California State Fire Training

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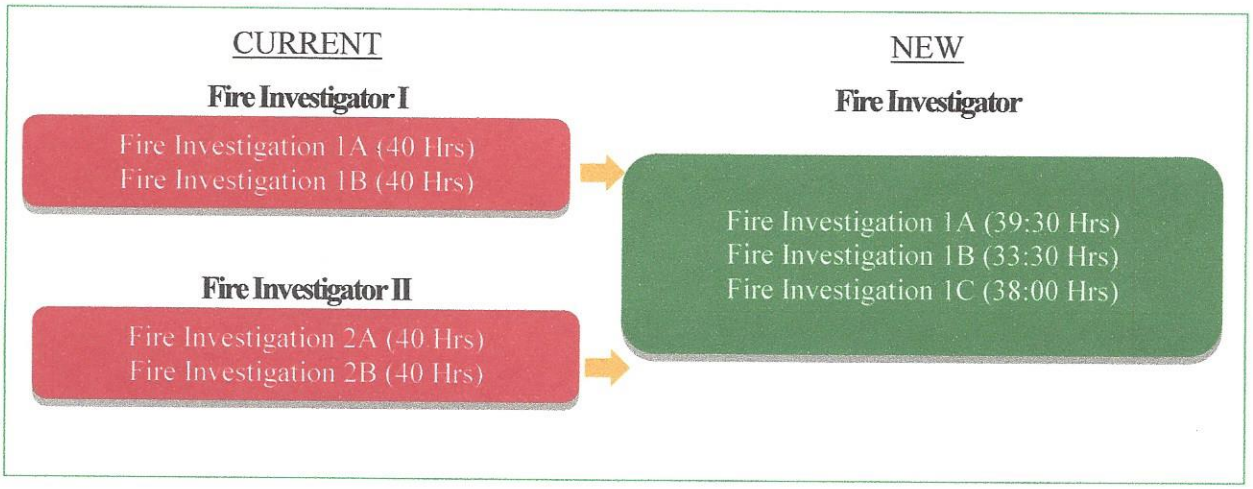
Fire Investigator Certification Track
Implementation of New Curriculum and Certification Requirements

This document is intended to provide information for all State Fire Training (SFT) stakeholders on changes to the Fire Investigator curriculum and certification Track requirements. Stakeholders are encouraged to study this information carefully and seek clarification from SFT if questions arise.

New Fire Investigator Certifications will be phased in as the new Fire Investigator. This new curriculum and certification is based on the NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualification for Fire Investigator 2014 Edition.

