

**13. Matters referred from the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee (FFAC), including but not limited to:**

**B. Discussion and possible action on proposed amendments, new sections, and repeals as follows:**

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 441, Continuing Education, including but not limited to, §441.1, Objective, §441.3, Definitions, §441.5, Requirements, §441.7, Continuing Education for Structure Fire Protection Personnel, §441.9, Continuing Education for Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, §441.11, Continuing Education for Marine Fire Protection Personnel, §441.13, Continuing Education for Fire Inspection Personnel, §441.15, Continuing Education for Arson Investigator or Fire Investigator, §441.17, Continuing Education for Hazardous Materials Technician, §441.19, Continuing Education for Head of a Fire Department, §441.21, Continuing Education for Fire Service Instructor, and §441.23, Continuing Education for Wildland Fire Fighter.**

**CHAPTER 441**  
**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**§441.1 Objective.**

Continuing education is intended to maintain or increase the knowledge and skills pertinent to the fire service.

**§441.3 Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Certification period--That period from the time a certificate is obtained or renewed until it is time for the certificate to be renewed again. See §437.5 of this title (relating to Renewal Fees) for the definition of certification period.
- (2) Level 1--Training intended to maintain previously learned skills as stated in the commission certification curriculum manual for the certifications held.
- (3) Level 2--Fire service training or education intended to develop new skills that are not contained in the commission's certification curriculum manual for certifications held.

**§441.5 Requirements.**

- (a) Continuing education shall be required in order to renew certification.
- (b) The continuing education requirement for renewal shall consist of a minimum of 18 hours of training to be conducted during the certification period. All documentation of training used to satisfy the continuing education requirements must be maintained for a period of three years from the date of the training. Continuing education records shall be maintained by the department in accordance with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, State and Local Records Management Division, Records Schedule, Local Schedule (GR 1050-28), whichever is greater.
- (c) Level 1 training must be conducted by a certified instructor. Interactive computer-based continuing education training that is supervised and verified by a certified instructor is acceptable.
- (d) The continuing education program of a regulated entity must be administered and maintained in accordance with commission rule by a certified instructor.
- (e) No more than four hours per year in any one subject of Level 1 training may be counted toward the continuing education requirement for a particular certification.
- (f) There shall be no "hour per subject limit" placed on Level 2 courses, except that emergency medical courses shall be limited to four hours per year.
- (g) The head of a fire department may select subject matter for continuing education appropriate for a particular discipline.
- (h) The head of a fire department must certify whether or not the individuals whose certificates are being renewed have complied with the continuing education requirements of this chapter on the certification renewal document. Unless exempted from the continuing education requirements, an individual who fails to comply with the continuing education requirements in this chapter shall be notified by the commission of the failure to comply.
- (i) After notification from the commission of a failure to comply with continuing education requirements, an individual who holds a certificate is prohibited from performing any duties authorized by a

required certificate until such time as the deficiency has been resolved and written documentation is furnished by the department head for approval by the commission, through its Fire Service Standards and Certification Division director. Continuing education hours obtained to resolve a deficiency may not be applied to the continuing education requirements for the current certification period.

