



California State Fire Training

PO Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
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1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/training



Fire Fighter I - Frequently Asked Questions

This document is intended to memorialize, in one location the California State Fire Training (SFT) Fire Fighter I related questions regarding implementation of the new Fire Fighter I (2013) Certification examination process and the requirements for certification. The information in this document is directed particularly to candidates pursuing Fire Fighter I (2013) Certification and, to a lesser degree administrators of an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) or Accredited Local Academy (ALA). Questions or comments should be directed to Ken Wagner, Fire Service Training Specialist III, Ken-Wagner@comcast.net, (916) 425-2995.

EXAMINATION PROCESS

- 1. I am enrolled in a Fire Fighter I Academy delivered by an ARTP and we are using the new, Fire Fighter I (2013) curriculum. Will I be required to participate in the written and skills examination process being implemented by SFT?**

On January 2016 SFT began rolling out the new skills and written examination process statewide for all ARTPs and ALAs. Once an ARTP or ALA has implemented the process, candidates will be expected to successfully complete the examination process before they can become certified. Those candidates receiving their training from an organization that is not an ARTP or ALA will be expected to participate in the examination process at an ARTP.

- 2. If I complete the Fire Fighter I (2013) training and I only want California certification, not IFSAC or Pro Board. Do I still need to take the written and skills examinations?**

Yes. This examination process has been adopted by the State Board of Fire Services as a component of the Fire Fighter I certification process. All candidates must successfully complete the testing before applying for certification.

- 3. I have completed all my training under the Fire Fighter I (2013) curriculum and my required occupational experience. Currently, there are no ARTPs offering the examinations. Can I still get my certification?**

Yes, if you apply before December 31, 2018 you may apply for California Fire Fighter I. You may not, however, obtain IFSAC/Pro Board seals until you successfully complete both the written and skills examinations. More information on the Fire Fighter I (2013) implementation process can be found on the [Fire Fighter I Certification Examination Implementation plan](#).

- 4. I failed the Wildland portion of the written exam. Can I retake just a portion of the written exam?**



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Yes. Every candidate may retake the whole written examination, or a portion of the written examination a maximum of two (2) times within a one (1) year period. There is a form for this. Upon authorization, you will be required to retake the entire written examination for Wildland. All examination fees apply. If you fail the examination after three attempts, you must retrain.

5. **I recently failed the skills exam because I failed one of the Hazardous Materials skills. Can I retake the skills exam?**

Yes. You should have been given two attempts to pass the skill during the examination process in which you were participating. You must apply to SFT and request authorization to retake the skills examination a second time. There is a form for this. Upon authorization, you will be required to retake the entire skills examination for Hazardous Materials. All examination fees apply. If you fail the retake, you must retrain.

CERTIFICATION

6. **Once I complete my training, certification examinations, task book and occupational experience what do I need to do to apply for my Fire Fighter I (2013) certification?**

Once you have completed all of the requirements, you will need to submit all materials to SFT along with appropriate fees. You will need to submit:

- *A completed Fire Fighter I Application Form with your original signature. Electronic or stamped signatures are not acceptable.*
- *A completed Fire Fighter I task Book with all JPRs initialed, and your original signature and the original signature of your Fire Chief (or his or her designee whose name is on file with SFT). Electronic or stamped signatures are not acceptable.*
- *Copies of all certificates/documents referenced within the application and task book.*
- *The fee & [fee schedule](#) for California Fire Fighter I Certification.*
- *The fee for National Recognition (IFSAC/Pro Board). National Recognition is voluntary.*

7. **How long does it normally take to receive my certification after I submit my completed application?**

The general processing time is 2-6 weeks.

8. **Can I come in to SFT and receive my certification over the counter?**

Yes – by appointment only. If you have completed all of the requirements and have a complete application package you may schedule an appointment for over the counter processing. FF applications can take considerable amount of time to process and availability for appointments is limited, therefore, we recommend submitting via mail as the preferred submittal method.



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UPGRADE/RECIPROCITY

9. How do I **upgrade** my California Fire Fighter Certification to receive IFSAC/Pro Board seals?

Fire Fighters who trained under the 2013 curriculum: You will need to successfully complete both the written and skills examinations to qualify. To apply for this certification examination, submit a complete FF I Upgrade Application package and include the supporting documents and review fee. Application documents and other information can be found on the [SFT website](#). Upon successful completion of the certification examination and submittal of the upgrade fee & and other appropriate forms, you will receive a new FF I Certificate w/Pro Board & IFSAC seals.

Fire Fighters who trained under the 2001 curriculum and are certified on or after January 1, 2002: The process for California Fire Fighters certified to the 2001 curriculum on or after January 1, 2002 will be the same as above.

Fire Fighters who are certified before January 1, 2002:

Currently there is not a path to upgrade your certification to the 2013 standard with IFSAC/Pro Board seals.

10. How do I apply for **reciprocity** with my out-of-state IFSAC and/or Pro Board Fire Fighter I certification? I would like to apply for jobs in California.

***First, it is important to point out that California regulations requires a minimum of 6 months' full-time occupational experience in a California Fire Agency before certification can be issued. This includes anyone who applies for Fire Fighter reciprocity. Therefore, certification is not necessarily a requirement for employment and is useful for those who wish to convert their out-of-state IFSAC and/or Pro Board certification into either a California-only Fire Fighter I certification or a California Fire Fighter I w/IFSAC and Pro Board Certification.*

Reciprocity applicants will need to submit by mail only a completed reciprocity application form, supporting documentation, \$60 reciprocity review fee and [fee schedule](#) form. A review will be conducted to verify all submitted documentation. If eligible, SFT will then determine whether additional testing (written and/or skills) will need to be completed and then issue a Fire Fighter I certification task book. Upon completion of all requirements, including successful completion of both the written & skills examinations, the certification task book and submittal of the FF I application form, \$40-\$80 certification fee and fee schedule, a California Fire Fighter I certification w/optional IFSAC and Pro Board seals will be issued.

If you do not meet all of the training requirements, for example you do not have a Wildland Fire Fighter I Certification, SFT will evaluate your wildland training and determine if you are eligible to participate in the California written and skills examinations for Wildland Fire Fighter I. If you are



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eligible, you will be authorized to participate in the written and skills examinations being delivered by an ARTP, or an ALA if it happens to be your employer.

- 11. How do I apply for reciprocity with my Department of Defense (DoD) issued Fire Fighter I which includes IFSAC and/or Pro Board seal(s). I would like to apply for jobs in California.**

Department of Defense applicants may refer to the same procedures available to out-of-state applicants. The only difference will be that instead of providing copies of your out-of-state certification diplomas you will provide copies of your DoD certificates with IFSAC and/or Pro Board seals showing you are certified to Fire Fighter I, Haz Mat Awareness/FRO and Wildland Fire Fighter I.

ADVANCED CERTIFICATIONS

- 12. I understand that SFT is now accredited by IFSAC and Pro Board for Fire Fighter I (2013). When do you anticipate that you will be accredited for some of the more advanced levels of certification like Fire Fighter II, Driver Operator, Company Officer, Fire Inspector, etc.?**

SFT intends to fully implement the IFSAC/Pro Board Accredited Fire Fighter I Certification before seeking accreditation for advanced levels of certification. No decisions have been made as to which levels we will pursue next. Furthermore, all of the certification examination procedures developed for Fire Fighter I can be utilized for many of the advanced levels of certification, when they are implemented.