



Pennsylvania Fire Service Certification Program Newsletter

SIDE C

www.osfc.pa.gov

April 2020 Volume I

Bruce Trego, Fire Commissioner

New Level of Certification

In November 2019, the PA State Fire Academy/Office of the State Fire Commissioner accreditation was extended by Pro-Board and IFSAC to conduct several new levels of National Professional Qualification testing.

Traffic Incident Management Personnel NFPA 1091.

This professional level of certification was developed in response to the need for safe roadway operations in traffic control incident management for Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Law Enforcement, Towing, and Recovery agencies, and the Department of Transportation.

For more information on this certification, please contact the Certification staff at the PA State Fire Academy.

Hazardous Material Operations Mission Specifics NFPA 1072.

Four new levels of hazmat certification have been approved and added to our Certification complement.

The Hazmat Operations Mission Specific Levels that have been added are as noted below.

Emergency Disaster Proclamation NOTICES

Evaluator Note

Due to the extended closure and the inability to hold annual workshops and hazmat training, there has been a temporary suspension on Policy 10.1 Evaluator Training and Credentialing Process regarding annual requirements.

This suspension only applies to evaluators who have NOT completed the annual workshop or hazmat training requirement as of March 1, 2020. For those evaluators, an extension will be provided for the total timeframe in which PSFA was closed and until normal operations are resumed at the Academy.

We are currently working on a way to put the annual workshop information presentations online. When that process is in place, we will make an announcement with additional details.

Extension of Certification Expiration Dates for Testing

Due to the extended closure and inability to conduct retests, a temporary suspension has been placed on the one (1) year requirement

*HMO-Mass Decontamination
HMO-Technical Decontamination
HMO-Air Monitoring and Sampling
HMO-Victim Rescue and Recovery*

Pilot testing has been conducted for NFPA 1019 and NFPA 1072 Mission Specific levels. When normal operations resume at the Academy and our Test Sites, we will work to establish dates for additional pilot testing and the process for approving more evaluators.

Changes in NFPA Standards

Pennsylvania is working on updating several levels in 2020 to maintain compliance with accreditation which is required each time an NFPA standard is revised and published.

The levels that will be going through revisions are:

NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter I and 2
NFPA 473 Hazmat for BLS
NFPA 1003 Airport Fire Fighter
NFPA 1041 Fire & Emergency Services
Instructor I and 2
NFPA 1081 Facility Fire Brigade*
Incipient and Advance Exterior levels.

** Formerly Industrial Fire Brigade*

The changes will not take effect until November 2020.

PA Certification Program Policy Changes

A new policy will be implemented regarding taking of photo's during certification testing. Taking photo's during a certification test is NOT permitted unless this is being done by the state or site representative for documentation of a pilot process or site inspection.

to complete the testing process. Candidates with an expiration date for retesting starting March 1, 2020 will be extended to the timeframe remaining on their deficiency letter plus the time PSFA was closed until normal operations resume.

The suspension will remain in effect until normal operations resume and staff is permitted to return to the facility.

PA Certification Statistics

Fun Facts: As of December 2019 the total number of certifications issued across 47 levels was 71,284 and the total number of individuals certified was 32,275. This is an average of 2,005 certifications issued per year for the past 36 years. Within the last 10 years, the average number of certifications issued per year was 3,405.

Online Requests and Purchases Now Available

You can now make electronic requests and payments through the online ePay process for items such as patch orders, historical certification registration, Participating Dept. Decal order, and a few other items. This process is quick and easy. Check it out for your next request.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is October 4 – 10, 2020. The theme is to be announced June 1, 2020.

Visit www.nfpa.org for more Fire Prevention Week information.