



Department of Fire Services

Fire Prevention Officer Training and
Competency Credentialing Program



Goal

Develop a progressive, standardized system of training and credentialing to prepare members of the Massachusetts Fire Service to conduct fire prevention inspections in the cities and towns of the Commonwealth, raising the level of competency and consistency in code enforcement.



Why Credentialing?

- Requirements for Fire Prevention Officers are ever expanding and more complicated than ever before.
- Fire Prevention Officers need a thorough knowledge of appropriate Massachusetts General Law's, MA Fire and Building codes, and national standards.
- It has been recognized that there is a need for comprehensive training for Fire Prevention personnel.



Why Credentialing? (cont'd)

- Since 1973 the requirement for a local community to appoint a Building Official has been required.
- Building Officials in Massachusetts are required to obtain Board of Building Regulations and Standards Certification.
- Currently Massachusetts lacks a comprehensive fire prevention training program.
- Building Officials have stated that many Fire Officials are not certified.



Why Credentialing? (cont'd)

- Bring fire prevention officer's level of credibility up in the enforcement arena.
- Create a high level of trained, and credentialed fire service members.
- Create awareness of and increase the importance of fire prevention in the Commonwealth.



Tiered Approach

- Massachusetts Fire Prevention Officer - Basic
- Massachusetts Fire Prevention Officer – Level I
- Massachusetts Fire Prevention Officer – Level II



Fire Prevention Officer – Basic Overview

- Program targeting the ‘everyday’ inspections.
- Four (4) courses:
 - 1 Laws, Regulations and Basic Inspection Requirements
 - 2 Smoke and CO detectors
 - 3 Oil Burning Equipment
 - 4 Liquid Propane Gas Installations
- All training and testing done on-line.
- Certificate of completion issued after successful completion of each course.



Fire Prevention Officer – Basic Credential

Upon completion of all four (4) on-line courses a certificate will be issued for the level of Fire Prevention Officer – Basic.



Fire Prevention Officer – Level I

Overview

- Classroom delivery*
- Pre-requisite
 - Credentialed as a Massachusetts Fire Prevention Officer - Basic
- Requisite courses
 - Fire Prevention 101 (16 hours)
 - Fire Prevention 102 (24 hours)
- Focus on required permits

*All courses will be offered weekdays, nights and weekends



Fire Prevention Officer – Level I

Fire Prevention 101

- Begins to build on the role of the Fire Prevention Officer - Basic
- Provides information within the NFPA Fire Inspector I program.
- Topics Include:
 - Role and responsibilities of a Fire Prevention Officer
 - Pre plans
 - Conducting basic inspections
 - Current permits under MA laws and regulations



Fire Prevention Officer – Level I

Fire Prevention 102

- Completes the knowledge of the Fire Inspector I as outlined in NFPA 1031
- Topics include:
 - Fuel dispensing
 - Forest products
 - Commercial cooking
 - Welding
 - Transportation of flammables / combustibles
 - Marine fueling
- Prepares individuals to supervise the activities of a Fire Prevention Officer – Basic.



Fire Prevention Officer – Level I Credential

Upon completion of Fire Prevention-101, Fire Prevention-102 and verification of Fire Prevention-Basic credential a certificate will be issued for the level of Fire Prevention Officer – Level I.



Fire Prevention Officer – Level II

Overview

- Classroom Delivery*
- Pre-requisite
 - Credential as a Massachusetts Fire Prevention Officer – Level I
- Requisite courses
 - Fire Prevention 201 (16 hours)
 - Fire Prevention 202 (24 hours)

* All courses will be offered weekdays, nights and weekends



Fire Prevention Officer – Level II

Fire Prevention 201

- Builds on skills from Fire Prevention Officer – Level I
- Provide Information in the Fire Inspector II as outlined in NFPA 1031
- Topics Include:
 - Ovens
 - Combustible fibers
 - Tanks & containers
 - Decorations
 - Massachusetts Building Code, Chapters 4, 9 & 10



Fire Prevention Officer – Level II

Fire Prevention 202

- Completes the knowledge of Fire Inspector II as outlined in NFPA 1031
- Topics Include:
 - Hazardous materials
 - Explosives
 - Flammable / combustible
 - Obstructions and hazards in certain buildings and on public and private ways
 - Massachusetts State Building Code, Chapter 34
- Prepares individuals to supervise the activities of a Fire Prevention Officer – Level I.



Fire Prevention Officer – Level II Credential

Upon completion of Fire Prevention - 201, Fire Prevention - 202 and verification of Fire Prevention Officer – Level I credential, a certificate will be issued for the level of Fire Prevention Officer – Level II.



Course Testing

- Each course includes a comprehensive exam.
- Students must attain a minimum score of 70% to receive a certificate of completion for the course.
- Students will be afforded two (2) retakes of the exam before being required to repeat a course.



