



**FIRE INVESTIGATOR I APPLICATION  
PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTARY FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**



**SECTION II**

Act 168 of 2006 amended Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Section 2, subsection (h) (1) Arson and related offenses reads:

***“A person convicted of violating this section or any similar offense under Federal or State law shall be prohibited from serving as a firefighter in this Commonwealth and shall be prohibited from being certified as a firefighter under Section 4 of the Act of November 13, 1995 (P.L. 604, No.61), known as the State Fire Commissioner Act.”***

All individuals making application for certification testing must provide documentation of a background check. Proof of a non-conviction **MUST** consist of *either* of the following:

1. An official criminal history record check obtained pursuant to Chapter 91 (relating to criminal history record information) indicating no arson convictions.

OR

2. By dating and signing of the following statement by the person swearing to the following:

***“I have never been convicted of an offense that constitutes the crime of “arson and related offenses” under 18 Pa.C.S 3301 or any similar offense under any Federal or State law.***

***I herby certify that the statements contained herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if I knowingly make any false statement herein, I am subject to penalties prescribed by law, including, but not limited to, a fine of at least \$1,000.00”***

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Certification Candidate**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Certification Candidate ( please print or type)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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**SECTION III**

**Please Read and Complete all information:**

A candidate should meet the requirements of NFPA 1582, Standard on Medical Requirements for Firefighters and information for Fire Department Physicians prior to physical testing to ensure his/her ability to safely perform the required tasks.

During your participation in certification testing, in the event of injury/illness are you protected by an insurance carrier providing hospitalization and/or Workmen's Compensation in? YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_  
Please sign waiver below.

**Liability Waiver**

I, the undersigned, have hospitalization insurance and do hereby release the following individuals and organizations from any and all liabilities or causes of action for any injuries or illness incurred during or after my participation in the Voluntary Certification Program Test sponsored by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner/Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and hosted by the

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(Name of Test Site)

The release covers all the aforementioned individuals and agencies as well as their agents, employees, or volunteers participating in this event.

This release covers all injuries or illnesses occurring during or as a result of the activities engaged in by the undersigned during the Voluntary Certification examination including any injuries which might result from physical abuse from third party participants or other individuals in or around the area where the examination is being conducted.

This release is intended to release all injuries, damages, or law suits to the undersigned person and property, whether known, unknown, foreseen, unforeseen, patent or latent which the undersigned may have against the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Host Entity, or its agents as listed above. The undersigned understands and acknowledges the significance and consequence of such specific intentions to release all claims, and hereby assumes full responsibility for any injuries, damages, or losses that may occur from the above mentioned event.

**By signing and dating of this document I HEREBY acknowledge THAT I HAVE READ THE CONTENTS OF THIS waiver, and THAT I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SAID CONTENTS OF THE RELEASE, AND THAT I HAVE SIGNED INTENDING TO BE LEGALLY BOUND.**

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Candidate Name (Please Print)

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Candidate Signature

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Date

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**SECTION IV**

It is understood that the candidate registered on this form has done so with the full knowledge, consent and approval of the named organization on page one of this application; and is protected by an insurance carrier or the organization. Furthermore, I attest that the candidate meet the requirements as noted in **Section III** of this application. Participation approved by:

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Signature of Chief Officer

Officer Title

Date

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Chief Officer Name (Print or Type)

Officer Title

Method

**If you are completing the Fire Investigator I certification through completion of an approved course please proceed to Section IV. Stop after Section V**

**If you are completing the Fire Investigator I certification through the challenge process skip Section V and proceed to Section VI.**

**Fire Investigator I Certification via Training: Requirements 4.2 through 4.7 :**

To certify by this method, you must have successfully completed all training courses of instruction approved by the State Fire Academy within one (1) year of the date of this application. Attach a copy of your course completion certificates to your completed application. The certificate must show the Course Accreditation number assigned by the State Fire Academy to the course in question.

**SECTION V**

**REQUIREMENT: NFPA 1001 – 2008 Chapter 5, section 5.1 General:**

**1.** As a Fire Investigator I, candidates must be trained or certified (as a minimum requirement) at the First Responder Operations Level in accordance with NFPA 472 "Standard for Professional Competency of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents", **Chapter 5 core competencies and Section 6.6 Mission Specific Competencies: Product Control** Attach a copy of one of the following recognized certificates **dated within one year of the date of this application.** (Requirement 4-21: Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents):

Attach a copy of one of the following recognized certificates.