- (j) Any person who is a member of a paid or volunteer fire department who is on extended leave for a cumulative period of six months or longer due to a documented illness, injury, or activation to military service may be exempted from the continuing education requirement for the applicable renewal period(s). Such exemptions shall be reported by the head of the department to the commission at renewal time, and a copy kept with the department continuing education records for three years.
- (k) Any individual who is not a member of a paid or volunteer fire department who is unable to perform work, substantially similar in nature as would be performed by fire protection personnel appointed to that discipline, may be exempted from the continuing education requirement for the applicable renewal period(s). Commission staff shall determine the exemption using documentation of the illness or injury that cumulatively lasts six months or longer, which is provided by the individual and the individual's treating physician or by documentation of activation to military service.
- (l) In order to renew certification for any discipline which has a continuing education requirement stated in this chapter, an individual holder of a certificate not employed by a regulated entity must comply with the continuing education requirements for that discipline. Only 20 total hours of continuing education for each certification period in Level 1 or Level 2 subjects relating to the certification being renewed shall be required to renew all certificates the individual holds, except as provided in §441.17 of this title (relating to Continuing Education for Hazardous Materials Technician).
- (m) An individual certificate holder, not employed by a regulated entity, shall submit documentation of continuing education training upon notification by the commission. An example of documentation of continuing education training may include, but not be limited to a Certificate of Completion, a college or training facility transcript, a fire department training roster, etc. Commission staff will review and may approve or disapprove such documentation of training in accordance with applicable commission rules and/or procedures. The training for a resident of Texas at the time the continuing education training is conducted shall be administered by a commission instructor, commission certified training facility, an accredited institution of higher education, or a military or nationally recognized provider of training. The training for a nonresident of Texas[,] shall be delivered by a state fire academy, a fire department training facility, an accredited institution of higher education, or a military or nationally recognized provider of training. The individual must submit training documentation to the commission for evaluation of the equivalency of the training required by this chapter. The individual certificate holder is responsible for maintaining all of his/her training records for a period of three years from the date of the training.
- (n) If an individual has completed a commission approved academy in the 12 months prior to his or her certification expiration date, a copy of that certificate of completion will be acceptable documentation of continuing education for that certification renewal period.

#### **§441.7 Continuing Education for Structure Fire Protection Personnel.**

- (a) A minimum of two hours of continuing education in structure fire protection subjects in addition to the continuing education requirements in §441.5(b) of this title (relating to Requirements) will be required for personnel certified as structure fire protection personnel and who are appointed to structure fire protection duties.
- (b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from ~~either~~ Level 1, Level 2, or a combination of **both** ~~the two~~.

**§441.9 Continuing Education for Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel.**

- (a) Continuing education will be required for personnel assigned as aircraft rescue fire fighting personnel.
- (b) Continuing education must, at a minimum, meet the specific training requirements of FAR 139.319(i)(2) and (3) (pertaining to Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Operational Requirements). Continuing education required by this subsection may exceed 20 hours, if necessary, to complete all required subjects.

**§441.11 Continuing Education for Marine Fire Protection Personnel.**

- (a) A minimum of two hours of continuing education in marine fire protection subjects in addition to the continuing education requirements in §441.5(b) of this title (relating to Requirements) will be required for personnel certified as marine fire protection personnel and who are appointed to marine fire protection duties for any certification period beginning after October 31, 1993.
- (b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from ~~either~~ Level 1, Level 2, or a combination of **both** ~~the two~~.

**§441.13 Continuing Education for Fire Inspection Personnel.**

- (a) A minimum of two hours of continuing education in fire inspection subjects in addition to the continuing education requirements in §441.5(b) of this title (relating to Requirements) will be required for personnel certified as fire inspection personnel and who are appointed to fire inspection duties.
- (b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from ~~either~~ Level 1, Level 2, or a combination of **both** ~~the two~~.

**§441.15 Continuing Education for Arson Investigator or Fire Investigator.**

- (a) A minimum of two hours of continuing education in arson or fire investigation subjects in addition to the continuing education requirements in §441.5(b) of this title (relating to Requirements) will be required for personnel certified as arson investigation or fire investigation personnel and who are appointed to arson or fire investigation duties.
- (b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from ~~either~~ Level 1, Level 2, or a combination of **both** ~~the two~~.

**§441.17 Continuing Education for Hazardous Materials Technician.**

- (a) Eight hours of continuing education in hazardous materials (technician level) will be required for individuals certified as a hazardous materials technician. This will be in addition to continuing education required by other sections of this chapter.
- (b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from ~~either~~ Level 1, Level 2, or a combination of **both** ~~the two~~.

**§441.19 Continuing Education for Head of a Fire Department.**

- (a) A minimum of two hours of continuing education in fire administration subjects in addition to the continuing education requirements in §441.5(b) of this title (relating to Requirements) will be required for personnel certified as head of a fire department and who are appointed as head of a department.
- (b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from ~~either~~ Level 1, Level 2, or a combination of **both** ~~the two~~.

