. \*successfully complete the required AFSC Fire Officer I practical skill elements

***\*Note:*** *The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within two years of application date and must meet NFPA 1021 core requirements.*

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### **FIRE OFFICER II**

To qualify for this level of certification, applicants must:

- a. have AFSC certification as a Fire Officer I; *and*
- b. \*successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved Fire Officer II course; *and*
- c. \*successfully complete the AFSC Fire Officer II written exam (*minimum score of 70%*); *and*
- d. \*successfully complete the required AFSC Fire Officer II practical skill elements

*\*Note: The course requirement and the written test requirement must be completed within **two years** of application date and must meet NFPA 1021 core requirements.*

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### FIRE OFFICER COURSES

For eligibility to complete the Fire Officer certification examinations, applicants must meet the prerequisite requirements and have completed an AFSC approved training course. Alaska accredited fire departments or organizations with an AFSC approved curriculum can conduct training locally; or through other courses sponsored or approved by the Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards and Training (BFAST). To conduct an AFSC approved Fire Officer course that will result in AFSC certification, the department/organization must contact the AFSC in advance of the course start. An entity that conducts a Fire Officer course without prior approval from AFSC **will not** be eligible for AFSC certification examinations.

The purpose of AFSC Fire Officer course approval is to ensure the curriculum satisfies the knowledge and practical skill requirements of NFPA 1021. Completion of the [Fire Officer Skills Packet](#) and [Fire Officer Training Record](#) is required to ensure the candidate has met the requisite skill requirements before testing for certification.

Upon approval to test, an applicant must successfully pass the final examination to receive AFSC Fire Officer certification. A candidate must take the Fire Officer certification examination within three (3) years of the completion of an accredited/approved course.

### FIRE OFFICER EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council written test bank questions for Fire Officer are validated using a national standard and specific text. Each Fire Officer examination has a total of 100 questions. Test bank questions are referenced to [NFPA 1021: Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, 2020 edition](#). The AFSC generally administers the Fire Officer certification examination immediately following an approved course.

For individuals who have met the criteria to test for Fire Officer, but are not able to test with a group, the Training Officer/Training Manager must submit a request for examination to the AFSC office in writing. Exam distribution procedures shall follow the Test Examination Security Plan specified in the AFSC [Certification Policy Manual](#). For individuals with reasonable access to the AFSC office, local staff will proctor written examinations. The AFSC **will not** send examinations directly to the individual taking the exam.

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

#### **Fire Officer I & II Written Examination References**

- a. [NFPA 1021: Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, 2020 edition](#)
- b. Text (either of the following)
  - IFSTA, Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition
  - Jones and Bartlett, Fire Officer Principles and Practice, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

#### **Fire Officer I Practical Skills Evaluation References**

- a. NFPA 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, Chapter 4, 2020 edition
- b. [Fire Officer I Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets](#)

#### **Fire Officer II Practical Skills Evaluation References**

- a. NFPA 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, Chapter 5, 2020 edition
- b. [Fire Officer II Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets](#)

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**RECIPROCITY/EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE**

Refer to the AFSC [Certification Policy Manual](#) for the requirements under each of these processes.

**CERTIFICATION TIME LINES**

Certificates issued under the AFSC Fire Officer directive have no expiration date.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS**

A background check is not required for certification as a Fire Officer.

**PREVIOUS ALASKA FIRE OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

The Alaska Fire Standards Council recognizes all previous State of Alaska certifications issued for Fire Officer through the Division of Fire and Life Safety (formerly Division of Fire Prevention).