\_\_\_\_\_ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS LEVEL **OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS LEVEL ANNUAL REFRESHER, **OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN LEVEL

**NOTE: The certificate (training, refresher training or certification) must be current (i.e., within one (1) year of the firefighter certification test date and must meet the requirements of NFPA 472 2008 edition).**

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**2. Submit copies of training certificates for the following courses:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Arson Investigation – National Fire Academy (80 hours)

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ Arson Detection and Fire Investigation (ZADI) – State Fire Academy (40 hours)

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ ***Arson Detection FOR THE First Responder (ADFR) National Fire Academy, AND***

\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Arson Arson Investigation (ARIN), AND

\_\_\_\_\_ Fire Photography (FPHO)

**ARIN and FPHO certificate's completion date must be after December 31, 1995.**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ Building Construction: Wood and Ordinary, NFA (BCP)**

**AND**

\_\_\_\_\_ Building Construction: Noncombustible and Fire Resistive, NFA (BCN)

**BCN/BCP certificates completion date must be after December 31, 1995, if taken other than at the State Fire Academy.**

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ Fire and Arson Investigation – Electrical (ZADE) State Fire Academy – 40 hours)**

**5. FIRE INVESTIGATIONS**

**You are required to document your participation in 25 fire investigations. The investigations should be from the following list of types of investigations:**

- A. Residential structural
- B. Commercial structural
- C. Industrial
- D. Vehicle
- E. Wildland
- F. Marine
- G. Railroad
- H. Refuse waste

The attached form is to be used to summarize your participation. Your immediate supervisor must sign the Summary Sheet verifying that you have completed the reports and that they are on file.

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**SECTION VI**

**REQUIREMENT: NFPA 1001 – 2008 Chapter 5, section 5.1 General:**

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Attach a copy of one of the following recognized certificates.

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\_\_\_\_\_ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS LEVEL ANNUAL REFRESHER, **OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN LEVEL

**NOTE: The certificate (training, refresher training or certification) must be current (i.e., within one (1) year of the firefighter certification test date and must meet the requirements of NFPA 472 2008 edition).**

**CHALLENGE SKILLS INSTRUCTIONS**

There are six (6) parts to this challenge exam. Each part details specifically what is required of you. You will assemble all information, analysis, reports, documentation, and requested items. It is suggested that this material be placed in a notebook. Materials used to complete each part should be properly labeled to indicate category and objective met. All materials should be sequential from Part I, Objective 4.2 through 4.7.

Remember, completeness and neatness counts. Your materials will be judged against each Objective of the Standard. If it cannot be found, you will not receive credit for meeting the objective.

There are 29 objectives. You must show competency in 70% of the objectives, that is, 21 objectives must be met.

Mandatory objectives (\*) needed to pass include:

4.2 in its entirety  
4.3.1, 4.3.2  
4.4.2, 4.4.4, 4.4.5  
4.5.1, 4.5.2  
4.7.1, 4.7.2

**REQUIREMENT - SCENE EXAMINATION (MANDATORY):**

Objectives: 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.2.5, 4.2.6, 4.2.8, 4.2.9

Provide a plot plan, floor plan, photographs of the scene, rooms, burn patterns, and complete the following:

\*4.2.1

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Mark the plot plan and/or floor plan to indicate how the scene would be secured.

\*4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4

Assess the scene for structural condition, observe fire damage, and interpret burn patterns. Report what you find.

\*4.2.2, 4.2.3

Assess the scene and determine the presence and/or absence of contents. Report what you find.

\*4.2.4

Report the effects of the fire on different types of materials.

\*4.2.4, 4.2.5

Interpret and report variations in burn patterns dependent upon fuel, fuel loads, trails, heat release ratio, and ignitability.

\*4.2.6

Determine what search techniques would be used to discover fire cause evidence and ignition sources; and, complete necessary documentation of example evidence you submit.

\*4.2.8

Determine and report building systems operation and their effect on the fire. Identify any alternatives and evaluate the effect of the fire suppression.

\*4.2.9

Identify explosive effects on building components and distinguish between low and high order explosion effects. Analyze and document the blast zone and origin.

**REQUIREMENT - DOCUMENTING THE SCENE:**

Objectives: 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3

Candidate will provide the following documentation investigated by themselves.

\*4.3.1 (**MANDATORY**)

Sketch of scene to include evidence recognition and origin points.

\*4.3.2 (**MANDATORY**)

Pictures of scene taken with a 35mm camera and flash.

4.3.3

Investigative notes.

**NOTE:** Names and addresses of parties involved may be blacked out to protect individual's privacy.

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CONTACT PERSON TO VERIFY NAME AND PHONE										
OUTCOME										
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF INVESTIGATION										
YOUR AGENCY DURING INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY										
LOCATION OF INCIDENT CITY/STATE										
TYPE OF INVESTIGATION										
INCIDENT NUMBER										

Fire Chief / Chief Officer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_