

Emergency Vehicle Driver Certification



Jim Long, Commissioner
State Fire Marshal

North Carolina Emergency Vehicle Driver Certification

In a continued effort to reduce fire loss in the State of North Carolina, the State Legislature established General Statute 58-78-5.14b, which requires the State Fire and Rescue Commission to establish voluntary minimum professional qualifications for all levels of fire and rescue service personnel.

The standard for Emergency Vehicle Driver Certification is considered to be a minimum standard and the Fire & Rescue Commission fully recognizes that, due to differing requirements, many fire departments may set forth standards much higher than these for their personnel. It is the intent, however, that through a voluntary program, personnel who drive emergency vehicles in our state, will meet or exceed this standard.

Performance Standard

The NFPA 1002 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications, Current Edition, will be the performance standard used for Driver/Operator certification.

Entrance Requirements

The Emergency Vehicle Driver candidate must meet the entrance requirements listed below before certification can be issued.

Age / Education Requirements

The candidate must be at least 18 years of age. Training and course work may be completed in advance, but certification cannot be issued until the candidate's 18th birthday. Moreover, the candidate must meet the requirements of the standard in place at the time of his/her birthday even though he/she may have been working toward a previous standard.

The candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent recognized by the State Department of Public Instruction (i.e., GED).

Service Requirements

The Emergency Vehicle Driver candidate must have a minimum of one (1) year experience in the fire and/or rescue service.

Driver License Requirements

A candidate must possess and maintain a current North Carolina driver license. Loss of a valid driver's license will mean automatic suspension of certification until the license requirement is met.

Program Requirements

The instruction and evaluation given an Emergency Vehicle Driver who achieves certification is critical to ensuring a quality program. Training and evaluation of students must be accomplished by qualified individuals, working in conjunction with approved delivery agencies.

Student Evaluation

Evaluation of the student for certification is a critical link in the total preparedness of the individual. Student evaluations must be accomplished by qualified Level II Instructors serving as proctors. The evaluation itself must be separate and distinct from the training process.

Practical Examination

Practical examinations are intended to measure the manipulative skills of the Emergency Vehicle Driver and will follow guidelines set forth under the Policy for Testing manual. Although capable of testing 100% of the practical objectives, the examination will only test a pre-selected percentage based on testing scenarios provided to the proctor. A score of 70% or above shall constitute a passing grade for the candidate.

Written Examination

The written exam measures the cognitive skills of the Emergency Vehicle Driver and must follow the guidelines set forth under the Policy for Testing manual. The examination will be randomly generated and provided to the evaluator by the delivery agency. A score of 70% or above shall constitute a passing grade for the candidate.

Reciprocity

Any Emergency Vehicle Driver certified by another state or agency whose program is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), or the National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications, and is a member of a fire/rescue agency in North Carolina may be granted equivalent certification provided the agency was accredited at the time of his/her certification.

Upon request, any individual certified by the NC Fire and Rescue Commission prior to January 1, 1995 as a Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator may also be granted reciprocity by the Certification Board.

Recertification

At the time of certification, each individual is certified to the most current edition of the National Fire Protection Association Standard adopted by the NC Fire and Rescue Commission. Each individual's certification records reflect the edition that was in place during the time of certification. The Commission does not issue new certificates upon recertification; these records are maintained by the Chief or employer on a local level.

Certification Authority & Records

Certificates for Emergency Vehicle Drivers will be issued by the Commission Office when the candidate has met the requirements for certification.