

Fire/Rescue Instructor Certification



Jim Long, Commissioner
State Fire Marshal

NC Fire and Rescue Instructor Certification

In a continued effort to reduce fire loss in the State of North Carolina, the State Legislature established General Statute 58-27-5.14b, 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 Fire & Rescue Instructor 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 provide firefighting and rescue services to the communities of our state, will meet or exceed this standard.

Performance Standard

The NFPA 1041 Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications, Current Edition, shall be the standard used for Fire and Rescue Instructor certification. Objectives 1-3.7 and 2-1 of NFPA 1041 shall be exempt and will not apply to the NC Fire and Rescue Commission's Instructor Certification program. Although this standard is entitled Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications, it is a methodology standard, and leaves the level of subject knowledge to the training agencies. In this respect, nothing precludes it from being applied equally to both fire and rescue instructors. Whenever the terms fire, fire service, fire department, fire report, fire officer, etc., appear in the standard, it is implied and understood that fire and/or rescue shall be substituted.

Entrance Requirements

The Fire and/or Rescue Instructor candidate must meet the entrance requirements listed below before certification can be issued.

The candidate must be at least 21 years of age.

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

The candidate must be certified Firefighter II, Rescue Technician, or Fire & Life Safety Educator by the NC Fire & Rescue Commission.

In order to perform the required duties, the Fire & Rescue Instructor candidate should sustain a health maintenance program and remain physically fit. Physical capabilities should be tied to the course of instruction. Good health practices are for the instructor's benefit and are merely recommendations.

Program Requirements

The Fire and Rescue Instructor candidate must have a minimum of four (4) years experience in the fire and/or rescue service or an equivalent of education and experience. Active service shall be defined as involvement in any agency dealing with the prevention and control of fire or the delivery of rescue. Use the following guide to correlate education and experience with service requirements.

Education	Years Granted
2 yr. Associate degree (fire or rescue related)	2 years
2 yr. Associate degree (non-related)	½ year
4 yr. degree (fire or rescue related)	3 years
4 yr. degree (non-related)	1 year

Educational Methodology

The educational methodology requirements of NFPA 1041 shall be met by successful completion of Educational Methodology offered by the staff of the OSFM Fire and Rescue Training Services Section, the NC Department of Community Colleges or its appointed representatives, the National Fire Academy, or the Law Enforcement Instructor Training Course of the NC Justice Academy. Exception can only be granted by the Certification Board.

General Certification

Upon meeting the entrance requirements outlined in this brochure and the specific requirements for the applicable level of Instructor certification, the candidate shall receive General Certification at that level from the NC Fire and Rescue Commission. A certified Instructor would then be able to teach, promote, develop course work, etc., based on his/her level of certification in areas he/she may be recognized by the Board as having expertise in. In order to teach a subject and evaluate students toward a Commission Standard, the instructor must receive qualification as a Specialist in that area by successful completion of a qualification course, or by direct application to the Certification Board. This board may establish criteria for each Certification Standard, or requiring qualification. This shall meet the requirement of NFPA 1041 Objective 1-3.7.

Subject Qualification

To examine and evaluate students in certification standards and specialized areas recognized by the Fire and Rescue Commission, the General Certified Instructor must receive qualification in that subject area. Qualification of an instructor in a specialized subject area can be achieved in several ways:

- By submitting resume and background training information relative to that subject area to the Certification Board or its appointed representative(s).
- By completing an approved Instructor Qualification training session for that subject area.
- By presenting college course work, experience, certification, degree work, licenses, etc., in the related field to the Certification Board or its appointed representative(s).

Qualified Instructor Training

Instructors may qualify in any number of subjects within six (6) different qualification areas. They are; Firefighter I & II, Emergency Rescue Technician, Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator, Hazardous Materials Responder, Firefighter Specialty, and Rescue Specialty.

Re-certification Requirements

Certified General Level II Instructor

Must take six (6) hours of educational methodology upgrade during their five (5) year certification period. This educational methodology upgrade is taught only by the OSFM training staff. Proof of taking this upgrade is recorded on a roster supplied by OSFM.

Qualified Level II Instructor

For Qualified Level II Instructors they must teach a minimum of one hundred hours per a five-year period to maintain his/her instructor qualification. If an instructor is qualified in subject areas accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), they must re-qualify every five years or as the standard is revised. This also will meet the educational methodology requirement for their Certified General Level II status.

Level III Instructor

Must maintain requirements of a Certified General Level II Instructor.

Summary of Prerequisite Requirements

- High School diploma or GED
- Minimum 21 years of age
- Four (4) years of fire service
- Firefighter II, Rescue Technician, or Fire & Life Safety Educator Certified
- Successful completion of approved Educational Methodology course
- Successful completion of Fire and Rescue Instructor exam