Credentialing Process

- The credential will be issued by the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal.
- Application and verification of appropriate training will be required.
- Credentialing Certificate is good for three (3) years
- There is no “Grandfathering”, all credentials will require completion of courses as outlined in the program.
- There is no cost for the Credentialing Program.



Credentialing Process (cont'd)

- You cannot challenge an exam, participants must take each course and pass the exam to validate learning.
- Recertification by on-line refresher training required for renewal.

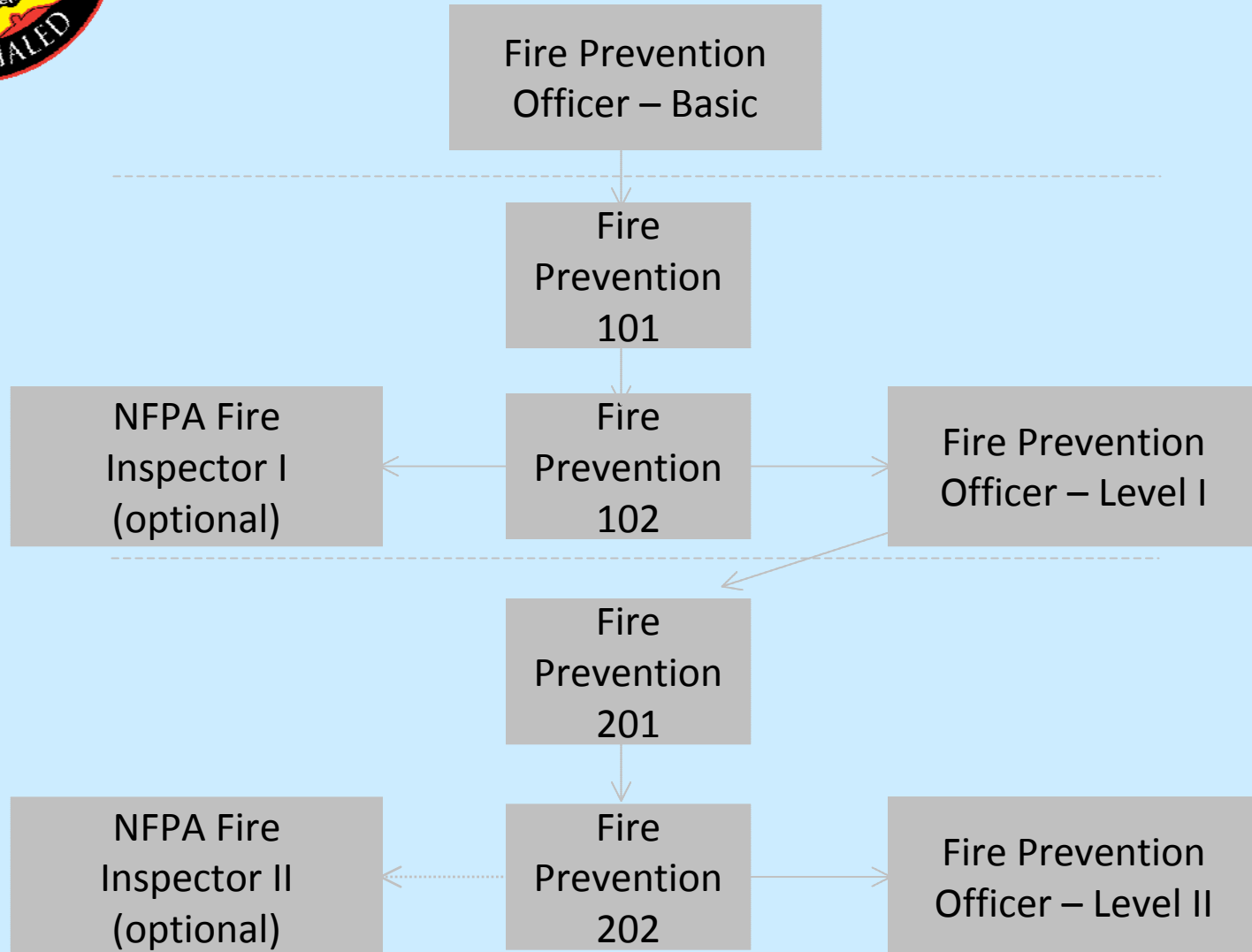


Roadmap Beyond Credentialing

- “Fire Prevention Officer – Level I” covers the Job Performance Requirements for NFPA Fire Inspector I
- “Fire Prevention Officer – Level II” covers Job Performance Requirements for NFPA Fire Inspector II



Roadmap Beyond Credentialing





Program Timeline

- Introductory Presentations to the Massachusetts Fire Service begin October 2011
- Fire Prevention Officer – Basic, begins January 2012
- Fire Prevention Officer – Level I, begins spring 2012
- Fire Prevention Officer – Level II, begins late 2012



Conclusion

The challenges of today's fire service requires that fire professionals responsible for the administration and enforcement of the fire code must meet the competencies identified for their scope of practice.

This process will ensure that system is in place.