

# Firefighter Certification Levels I and II



Jim Long, Commissioner  
State Fire Marshal

## North Carolina Firefighter 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 Firefighter 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 services to the communities of our state, will meet or exceed this standard.

## Performance Standard

The NFPA 1001 Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications, Current Edition, will be the performance standard used for Firefighter certification.

## Entrance Requirements

The Firefighter 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). This requirement may be waived for an individual who completed certification objectives prior to October 1, 1990.

### Physical Recommendations

The candidate should undergo a thorough physical examination prior to any activity to ensure his/her ability to perform the required tasks. This examination should be conducted by a qualified physician or recognized medical practitioner using a recommended medical standard, such as NFPA 1582 Standard for Medical Requirements for Fire Service Personnel, Current Edition. The submission of a medical approval form is not required for certification.

## Program Requirements

The instruction and evaluation given a Firefighter 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 Firefighter 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 Firefighter 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 Firefighter certified by another state or agency whose program is accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSA), 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.

## Recertification Requirements

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 Firefighters will be issued by the Commission Office when the candidate has met the requirements for certification. Required Classes

### Required Classes

#### Firefighter I

Fire Department Orientation & Safety  
Fire Alarms and Communications  
Fire Behavior  
Portable Extinguishers  
Personal Protective Equipment  
Forcible Entry  
Ventilation  
Ropes  
Ladders  
Fire Hose, Appliances and Streams  
Fire Control  
Salvage  
Overhaul  
Emergency Medical Care  
Rescue  
Water Supplies  
Sprinklers  
Haz Mat Awareness  
Fire Prevention, Public Fire Education, and Fire Cause Determination

#### Firefighter II

Fire Department Orientation & Safety  
Fire Alarms and Communications  
Fire Behavior  
Ventilation  
Fire Hose, Appliances, Streams  
Foam Fire Streams  
Fire Control  
Overhaul  
Rescue  
Water Supplies  
Sprinklers  
Haz Mat Operations  
Fire Prevention, Public Fire Education, and Fire Cause Determination  
Building Construction