



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: July 9, 2021

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
State Board of Fire Services

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Fire Fighter Certification Exam Simulation Provision

Recommended Actions:

Approval of Fire Fighter Certification Exam Simulation

Background Information:

State Fire Training (SFT) manages the Fire Fighter 1 and 2 curriculum, Certification Exams, and Certification requirements. SFT has 65 Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTPs) and Accredited Local Academies (ALAs) currently administering the Certification Exams with student participation increasing exponentially. To accommodate the complexity of statewide participants, the Certification Exam processes have been expanded to allow for simulation of select Certification Exam skills.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

In July 2020, SFT staff presented the option for Alternate Psychomotor Skill Evaluation allowing for immediate Certification Exam evaluation at the conclusion of the respective FSTEP course rather than delaying the Exam until the scheduled Certification Exam date. This provision is limited to only Fire Control 3 (new course or existing Fire Control 3A or 3B pending course retirements), Fire Control 4, and Vehicle Extrication. The skills associated with the select FSTEP courses require specialized equipment and props, therefore, the intent was to alleviate undue costs associated with personnel scheduling and additional equipment/prop acquisition. SFT regulation specifies that an Instructor of Record shall not be an Evaluator of Record during a Certification Exam, which resulted in a failure to reduce costs for personnel and logistics with the July 2020 provision.

Following a thorough review of current regulations, SFT considered expansion of the existing simulation provision in-place for Fire Control 3 to include FF2A (2019) Skills 3-1: Extinguish an Ignitable Liquid Fire, 3-2: Control a Flammable Gas Cylinder Fire, and 4-1: Extricate Victim Entrapped in a Motor Vehicle. SFT provides for live-fire simulation on FF1A (2019) Skill Sheet 3-10c: Attack a Simulated Interior Structure Fire following successful student completion of a registered Fire Control 3 FSTEP course. Completion of the course requires demonstrated proficiency in live-fire attack and extinguish, thereby justifying the fire simulation during the 3-10c: Attack a Simulated Interior Structure Fire skill.

It is proposed that the FF2A (2019) identified Certification Exam Random Skills be provided simulation provision following successful student completion of registered Fire Control 4 and/or Vehicle Extrication FSTEP courses, respectively.

Candidates whose course completion diplomas were issued more than three (3) years of the Certification Exam date are required to attend and successfully complete an updated course. Candidates unable to meet this requirement must complete the assigned skill without the option of simulation. Completion of each course requires demonstrated skill proficiency and application, thereby justifying simulation during the Random Skills portion of the Certification Exam evaluation as outlined below.

Skill 3-1: Extinguish an Ignitable Liquid Fire

Following successful completion of a registered FSTEP Fire Control 4 course, students may simulate foam application by verbalizing the appropriate foam concentration and its concentration preparation. Student must then prepare the apparatus and component assembly and simulate agent discharge. The student shall maintain team protection and complete the action of safe haven retreat.

Skill 3-2: Control a Flammable Gas Cylinder Fire

Following successful completion of a registered FSTEP Fire Control 4 course, students may simulate a gas cylinder fire by completing all skill sheet line items without live-fire. All skill sheet items shall be completed by the student.

Skill 4-1: Extricate Victim Entrapped in a Motor Vehicle

Following successful completion of a registered FSTEP Vehicle Extrication course, students may utilize a simulation prop for skill completion. The prop shall be constructed of materials similar to that of a passenger vehicle and be equipped with a minimum of two (2) different access points including roof, doors, windshield/windows, steering wheel and/or column, and/or dashboard. The vehicle prop must allow for stabilize and cribbing/shoring points.

It is the responsibility of the Registered Lead Evaluator and respective Accredited Academy to ensure all candidates have completed the required registered FSTEP courses to be eligible for simulation. Candidates who have not completed the FSTEP courses or have course completion diplomas exceeding the three (3) year time limit, are not eligible for simulation.

Attachments:
Photo – Compliant Vehicle Extrication Prop, example

