



Pennsylvania Fire Service Certification Program Newsletter

SIDE C

www.OSFC.state.pa.us

August 2009 Volume I

Edward G. Rendell, Governor
Ed Mann, Fire Commissioner

HACC OBTAINS DELEGATED AUTHORITY STATUS

The Harrisburg Area Community College Shumaker Public Safety Center was approved in March of this year as a Delegated Authority under the Pennsylvania Fire Service Certification Program.

The Delegated Authority status allows the center to conduct certification testing and issue certification certificates while following guidelines established by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner. This authority is given under the umbrella of the Office of the State Fire Commissioner accreditation by the National Pro-Board and IFSAC.

HACC has been a field test site for The Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner's Office since 1989.

Congratulations to the staff for a job well done.

CERTIFICATION UPDATE

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner has received accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress. Dual certification (IFSAC and National Pro-Board) will be issued for the following certifications:

Fire Fighter I
Fire Fighter II

25 YEARS OF CERTIFICATION

Last year marked the 25th year of the certification process in Pennsylvania.

This program was established in 1983 when a committee known as the Fire Service Certification Advisory Committee was formed to explore the implementation of a voluntary certification program for firefighters.

The first Fire Fighter I test was conducted in October 1985.

The purpose of the certification program is to identify and recognize emergency service personnel whose accomplishments in training and education meets or exceeds nationally recognized standards.

The professional competency attained by individuals through the certification process will enhance the service provided to citizens and visitors of the Commonwealth. Additionally Volunteer Fire Companies can obtain additional grant funding through the Volunteer Fire Company Volunteer Ambulance Service Grant Program by having certified personnel.

CHANGES IN NFPA STANDARDS

The NFPA Standards are revised on a three - to five-year cycle depending on the standard. At this time we have revised the testing materials for the following levels:
Fire Fighter I (FFI)

Hazardous Materials Awareness
Hazardous Materials Operations
Fire Officer I
Fire Officer II

There are currently eight additional levels that are pending approval at this time. They include:

Airport Fire Fighter
Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I
Fire & Life Safety Educator I
Fire Service Instructor I
Fire Service Instructor II
Driver/Operator – Mobile Water Supply
Driver/Operator – Aerial
Driver/Operator – Pumper

New Levels Available

The following five (5) new level of certification have been approved by the National Pro-Board and are now available through the Office of the State Fire Commissioner PA State Fire Academy Certification Program. Pilot test will be conducted throughout the Commonwealth. Check the Certification Schedule for availability.

New levels include:

Driver/Operator – Mobile Water Supply
Driver/Operator – Aerial (Straight)
Rescue Technician – Surface Water
Fire & Life Safety Educator I
Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I

Candidate Handbooks

Handbooks have been developed to provide certification candidates more information on the application process, testing policies and procedure, study guide materials and helpful hints to be successful on certification testing. The handbooks can be obtained from our website.

For additional information and updates on the Certification Program, visit www.osfc.state.pa.us and click on "Certification."

Fire Fighter II (FFII)
Hazardous Materials Awareness (HMA)
Fire Service Instructor I (FSI I)
Fire Service Instructor II (FSI II)
Fire Officer I (FO I)
Fire Officer II (FO II)

Those levels currently under revision for future implementation are:

Driver/Operator series
Rescue Technician series
Hazardous Materials Technician
Hazardous Materials Operations

DHS ADOPTS 11 NFPA STANDARDS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

The Department of Homeland Security and the National Fire Protection Association have joined forces, with the DHS adopting 11 NFPA standards for emergency responders.

The intent of adopting the standards was to provide direction and allow officials to make better procurement decisions in the following areas: professional qualifications, occupational safety and health, fire apparatus, personal protective clothing, powered rescue tools, and other equipment.

To read more go to:

www.ohsonline.com/articles/50450

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH 2009

This September, federal, state and local partners will spread the preparedness message to citizens in Pennsylvania. We are continuing with the theme "Be Informed, Be Prepared, Be Involved." Please help us by encouraging others to visit www.ReadyPA.org for important information on how to protect themselves and their loved ones.

This year at the national level, National Preparedness Month will focus on changing perceptions about emergency preparedness and helping Americans understand what it truly means to be Ready.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week is October 4 – 10, 2009. The theme for this year is "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned," which focuses on burn awareness and prevention.

Visit <http://www.nfpa.org> for more Fire Prevention Week Information.



For the December edition of Side C, items to be included for publication should be submitted to Tracie Young-Brungard, at tyoung-bru@state.pa.us.

Fire Department Obtains Dual Recognition

The Fame Fire Department of West Chester Pennsylvania is the first fire department to earn dual levels of recognition under the Voluntary Rescue Recognition Program-- a joint program between the Office of the State Fire Commissioner and the Department of Health Bureau of EMS. The purpose of this program is to recognize those emergency services that can safely and efficiently perform rescue operations and that have met all the standards as established by the two agencies.



Fame personnel participated in the first Surface Water Rescue Certification pilot testing for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in April. Their department has 13 members certified at this level.

Fame was recently recognized at the Advanced Level for Vehicle & Machinery in April, which required their personnel to be certified again at other recognized levels.

Helmets off to the Fame Fire Department one of 36 departments in the state that are recognized at the 100% level of the Participating Department Recognition Program.

The purpose of the program is to recognize those organizations that support, promote, and encourage their emergency response personnel to voluntarily certify within the Commonwealth's Certification Program administered by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

Currently, there are 536 participating departments at the various levels of recognition. To obtain additional information on these programs visit www.osfc.state.pa.us.

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