

PENNSYLVANIA FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTOR I CANDIDATE HANDBOOK

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER
PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE ACADEMY

Dear Certification Candidate,

Welcome to the Pennsylvania Fire Service Voluntary Certification Program. This manual provides information helpful in your effort to be successful in the certification test. It outlines prerequisites, testing and application processes, and provides a study guide reference list. Tests are conducted under the sanction and approval of the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner with accreditation granted by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (National Pro-Board) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

In accordance with Act 61 of 1995, The State Fire Commissioner Act, the Office of the State Fire Commissioner is the certifying agency within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy is the administering agency. Any United States citizen eighteen (18) years of age or older who resides in Pennsylvania may apply for consideration as a test candidate.

Good luck and thank you for participating in the Pennsylvania Fire Service Voluntary Certification Program.

Application Process

Obtain an application from either the Office of the State Fire Commissioner (OSFC) website www.osfc.pa.gov or an approved test site. You must fill out the form in full and provide any required supporting documentation. The completed application and accompanying document(s) are to be submitted to an approved test site or the PA State Fire Academy (PSFA). The approved test site or PSFA will review the application and decide to either accept or reject based on any identified deficiencies (e.g., no signatures, missing information, lacks pre-requisites, etc.).

The general test process follows:

1. The candidate must submit a complete application including all supporting documents;
2. After the application is approved, the candidate takes the written and subsequently the skills tests (NOTE: the skills test cannot be taken before the written test);
3. Upon successful completion of the written and skills tests and a review of the application for completeness by the test site and PSFA or Delegated Authority, the candidate can be certified for the level tested. If a candidate should not pass any part of the test process, a retest can be administered and must be completed within one (1) year of the original test date.