**§441.21 Continuing Education for Fire Service Instructor.**

- (a) A minimum of two hours of continuing education in fire service instruction subjects in addition to the continuing education requirements in §441.5(b) of this title (relating to Requirements) will be required for individuals certified as a fire service instructor and who are appointed to fire service instructor duties.
- (b) Subjects selected to satisfy the continuing education requirement may be selected from [~~either~~] Level 1, Level 2, or a combination of **both**[~~the two~~].

**§441.23 Continuing Education for Wildland Fire Fighter.**

A minimum of four hours of continuing education in Wildland Fire Fighting subjects will be required for individuals certified as a Wildland Fire Fighter. The required hours must include hands-on refresher training in the use and deployment of a fire shelter. The four hours may be included in the eighteen hours required during the certification renewal period.

**13. Matters referred from the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee (FFAC), including but not limited to:**

**B. Discussion and possible action on proposed amendments, new sections, and repeals as follows:**

- 2. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 449, Head of a Fire Department, including but not limited to, §449.1, Minimum Standards for the Head of a Fire Department, §449.3, Minimum Standards for Certification as Head of a Suppression Fire Department, §449.5, Minimum Standards for Certification as Head of a Prevention Only Department.**

## CHAPTER 449

### HEAD OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### **~~§449.1 Minimum Standards for the Head of a Fire Department.~~**

- ~~[(a) An individual who becomes employed and is assigned as the head of a fire department must be certified by the Commission as head of a fire department, within one year of appointment.]~~
- ~~[(b) An individual appointed head of a department must be eligible to be certified at the time of the appointment or will become eligible to be certified within one year of the appointment and must submit an affidavit verifying eligibility status at the time of the appointment if not holding a Commission certification.]~~
- ~~[(c) Holding the head of a fire department certification does not qualify an individual for any other certification. An individual who seeks certification in another discipline must meet the requirements for that discipline.]~~
- ~~[(d) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to supercede Chapter 143, Local Government Code, in regard to appointment of a head of a fire department.]~~

#### **~~§449.3 Minimum Standards for Certification as Head of a Suppression Fire Department.~~**

- ~~[(a) Applicants for Head of a Fire Department certification must complete the following requirements]:~~
- ~~[(1) must be appointed as head of a fire department; and]~~
  - ~~[(2) complete the Standards Review Assignment for Head of a Fire Department identified in the applicable chapter of the Curriculum Manual; and]~~
  - ~~[(3) meet with a Texas Commission on Fire Protection Compliance Section representative for review and approval of the Standards Review Assignment; and]~~
  - ~~[(4) attend at least one Texas Commission on Fire Protection regularly scheduled commission meeting or one regularly scheduled fire fighter advisory committee meeting in the first year of appointment; and]~~
  - ~~[(5) hold a certification as a fire protection personnel in any discipline that has a commission approved curriculum that requires structural fire protection personnel certification and five years experience in a full-time fire suppression position; or]~~
  - ~~[(6) an individual from another jurisdiction who possesses valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress that is deemed equivalent to the commission's approved basic fire suppression curriculum and provide documentation in the form of a sworn nonself-serving affidavit of five years experience in a full-time fire suppression position; or]~~
  - ~~[(7) provide documentation in the form of a nonself-serving sworn affidavit of ten years experience as an employee of a local governmental entity in a full-time structural fire protection personnel position in a jurisdiction other than Texas; or]~~
  - ~~[(8) provide documentation in the form of a sworn nonself-serving affidavit of ten years of experience as a certified structural part-time fire protection employee; or]~~
  - ~~[(9) provide documentation in the form of a sworn nonself-serving affidavit of ten years experience as an active volunteer fire fighter in one or more volunteer fire departments that meet the requirements of subsection (b) of this section].~~

~~[(b) The ten years of volunteer service must include documentation of attendance at 40% of the drills for each year and attendance of at least 25% of a department's emergencies in a calendar year while a member of a volunteer fire department or departments with 10 or more active members that conducts a minimum of 48 hours of drills in a calendar year].~~

~~[(c) Individuals certified as the head of a fire department must meet the continuing education requirement as provided for in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education)].~~

~~[(d) An individual certified as head of a fire department under this section may engage in fire fighting activities only as the head of a fire department. These activities include incident command, direction of fire fighting activities or other emergency activities typically associated with fire fighting duties, i.e. rescue, confined space and hazardous materials response].~~

