

5. **Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 423, Fire Suppression, Subchapter A, Minimum Standards for Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification, including but not limited to, §423.1, Minimum Standards for Structure Fire Protection Personnel, §423.3, Minimum Standards for Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification, §423.5, Minimum Standards for Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification, §423.7, Minimum Standards for Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification, §423.9, Minimum Standards for Master Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification, §423.11, Higher Levels of Certification, §423.13, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.**

# CHAPTER 423

## FIRE SUPPRESSION

### SUBCHAPTER A

#### MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR STRUCTURE FIRE PROTECTION PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION

##### §423.1. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR STRUCTURE FIRE PROTECTION PERSONNEL.

- (a) Fire protection personnel of any local government entity, who receive probationary or temporary appointment to structure fire protection duties, must be certified by the Commission within one year from the date of their appointment in a structural fire protection personnel position.
- (b) Prior to being appointed to fire suppression duties or certified as fire protection personnel, the Commission must review and approve the applicants fingerprint based criminal history record information obtained from the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The individual or fire department must follow the procedure established by the Department of Public Safety to initiate and complete the electronic fingerprint process. The results will be available to the Commission through the Department of Public Safety's data base. The Commission will follow the criteria established in Title 37 Chapter 403 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) for denying a person certification based on the results of the fingerprint based criminal history record check.
- (c) Prior to being appointed to fire suppression duties, personnel must complete a Commission-approved basic structure fire suppression program and successfully complete a Commission recognized emergency medical course. The individual must successfully pass the Commission examination pertaining to that curriculum as required by §423.3 of this title. The Commission recognizes the following emergency medical training:
  - (1) Department of State Health Services Emergency Medical Service Personnel certification training;
  - (2) an American Red Cross Emergency Response course, including the optional lessons and enrichment sections;
  - (3) an American Safety and Health Institute First Responder course;
  - (4) National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification; or
  - (5) medical training deemed equivalent by the Commission.
- (d) Personnel holding any level of structure fire protection personnel certification must comply with the continuing education requirements specified in §441.7 of this title (relating to Continuing Education for Structure Fire Protection Personnel).

##### §423.3. Minimum Standards for Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.

- (a) In order to become certified as basic structure fire protection personnel, an individual must:
  - (1) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as a Fire Fighter I, Fire Fighter II, Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel; and
  - (A) Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders including the Mission-Specific Competencies for Personal Protective Equipment and Product Control under the current edition; or
  - (B) NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Operations prior to the 2008 edition; and
  - (C) must meet the medical requirements outlined in §423.1(c)~~§423.1(b)~~ of this title; or

- (2) complete a **commission** [Commission-]approved basic structure fire suppression program, meet the medical requirements outlined in **§423.1(c)**[§423.1(b)], and successfully pass the **commission**[Commission] examination(s) as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved basic structure fire suppression program shall consist of one or any combination of the following:
- (A) completion of a [Commission-]approved Basic Fire Suppression Curriculum, as specified in Chapter 1 of the **commission**[Commission's] Certification Curriculum Manual; or
  - (B) completion of an out-of-state, and/or military training program deemed equivalent to the **commission** [Commission-]approved Basic Fire Suppression Curriculum; or
  - (C) documentation of the receipt of an advanced certificate or training records from the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, that is deemed equivalent to a **commission** [Commission-]approved Basic Fire Suppression Curriculum.

(b)A basic fire suppression program may be submitted to the **commission** [Commission] for approval by another jurisdiction as required in Texas Government Code, §419.032(d), Appointment of Fire Protection Personnel. These programs include out-of-state and military programs, and shall be deemed equivalent by the **commission** [Commission] if the subjects taught, subject content, and total hours of training meet or exceed those contained in Chapter 1 of the **commission's**[Commission's] Certification Curriculum Manual.