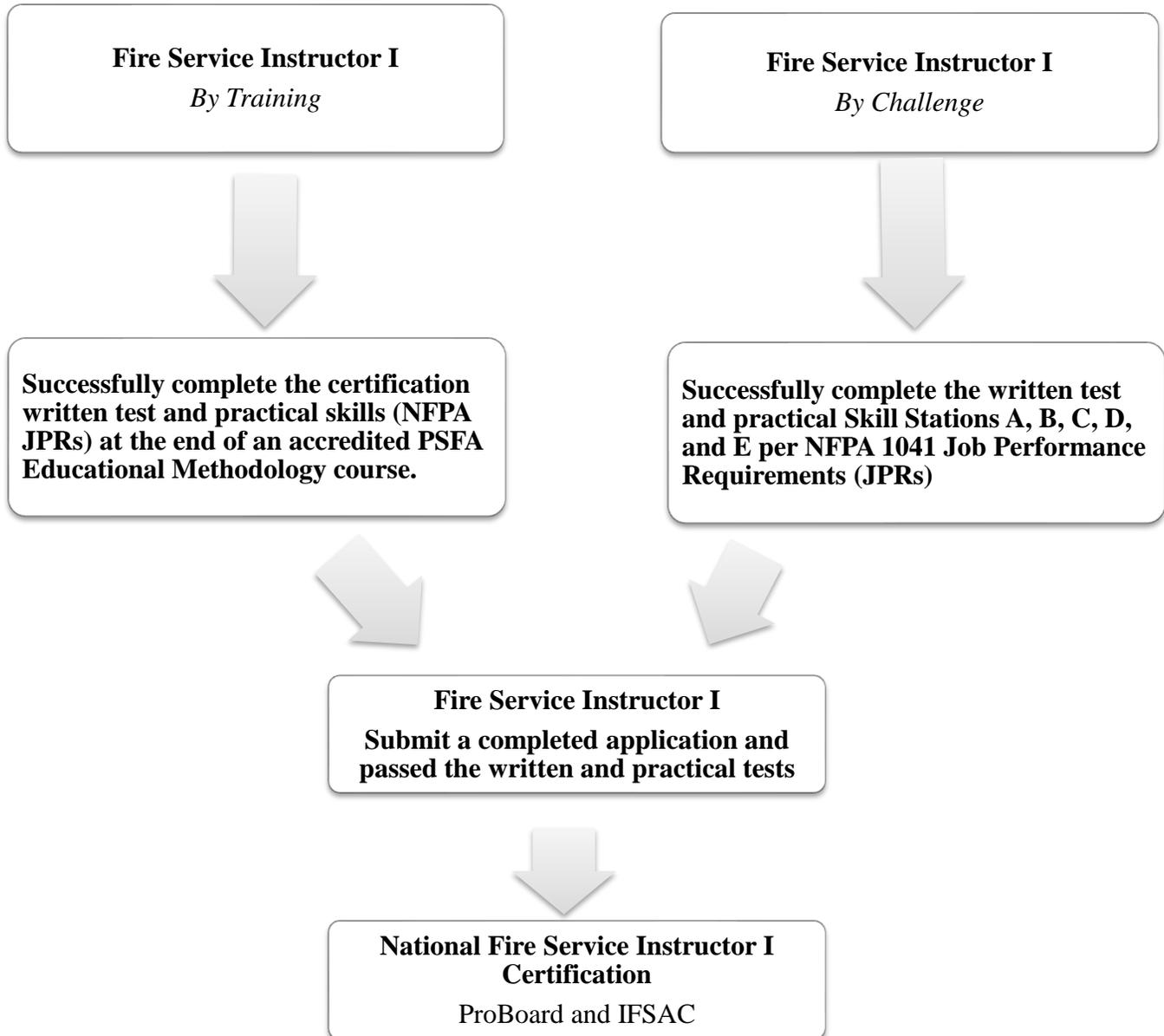
Application Pointers

1. Make sure application is legible and check for completeness;
2. Social Security Number: you have the option to provide the full nine (9) digit number or just the last four (4) digits.
3. Make sure your complete name is listed including a suffix (Jr, Sr, III, etc.) **NO** nicknames please;
4. Make sure your mailing address includes street, apartment number, city, state and zip code;
5. Make sure all appropriate signatures are obtained and are signed in **BLUE** or **BLACK** ink.
 - a. *Please note that Chief Officers **CANNOT** sign for themselves where a Chief Officer's signature is required;*
 - b. *For this requirement, another Chief Officer **MUST** sign this section of the application.*
6. Legible copies of all pre-requisites must be attached and signed were applicable. **NOTE:** Copies must include both the front and back of the document where applicable. (i.e. CPR & Medical cards).
7. Make sure your Prerequisite Verification Form is appropriately marked off and signed in **BLUE** or **BLACK** ink.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this level of certification

Fire Service Instructor I Certification Pathways



NOTE: Candidates seeking to become instructors within the PSFA Local Level system are required to have an educational methodology course or an equivalent program of instruction as a prerequisite. Please reference the instructions on Page 4 of the Local Level Instructor Application for clarification; the Local Level Instructor Application is available at www.osfc.pa.gov under the link < State Fire Academy >, click < Local Level Training Program >, then < Local Level Training Instructor Information >.

Test Policy

Written Test: The written test is randomly generated and consists of one hundred (100) questions. Candidates have a maximum of two (2) hours to complete the test. A passing score for a written test is seventy percent (70%).

Skills Test: Must pass 100% of the skill stations offered at the time of test.

Re-test Policy

Written Test: If you are unsuccessful you may retest a total of two (2) times and have one (1) year to complete the retest. You need to contact the fire academy or test site of your choice to schedule a retest.

Skills Test: You must pass 100% of the skill stations used in this certification level.

- If you are unsuccessful on three (3) or less skill stations, you may retest the same day. (only one retest per skill station);
- If you are unsuccessful on four (4) or more skill stations, you may NOT retest the same day. Skill retests must be scheduled at a later time.
- A total of eight (8) retest attempts are permitted and must be completed in one (1) year from the date of the initial test.