**~~§449.5 Minimum Standards for Certification as Head of a Prevention Only Department]~~**

~~[(a) Applicants for Head of a Fire Department certification must complete the following requirements:]~~

~~[(1) must be appointed as head of a fire department; and]~~

~~[(2) complete the Standards Review Assignment for Head of a Fire Department identified in the applicable chapter of the Curriculum Manual; and]~~

~~[(3) meet with a Texas Commission on Fire Protection Compliance Section representative for review and approval of the Standards Review Assignment; and]~~

~~[(4) attend at least one Texas Commission on Fire Protection regularly scheduled commission meeting or one regularly scheduled fire fighter advisory committee meeting in the first year of appointment; and]~~

~~[(5) hold a certification as a fire inspector, fire investigator, or arson investigator and have five years of full-time experience in fire prevention activities; or]~~

~~[(6) an individual from another jurisdiction who possesses valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress that is deemed equivalent to the commission's approved basic arson investigator, fire investigator or fire inspector curriculum and provide documentation in the form of a sworn nonself serving affidavit of five years experience in a full-time fire prevention position; or]~~

~~[(7) provide documentation in the form of a sworn nonself serving affidavit of ten years experience as an employee of a local governmental entity in a full-time fire inspector, fire investigator, or arson investigator position in a jurisdiction other than Texas; or]~~

~~[(8) provide documentation in the form of a sworn nonself serving affidavit of ten years experience as a certified fire investigator, fire inspector or arson investigator as a part-time fire prevention employee; or]~~

~~[(9) provide documentation in the form of a sworn nonself serving affidavit of ten years experience as an active volunteer fire inspector, fire investigator, or arson investigator with ten years experience in fire prevention.]~~

~~[(b) Individuals certified as the head of a fire department under this section must meet the continuing education requirement as provided for in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education)].~~

## CHAPTER 449

## HEAD OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBCHAPTER AMINIMUM STANDARDS FOR HEAD OF A SUPPRESSION FIRE DEPARTMENT§449.1 Minimum Standards for the Head of a Suppression Fire Department.

- (a) An individual who becomes employed and is assigned as the head of a suppression fire department must be certified by the commission as Head of a Suppression Fire Department, within one year of appointment.
- (b) An individual appointed head of a suppression fire department must be eligible to be certified at the time of the appointment or will become eligible to be certified within one year of the appointment and must submit an affidavit verifying eligibility status at the time of the appointment if not holding a commission certification.
- (c) Holding the Head of a Suppression Fire Department certification does not qualify an individual for any other certification. An individual who seeks certification in another discipline must meet the requirements for that discipline.
- (d) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to supersede Chapter 143, Local Government Code, in regard to appointment of a head of a suppression fire department.
- (e) Individuals certified as the Head of a Suppression Fire Department must meet the continuing education requirement as provided for in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education).
- (f) An individual certified as Head of a Suppression Fire Department under this subchapter may engage in fire fighting activities only as the head of a suppression fire department. These activities include incident command, direction of fire fighting activities or other emergency activities typically associated with fire fighting duties, i.e. rescue, confined space and hazardous materials response.

§449.3 Minimum Standards for Basic Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification.

- (a) Applicants for Basic Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification must complete the following requirements:
  - (1) must be appointed as head of a suppression fire department; and
  - (2) complete the Standards Review Assignment for Head of a Fire Department identified in the applicable chapter of the Certification Curriculum Manual; and
  - (3) meet with a Texas Commission on Fire Protection Compliance Section representative for review and approval of the Standards Review Assignment; and
  - (4) attend at least one Texas Commission on Fire Protection regularly scheduled commission meeting or one regularly scheduled fire fighter advisory committee meeting in the first year of appointment; and
  - (5) document completion of the National Incident Management System courses 100, 200, 700, and 800; and
  - (6) hold a Texas Commission on Fire Protection certification as a fire protection personnel in any discipline that has a commission approved curriculum that requires structural fire

protection personnel certification and five years experience within the last ten years in a full-time fire suppression position; or

