

Firefighter Certification Program

1. What is the Commission's Certification Program?

The program is a training guide in a profession requiring a wide and diverse range of skills and knowledge as well as maturity and independence of judgment. It involves planned training and experience under proper supervision combined with technical studies in subjects related to the profession.

Properly implemented, the program is a logical system in which the firefighter is given thorough instruction and experience in all practical and theoretical aspects of the work required in the fire service.

As the firefighter progresses in training, he matures, acquires additional skills, and masters the application of those already learned. Through rotation from one division of work and study to another, the firefighter develops a very high level of skill and knowledge.

2. Why is the Certification Program important?

The greatest assets that the fire service has are the skills and know-how of fire fighting. It is important that we guard this asset carefully. Our future progress and strength depends upon a conscious concern for manpower resources, training and skills.

The degree of skill acquired and exercised by the professional affects the quality of the service rendered. To assure the highest skill levels, sound effective training is necessary.

The program provides the opportunity to bring together in a common effort all segments of the fire service to establish and maintain the effective training that is so vital to achieving a continuing source for the highest level of fire protection.

1. What can the Certification Program do?

This is a well-planned program, and if properly supervised, this program can:

- a) Provide training firefighters to meet the present and future needs of the fire service.
- b) Assure a supply of skilled firefighters adequate to meet local community needs.
- c) Help assure the public of those quality services that only highly trained firefighters can provide.
- d) Improve employer/employee relations and rapport with the department.
- e) Minimize the need for supervision of Fire Fighter-II (initiative, imagination, and ability are developed).
- f) Provide an independent standard of measure in which to judge candidates for promotion.
- g) Develop potential officers.
- h) Provide the versatility necessary to meet changing conditions.
- i) Raise general skill levels throughout the fire service.

- j) Bring recognition as a skilled professional to the firefighter upon certification.

2. What are the current levels of Certification offered by the Commission?

Fire Fighter-I
Hazardous Materials Awareness
Fire Fighter-II/Journeyman Fire Fighter
Hazardous Materials Operations
Fire Department Instructor-I
Fire Department Instructor-II
Pumper Driver/Operator
Fire Apparatus Operator
Aerial Apparatus Operator
Fire Officer-I
Fire Officer-II
Safety Officer
Airport Fire Fighter
Wildland Fire Fighter-I
Wildland Fire Fighter-II
Fire Safety Compliance Officer-I
Fire Safety Compliance Officer-II
Public Fire and Life Safety Educator-I
Public Fire and Life Safety Educator-II

3. What is the Certification process?

For Certification at the Fire Fighter-I or Fire Fighter-II levels, the applicant must first complete a Regional Practical Examination administered by the Commission. This examination will require the applicant to successfully complete randomly selected evolutions taken from NFPA 1001 and is evaluated by fire service personnel from the region

For applicants of all other levels of Certification, the applicant must complete a practical/performance examination as outlined in the *Policies and Procedures Manual*. After successful completion of the practical examination, the applicant would be eligible to challenge the written examination administered by the Commission. The manuals listed on the Study Reference Guide for the written examinations may be purchased directly from IFSTA or from the Tennessee Fireman's Association.