Appeals

Within thirty (30) days of receipt of a failure notice, a candidate may request a review of his/her performance records by the State Fire Academy. Appeals must be in writing and in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Certification Program.

Send to: Pennsylvania State Fire Academy
Attn: Certification Program Manager
1150 Riverside Drive
Lewistown, PA 17044

Accommodations

The Pennsylvania Fire Service Voluntary Certification Program offers reasonable accommodations for the written certification exam for individuals with documented disabilities. Only written requests for accommodations are reviewed and each request is reviewed independent of any other requests (i.e., done on a case-by-case basis). A request **MUST** be submitted on the Accommodation Request Form. The Pennsylvania Fire Service Voluntary Certification Program provides written notification to the candidate regarding its decision upon completion of the review by PSFA and legal counsel.

The “Accommodation Request” form can be found on Page 7 of this manual; it is also available from the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy and test site coordinators. Please contact the Certification Program Manager for further information. The candidate requesting an accommodation **MUST** complete the request form and submit it with the application, or soon thereafter as the need for an accommodation is recognized. All requests **MUST** be made prior to the scheduled date of the examination. Any request for accommodation not submitted at least twenty (20) working days prior to the scheduled examination will result in a delay in the candidate’s date of examination.

Documentation of a specific disability which would impact a candidate’s performance on a written examination **MUST** be current (i.e., within five years of the date of application). Such documentation should include a signed explanation on letterhead stationary from a professional familiar with the applicant’s disability or a copy of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) from an educational institution. See below comment.

The statement **MUST** confirm and describe the disability for which the accommodation is requested. The professional **MUST** have expertise in the specific disability for which the accommodation is being requested.

Safety Policy

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.

For the safety and protection of all participants, all equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used for testing **MUST** meet the NFPA standard at the time of manufacturing. PPE will be inspected prior to being used for the test.

The facial hair policy directs that a candidate with facial hair which interferes with the operation or use of a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) will not be permitted to participate in a test process that requires the use of a SCBA.

Test Results / Release of Results

The Office of the State Fire Commissioner / PA State Fire Academy notifies candidates of their results in writing via the US Postal Service (i.e., mail). Only PASS / FAIL grades are provided.

In accordance with the Federal Education Records and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, a Federal law which established minimum standards for the protection of education/training records, the PSFA requires prior consent from a candidate before any candidate record or other personally identifiable information can be released. In the event a third party requests a candidate's test results, a Consent to Release Information form **MUST** be completed and signed by the candidate allowing the record(s) disclosure to the third party requesting the results / information.

No show policy

If a candidate is accepted for testing and fails to show up without an acceptable reason, the test site has the right to enforce their no-show policy that could include but is not limited to suspension from testing for an identified period of time and/or financial penalties.

Test Integrity and Dishonesty

Test dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, facilitating acts of test dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of test / examination documents, or submitting work of another person. Any instance of test dishonesty will constitute disciplinary and/or legal actions. All certification candidates shall act with personal integrity, respect others rights and property, and help maintain a professional environment in which all can be successful.

Test site coordinators, assistant coordinators, test proctors, evaluators and instructors should take reasonable steps to anticipate and deter acts of dishonesty, reinforce integrity and support appropriate behavior to protect the rights and trust of honest candidates. At the beginning of each test, it is the responsibility of those mentioned above to provide test candidates with the "Testing Integrity and Dishonesty" policy and clarify any questions that arise.

Falsification of Documents

Any individual found to have forged, altered, or falsified documentation for a certification test will be indefinitely suspended from participating in any certification exam within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Further action may be taken in accordance with the Pennsylvania Crimes Code 18 Pa C.S. 4904 relating to unsworn falsifications.

Cheating on Test

All candidates are expected to work entirely on their own while taking any test. Test integrity violations consist of any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids unless provided by the test proctor for a specific test, or any persons, papers or electronic devices, or of any attempt to give assistance

Document Integrity

Certification candidates are expected to complete any and all work individually. Any materials obtained from other sources such as plot plans, web maps, etc. a source reference must be given. All essay answers must be the candidate's own work.

