

SFFMA Industrial Firefighter Program

Program, Training, Testing, and Certification Requirements

I. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Any participating individual must have and maintain a current individual membership in the SFFMA, and be an active employee in good standing of a participating industrial facility.
- B. Any participating facility must:
 - 1. maintain a current Industrial Facility membership in the SFFMA;
 - 2. designate in the SFFMA system a Training Coordinator, who shall be an organization member named by the Fire Chief/Emergency Response Coordinator and responsible for submission of training verification, applications for certification, and other correspondence on behalf of the organization and its members. One person may serve as both the Fire Chief/Emergency Response Coordinator and Training Coordinator.

II. CREDIT FOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING

- A. Fire scene activity or response to actual alarms cannot be credited as training toward certification. Allowable training must be conducted in a controlled environment by competent instructional personnel.
- B. A course taught by a commercial (for-profit) company to emergency response personnel must utilize classroom instructors who hold as a minimum Instructor I certification as established by NFPA 1041, or an equivalent credential issued by a recognized authority.
- C. Any course taught by means of electronic media may be approved on the following basis:
 - 1. Each course must receive the approval of the Fire Chief/Emergency Response Coordinator or Training Coordinator.
 - 2. The responsibility for documentation, review and testing of the program topics will be that of the Training Coordinator.
- D. SFFMA recognizes any:
 - 1. training conducted by an individual possessing an instructor's certificate granted by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP), State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA), or an equivalent credential granted by a recognized authority;
 - 2. training meeting the most current standards set by NFPA; or
 - 3. testing accredited by IFSAC or ProBoard.

III. APPLICATION PROCESS

- A. To file for SFFMA Industrial Firefighter certification:
 - 1. the facility and applicant must meet participation requirements as listed in section I. Participation Requirements.
 - 2. the Training Coordinator must:
 - a. complete the proper application form;
 - b. ensure signature by all required individuals (photocopied, stamped and pencil-written signatures are not accepted);
 - c. attach a record of all required training achieved and/or prerequisite certifications; and
 - d. submit the application form, any required supporting documentation (certificates, etc.), and the required processing fee to the Austin Office.
- B. Allow 30-60 days for processing from date received in Austin office.
- C. Effective dates are based on the date application is initially received in the Austin Office.
- D. Upon approval of the application, the Austin Office will:
 - 1. issue an Endorsement of Exam Eligibility letter for an individual who has not yet tested for the applicable Industrial Firefighter certification;
 - 2. issue the applicable SFFMA Industrial Firefighter certification for an individual who has successfully tested for the certification and met other prerequisites; and
 - 3. maintain a permanent record of the certification, once issued.

IV. TRAINING COORDINATOR

- A. The individual named as Training Coordinator for a facility will be responsible for submitting applications and other documents on behalf of facility personnel pursuing Industrial Firefighter certification. The Training Coordinator will also coordinate with SFFMA Austin staff to schedule testing of facility personnel as needed.
- B. Only one Training Coordinator may be named per facility.

- C. Requirements for Training Coordinator or provisional status Training Coordinator:
1. The Training Coordinator must:
 - a. hold or be working toward SFFMA Industrial Firefighter I or II certification; and
 - b. have successfully completed one of the following:
 - i. 40-Hour Methods of Teaching Course; or
 - ii. Instructional Techniques for Company Officers; or
 - iii. NFPA 1041: Instructor I; or
 - iv. Any comparable educational instructional course.
 2. Provisional status: An individual who has not met the requirements in item 1 above may serve in the position on a provisional status, provided the individual obtains Industrial Firefighter certification and completes one of the required instructor courses within five (5) years of being named to the position. If the requirements are not met by the end of the five (5) year period, a new individual must be named as Training Coordinator for the facility.

V. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INDUSTRIAL FIREFIGHTER

A. Reference materials

The facility in which the Industrial Firefighter serves must have access to the most current editions of the following reference material:

NFPA 1081: Standard for Facility Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications

NFPA 472/1072: Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications

B. Minimum requirements

1. Applicants must complete and document the following to obtain SFFMA Industrial Firefighter I certification:
 - a. CPR, AED, and First Aid training.
 - b. ICS-100, ICS-200, and IS-700 as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
 - c. Hazardous Materials Technician certification in accordance with NFPA 472/1072 or proof of equivalent training in this discipline.
 - d. Advanced Exterior Industrial Fire Brigade Member coursework meeting the requirements of NFPA 1081 or proof of equivalent training in this discipline, including successful demonstration of required skills.
2. Applicants must complete and document the following to obtain SFFMA Industrial Firefighter II certification:
 - a. hold SFFMA Industrial Firefighter I certification, or have completed all requirements in item #1 above.
 - b. Interior Structural Industrial Fire Brigade Member coursework meeting the requirements of NFPA 1081, or proof of equivalent training in the discipline, including successful demonstration of required skills.

VI. CERTIFICATION TESTING

A. Minimum requirements for examinees:

1. To obtain SFFMA Industrial Firefighter certification, an individual must complete the standards set forth in the Industrial Firefighter Certification Program effective January 1, 2020 with revisions.
2. The SFFMA examination(s) for Industrial Firefighter shall consist of a written examination.
3. Reasonable accommodations will be made for individuals challenging the examination.

B. Eligibility

In order to qualify to take the examination, the individual must:

1. possess a valid Endorsement of Exam Eligibility from SFFMA for the specific examination sought;
2. bring to the test site and display upon request a valid Texas Driver's License or Texas Identification Card which contains a photograph of the examinee; and
3. comply with all written and verbal instructions of the examiner.

C. Procedures

1. Procedures for conducting written examinations are determined by SFFMA.
2. SFFMA shall prescribe the content of any certification examination that tests knowledge of the examinee concerning the discipline addressed by the examination.
3. An examinee who fails to pass an examination shall be given additional opportunities to pass the examination.
 - a. Upon failure of each examination, the facility Fire Chief/Emergency Response Coordinator and Training Coordinator will be notified as to the applicant's failure and the specific area(s) in which the applicant did not qualify.
 - b. After three (3) failures, the examinee will not be allowed to re-test for one (1) year after the date of the third test. In this situation it is strongly recommended that additional training be completed before the examinee attempts another re-test.

4. The examiner(s) shall:
 - a. ensure that the examination remains secure and is conducted under conditions warranting honest results;
 - b. collect all examination materials from any examinee who is dismissed;
 - c. collect any fraudulent or questionable endorsements.
5. The examiner or monitor(s) shall:
 - a. monitor the examination while in progress;
 - b. control the entrance and exit from the test site;
 - c. permit no one in the room while the written test is in progress except examiner(s), examinee(s), and authorized SFFMA representatives;
 - d. assign or re-assign seating;
 - e. ensure all cell phones and/or pagers are turned off prior to the examination; and
 - f. bar admission to or dismiss any examinee who fails to comply with any of the provisions relating to eligibility.
6. All official grading and notification shall come from the Austin Office. SFFMA shall inform the examinee of the test results as soon as reasonably possible after completion of the examination.
7. Upon successful completion of the examination, SFFMA will issue the applicable certificate, provided all other prerequisites for certification have been satisfied. A permanent record of the certification will be maintained in the Austin Office.

D. Grading

The minimum passing score for the examination shall be seventy percent (70%).

E. Reciprocity

1. The holder of the applicable IFSAC or ProBoard certificate(s) will qualify for SFFMA Industrial Firefighter certification with no test required upon submission of the proper fully-completed application forms, fees, and documentation of completion of other required prerequisites for the certification.

VII. REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR ADVANCED EXTERIOR INDUSTRIAL FIRE BRIGADE MEMBER

NFPA 1081: Standard for Industrial Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications Advanced Exterior Industrial Fire Brigade Member – applicable chapter.

VIII. REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR INTERIOR STRUCTURAL INDUSTRIAL FIRE BRIGADE MEMBER

NFPA 1081: Standard for Industrial Fire Brigade Member Professional Qualifications Interior Structural Industrial Fire Brigade Member – applicable chapter.

IX. REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TECHNICIAN

NFPA 472/1072: Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications – applicable chapter.