(7) an individual from another jurisdiction who possesses valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress that is deemed equivalent to the commission's approved basic fire suppression curriculum and provide documentation in the form of a sworn non self serving affidavit of five years experience within the last ten years in a full-time fire suppression position; or

(8) provide documentation in the form of a non self serving sworn affidavit of ten years experience within the last fifteen years as an employee of a local governmental entity in a full-time structural fire protection personnel position in a jurisdiction other than Texas; or

(9) provide documentation in the form of a sworn non self serving affidavit of ten years of experience within the last fifteen years as a certified structural part-time fire protection employee; or

(10) provide documentation in the form of a sworn non self serving affidavit of ten years experience within the last fifteen years as an active volunteer fire fighter in one or more volunteer fire departments that meet the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The ten years of volunteer service referenced in subsection (a) paragraph (10) must include documentation of attendance at 40% of the drills for each year and attendance of at least 25% of a department's emergencies in a calendar year while a member of a volunteer fire department or departments with ten or more active members that conducts a minimum of 48 hours of drills in a calendar year.

#### §449.5 Minimum Standards for Intermediate Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification.

(a) Applicants for Intermediate Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification must complete the following requirements:

- (1) have a minimum of two years of experience in a full time head of a suppression fire department position; and
- (2) hold, as a prerequisite, Basic Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification through the commission; and
- (3) hold Fire Officer II certification through the commission; and
- (4) document completion of the National Incident Management System courses 300 and 400; and
- (5) complete 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 Head of a Fire Department Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.**

**§449.7 Minimum Standards for Advanced Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification.**

**(a) Applicants for Advanced Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification must complete the following requirements:**

- (1) have a minimum of four years of experience in a full time head of a suppression fire department position; and**
- (2) hold, as a prerequisite, an Intermediate Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification through the commission; and**
- (3) hold Fire Officer III certification through the commission; and**
- (4) complete 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 Head of a Fire Department Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.**

**§449.9 Minimum Standards for Master Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification.**

**(a) Applicants for Master Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification must complete the following requirements:**

- (1) have a minimum of six years of experience in a full time head of a suppression fire department position; and**

- (2) hold, as a prerequisite, an Advanced Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification through the commission; and
- (3) hold Fire Officer IV certification through the commission; and
- (4) acquire 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 Head of a Suppression Fire Department Certification.

## SUBCHAPTER B

### MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR HEAD OF A PREVENTION ONLY FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### §449.201 Minimum Standards for the Head of Prevention Only Fire Department.

- (a) An individual who becomes employed and is assigned as the head of a prevention only fire department must be certified by the commission as Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department, within one year of appointment.
- (b) An individual appointed head of a prevention only fire department must be eligible to be certified at the time of the appointment or will become eligible to be certified within one year of the appointment and must submit an affidavit verifying eligibility status at the time of the appointment if not holding a commission certification.
- (c) Holding the Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department certification does not qualify an individual for any other certification. An individual who seeks certification in another discipline must meet the requirements for that discipline.
- (d) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to supersede Chapter 143, Local Government Code, in regard to appointment of a head of a prevention only fire department.
- (e) Individuals certified as the Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department must meet the continuing education requirement as provided for in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education).

#### §449.203 Minimum Standards for Basic Head of Prevention Only Fire Department Certification.

- (a) Applicants for Basic Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification must complete the following requirements:
  - (1) must be appointed as head of a prevention only fire department; and
  - (2) complete the Standards Review Assignment for Head of a Fire Department identified in the applicable chapter of the Certification Curriculum Manual; and
  - (3) meet with a Texas Commission on Fire Protection Compliance Section representative for review and approval of the Standards Review Assignment; and
  - (4) attend at least one Texas Commission on Fire Protection regularly scheduled commission meeting or one regularly scheduled fire fighter advisory committee meeting in the first year of appointment; and
  - (5) documentation of completion of National Incident Management System 100, 200, 700 and 800; and
  - (6) hold a Texas Commission on Fire Protection certification as a fire inspector, fire investigator, or arson investigator and have five years experience within the last ten years in a full-time fire prevention position; or
  - (7) an individual from another jurisdiction who possesses valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress that is deemed equivalent to the commission's approved basic arson investigator, fire investigator or fire inspector curriculum and provide documentation in the form of a sworn non self serving affidavit of five years experience within the last ten years in a full-time fire prevention position; or

