

# WHO ARE WE?

## About Us

The Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education Commission is responsible for the certification of volunteer and paid firefighters in the State of Tennessee. The Commission also administers the Educational Incentive Pay Program for paid fire fighters in Tennessee. The Commission is responsible for approving training programs to meet the requirements of T.C.A. 4-24-112 (the Minimum Training Statute) and proof of compliance with this Statute must be submitted to the Commission.

## Our Mission

The Commission will endeavor to raise the standards of firefighting personnel who engage in its certification and training programs by enabling Tennessee firefighters to be better prepared through training courses facilitating the skills and knowledge necessary to save lives and property, and to vigorously promote firefighter safety, efficiency, decorum, and ethical considerations throughout the certification process.



## TN Fire Fighting Commission

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Success is a ladder.

**START CLIMBING.**



## WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

The Tennessee Firefighting Personnel Standards & Education Commission (the Firefighting Commission) administers the Firefighter Certification Program as a credentialing system for the fire service profession. Simply put, certification can help you climb higher in your firefighting career.



Through the program, firefighters are tested on their knowledge through a written exam and their abilities through a practical exam. Upon successful completion, the firefighter will have demonstrated the skills and knowledge necessary to the job, while also showcasing safety, efficiency, and ethics.

Current levels of certification offered by the Firefighting Commission include:

- Hazardous Materials Awareness
- Hazardous Materials Operations
- Firefighter I & II
- Fire Investigator, Fire Inspector
- Fire Department Instructor I & II
- Pumper Driver/Operator
- Fire Apparatus Operator
- Aerial Apparatus Operator
- Fire Officer I, II, III, & IV
- Fire Department Incident Safety Officer
- Airport Firefighter
- Wildland Firefighter I & II
- Fire Safety Compliance Officer I & II
- Public Fire & Life Safety Educator I & II



## Dual Accreditation

The Tennessee Firefighting Commission's certification is accredited by both the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) and the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). These third-party agencies reviewed and approved all aspects of certification testing.

## WHY GET CERTIFIED?

Certification represents commitment and follow-through. It serves as the stamp of approval that a firefighter has met the rigors of review and achieved a specific level of professionalism that can lead to greater advancement in Tennessee or elsewhere.

### The Firefighter Certification Program can:

- Assure a supply of skilled firefighters adequate to meet local community needs.
- Potentially provide certified firefighters with a salary supplement.
- Offer an independent standard of measure in which to judge candidates for promotion.
- Develop potential officers.
- Be of importance should a liability issue arise.
- Provide the versatility necessary to meet changing conditions.
- Bring recognition as a skilled professional to the firefighter upon certification.
- Improve employer/employee relations and rapport with the fire department.
- Help a fire department improve its ISO rating.
- Allow students trained and tested in Tennessee more mobility to or from other accredited states.
- Make a desirable impression for firefighters wanting to move from a volunteer to a career department, or even to private industry.



### Know the facts, not the myths:

- Certification isn't just for career firefighters. Volunteers can earn certification, too.
- Certification doesn't cost you anything but time.
- Certification won't hold you back. It could help you move up the ladder of success.



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

To become certified, you must first be affiliated or sponsored by a recognized fire department in Tennessee (either paid or volunteer) or be in TFACA's 10-week recruit course. You are then automatically eligible for any Commission program for which you meet the prerequisites.

All members of recognized Tennessee fire departments are eligible to participate in the certification program. However, the Educational Incentive Program is currently limited to full-time paid fire department members. Their department must submit an in-service training program to the Commission for approval.

The Firefighting Commission works closely with TFACA. Fire service personnel participating in a TFACA training class can participate in Commission certification testing as part of the class when available.