Study Reference List

The following is a list of text that may be reference in preparation for testing.

1. National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 1041 (2012 Ed) Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications;
2. IFSTA, Fire and Emergency Services Instructor, 8th Edition, 1st printing;
3. Jones and Bartlett, Fire Service Instructor: Principles and Practice, 2nd Edition, 1st Printing;
4. PTS Publications Fire Instructor I & II Exam Prep (5th Ed) www.Fire-EmsExamPrep.com
5. Fire Service Instructor I Skill Sheets available on the OSFC website www.osfc.pa.gov

Additional Information:

1. Applications shall be submitted to the test site by their established deadline or no later than 3 weeks prior to the test date.
2. Please contact the test site of your choice to receive information about fees for testing.
3. Photo ID is required at the time of the written and skills tests.
4. Bring all appropriate PPE and SCBA needed to complete all possible skill stations.
5. Dress appropriately; bring extra dry clothes.
6. Bring food and water or a similar beverage to stay hydrated.

Certification applications and skill sheets, in addition to the test schedule and test site contact information, can be found at www.osfc.pa.gov under < State Fire Academy > then < Certification > at the top of the webpage. A page will open with information about the certification program and process. Scroll through the page to find the links for certification applications, skill sheets, test schedule, and test site contact information.

If you have additional questions or concerns about the test process, please contact the test site coordinator at the site in which you applied to be tested or the PA State Fire Academy Certification Program Staff.

Fire Service Instructor I - Skill Station Information

Skill Station A: Audiovisual Equipment

In this station, the candidate demonstrates the ability to set-up, test, use, and shut down **three different pieces of AV equipment**. One AV item must be a laptop with projector. Two additional AV items must also be used. Examples of other AV items include a Smart-Board (e.g., Electronic Interactive Board, Electronic Display Simulator), an overhead projector, a DVD player, an iPod with projection display, a Digital Visual Presenter / Document Camera, a slide projector, or a VHS player.

Skill Station B: Classroom Lecture Presentation

In this station, the candidate conducts a training session (i.e., lecture) utilizing a lesson plan and requisite equipment for the given topic. For candidates who are taking an approved PA State Fire Academy Educational Methodology for Local Level Instructor (EMLL) course, a lesson plan is developed in EMLL and shall be used to fulfill this component of the certification test. If a candidate is challenging the certification process and is NOT taking an EMLL course, contact PSFA or the test site to coordinate use of a lesson plan and equipment resources (See the note below). The candidate has fifteen (15) minutes to complete the lesson.

Please Note: You may use a lesson plan you have access to (used locally in your training system), however it **MUST** be relevant to fire/rescue, have a skill component, and **MUST** be approved by PSFA or the test site coordinator.

Supplemental Information: As a reference to assist candidates taking the Fire Service Instructor 1 certification test, the list below denotes items commonly found within a lesson / lesson plan:

- Visually projected content (i.e., PowerPoint or other illustrated/projected material)
- Lesson Plan (candidate developed or an existing plan).
 - Lesson Name
 - Lesson Overview
 - Learning Objective(s)
 - Time (estimated)
 - Instructional Materials and Resources / Audiovisuals / Props / Equipment
 - Instructional aids (i.e., informational sheets, activity sheets, etc.).
 - Delivery Format (e.g., lecture, demonstration, etc.)
 - Setting (classroom, apparatus floor, training tower, etc.)
 - References (all materials used in creating the lesson)
 - Lesson Outline and Content
 - Introduction
 - Instructional Content
 - Summary
 - Activities
 - Evaluation Tools (e.g., quiz/test and an answer sheet, skill evaluation sheet, etc.)

Skill Station C: Hands-On Demonstration Presentation

Utilizing a lesson plan and necessary equipment, demonstrate a skill within the lesson. Assume the evaluator is part of the audience. The practical work necessary in delivering this lesson may be performed in an area(s) designated by the evaluator. You have fifteen (15) minutes to complete the lesson.

