

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Will Tennessee recognize any other State's firefighter certification?

Yes. As long as the certificates were issued by an entity accredited by either the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) or the National Board of Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) after the date the issuing entity became accredited.

2. How do I become certified in Tennessee?

You must first become affiliated with a fire department in Tennessee (either paid or volunteer) which is enrolled in the State's Certification Program. After that, you become certified in accordance with the Commission's Rule and Regulations. (<http://www.tn.gov/sos/rules/0360/0360.htm>). Your fire department's Training Officer should be able to assist you in the process.

3. What is the waiting period after failing a written or practical examination before retesting?

Thirty (30) days from the date of the examination.

4. I have completed a level of Certification, how long before I may challenge another level?

This varies by level. After completing Fire Fighter I, you must wait one year before you may challenge the written examination for Fire Fighter II. However the practical examination may be completed during this year and the applicant may complete any of the driver examinations or the wildland firefighter 90 days after completing the Fire Fighter I written examination. For any other level, an applicant may challenge another examination in 90 days.

5. What is the Educational Incentive Pay Program?

The Educational Incentive is a supplemental bonus paid to firefighters for completing a minimum of 40 hours of Commission approved training on an annual basis. The training program is submitted to the Commission for approval and is conducted by the local fire department.

6. Can volunteer, part-time or paid-on-call firefighters qualify for the Educational Incentive?

No. State Law states that only full-time firefighters who are employed by a governmental entity qualify for the Educational Incentive Pay.

7. How does my department enroll in the Commission's Programs?

The Fire Chief or Training Officer may contact the Commission Office or the Field Representative to come to your department and thoroughly explain the Commission's Program to the Fire Chief, the entire department or your city/county governmental executives. If you are ready to enroll your department, you may contact the Commission Office for the Application for Program Certification or you may download the form from this site.

8. What is the deadline for submitting my In-Service Training Program?

May 1st of the calendar year for which training is conducted.

9. What is the deadline for submitting the Request Forms for the Educational Incentive?

March 1st. Request forms will be mailed to departments who submitted a program on or about January 1st of each year.

10. How do I obtain the latest forms necessary for participation?

Many of the forms you need are available for download here. Also, you may contact the Commission Office and we will mail or e-mail you any of the forms or documents you require.