



FIREFIGHTER

CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

(NFPA 1001 2013 Edition)

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AFSC FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

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 ([IFSAAC](#)) and provides certification for Firefighter I and II. Training for either level is typically available through BFAST 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

To qualify for this level of certification, applicant must:

- a. be at least 18 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 for Hazardous Materials Operations (NFPA 1001, 5.1) (NFPA 472, Chapters 4, 5, and sections 6.2 and 6.6);
- d. *successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved Firefighter I course and;
- e. *successfully complete the AFSC written Firefighter I exam with a minimum score of 70% and pass the required practical skills.

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

To qualify for this level of certification, applicant must:

- a. be an AFSC certified Firefighter I;
- b. have AFSC certification for Hazardous Materials Operations (NFPA 1001, 5.1);
- c. be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department/emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
- d. *successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved Firefighter II course and;
- e. *successfully complete the AFSC written Firefighter II exam with a minimum score of 70% and pass the required practical skills.

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 BFAST approved training course. Training courses are offered through BFAST, or, through fire department training programs that have been accredited by BFAST 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 BFAST 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* 6th Edition
 - Jones and Bartlett, *Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills*, 3rd 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/EQUIVALENCY CHALLENGE

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

BACKGROUND CHECKS

A background check is not required by the AFSC for certification as a Firefighter I or II.

RECERTIFICATION

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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.