In this station, the candidate conducts a training session (i.e., demonstration) utilizing a lesson plan and requisite equipment for the given topic. For those candidates who are taking an approved PA State Fire Academy Educational Methodology for Local Level Instructor (EMLL) course preceding the certification test, the lesson plan developed in EMLL with a demonstration component shall be used to fulfill requirement for the test. If the candidate seeks this level of certification through a challenge process and is not taking the EMLL course, contact PSFA or the test site to coordinate lesson plan and equipment resources. The candidate has fifteen (15) minutes to complete the lesson.

Please Note: You may use a lesson plan that you have access to, however it **MUST** be relevant to fire/rescue, have a lecture component, and **MUST** be approved by PSFA or the test site coordinator.

Evaluation / Evaluator Note: Given a candidate **MUST** conduct both skills B and C, the approved practice is to complete both skills in a single lesson delivery. Therefore 30 minutes is the allotted time. Nonetheless for the evaluator, both skill sheets B and C **MUST** be completed.

Skill Station D: Training Schedule

Given a list of training assignments, departmental scheduling procedures, instructional resources, facilities, and a timeline for delivery, the candidate shall select and appropriately schedule three single-unit instructional sessions. The topics and scheduling form shall be provided to the candidate.

Skill Station E: Training Records / Reports

Using the topics selected in Station D, the candidate completes the training records / report forms and activity reports (one-page minimum per session), which describes in summary the training conducted, the time allocated, the attendees, and any pre-activity requirements fulfilled. Please note: The report is a summary of activities **after a training session occurred**. Therefore, all comments must be addressed in past tense (e.g., *The TIC training **was** held at Station 5 with 10 personnel completing all activities required. Instructor McBride **conducted** the training on Monday, February 1 starting at 6:30 PM and concluded at 8:30 PM. He **spent** one hour reviewing the content and one hour having the participants practice using the TIC.*

FIREFIGHTER CODE OF ETHICS

I understand that I have the responsibility to conduct myself in a manner that reflects proper ethical behavior and integrity. In so doing, I will help foster a continuing positive public perception of the fire service. Therefore, I pledge the following...

- Always conduct myself, on and off duty, in a manner that reflects positively on myself, my department and the fire service in general.
- Accept responsibility for my actions and for the consequences of my actions.
- Support the concept of fairness and the value of diverse thoughts and opinions.
- Avoid situations that would adversely affect the credibility or public perception of the fire service profession.
- Be truthful and honest at all times and report instances of cheating or other dishonest acts that compromise the integrity of the fire service.
- Conduct my personal affairs in a manner that does not improperly influence the performance of my duties, or bring discredit to my organization.
- Be respectful and conscious of each member's safety and welfare.
- Recognize that I serve in a position of public trust that requires stewardship in the honest and efficient use of publicly owned resources, including uniforms, facilities, vehicle and equipment and that these are protected from misuse and theft.
- Exercise professionalism, competence, respect and loyalty in the performance of my duties and use information, confidential or otherwise, gained by virtue of my position, only to benefit those I am entrusted to serve.
- Avoid financial investments, outside employment, outside business interests or activities that conflict with or are enhanced by my official position or have the potential to create the perception of impropriety.
- Never propose or accept personal rewards, special privileges, benefits, advancement, honors or gifts that may create a conflict of interest, or the appearance thereof.
- Never engage in activities involving alcohol or other substance use or abuse that can impair my mental state or the performance of my duties and compromise safety.
- Never discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual preference, medical condition or handicap.
- Never harass, intimidate or threaten fellow members of the service or the public and stop or report the actions of other firefighters who engage in such behaviors.
- Responsibly use social networking, electronic communications, or other media technology opportunities in a manner that does not discredit, dishonor or embarrass my organization, the fire service and the public. I also understand that failure to resolve or report inappropriate use of this media equates to condoning this behavior.

Developed by the National Society of Executive Fire Officers