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PETER J. OSTROSKEY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Departments

From: Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal

Date: March 21, 2019

Re: **Massachusetts Fire Training Council Certification Update**

Fire service certification has seen tremendous activity as fire department personnel across the Commonwealth seek to validate their knowledge and skills against national standards. In the calendar year 2018, there were 2,070 certifications awarded after successful completion of assessments through Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) training programs and/or open examinations. These achievements have been registered with the National Pro Board Registry for users to verify certifications earned in Massachusetts and through other accredited agencies in the Pro Board system.

As with any standards, changes are made after careful consideration by subject matter experts who review what is expected of personnel performing at levels such as Firefighter I/II, Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, Technical Rescuer, etc. As the professional qualification standards change, so does the mechanism to assess the person's capabilities in each level.

There have been also various initiatives to further align National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards with the practices of our accrediting body, the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. As a result, the Massachusetts Fire Training Council (MFTC) has adopted policies in keeping with these changes.

In addition to prerequisites, effective with certification examinations conducted after July 1, 2019, the following will be required.

Certification Level New Requirements

Fire Instructor I	Pass a written exam followed by a multi-station practical exam OR Pass the MFA training program “Fire Instructor I” and a separate written exam.
Fire Officer I	Pass a written exam followed by a multi-station practical exam OR Pass the MFA training program “Company Officer I” and a separate written exam.
Fire Instructor II	Pass a written exam followed by a multi-station practical exam OR Pass the MFA training program “Fire Instructor II” and a separate written exam.
Fire Officer II	Pass a written exam followed by a multi-station practical exam OR Pass the MFA training program “Company Officer II” and a separate written exam.
Investigator	Pass the MFA training program “Advanced Fire Investigation” and a separate written exam.

The MFA training programs Fire Instructor I, Fire Instructor II, Company Officer I, Company Officer II, and Advanced Fire Investigation will contain relevant evaluations to directly address their respective NFPA standards.

For more information, see each certification level within the DFS Learning Management System.