



AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER

CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

(NFPA 1003 2019 Edition)

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

www.firestandards.alaska.gov

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AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER DIRECTIVE BACKGROUND

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. The AFSC revised to the 2010 edition in 2010, the 2015 edition in 2016 and the 2019 edition in 2020. 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*, 2019 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/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*), and;
- d. *successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST 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 **one year 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 Bureau of Fire Accreditation, Standards and Training (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. The Airport Firefighter course must meet the knowledge and skill requirements of NFPA 1003, 2019 edition. Fire departments or organizations conducting a BFAST approved course must complete and submit an [Eligibility for Certification Testing Self-Assessment Packet](#).

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 1 year of the completion of an accredited/approved course.

AFF courses conducted without prior approval from the BFAST 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*, 2019 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 BFAST training centers, the BFAST staff may proctor written examinations. Examinations **will 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, 2019 edition
- b. Text (Both of the following)
 - IFSTA, *Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting*, 6th Edition; and
 - Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 139

Airport Firefighter Practical Skills Evaluation References

- a. NFPA 1003 Standard for Airport Firefighter Professional Qualifications, 2019 edition
- b. Airport Firefighter 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 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 expired in 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.