

8. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 451, Fire Officer, including but not limited to, new Subchapter C, Minimum Standards For Fire Officer III, §451.301, Fire Officer III Certification, §451.303, Minimum Standards For Fire Officer III Certification, §451.305, Examination Requirements, new Subchapter D, Minimum Standards For Fire Officer IV, §451.401, Fire Officer IV Certification, §451.403, Minimum Standards For Fire Officer IV Certification, and §451.405, Examination Requirements.

Chapter 451

Fire Officer

SUBCHAPTER C

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER III

§451.301. Fire Officer III Certification.

A Fire Officer III is a midlevel supervisor who performs both supervisory and first-line managerial functions who has met all the job performance and certification requirements of Fire Officer II as defined in NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications. Typical duties of an individual at the Fire Officer III level include: establishing procedures for hiring, assignment, and professional development of personnel; developing public service/partnership and programs; preparing budgets and budget management systems; planning for organizational resource management; evaluating inspection and public safety programs and plans; managing multi-agency plans and operations; serving as Incident Commander at expanding emergency incidents for all hazard types; and developing and managing a departmental safety program.

§451.303. Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III Certification.

(a) In order to be certified as a Fire Officer III an individual must:

- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and**
- (2) hold Fire Officer II certification through the commission; and**
- (3) hold, as a minimum, Fire Service Instructor II certification through the commission; and**
- (4) document completion of ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System; and**
 - (A) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as Fire Officer III; or**
 - (B) complete a commission-approved Fire Officer III program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Fire Officer III program must consist of one of the following:**
 - (i) completion of a commission-approved Fire Officer III Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;**
 - (ii) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the commission-approved Fire Officer III Curriculum; or**
 - (iii) successful completion of 15 college semester hours of upper level coursework from a four-year regionally accredited institution in any of the following subject areas:**
 - (I) Administration/Management**
 - (II) Budget/Finance**
 - (III) Planning/Organization**
 - (IV) Leadership/Ethics**
 - (V) Risk Management**
 - (VI) Safety and Health**

(VII) Community Risk Reduction

(C) Special temporary provision: Within one year following the effective date of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to take the commission examination for Fire Officer III upon documentation to the commission that the individual has completed training that covers the requirements of NFPA 1021, Chapter 6. The documentation of completed training must be either: a letter signed by the department head or department training officer/coordinator verifying completion of the required training, or a certificate of completion from a nationally recognized training provider. During the one year period, the commission examination shall consist of a written exam. The examination requirements in §451.305(b) must still be met. This paragraph (C) expires one year from the effective date of this subchapter.

(b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 9 (pertaining to Fire Officer) of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

§451.305. Examination Requirements.

(a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive Fire Officer III certification.

(b) Individuals will be permitted to take the commission examination for Fire Officer III certification by documenting the following: Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification, Fire Service Instructor II certification and Fire Officer II certification through the commission or the equivalent IFSAC seals, and completing a commission-approved Fire Officer III program.

Chapter 451

Fire Officer

SUBCHAPTER D

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER IV

§451.401. Fire Officer IV Certification.

A Fire Officer IV is an upper level supervisor who performs both supervisory and managerial functions who has met all the job performance and certification requirements of Fire Officer III as defined in NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications. Typical duties of an individual at the Fire Officer IV level include: Administering job performance requirements; evaluating and making improvements to department operations; developing long-range plans and fiscal projections; developing plans for major disasters; serving as Incident Commander at major incidents for all hazard types; and administering comprehensive risk management programs.

§451.403. Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV Certification.

(a) In order to be certified as a Fire Officer IV an individual must:

- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and
- (2) hold Fire Officer III certification through the commission; and
- (3) document completion of ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System; and
 - (A) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as Fire Officer IV; or
 - (B) complete a commission-approved Fire Officer IV program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Fire Officer IV program must consist of one of the following:
 - (i) completion of a commission-approved Fire Officer IV Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;
 - (ii) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the commission-approved Fire Officer IV Curriculum; or
 - (iii) successful attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in any of the following:
 - (I) Fire Science/Administration/Management
 - (II) Emergency Management
 - (III) Public Administration
 - (IV) Emergency Medicine
 - (V) Business Management/Administration
 - (VI) Political Science
 - (VII) Human Resources Management

(VIII) Public Health

(IX) Risk Management

(X) Criminal Justice, or

(XI) a related management/administration/leadership degree

(C) Special temporary provision: Within one year following the effective date of this subchapter, an individual is eligible to take the commission examination for Fire Officer IV upon documentation to the commission that the individual has completed training that covers the requirements of NFPA 1021, Chapter 7. The documentation of completed training must be either: a letter signed by the department head or department training officer/coordinator verifying completion of the required training, or a certificate of completion from a nationally recognized training provider. During the one year period, the commission examination shall consist of a written exam. The examination requirements in §451.405(b) must still be met. This paragraph (C) expires one year from the effective date of this subchapter.

(b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 9 (pertaining to Fire Officer) of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

§451.405. Examination Requirements.

(a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive Fire Officer IV certification.

(b) Individuals will be permitted to take the commission examination for Fire Officer IV certification by documenting the following: Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification, and Fire Officer III certification through the commission or the equivalent IFSAC seals, and completing a commission-approved Fire Officer IV program.