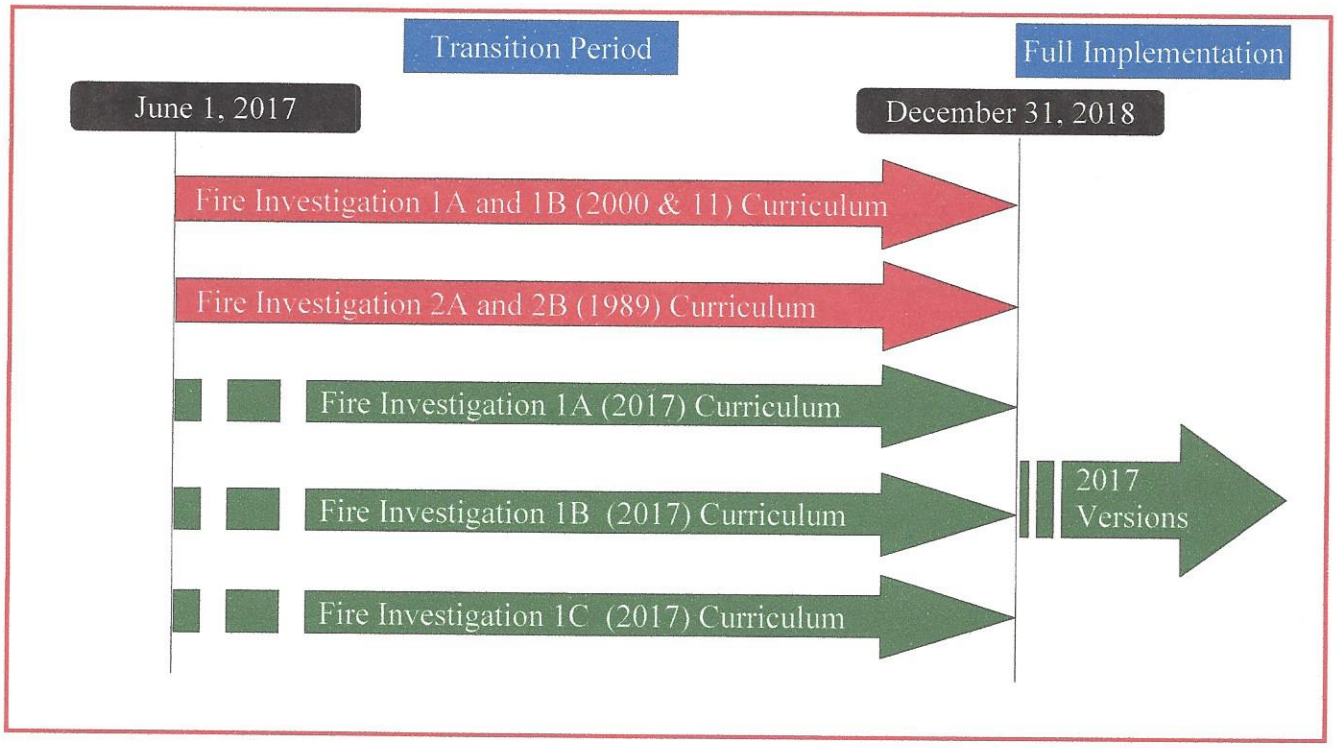


Task Books/Application Form: Implementation of the new Fire Investigator certification requires that candidates complete a comprehensive task book for certification. The task book covers all of the job performance requirements contained in the aforementioned professional qualification standards. The task book will be made available to candidates by SFT upon completion of all course work and with authorization from their employer. Occupational experience will be verified by the Fire Chief or designee on file signing the task book upon completion. In addition a new application form will be implemented.

Certification Testing: In response to Blueprint 2020 stakeholder comment, SFT anticipates implementation of a certification examination for the new Fire Investigator certifications at a future date.

Existing Fire Investigator I and II Certification will continue to be available until December 31, 2018 and courses will continue to be available until December 31, 2018 for those candidates that find it most advantageous to continue pursuing this certification track. Candidates must choose to meet either the existing Fire Investigation 1 and 2 certification or the new Fire Investigator (2017) certification requirements, cross over between the two will not be allowed.

Fire Investigator Curriculum Change Time Line



TRANSITION PERIOD ..... Effective June 1, 2017– December 31, 2018

SFT recognizes that during the transition period many candidates will be vested in the current Fire Investigation track and, therefore, the existing Fire Investigator I and II Curriculum and Certification requirements will be available for those candidates throughout the transition period. Candidates entering the certification system should enroll in the new Fire Investigator courses and comply with the new requirements.

Fire Investigator II: Current candidates that have not been able to meet the expert witness requirement for this level of certification can complete one of the following courses to meet the requirement.

(1) CCAI course – Expert Witness Testimony
(2) IAAI course – Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony
(3) NFA course – Interview Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony

COURSE PHASE OUT .....Effective December 31, 2018

Effective December 31 2016, Fire Investigation 1A (2011), was retired as part of the Fire Officer Curriculum

Effective December 31, 2018, Fire Investigation 1B (2000), Fire Investigation 2A and 2B will be retired.

INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS .....Effective December 31, 2016

Fire Investigation level 1 and Level II - Current registered instructors for Fire Investigation courses are authorized to instruct the new curriculum. New instructors will be required to either take the course or apply for a Pace II review of their instructor qualifications, including appropriate education and practical experience relating to course content.

POTENTIAL AGENCY IMPACTS

Fire agencies utilizing Fire Investigator 1 and 2 as a minimum qualification for personnel to work at an investigator level need to review the new curriculum and certification process to be sure that all agency training needs are being met. If not, the local agency may need to augment the curriculum at the local level. Fire agencies should also research and understand the new task book processing procedures.

Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP), Accredited Local Academies (ALA), community colleges and all other local delivery venues need to review the curriculum and seek approval from their curriculum committee / program sponsor, as appropriate. ARTPs should review the new Driver/Operator Certification Track and curriculum and discuss with their advisory committees to determine if the curriculum must be expanded to meet local needs. ARTPs and ALAs should insure they are prepared to conduct capstone testing and understand their role in the process.