#### **§423.5. Minimum Standards for Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

- (a) Applicants for Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification must complete the following requirements:
- (1) hold, as a prerequisite, a Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification as defined in §423.3 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Basic Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and
  - (2) acquire a minimum of four years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:
    - (A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the Commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or
    - (B) Option 2--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or
    - (C) Option 3--Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1, with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section).
- (b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the Commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.
- (c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

#### **§423.7. Minimum Standards for Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

- (a) Applicants for Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification must complete the following requirements:
  - (1) hold as a prerequisite an Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification as defined in §423.5 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Intermediate Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and
  - (2) acquire a minimum of eight years of fire protection experience and complete the training listed in one of the following options:
    - (A) Option 1--Successfully complete six semester hours of fire science or fire technology from an approved Fire Protection Degree Program and submit documentation as required by the commission that the courses comply with subsections (b) and (c) of this section; or
    - (B) Option 2—Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses. Acceptable combinations of courses are as follows: two A-List courses; or eight B-List courses; or one A-List course and four B-List courses. (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section); or
    - (C) Option 3—Completion of coursework from either the A-List or the B-List courses in combination with college courses in fire science or fire protection. Acceptable combinations of courses are three semester hours meeting the requirements of Option 1 with either one A-List course or four B-List courses (See the exception outlined in subsection (c) of this section.
- (b) Non-traditional credit awarded at the college level, such as credit for experience or credit by examination obtained from attending any school in the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual or for experience in the fire service, may not be counted toward this level of certification.
- (c) The training required in this section must be in addition to any training used to qualify for any lower level of Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.

#### **§423.9. Minimum Standards for Master Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification.**

- (a) Applicants for Master Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification must complete the following requirements:
  - (1) hold as a prerequisite an Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification as defined in §423.7 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Advanced Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification); and
  - (2) acquire a minimum of twelve years of fire protection experience, and 60 college semester hours or an associate degree, which includes at least 18 college semester hours in fire science subjects.
- (b) College level courses from both the upper and lower division may be used to satisfy the education requirement for Master Structure Fire Protection Personnel Certification

#### **§423.11. Higher Levels of Certification.**

- (a) An individual may receive higher levels of certification in structural fire protection while being assigned to another discipline, provided that all requirements for the higher level or levels of certification are met.
- (b) Repetitive training cannot be used toward higher levels of certification.

#### **§423.13. International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.**

- (a) Individuals holding a current Commission Structure Fire Protection Personnel certification received prior to March 10, 2003, may be granted International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) seals for Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel, Hazardous Materials Operations Level

Responders, Fire Fighter I, and Fire Fighter II by making application to the Commission for the IFSAC seals and paying applicable fees.

(b) Individuals completing a Commission-approved basic fire suppression program, meeting any other NFPA requirement, and passing the applicable examination(s) based on the basic fire suppression curriculum, may be granted IFSAC seal(s) for Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel, Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders (including the Mission-Specific Competencies for Personal Protective Equipment and Product Control), Fire Fighter I, and/or Fire Fighter II by making application to the Commission for the IFSAC seal(s) and paying applicable fees, provided they meet the following provisions;

(1) To receive the IFSAC Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel seal, the individual must:

(A) complete the Hazardous Materials Awareness section of a Commission-approved course;  
and

(B) pass the Hazardous Materials Awareness section of a Commission examination.

(2) To receive the IFSAC Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders seal (including the Mission-Specific Competencies for Personal Protective Equipment and Product Control) the individual must:

(A) complete the Hazardous Materials Operation section of a Commission-approved course;

(B) document possession of an IFSAC Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel seal;  
and

(C) pass the Hazardous Materials Operations section of a Commission examination.

(3) To receive the IFSAC Fire Fighter I seal, the individual must:

(A) complete a Commission-approved Fire Fighter I course;

(B) provide medical documentation as outlined in subsection (c) of this section;

(C) document possession of an IFSAC Hazardous Materials Awareness Level Personnel seal;  
and

(D) document possession of an IFSAC Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responders seal;  
and

(E) pass the Fire Fighter I section of a Commission examination.

(4) To receive the IFSAC Fire Fighter II seal, the individual must:

(A) complete a Commission-approved Fire Fighter II course;

(B) document possession of an IFSAC Fire Fighter I seal; and

(C) pass the Fire Fighter II section of a Commission examination.

(c) In order to meet the medical requirements of NFPA 1001, the individual must document successful completion of an emergency medical training course or program. The Commission recognizes the following emergency medical training:

(1) The Texas Department of State Health Services Emergency Medical Service Personnel certification training;

(2) American Red Cross Response course (including optional lessons and enrichment sections);

(3) American Safety and Health Institute First Responder course;

(4) National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification; or

(5) medical training deemed equivalent by the Commission.