



Fire Service Training Bureau Division of State Fire Marshal Iowa Department of Public Safety

Chiefs, Training Officers, Fire Associations, and Community College Partners,

This letter is to inform you of significant changes and improvements in the certification process at the Fire Service Training Bureau (FSTB). As most of you know, the FSTB spent several months working on our regular 5 year reaccreditation process through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). IFSAC provides accreditation to entities that certify the competency of and issue certificates to individuals who pass examinations based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fire service professional qualifications and other standards approved by the Assembly. Certification by an accredited entity confirms a firefighter's level(s) of job competency and a department's competency as a whole. The National Certification that the FSTB provides individual firefighters is a badge of honor which demonstrates an individual's commitment and responsibility to the learning process and to the requisite knowledge attained in a particular subject matter or level.

During this reaccreditation process each of the eleven levels of certification offered by the FSTB were reviewed and updated, including, but not limited to, the following major areas:

- Exam Banks - The creation and validation of all new exam banks for each of the levels offered.
- Practical Skills - The addition/deletion modification of practical skills tested.
- Local Validation Forms (Chiefs/Training Officers are required to sign-off and verify individual candidates have demonstrated a list of items/criteria –New Items added).
- Individual candidate Homework/Projects – (homework is now referred to as project(s). There have been significant changes/additions to individual candidate w/project requirements).

We have made a significant attempt to provide more of a “one stop shop” on all requirements of each certification level by updating and expanding the procedure guides for each level of certification. All of the changes noted above can be found in the relevant procedure guides located in the certification section of the FSTB website below.

<http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/fstb/NewWebStuff2012/Certification/index.shtml>

The procedure guides have been expanded to include timelines, application processes, homework (now called projects) and skill areas being tested. The training bureau will maintain the most current version of certification procedure guides on our website and this should be the location where you and other fire service personnel reference for the most current content. The aforementioned changes and requirements will become effective January 2018.

In the coming week you will be able to view the new procedure guides (to be effective January 2018) for the following levels:

- HAZMAT Ops – HMO
- Firefighter 1 – FF1
- Firefighter 2 – FF2
- Driver Operator Pumper – DOP
- Driver Operator Aerial – DOA

By the end of January 2018, the remaining certification levels should be finalized and posted to the website. These include:

- Instructor 1
- Instructor 2
- Officer 1
- Officer 2
- Inspector
- Investigator

Again, many of these changes were required to align with certain Accreditation Standards and we believe you will find these changes and the more comprehensive and detailed procedure guides more informative, more uniform and easier to navigate.

A final note/reminder: December will conclude the retesting period allowed for those impacted by the rescoring of exams which took place after the departure of the previous certification & accreditation manger. Any fire service professional impacted and needing to retest may call the FSTB and schedule a date/time during normal business hours to complete any necessary retesting at the FSTB office in Ames. An advanced exam appointment will be required and there may be some dates/times which may not be available. As noted in previous correspondence and in the Certification Procedure Guides, any fire service professional who has not received exam results can contact the FSTB by email or telephone to request a copy. Actual scores will not be given over the telephone or email per policy requirements. Staff, however, will be able to advise if you have or have not met the minimum requirement of 70% for certification purposes. The FSTB will attempt to accommodate everyone who calls in advance in an attempt to find an exam date/time that will work through the end of the December deadline.

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