

- 6. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 455, Minimum Standards for Wildland Fire Protection Certification, including but not limited to, §455.1, Minimum Standards for Wildland Fire Protection Personnel, §455.3, Minimum Standards for Basic Wildland Fire Protection Certification, §455.5, Minimum Standards for Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection Certification, and §455.7, Examination Requirements.**

Chapter 455

Minimum Standards For Wildland Fire Protection Certification

§455.1. Minimum Standards for Wildland Fire Protection Personnel.

- (a) A wildland fire fighter is defined as an individual whose function is suppression of fires in the wildland or wildland-urban interface setting.
- (b) Individuals holding Wildland Fire Protection certification shall be required to comply with the continuing education requirements in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education).
- (c) All Wildland Fire Protection certifications issued by the commission and referenced in this chapter are voluntary.

§455.3. Minimum Standards for Basic Wildland Fire Protection Certification.

In order to be certified as Basic Wildland fire protection personnel, an individual must:

- (1) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as Wildland Fire Fighter Level I; or
- (2) complete a **commission** ~~[commission-]~~ approved Basic Wildland Fire Protection program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Basic Wildland Fire Protection training program shall consist of one of the following:
 - (A) completion of the commission-approved Basic Wildland Fire Protection Curriculum, as specified in the applicable chapter of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or;
 - (B) completion of the following Texas **A&M** Forest Service/National Wildfire Coordinating Group (**NWCG**) courses:
 - (i) S-130: Firefighter Training
 - (ii) S-190: Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
 - (iii) L-180: Human Factors on the Fireline
 - (iv) I-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, or an equivalent basic incident command system course such as NIMS IS-100.
- (3) The commission examination requirement is waived for individuals who have completed the training requirements in paragraph (2)(A) or (B) of this section and apply for certification by August 31, 2013. After this date, individuals must successfully pass the commission examination prior to applying for certification.

§455.5. Minimum Standards for Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection Certification

- (a) In order to be certified as Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection personnel, an individual must:
 - (1) hold Basic Wildland Fire Protection certification issued by the commission, and
 - (2) individuals who hold Structure Fire Protection certification issued by the commission must complete **a commission approved Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection training program shall consist of one of the following:**

(A) completion of the commission approved Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection Curriculum, as specified in the applicable chapter of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or

(B) completion of the Texas A&M Forest Service/National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) course G-131: Wildland Training (FFT1) for Structural Firefighters, including the associated position task book as adopted by the Texas A&M Forest Service/NWCG 310-1/NFPA 1051 Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional latest edition; or

(C) completion of the Texas A&M Forest Service/National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses S-131 and S-133, including the associated position task book as adopted by the Texas A&M Forest Service/NWCG 310-1/NFPA 1051 Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional latest edition; ~~and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification), or~~

(3) individuals who hold a State Fireman's and Fire Marshal's Association Advanced Accredited certification issued prior to January 1, 2012, or a State Fireman's and Fire Marshal's Association Firefighter II certification issued on or after January 1, 2012, must complete **a commission approved Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection program and successfully pass the commission examination which includes both Basic Structure Fire Protection and Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection, as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection training program shall consist of one of the following:**

(A) completion of the commission approved Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection Curriculum, as specified in the applicable chapter of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or

(B) completion of the Texas A&M Forest Service/National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) course G-131: Wildland Training (FFT1) for Structural Firefighters, including the associated position task book as adopted by the Texas A&M Forest Service/NWCG 310-1/NFPA 1051 Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter professional latest edition; or

(C) completion of the Texas A&M Forest Service/National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses S-131 and S-133, including the associated position task book as adopted by the Texas A&M Forest Service/NWCG 310-1/NFPA 1051 Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional latest edition. ~~and successfully pass a commission examination which includes both Basic Structure Fire Protection and Intermediate Wildland Fire Protection, as specified in Chapter 439 of this title.]~~

(b) The commission examination requirement is waived for individuals in subsection (a)(2) of this section who have completed the training requirement and apply for certification by August 31, 2013. After this date, individuals must successfully pass the commission examination prior to applying for certification.

(c) The application processing fee for the initial examination is waived for individuals in subsection (a)(3) of this section who have completed the training requirement and submit the application for the commission examination by August 31, 2013. After this date, the application processing fee for examinations will be required.

(d) The application processing fee for the certification is not waived for individuals in subsection (c) of this section.

§455.7. Examination Requirements

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

(b) Persons seeking a commission certification referenced in this chapter who do not currently hold a certification issued by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection must meet all requirements regarding application for initial certification.