



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

CERTIFICATION DIRECTIVE

(NFPA 470 2022 Edition)

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIRECTIVE OVERVIEW

The Hazardous Materials 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 hazardous materials response activities. The directive is referenced to [NFPA 470: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction \(WMD\) Standard for Responders, 2022 edition](#), and is intended to provide a standard level of hazardous materials training using nationally and locally approved job performance requirements.

The International Fire Service Accreditation Congress ([IFSAAC](#)) and National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications ([ProBoard](#)) grant accreditation to the Alaska Fire Standards Council ([AFSC](#)) for various levels. Certification seals apply to Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations, and Technician levels. Training for each level is typically available through BFAST accredited fire department/industry programs. Upon completion of training the AFSC administers a practical and written examination to ensure candidates for certification have met the requisite knowledge and skill requirements referenced to the NFPA standard.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIRECTIVE LEVELS

Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMA)

Awareness level personnel are those persons who, in the course of their normal duties, could encounter an emergency involving hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and who are expected to recognize the presence of the hazardous materials/WMD, protect themselves, call for trained personnel, and secure the area. Awareness level personnel shall meet the job performance requirements defined in NFPA 470, Chapter 5, Sections 4.2 through 4.4.

Hazardous Materials Operations (HMO)

The operations level responders are those persons who respond to hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents for the purpose of implementing or supporting actions to protect nearby persons, the environment, or property from the effects of the release. The operations level responder shall meet the job performance requirements in NFPA 470, Chapter 4, Sections 4.2 through 4.4 and Chapter 6, Sections 6.2 through 6.5. Operations level responders shall have additional competencies that are specific to the response mission and expected tasks as determined by the AHJ.

Hazardous Materials Technician (HMT)

Hazardous materials technicians are those persons who respond to hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents using a risk-based response process by which they analyze a problem involving hazardous materials/WMD, plan a response to the problem, implement the planned response, evaluate progress of the planned response, and assist in terminating the incident. The technician level responder shall meet the job performance requirements in NFPA 470, Chapter 4, Sections 4.2 through 4.4 and Chapter 5, Sections 6.2 through 6.5. and Chapter 10, Sections 10.1 through 10.5. Hazardous materials technicians shall have additional competencies that are specific to the response mission and expected tasks as determined by the AHJ.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMA)

- 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/emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
- c. *successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved HMA (*NFPA 470 Chapter 4*) course, and;
- d. *successfully complete the AFSC written HMA examination with a minimum score of 70%,and;
- e. *successfully complete the AFSC practical HMA examination.

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Hazardous Materials Operations (HMO)

- a. applicant must be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department/emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
- b. applicant must meet all requirements for HMA (*NFPA 470 Chapter 4*);
- c. *successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved HMO course, and;
- d. *successfully complete the AFSC written HMO examination with a minimum score of 70%,and;
- e. *successfully complete the AFSC practical HMO examination.

Hazardous Materials Technician (HMT)

- a. applicant must be an Alaska resident or member of an organized fire department/emergency response organization registered with the Division of Fire and Life Safety, and;
- b. applicant must meet all requirements for HMA (*NFPA 470 Chapter 4*);; and,
- c. applicant must meet all requirements for HMO (*NFPA 470 Chapter 6, 9.2 and 9.6*); and
- d. *successfully complete an AFSC/BFAST approved HMT course, and;
- e. *successfully complete the AFSC written HMT examination with a minimum score of 70%,and;
- f. *successfully complete the AFSC practical HMT examination.

Note: For each level listed the course requirement and the final examination requirement must be completed within **TWO (2) years of application date and must meet NFPA 470 core requirements.*

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COURSES

To be eligible to take the certification exam for Hazardous Materials, applicants must meet the prerequisite levels of certification and must have completed an 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. A Hazardous Materials course must meet the applicable knowledge and skill requirements as referenced in NFPA 470, 2022 edition. Fire departments or organizations conducting a BFAST approved course must submit a **Test Notification** through [AK IMPACT](#) and follow the requirements of the [Training Program Accreditation Manual](#). Accredited entities deliver these courses throughout Alaska in various approved locations.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EXAMINATIONS

The Fire Standards Council has developed a written examination test bank for each level of certification. The Hazardous Materials Awareness examination has 25 questions total; the Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations combined examination has 100 questions total, and the Hazardous Materials Technician examination has 100 questions total. Hazardous Materials 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 able to test with a group, examinations *may* be mailed to an approved AFSC Certifying Officer (CO) upon request. If a CO is not available in the local community, the AFSC office *may* authorize the exam to be mailed to an approved Proctor in the applicant's community. Administration of certification examinations must be in accordance with the AFSC [Certification Policy Manual](#).

Exam distribution procedures shall follow the Test Examination Security Plan specified in the [Certification Policy Manual](#). Examinations must be completed and returned to the AFSC office in accordance with the manual guidelines and timeframes.

For individuals with reasonable access to the AFSC office, local staff will proctor written examinations. Examinations **shall not** be sent directly to the individual taking the exam. The AFSC office will grade all certification examinations and notify the applicant of final scores.

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Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations Written Examination References

- a. [NFPA 470: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction \(WMD\) Standard for Responders, 2022 edition](#)
- b. Text
 - IFSTA, *Hazardous Materials Technician, 3rd Edition*
 - Jones and Bartlett Learning, *Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, 4th Edition*

Supplemental sources for Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations Instructional Materials (these texts could be a source for instructors to supplement learning material). The AFSC final certification examinations do not correlate with supplemental source materials and the AFSC **does not** recommend using these as a stand-alone preparation for final written examination:

- IFSTA, *Essentials of Fire Fighting and Fire Department Operations, 8th Edition*
- Jones and Bartlett Learning, *Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills, 4th Edition*

Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations Practical Skills Evaluation References

- a. NFPA 470: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders, 2022 edition
- b. [Hazardous Materials Awareness Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets](#)
- c. [Hazardous Materials Operations Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets](#)

Additional sources required for practical application:

- Department of Transportation, *Emergency Response Guidebook*

Hazardous Materials Technician Written Examination References

- a. NFPA 470: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders, 2022 edition
- b. IFSTA, *Hazardous Materials Technician, 3rd Edition*
- c. Jones and Bartlett Learning, *Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, 4th Edition*

Hazardous Materials Technician Practical Skills Evaluation References

- a. NFPA 470: Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Standard for Responders, 2022 edition
- b. [Hazardous Materials Technician Practical Skills Evaluation Sheets](#)

Additional sources required for practical application:

- Department of Transportation, *Emergency Response Guidebook*

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 at the Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations or Technician level.

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RECERTIFICATION

AFSC Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations, and Technician 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 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CERTIFICATION/GRANDFATHER CERTIFICATION

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

Due to ongoing changes with NFPA certification standards, grandfather requests for IFSAC seals are limited. For individuals that received 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 must successfully complete a current written and practical test before issuance of an IFSAC seal.