(8) provide documentation in the form of a sworn non self serving affidavit of ten years experience within the last fifteen years as an employee of a local governmental entity in a full-time fire inspector, fire investigator, or arson investigator position in a jurisdiction other than Texas; or

(9) provide documentation in the form of a sworn non self serving affidavit of ten years experience within the last fifteen years as a certified fire investigator, fire inspector or arson investigator as a part-time fire prevention employee; or

(10) provide documentation in the form of a sworn non self serving affidavit of ten years fire prevention experience within the last fifteen years as an active volunteer fire inspector, fire investigator or arson investigator.

**§449.205 Minimum Standards for Intermediate Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification.**

**(a) Applicants for Intermediate Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification must complete the following requirements:**

**(1) have a minimum of two years of experience in a full time head of a prevention only fire department position; and**

**(2) hold, as a prerequisite, a Basic Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification through the commission; and**

**(3) hold Fire Officer II certification through the commission; and**

**(4) document completion of National Incident Management System 300 and 400; and**

**(5) complete 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 Head of a Fire Department Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.**

**§449.207 Minimum Standards for Advanced Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification.**

**(a) Applicants for Advanced Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department certification must complete the following requirements:**

**(1) have a minimum of four years of experience in a full time head of a prevention only fire department position; and**

**(2) hold, as a prerequisite, an Intermediate Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department through the commission; and**

**(3) hold Fire Officer III certification through the commission; and**

**(4) complete 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 Head of a Fire Department Certification. Repeating a course or a course of similar content cannot be used towards this level of certification.**

**§449.209 Minimum Standards for Master Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification.**

**(a) Applicants for Master Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification must complete the following requirements:**

**(1) have a minimum of six years of experience in a full time head of a prevention only fire department position; and**

**(2) hold, as a prerequisite, an Advanced Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification through the commission; and**

**(3) hold Fire Officer IV certification through the commission; and**

**(4) acquire 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 Head of a Prevention Only Fire Department Certification.**

**13. Matters referred from the Fire Fighter Advisory Committee (FFAC), including but not limited to:**

**B. Discussion and possible action on proposed amendments, new sections, and repeals as follows:**

- 3. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 457, Incident Safety Officer, including but not limited to, §457.1, Incident Safety Officer Certification, §457.3, Minimum Standards for Incident Safety Officer Certification, and §457.5, Examination Requirements.**

## CHAPTER 457

### MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER CERTIFICATION

#### §457.1 Incident Safety Officer Certification.

- (a) An Incident Safety Officer is defined as a member of the command staff responsible for monitoring and assessing safety hazards or unsafe situations and for developing measures for ensuring personnel safety at an incident.
- (b) All individuals holding an Incident Safety Officer certification shall be required to comply with the continuing education requirements in Chapter 441 of this title (relating to Continuing Education).
- (c) All Safety Officer certifications issued by the commission and referenced in this chapter are voluntary.

#### §457.3 Minimum Standards for Incident Safety Officer Certification.

In order to be certified as an Incident Safety Officer an individual must:

- (1) hold commission certification as Fire Officer I and;
- (2) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress as an Incident Safety Officer; or
- (3) complete a commission approved Incident Safety Officer program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Incident Safety Officer program must consist of one of the following:
  - (A) completion of a commission approved Incident Safety Officer curriculum as specified in the applicable chapter of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or
  - ~~(B) completion of the National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer course; or]~~
  - ~~[(C) completion of the Fire Department Safety Officers Association Incident Safety Officer course; or]~~
  - ~~(B) [(D)]~~ completion of an out-of-state, educational institution of higher education, and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to, or exceeds the commission approved Incident Safety Officer curriculum.

#### §457.5 Examination Requirements.

- (a) Examination requirements of Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification) must be met in order to receive an Incident Safety Officer certification, unless otherwise specified in this chapter.
- (b) Individuals will be permitted to take the commission examination for Incident Safety Officer certification by documenting Fire Officer I certification through the commission or the equivalent IFSAC seal, and completing a commission approved Incident Safety Officer curriculum.